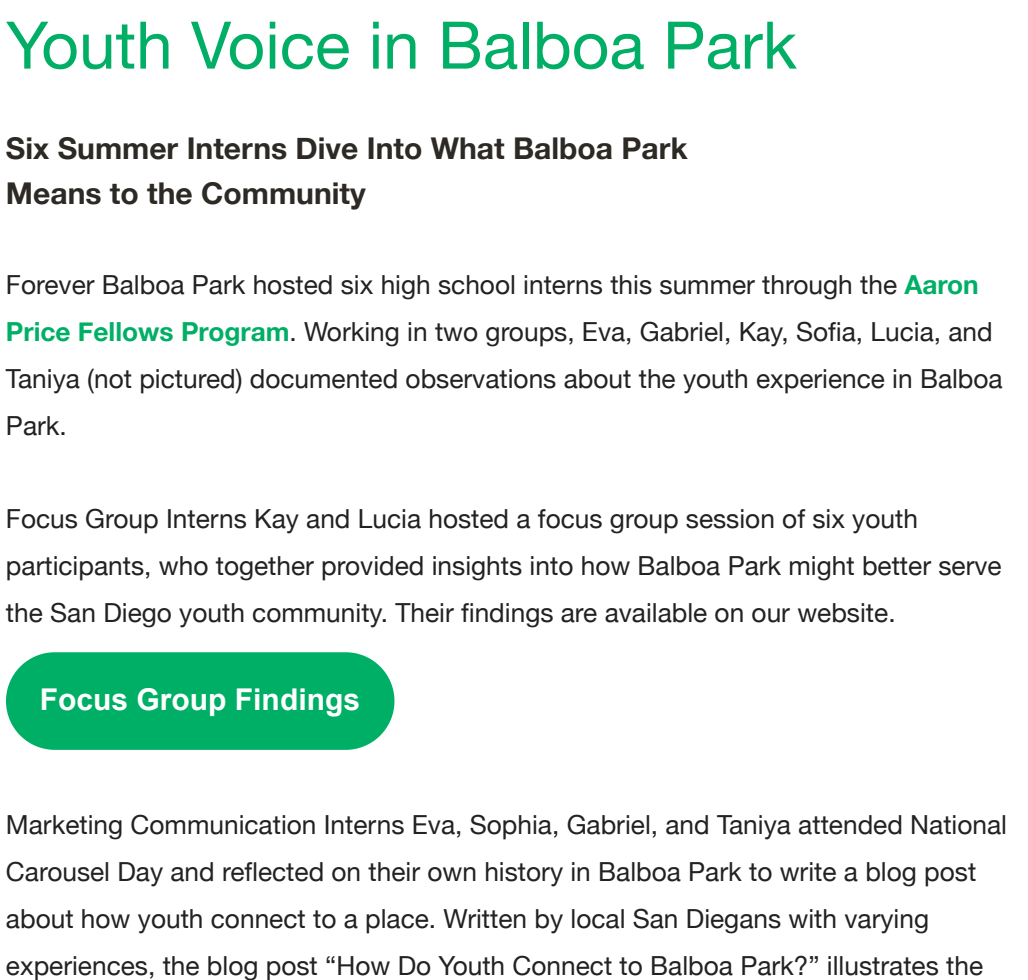


# Your Park Newsletter Sessions



## Youth Voice in Balboa Park

### Six Summer Interns Dive Into What Balboa Park Means to the Community

Forever Balboa Park hosted six high school interns this summer through the [Aaron Price Fellows Program](#). Working in two groups, Eva, Gabriel, Kay, Sofia, Lucia, and Taniya (not pictured) documented observations about the youth experience in Balboa Park.

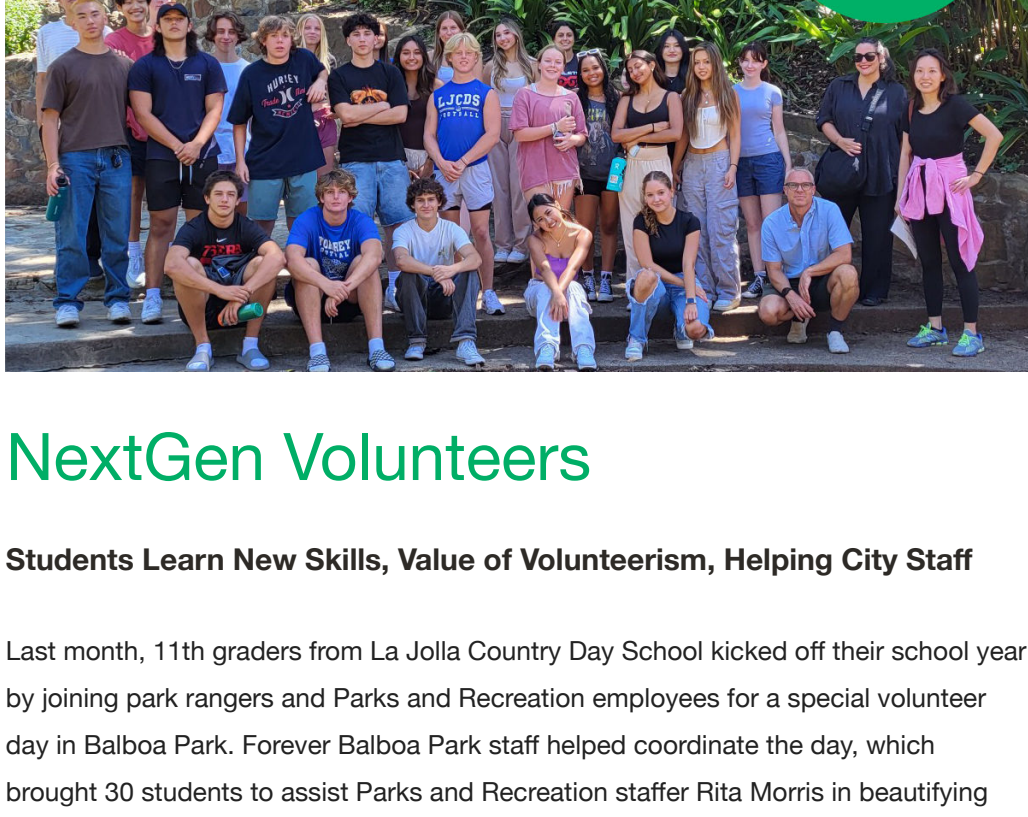
Focus Group Interns Kay and Lucia hosted a focus group session of six youth participants, who together provided insights into how Balboa Park might better serve the San Diego youth community. Their findings are available on our website.

#### Focus Group Findings

Marketing Communication Interns Eva, Sophia, Gabriel, and Taniya attended National Carousel Day and reflected on their own history in Balboa Park to write a blog post about how youth connect to a place. Written by local San Diegans with varying experiences, the blog post "How Do Youth Connect to Balboa Park?" illustrates the importance of Balboa Park to community members of all ages.

#### Intern Blog Post

Thank you to the Aaron Price Fellows Program for this new partnership. We look forward to hosting interns again next year. Providing a platform for youth to express their ideas about Balboa Park is an important part of our mission going forward.

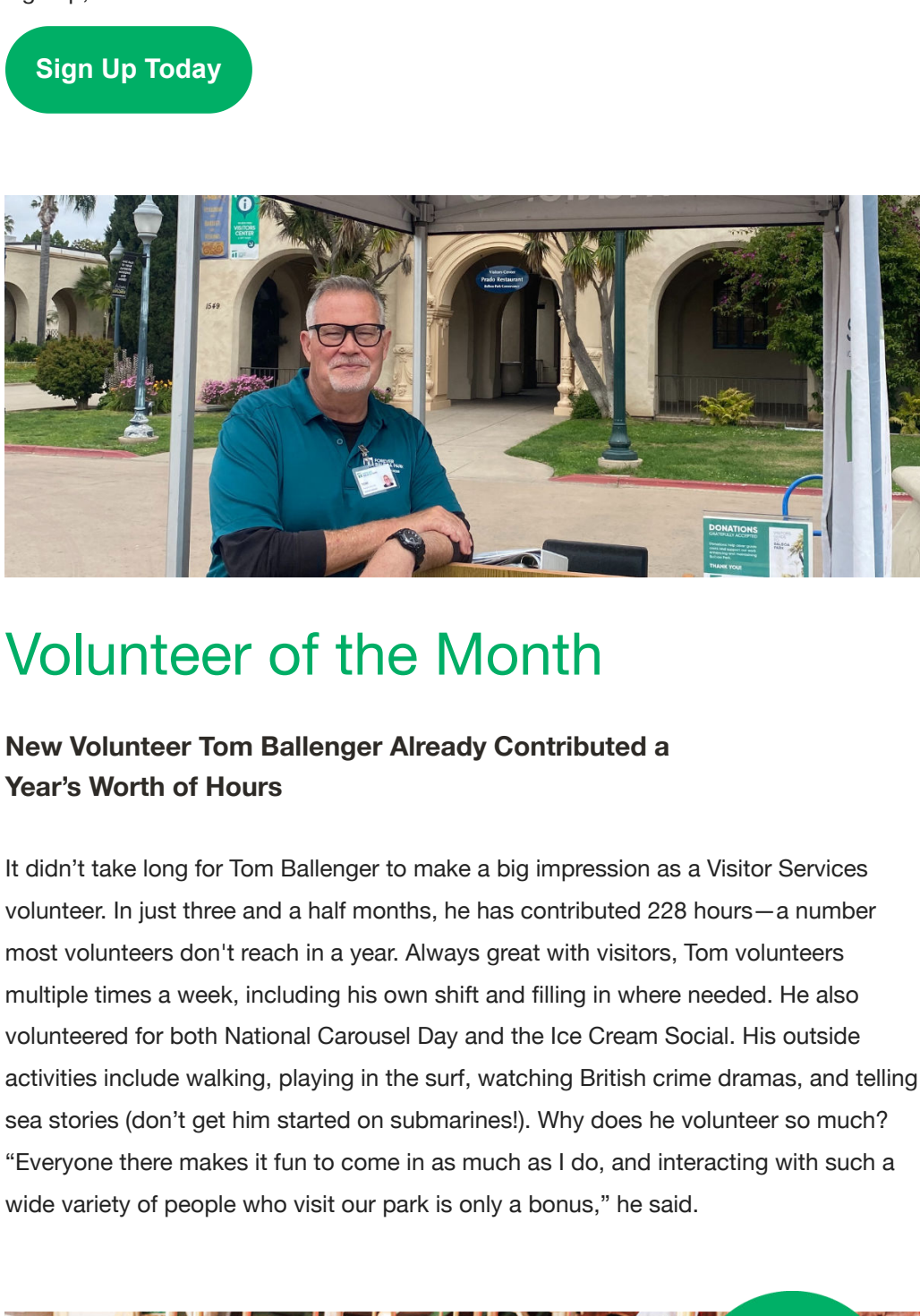


## It's in the Details

### New Digital Rose Garden Map Identifies All Rose Varieties

Rose lovers rejoice! Detailed information on the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden collection is now available on the Forever Balboa Park website. The new interactive map allows visitors to see a list of the exact varieties located in each garden bed and their specific attributes. Every visitor to the garden will now have easy access to expert information collected by the Rose Garden Corps volunteers. The project was made possible by the San Diego Foundation Rose Garden Fund. Soon, the map will be accessible by QR code on every bed of the garden. Click below to access the new map.

#### Rose Garden Interactive Map



## NextGen Volunteers

### Students Learn New Skills, Value of Volunteerism, Helping City Staff

Last month, 11th graders from La Jolla Country Day School kicked off their school year by joining park rangers and Parks and Recreation employees for a special volunteer day in Balboa Park. Forever Balboa Park staff helped coordinate the day, which brought 30 students to assist Parks and Recreation staffer Rita Morris in beautifying Zoro Canyon. Another 30 students worked with Parks and Recreation staffer Claudia Glenn and Ranger Connors to add new plants near the Fire Alarm Building on the south end of the west mesa. We are grateful to La Jolla Country Day School students and city staff for all their hard work to help make Balboa Park grounds best-in-class.

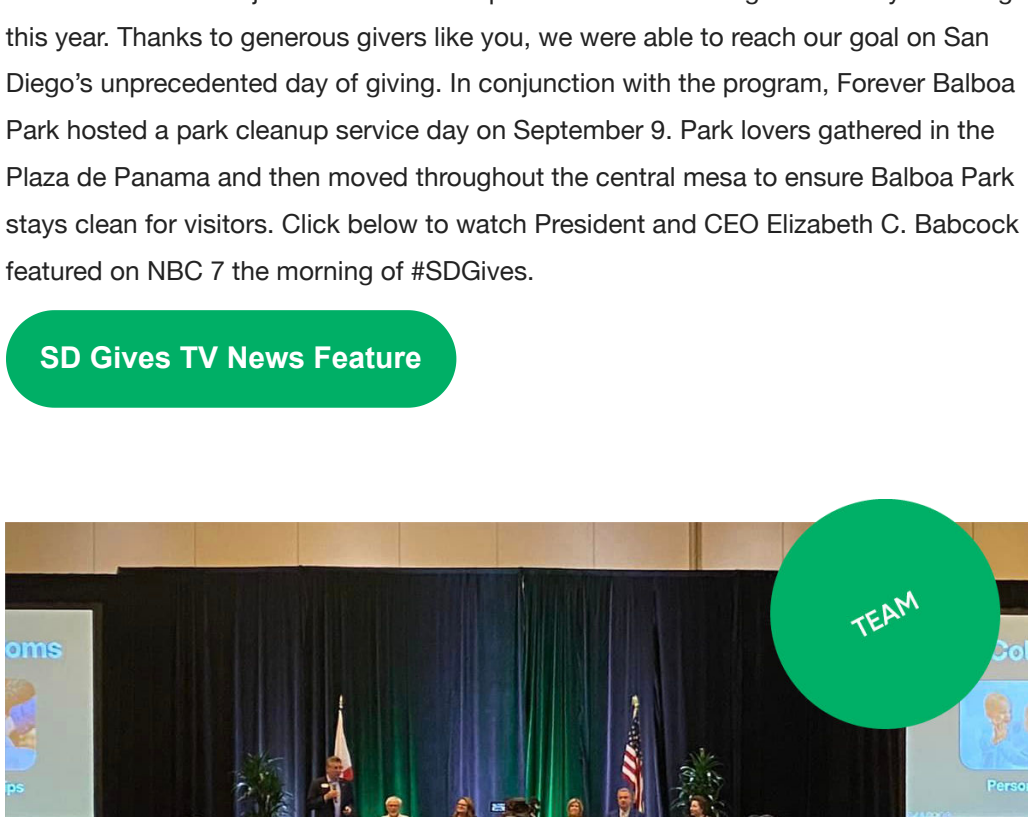


## Be Part of the Volunteer Team

### Act Fast: Next Volunteer Training Opportunity Coming Soon

You've read many articles in this space about how much of an impact our volunteers make in Balboa Park and how much they enjoy working side by side with fellow park lovers. Now it's your turn! We are actively recruiting new volunteers for our Visitor Services team and will hold our next orientation and training in October. Visitor Services volunteers greet and assist park visitors in the Balboa Park Visitors Center, at satellite tents throughout the central mesa, and at special events, like December Nights and National Carousel Day. Some volunteers even give park tours. To learn more or to sign up, click below to fill out the volunteer interest form.

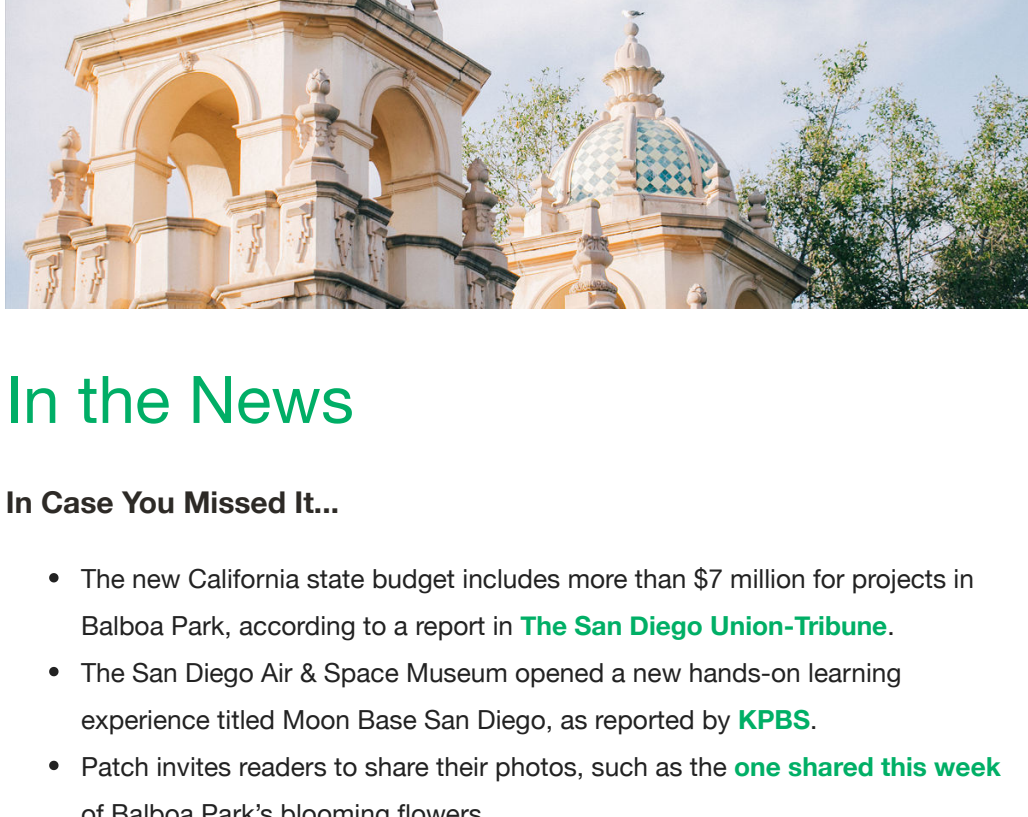
#### Sign Up Today



## Volunteer of the Month

### New Volunteer Tom Ballenger Already Contributed a Year's Worth of Hours

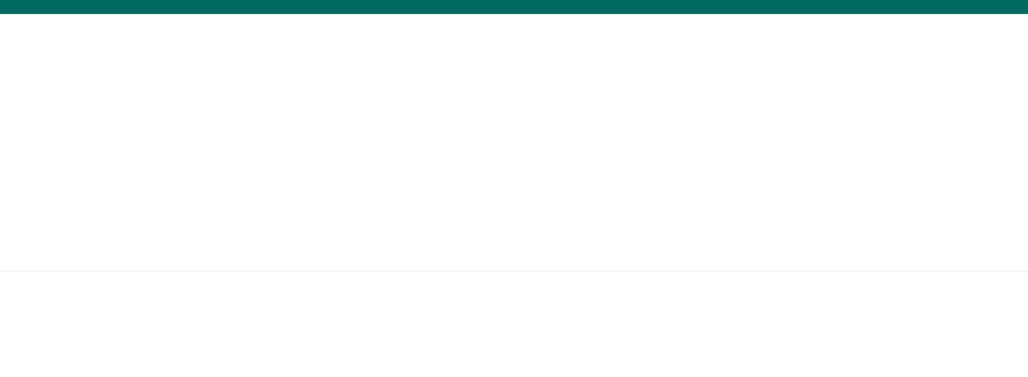
It didn't take long for Tom Ballenger to make a big impression as a Visitor Services volunteer. In just three and a half months, he has contributed 228 hours—a number most volunteers don't reach in a year. Always great with visitors, Tom volunteers multiple times a week, including his own shift and filling in where needed. He also volunteered for both National Carousel Day and the Ice Cream Social. His outside activities include walking, playing in the surf, watching British crime dramas, and telling sea stories (don't get him started on submarines!). Why does he volunteer so much? "Everyone there makes it fun to come in as much as I do, and interacting with such a wide variety of people who visit our park is only a bonus," he said.



## Party at the Carousel!

### Host Your Next Birthday Party or Private Event at the San Diego Landmark

Everyone knows the historic Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel is a unique experience San Diegans of all ages have enjoyed for generations. But many may not realize that the Carousel is available to rent for birthday parties and other private events. For roughly the same price as a fancy bounce house rental, dozens of guests can ride the Carousel for up to an hour. The Carousel can be rented 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday, and 8:30am–10:30am and 6pm–9pm, Saturday and Sunday. During the summer season and school breaks, rental hours are 8:30am–10:30am and 6pm–9pm seven days a week. For more information, email us at [carousel@balboapark.org](mailto:carousel@balboapark.org). *Reservations must be made at least three weeks in advance.*



## Join the Inner Circle

### Conservator's Circle Donors Gain Exclusive Access to Park Experts

Forever Balboa Park Conservator's Circle members are discovering more reasons than ever to love Balboa Park. Our recently launched speakers Roundtable Series features noted authorities who explore in depth subjects related to park history, horticulture, and other relevant topics in an intimate setting. In June, historian Nancy Carol Carter shared her deep knowledge of Kate Sessions's lasting contributions to the park, and in August, arborist Rachele Melious discussed the importance of effective stewardship for a healthy urban forest. These late afternoon encounters include a light food and beverage service as well as opportunities to network with Forever Balboa Park leadership. The Conservator's Circle makes an impact in Balboa Park by supporting the longevity of our work. Join today to make a difference and receive an invite for our fall Roundtable.

#### Join the Circle



## It Takes a Village

### Thank You for Helping Us Reach Our #SDGives Goal

Forever Balboa Park joined 300 local nonprofits for the San Diego Gives Day of Giving this year. Thanks to generous givers like you, we were able to reach our goal on San Diego's unprecedented day of giving. In conjunction with the program, Forever Balboa Park hosted a park cleanup service day on September 9. Park lovers gathered in the Plaza de Panama and then moved throughout the central mesa to ensure Balboa Park stays clean for visitors. Click below to watch President and CEO Elizabeth C. Babcock featured on NBC 7 the morning of #SDGives.

#### SD Gives TV News Feature



## Leveling Up Our Team

### External Relations Staff Attend Fundraising Conference

Forever Balboa Park's Institutional Advancement team members, Ashley and Janessa, attended the first-ever San Diego Fundraising Conference held by [San Diego Foundation](#). They joined more than 400 attendees to learn and discuss fundraising best practices and hear from expert speakers. All of the funds Forever Balboa Park raises go directly back to Balboa Park. With new strategies learned at this conference, our team will be better able to serve the park and visitors like you.

*Photo courtesy of San Diego Foundation.*



## In the News

### In Case You Missed It...

- The new California state budget includes more than \$7 million for projects in Balboa Park, according to a report in [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#).
- The San Diego Air & Space Museum opened a new hands-on learning experience titled Moon Base San Diego, as reported by [KPBS](#).
- Patch invites readers to share their photos, such as the [one shared this week](#) of Balboa Park's blooming flowers.
- [Creative City San Diego](#) is the city's first comprehensive, long-term plan to advance arts, culture, and creativity across the city. Everyone is invited to have their voice heard by completing the [Creative City online survey](#).