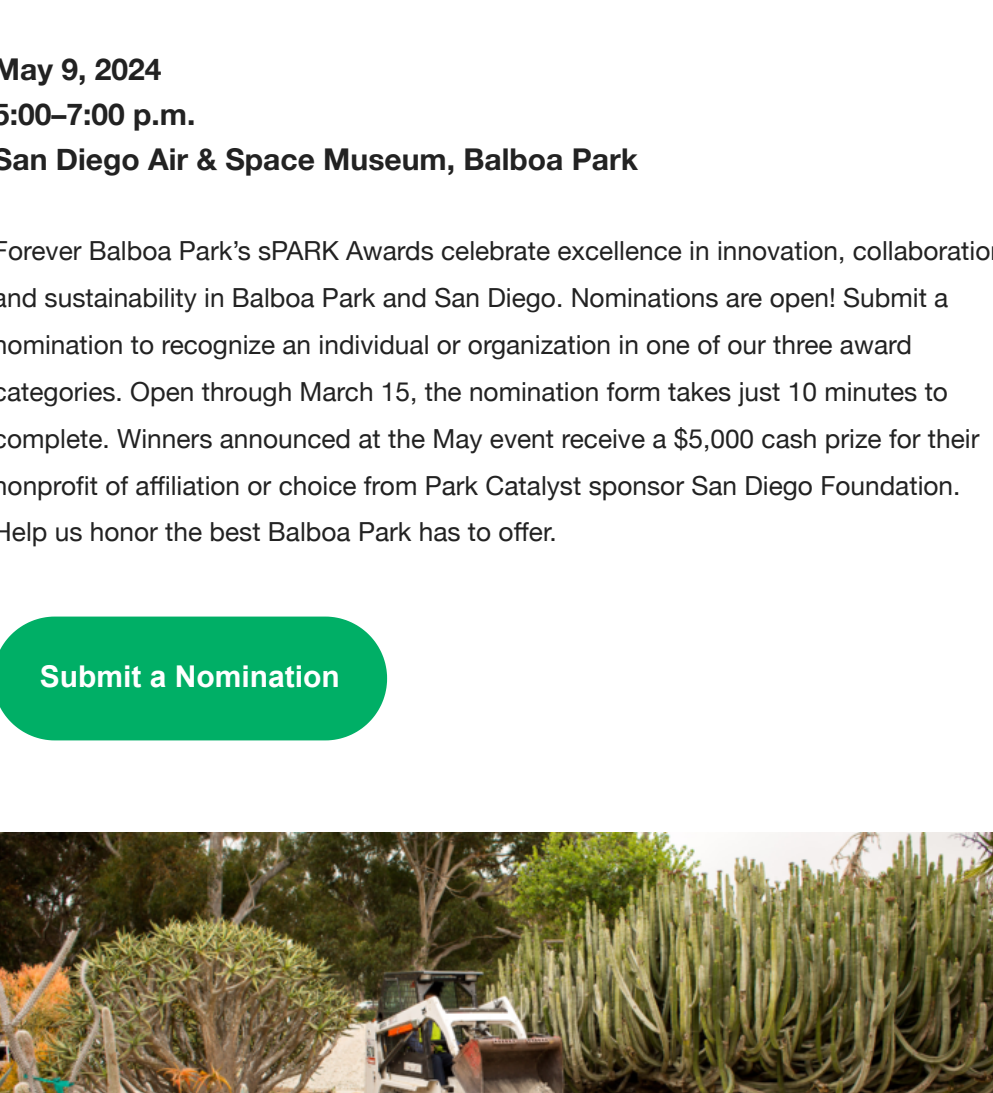


Your Park Newsletter Sessions



sPARK Awards

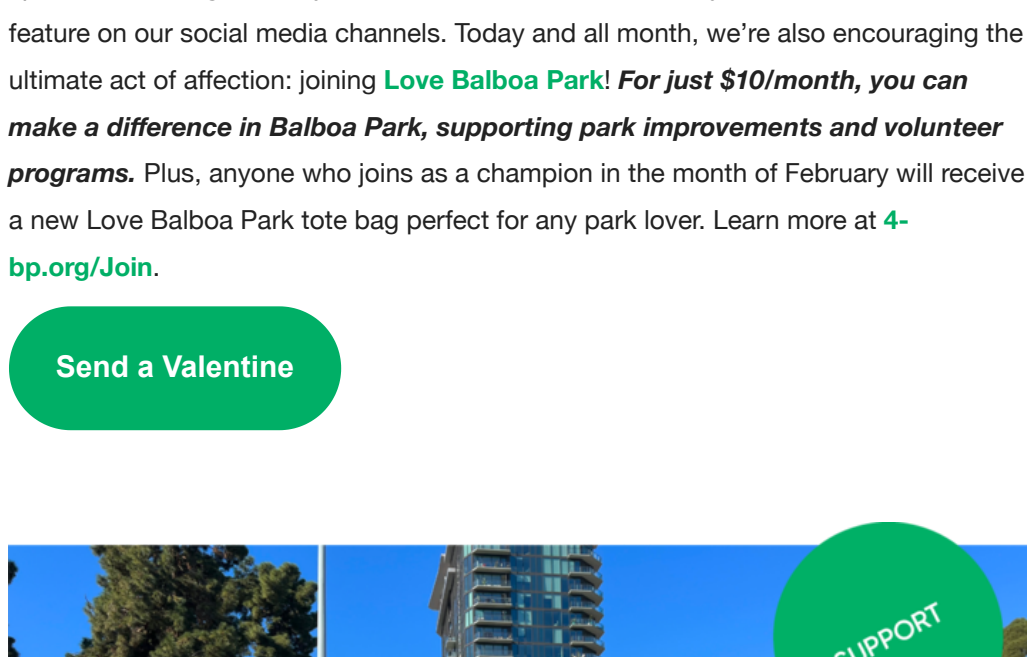
Celebrating Innovation in Balboa Park

**May 9, 2024
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

San Diego Air & Space Museum, Balboa Park

Forever Balboa Park's sPARK Awards celebrate excellence in innovation, collaboration, and sustainability in Balboa Park and San Diego. Nominations are open! Submit a nomination to recognize an individual or organization in one of our three award categories. Open through March 15, the nomination form takes just 10 minutes to complete. Winners announced at the May event receive a \$5,000 cash prize for their nonprofit of affiliation or choice from Park Catalyst sponsor San Diego Foundation. Help us honor the best Balboa Park has to offer.

[Submit a Nomination](#)



Agreement with City Expedites Improvements

Special Use Permit Outlines Forever Balboa Park's Essential Role in the Park

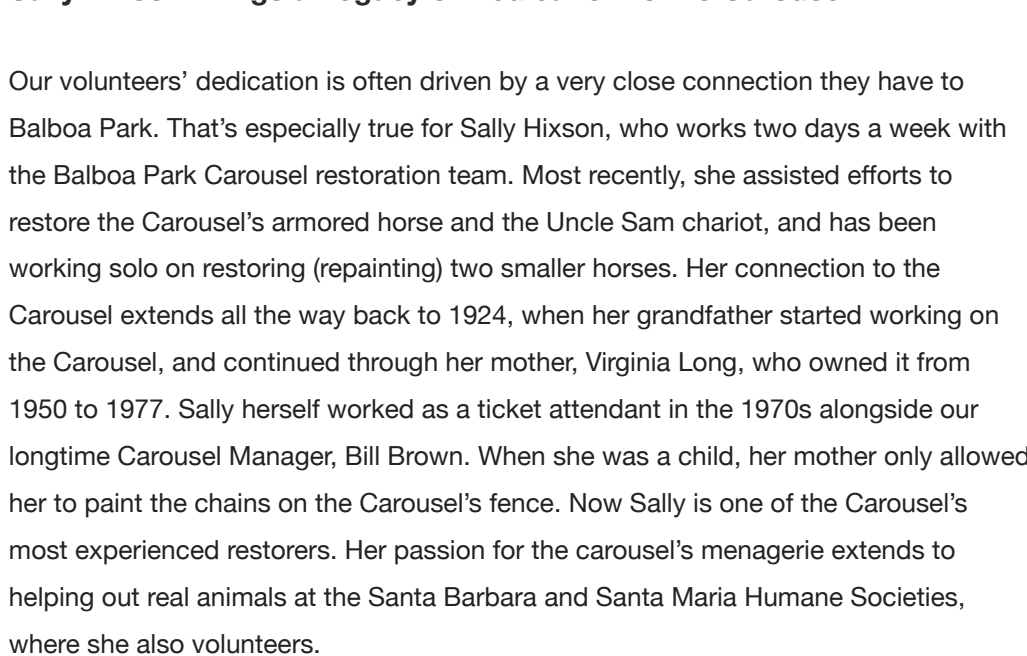
Forever Balboa Park has signed a three-year **Special Use Permit (SUP)** with the City of San Diego, effective January 1, 2024, that streamlines the process for our collaborative work to improve Balboa Park for all. The comprehensive agreement outlines the scope of our collaboration, helping to expedite projects and facilitate park improvements. Under the SUP, Forever Balboa Park will deploy its team of volunteers, staff, and contractors across all 1,200 acres of Balboa Park to provide seven-day-a-week visitor services through the Balboa Park Visitors Center, care for 16,000+ trees that make up Balboa Park's urban forest, steward the park's 18 public gardens and historic landscapes, repair and maintain the park's 60+ miles of trails, offer enhanced learning and placemaking opportunities, and restore historical assets. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the city to help make Balboa Park an accessible and welcoming experience for all visitors. We are also grateful to all our volunteers whose commitment and passion make our work possible.

I ♥ Balboa Park

Send a Valentine to Balboa Park

Valentine's Day is tomorrow. We know you love Balboa Park. Take a minute to send Balboa Park a valentine declaring your devotion. Submit a fond memory, favorite park spot, or a message on why Balboa Park means so much to you. We will select a few to feature on our social media channels. Today and all month, we're also encouraging the ultimate act of affection: joining **Love Balboa Park! For just \$10/month, you can make a difference in Balboa Park, supporting park improvements and volunteer programs.** Plus, anyone who joins as a champion in the month of February will receive a new Love Balboa Park tote bag perfect for any park lover. Learn more at [4-bp.org/Join](#).

[Send a Valentine](#)



Make a Difference in Balboa Park

Bring Your Team to a Corporate or Community Service Day

Enriching Balboa Park is a shared community effort. Forever Balboa Park offers exciting new ways for companies and community organizations to help improve the park. Consider scheduling an engaging volunteer service day for your corporate team or community group to help maintain Balboa Park's urban forest, work in the park's gardens, or clean up and beautify the park's most beloved areas. **Together, we can improve and advance Balboa Park so that people and nature thrive together.** Click the button below to learn more about how you can make a difference and volunteer with us.

[Learn More](#)



Introducing the Nat Garden Corps

Volunteers Are Needed to Tend New Garden at the Nat

In a unique partnership with the San Diego Natural History Museum, Forever Balboa Park is expanding volunteer gardening opportunities with the creation of the Nat Garden Corps. This new group of volunteers will specialize in the upkeep and interpretation of the new pocket and native plant gardens currently being installed at the San Diego Natural History Museum. These gardens and interpretive trails will highlight the region's biodiversity through living displays of native and low-water plants that provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Our own trustee Betty Peabody along with her late husband, Homer, will be honored on the interpretive signage for the Pollinator Garden. We are currently recruiting for new volunteers for the Nat Garden Corps. Training is scheduled to begin in April 2024 and is a perfect opportunity for anyone with a passion for native plants. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Nat Garden Corps, please email Andrea at asmith@balboapark.org for more information.



Volunteer of the Month

Sally Hixson Brings a Legacy of Dedication to the Carousel

Our volunteers' dedication is often driven by a very close connection they have to Balboa Park. That's especially true for Sally Hixson, who works two days a week with the Balboa Park Carousel restoration team. Most recently, she assisted efforts to restore the Carousel's armored horse and the Uncle Sam chariot, and has been working solo on restoring (repainting) two smaller horses. Her connection to the Carousel extends all the way back to 1924, when her grandfather started working on the Carousel, and continued through her mother, Virginia Long, who owned it from 1950 to 1977. Sally herself worked as a ticket attendant in the 1970s alongside our longtime Carousel Manager, Bill Brown. When she was a child, her mother only allowed her to paint the chains on the Carousel's fence. Now Sally is one of the Carousel's most experienced restorers. Her passion for the carousel's menagerie extends to helping out real animals at the Santa Barbara and Santa Maria Humane Societies, where she also volunteers.

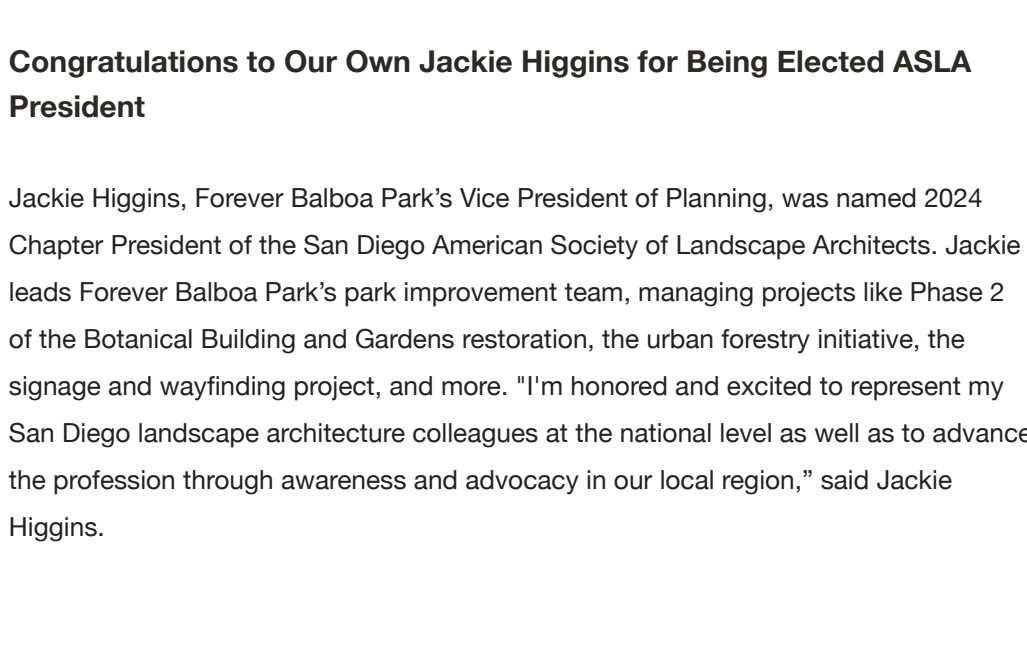


Discover the Park's 1,200 Acres

New Parkwide Map Includes All of Balboa Park

Forever Balboa Park developed a new parkwide map to include all 1,200 acres of Balboa Park, bringing attention to the open spaces and recreational opportunities in the park beyond the central cultural district. As part of our larger signage and wayfinding project, the unified map will be used across the park, in the Balboa Park Visitor Guide, and on new signage. The parkwide map was created in collaboration with the City of San Diego and other park stakeholders. The project was made possible by San Diego Foundation – San Diego County Associated General Contractors – Carpenters Union Health & Welfare Fund and a County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program grant. Check out the new map at the link below.

[See the New Map!](#)

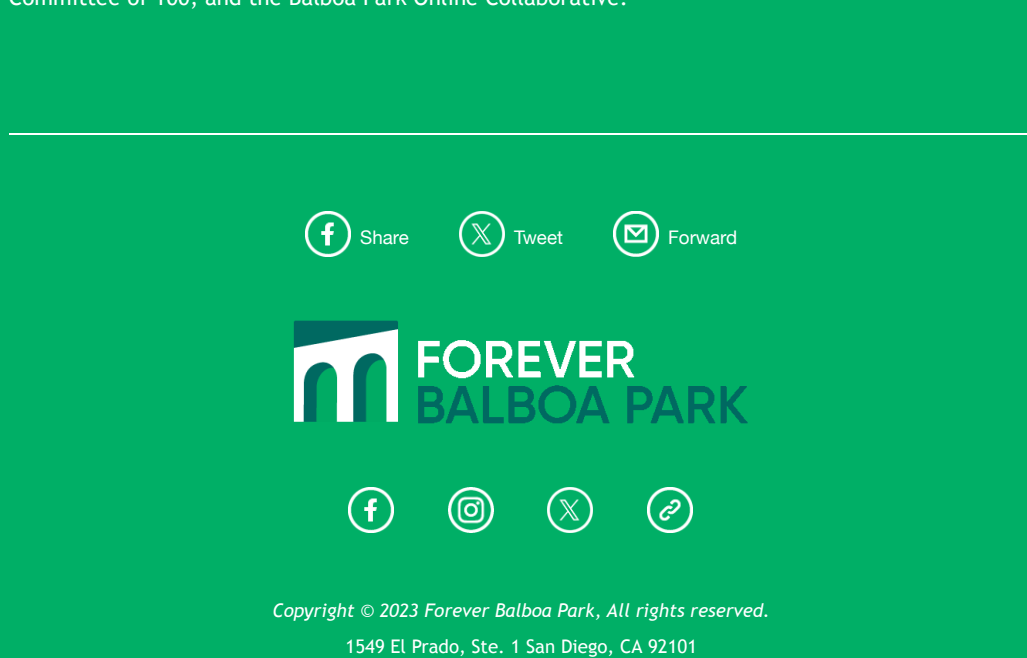


Developing NextGen Tree Stewards

High Tech High Students Help Bolster the Park's Urban Forest

Last month, nearly 50 students from High Tech High took part in a tree planting experience to complement their classroom studies. Working side by side with our Tree Steward volunteers, the high school students helped plant 12 trees in Pepper Grove on the park's central mesa while learning about the myriad environmental benefits of a healthy urban tree canopy. The new climate-friendly trees that were planted include two coast live oaks, five Peruvian peppers, and five tipu trees. The students' hands-on learning was enhanced with a special field study guide designed for them (check it out at the button below). The tree planting supplies and the youth study guide were generously funded by a grant from The Thursday Club.

[Event Photo Gallery](#)



A Crowning Achievement

Botanical Building Cupola Reinstalled

Phase 1 of the Botanical Building and Gardens revitalization project reached an important milestone on January 17 with the reinstallation of the building's cupola. As one of the building's more iconic features, the reinstallation was an important piece to returning the building to its former glory. You can watch a video of the cupola installation on our [Instagram](#). Phase 1 progresses with the continued installation of the redwood lath and Palladian windows along the front facade. The building is set to reopen in fall 2024. Phase 2 is currently in the design phase. Learn more about the project at BalboaParkBotanical.org.

Photo: Nat Biendara, BPCP

Carousel Open February 16-19

Experience Presidents' Day in Historic Fashion

What do George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln all have in common? They never had a chance to celebrate the Presidents' Day holiday by taking a spin on Balboa Park's 100+ year-old carousel. But you can! This Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, from 11am to 5:30pm, the Dorothea Laub Balboa Park Carousel will be open for the school holiday, a historic ride fit for a US president.

Leap into Half-Off Museum Admission

February 2024 Extends Museum Month One More Day

Leap year makes Museum Month extra special, as it offers one extra day to enjoy half-off admission at more than 60 museums and cultural institutions, including over a dozen in Balboa Park. Also new this year, Museum Month is recognized as an official event of the **World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024**. Anyone can pick up a free Museum Month pass at a San Diego public library, or [download one here](#), to receive 50% off admission at a wide variety of San Diego County museums, historic sites, gardens, zoos, and aquariums. This is a perfect opportunity to revisit old favorites, discover something new, and take part in World Design Capital activities.

Women's History Tour Launches in March

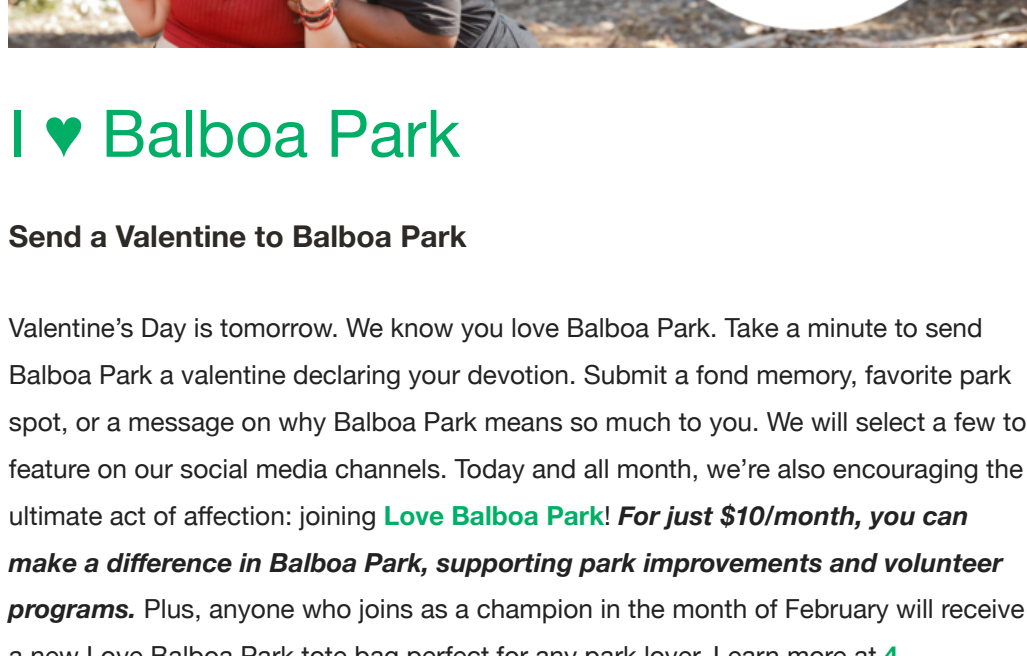
Celebrate Women's History Month in Balboa Park

A new tour focused on women's history in Balboa Park and San Diego is available just in time for Women's History Month. Free during the month of March, the public tour travels between treasured park landmarks and discusses the remarkable women who contributed to the park's rich history. The tour is hosted by the Balboa Park Visitors Center and is the product of a collaboration between the Women's Museum of California, San Diego History Center, and Forever Balboa Park. Tours meet at the Bea Evenson Fountain, in front of the Fleet Science Center, and run from 11am to 12pm. Sign up to join us on one of the tours below:

- Sunday, March 3
- Thursday, March 14
- Wednesday, March 20
- Saturday, March 30

[Register for a Tour](#)

Kate Sessions photo courtesy of San Diego History Center



Meet San Diego's ASLA Chapter President

Congratulations to Our Own Jackie Higgins for Being Elected ASLA President

Jackie Higgins, Forever Balboa Park's Vice President of Planning, was named 2024 Chapter President of the San Diego American Society of Landscape Architects. Jackie leads Forever Balboa Park's park improvement team, managing projects like Phase 2 of the Botanical Building and Gardens restoration, the urban forestry initiative, the signage and wayfinding project, and more. "I'm honored and excited to represent my San Diego landscape architecture colleagues on the national level as well as to advance the profession through awareness and advocacy in our local region," said Jackie Higgins.



In the News

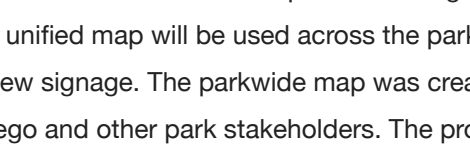
In Case You Missed It . . .

- A feature article in [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#) examined the important partnership milestone marked by the newly implemented Special Use Permit between Forever Balboa Park and the City of San Diego.
- The spectacular installation of the Botanical Building's cupola as part of the ongoing major renovation project received extensive coverage, including by [Fox 5 News](#), [NBC 7 News](#), [KPBS](#), [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#), [Times of San Diego](#), and [SDNews.com](#).
- The announcement that Spurlock Landscape Architects was hired to design the exterior gardens as part of Phase 2 of the Botanical Building restoration project was covered by [There San Diego](#), [SD Metro](#), and [Fox 5 News](#).
- The House of China's annual Lunar New Year celebrations at the HPR International Cottages on February 17-18 was highlighted by [NBC 7 News](#).



Forever Balboa Park is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, tax ID #33-0849518. Forever Balboa Park's programs and initiatives to enhance Balboa Park and the visitor experience are generously supported by members of the Conservator's Circle, donors and members, Prebys Foundation, San Diego Foundation, The Favrot Fund, William E. Cole Family Foundation, Dr. Seuss Foundation, Brandes Investment Partners, Hunter Industries, Las Patronas, San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, and Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation. We work in partnership with organizations like the City of San Diego, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Committee of 100, and the Balboa Park Online Collaborative.

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