

NEWS RELEASE

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Balboa Park Carousel Reopens on National Carousel Day

FREE community event on July 25 provides family fun to celebrate the reopening

SAN DIEGO (July 14, 2023) – Families and carousel aficionados are invited to celebrate National Carousel Day at the Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel on Tuesday, July 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. National Carousel Day is a FREE community event presented by Forever Balboa Park, offering free carousel rides all day, family friendly activities, and entertainment.

Entertainment and activities include a family-friendly DJ, circus performers by J7 Productions, face painting, photo booth, craft activity with Spanish Village Art Center, and activities with the San Diego Natural History Museum. Food will be available for purchase from local vendors, including Golden State Dogs and Ice Cream, and Toro Churros and Doughnuts.

Entertainment Schedule:

11:00-11:30 a.m.: Kathryn the Grape
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: The Young Lions Jazz Conservatory
12:30-1:30 p.m.: Mariachi and Folklorico
1:30-2:00 p.m.: Pasacat
2:00-2:50 p.m.: Opera 4 Kids

The Balboa Park Carousel welcomes riders back to the historic attraction after a months-long restoration project. On National Carousel Day, visitors will notice a new tile roof and a fresh coat of paint in the building's interior. Less noticeable are the important structural reinforcements and other infrastructure upgrades completed since last fall that will ensure the Carousel operates for generations to come.

Built in 1910, the Carousel still runs on its original General Electric motor, and the hand-painted animal menagerie and paintings, military band organ, and brass ring game are original as well. The Carousel was brought to Balboa Park in 1922 and is one of just a few in the United States that still operates as it did more than a century ago. Forever Balboa Park has owned, operated, and maintained the Carousel since 2017. The Balboa Park Carousel earned a Historical Resources Designation by the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Board in 2021. On National Carousel Day 2022, it was officially renamed the Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel in recognition of her significant support of this beloved community treasure.

National Carousel Day 2023 is made possible by Forever Balboa Park, Heritage Architecture & Planning, Mark Sauer Construction, Inc., and many individual supporters.



Forever Balboa Park

Forever Balboa Park is the leading nonprofit organization partnering with the City of San Diego, community organizations, and the public to enhance Balboa Park. Its focus is to sustain the park's legacy, enrich its many assets, and collaborate with park stakeholders to envision and execute initiatives that benefit both residents and visitors for decades to come. Forever Balboa Park brings valued resources to the park enabling capital improvements, raising funds, and recruiting volunteers to provide projects, programs, and services that promote the best interests of the park and the greater San Diego region.

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