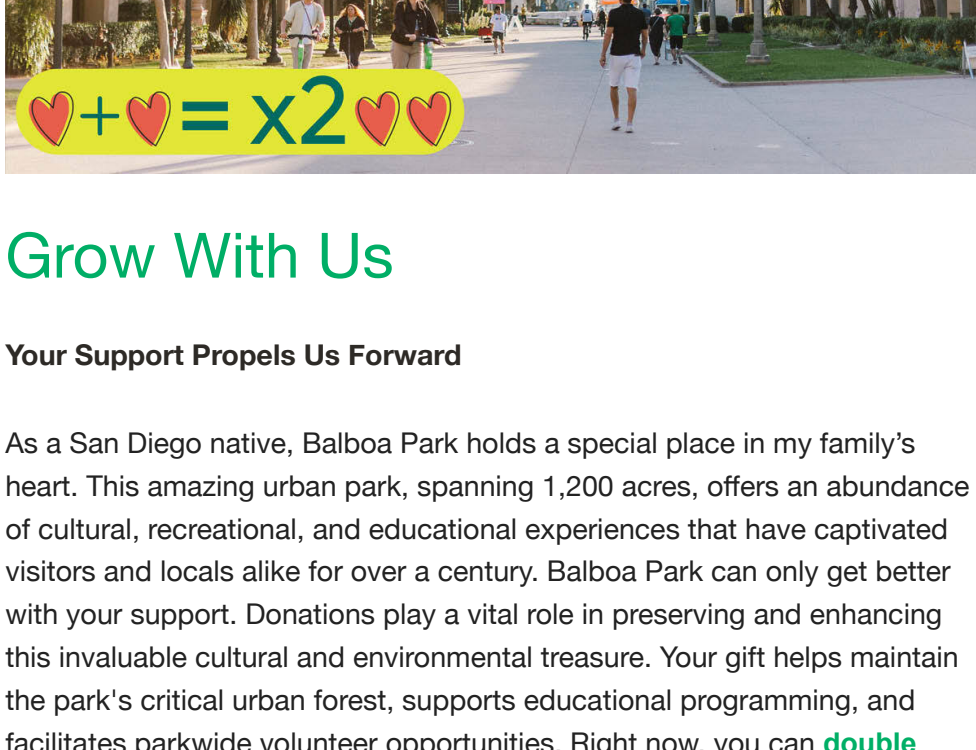


Your Park Newsletter Sessions



Grow With Us

Your Support Propels Us Forward

As a San Diego native, Balboa Park holds a special place in my family's heart. This amazing urban park, spanning 1,200 acres, offers an abundance of cultural, recreational, and educational experiences that have captivated visitors and locals alike for over a century. Balboa Park can only get better with your support. Donations play a vital role in preserving and enhancing this invaluable cultural and environmental treasure. Your gift helps maintain the park's critical urban forest, supports educational programming, and facilitates parkwide volunteer opportunities. Right now, you can **double your support through our Growing Together \$100,000 match**. Give today to contribute to the accessibility and sustainability of a place that enriches the lives of millions.

Please join me and a community of Balboa Park supporters by donating to Forever Balboa Park. Together, we can ensure the abundance of this timeless treasure for years to come.



Phillip Sammuli, CFRE
Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Forever Balboa Park
phillip@balboapark.org | 619.331.1109

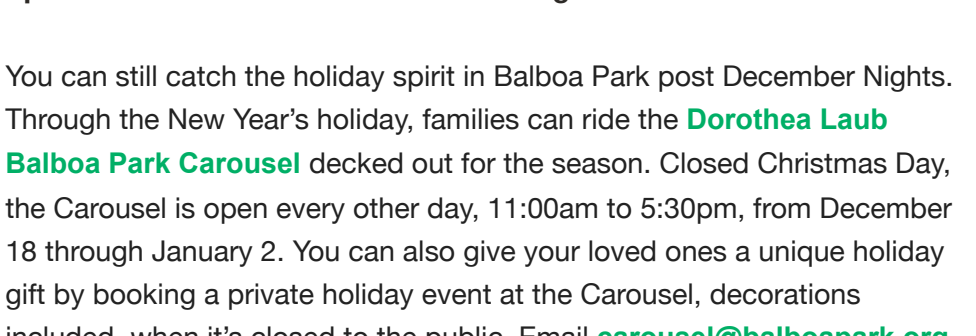
Double Your Support Today!



Forever Balboa Park Receives \$100,000 Award

Prebys Foundation Grant Helps Fund Expansion of Arts Programming and Youth Initiatives

We are excited to announce a \$100,000 grant award from the Prebys Foundation. The grant was part of the Prebys Foundation's current effort to support visual and performing arts, youth services, healthcare, and medical research with over \$30 million donated to organizations across San Diego County. The two-year grant enables us to expand our public and youth engagement strategies to bring more arts-oriented programming into the park. The grant will help fund a public programming specialist position whose main duties will be to coordinate both current initiatives and develop new programs that bring music, theater, dance, art, and multimedia displays to activate park spaces, including the renovated Botanical Building and Gardens once it reopens.



Your Holiday Shopping Hub

The Balboa Park Visitors Center Has Just What You Need

The holiday shopping season wraps in less than two weeks! For those last-minute gifts with a special touch, make the Balboa Park Visitors Center your one-stop shop. From Balboa Park merchandise and locally made goods to toys and games for creative kids, the Gift Shop has something for everyone on your list. Whether you are shopping for Balboa Park enthusiasts, San Diego-themed gifts for out-of-towners, or environmentally conscious folks, you'll have plenty of choices. All proceeds from Visitors Center Gift Shop sales support Forever Balboa Park's mission. Read the Visitors Center Gift Shop guide for specific ideas at the link below.

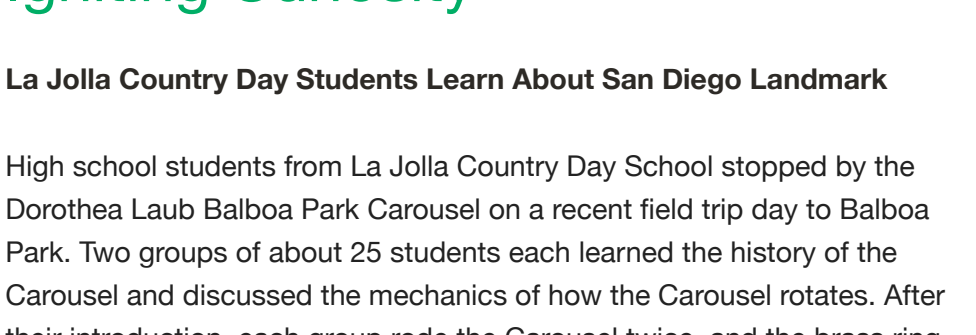
Holiday Shopping Ideas



Spinning Out More Holiday Cheer

Special Balboa Park Carousel Hours Ring in the New Year

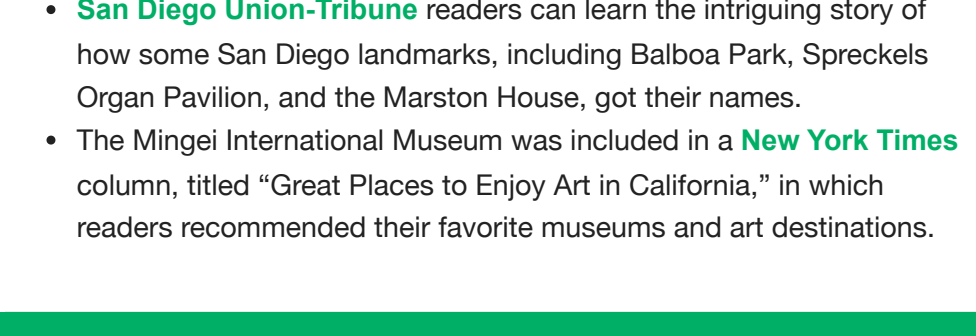
You can still catch the holiday spirit in Balboa Park post December Nights. Through the New Year's holiday, families can ride the **Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel** decked out for the season. Closed Christmas Day, the Carousel is open every other day, 11:00am to 5:30pm, from December 18 through January 2. You can also give your loved ones a unique holiday gift by booking a private holiday event at the Carousel, decorations included, when it's closed to the public. Email carousel@balboapark.org for more information.



Ensuring a Healthy Urban Forest

Volunteers from Wawanesa Plant 10 Trees in Balboa Park

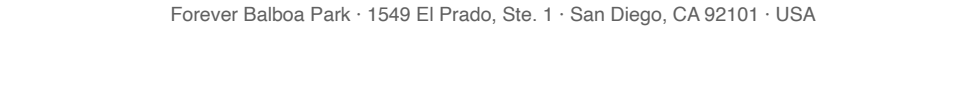
Last Friday, Forever Balboa Park welcomed staff from Wawanesa Insurance to Balboa Park to help plant trees on the West Mesa near Redwood Circle. Led by our Tree Planting Team Leaders, volunteers learned the correct way to plant a 15-gallon tree and ensure it thrives in its new environment. This planting event took place near the lawn bowling green where we hosted the Plant It Forward community tree planting in early November. Once grown, these new trees will replace the mature canopy cover that was lost earlier this year in a storm. Torrey pines and Kurrajong trees diversify the urban forest in this area and have proven to be a successful species to plant in Balboa Park. Thank you, Wawanesa, for helping build San Diego's urban forest.



Volunteers of the Month

Forever Balboa Park Volunteers Made December Nights Extra Special

It should come as no surprise to anyone who attended this year's Balboa Park December Nights that the 70 Forever Balboa Park volunteers who helped make it one of the best ones yet are our Volunteers of the Month. December Nights presented a unique opportunity for volunteers from different Forever Balboa Park programs to work alongside each other, our one-time event volunteers, and staff members, allowing everyone to meet new people on the Forever Balboa Park team. Together, they staffed five booths across the park, including two new locations at Inspiration Point and the Cabrillo Bridge, assisting thousands of visitors over the two-day event. We are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who helped spread the holiday cheer and especially those who took on multiple shifts.



Igniting Curiosity

La Jolla Country Day Students Learn About San Diego Landmark

High school students from La Jolla Country Day School stopped by the Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel on a recent field trip day to Balboa Park. Two groups of about 25 students each learned the history of the Carousel and discussed the mechanics of how the Carousel rotates. After their introduction, each group rode the Carousel twice, and the brass ring game was a big hit. Thank you to Trustee Jonathan Schulman, who arranged this field trip, exemplifying the many ways that Balboa Park truly serves as a learning lab for all—a park for exploration and igniting curiosity.

In the News

In Case You Missed It . . .

- Balboa Park December Nights received widespread coverage from **The San Diego Union-Tribune**, **CBS 8 News**, **10News San Diego**, **NBC News 7**, **Fox 5 News**, **KPBS**, and **Times of San Diego**.
- **CBS 8 News** featured the elaborate display of 900 tree ornaments created by Florence Hord and Elizabeth Schlappi at the Timken Museum of Art.
- **San Diego Union-Tribune** readers can learn the intriguing story of how some San Diego landmarks, including Balboa Park, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, and the Marston House, got their names.
- The Mingei International Museum was included in a **New York Times** column, titled "Great Places to Enjoy Art in California," in which readers recommended their favorite museums and art destinations.

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