

Support SBTHP

Find your place in Santa Barbara



Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation

the power of place.

Place is a powerful word, far more than just a location. A place can connect you to new friends and experiences. A place can link you to the past. A place can ground you emotionally. The Presidio Neighborhood is just such a place, steeped in a deep history that began with the Chumash and has become home to diverse businesses and residences of the people who built Santa Barbara over time. Today, we provide access to these historic places to the people who need it and will benefit the most. Your commitment to preserving our community's iconic places, serving students and families through programs ensures Santa Barbara continues to be a healthy, vibrant, and beautiful community.

our history.

Since nonprofit incorporation in 1963, our primary focus has been the archaeological excavation, preservation and interpretation of El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, which we operate for California State Parks. Founded in 1782, the Santa Barbara Presidio was the fourth and last of a series of Spanish Royal forts built along the coast to protect Spain's claim to the vast territory of Alta California. We welcome thousands of visitors annually and provide numerous school and public programs focused on the history and cultures of early California and the successive periods of settlement and change in the Presidio Neighborhood.

SBTHP restored and operates Casa de la Guerra – once home to José de la Guerra, fifth commandant of the Presidio. We also manage the Santa Inés Mission Mills State Property, a 39-acre property that includes two 1820s fulling and grist mills and is part of a National Historic Landmark District, which also includes the Santa Inés Mission.

investing in preservation.

During a time when our city is experiencing change and strain on the topics of retail, housing, and the effects of climate change, the historic heart of our community and its historic structures are more important than ever. The city's founding site can help ground us. We house small local businesses in historic buildings that serve as incubators for innovation and economic growth. We welcome the community to historic and atmospheric public spaces to engage in critical conversations about our shared identity and future.

These irreplaceable historic buildings need ongoing care. They cannot speak for themselves, or resist the effects of time without our intervention. Often their greatest assets and historic value are not visible to the naked eye or the casual passerby. They need to be protected from earthquakes, updated to modern building codes, and have their well-loved, worn out components repaired for the next eager users. They require custom-made, unique components that are not available off-the-shelf, and have no match anywhere else. To thrive, they require imagination, advocacy and a commitment to stewardship from all of us.

Historic preservation is about "managing change and helping to ensure a smooth continuum between past, present, and future."

Stephanie Meeks, *The Past & Future City*

more than preservation.

There is a saying that “if you build it, they will come.” This turns out not always to be the case. Barriers, both financial, geographic, or lack of comfort with or knowledge about cultural heritage opportunities prevent people from accessing their community’s historic and cultural resources. Providing access to historic resources and park land for those who need them most requires intent, including dedicated programs designed to recruit and welcome these audiences.

The risks and consequences of access to parks, including urban historic parks, are significant. An extensive body of health research documents the benefits for youth health and well-being of time spent outdoors. Those benefits are especially important for youth from disadvantaged households, who tend to experience higher levels of stress and risk of disease.

Free or low-cost school and community programs, including field trips to historic places, bring people to the places that can have profound positive effects on their health, knowledge and wellbeing, and fill the learning and growth gaps that schools and other institutions cannot.

Adults may not be interested in a traditional museum environment, or not see a reason to visit the institutions in their own backyard. Robust and diverse programs create multiple access points, and engaging community-building opportunities for all.

"Old places are important for people to define who they are through memory, continuity, and identity. Old places are critical to people's sense of who they are, to their capacity to find meaning in their lives, and to see a future. ...Old places actually seem to increase creativity and economic growth."

Tom Mayes, *Why Old Places Matter*



The Asian American Neighborhood Festival, held every October, celebrates the history and culture of the Asian communities that once thrived in and around the Presidio



Campers dig for artifacts as part of the Presidio Archaeology Camp, the only hands-on excavation experience for teens in Santa Barbara County.

"More-advantaged families may take their children to...cultural institutions outside of school hours, but less-advantaged students are less likely to have these experiences...with field trips, public schools viewed themselves as the great equalizer in terms of access to cultural heritage."



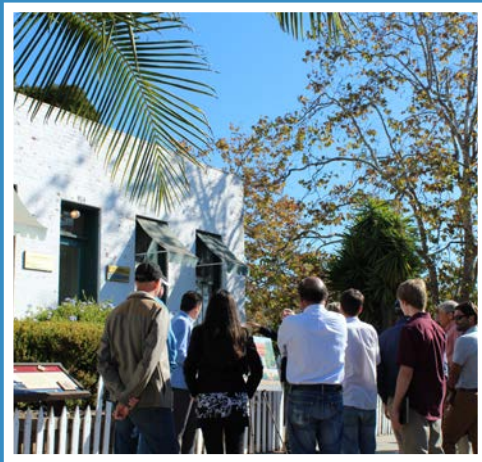
a proven record.

We have a tremendous track record with historic preservation projects. From the partial reconstruction of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, to the rehabilitation of the 1928 School of the Arts studio for use as a Research Center available to the public, and the restoration of the 1925 Alhecama Theatre, once again available for community events, SBTHP is nationally recognized for its expertise with preservation.

In 2011 we received Trustees' Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Our work has also been recognized with support from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Upon completing our restoration, the City of Santa Barbara designated the Alhecama Theatre a City Landmark. The architects, Harrison Design, won the preservation award from the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the project.

"In city after city, neighborhoods with a mix of older and newer buildings perform better along a spectrum of social, economic, and environmental metrics than areas with just new buildings."

Stephanie Meeks, National Trust for Historic Preservation



Guests toured and learned about the Cota-Knox House. The historic brick building will have a restored facade as well as numerous structural improvements.



SBTHP began construction on the buildings at 131-137 E. De la Guerra St., undertaking much needed structural repairs. Pictured above, phase 1 of the construction.

The Presidio Neighborhood businesses and cultural organizations have rallied around a neighborhood website, app and map. The momentum is growing, anchored by the area's historic character. This should come as no surprise, as research has proven the measurable impact both economically and socially.

"Areas of older, smaller buildings and mixed-age blocks boast 33% more new business jobs, 46% more small business jobs, and 60% more women- and minority-owned businesses."

City Lab, Density Without Demolition



investing in people.

SBTHP's success with its school and community programs can be measured by surging attendance at its anchor events and programs. The annual Asian American Neighborhood festival draws 1,000 people annually to celebrate the diverse cultural traditions of the Asian American communities who settled in and around the Presidio. Our Día de los Muertos program crowds 500 community members into the courtyard of the historic Casa de la Guerra to celebrate much-loved Mexican holiday. Our CASA summer camp partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara is now in its 11th year.

Our programs are creating an impact. Two years ago we added a third day to our flagship 3rd grade living history program, Early California Days, to meet the existing demand. The program now serves over 800 students per year. In addition to assisting teachers with their capacity to meet the teaching standards for California public schools, visits for school children to historic sites like ours have profound effects on student that can carry into their adult lives. One teacher whose class participated in the 2019 program reported:

"This is the best field trip for kids living in Santa Barbara/California. I couldn't [have] asked for a more worthwhile program for my students. It hits on the social studies topics we talk about in the class in terms of how California was established, grew, and the impacts this had on Native people."



Santa Barbara Junior High School students take part in the first iteration of *Where We Are From*. In partnership with SBJHS and UCSB's History Department, the program highlights the diverse history of the Presidio Neighborhood.



Every April, SBTHP hosts the Founding Day Festival at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP, the birthplace of Santa Barbara.

"Enriching field trips contribute to the development of students...who possess more knowledge about art, have stronger critical-thinking skills, exhibit increased historical empathy, display higher levels of tolerance, and have greater taste for consuming art and culture."

there are many ways to give.

Please join us in supporting stewardship and accessibility of our community's special historic places and in providing programs to students and the public that assist in helping all of us learn, connect, and find community.

donate today.

Become an Advocate and join SBTHP or contribute to our annual fund, or any of the programs or restoration projects you most want to support to help us accomplish today's goals. In addition, you can contribute to our Pearl Chase Endowment or our Education Program Endowment to ensure the SBTHP remains sustainable and can carry on our work into the future.

donate tomorrow.

Let us celebrate you now for a gift that will be made later. Through a pledge, bequest, or by adding SBTHP as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy or retirement plan, you can be assured that your legacy will support the continued vitality of our community's historic places.



SBTHP guests and members gather for a ceremonial photo immediately following the Annual Meeting in the Presidio Chapel.



Guests listen to lectures during the symposium, "Santa Barbara: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," a collaboration with the City of Santa Barbara, Downtown Santa Barbara, Harrison Design.

for more information visit SBTHP.org/Donate
or call (805) 961-5378



"Cities need old buildings so badly it is probably impossible for vigorous streets and districts to grow without them."

Jane Jacobs



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