

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2011

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Office of Historic Preservation Presents Twelve Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

- WHO:** Office of Historic Preservation
- WHAT:** Presentation of the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards for excellence in historic preservation
- WHEN:** 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2011
- WHERE:** Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park (Ballroom)
800 N Street (8th and N Streets)
Sacramento, California 95814

This year, OHP will present awards to 12 projects that span the whole of California:

- **US Navy and California State University Los Angeles for San Nicolas Island Archaeological Field School Program.** This award recognizes the Environmental Division at Ventura County Naval Base and CSU Los Angeles for the high level of excellence they have sustained in facilitating a program they cooperatively manage.
- **The Kawaiisu Nation, the Kern Valley Indian community and Council, and the Kawaiisu Language and Cultural Center for the Kawaiisu Project.** This award recognizes the totality of the Kawaiisu Project, which celebrates the revival and resurgence this rich culture is undergoing. Fueled by recent efforts to teach their language and practice traditional arts, including their world-renown basketry.
- **State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, the Society for California Archaeology, Michael Sampson and Dr. Susan Hector for the Passage of Senate Bill 1034 (California Archaeological Resource Protection Act).** With this award, we recognize the first legislation designed to protect California archaeological resources enacted in over 30 years and thank those who went

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from idea to reality in less than 2 years, providing long-needed parity between state and federal law.

- **City and County of San Francisco Planning Department for Historic Context Statement: San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design 1935-1970.** This award recognizes the tremendous job the San Francisco Planning Department did to produce this landmark historic context statement, the first in northern California to focus on Modern architecture and landscape design and its pioneering Bay Area practitioners.
- **City of Pasadena for Study of Late 19th and Early 20th Century Development and Architecture in Pasadena.** This award recognizes an innovative and comprehensive study of Pasadena residential development at the turn of the twentieth century. Properties were identified using ArcGIS software, resulting in a map and database of all properties built during the period of study.
- **City of Calabasas for William C. Masson Residence Historic Structures Report.** This award recognizes the City of Calabasas, which in 2009 commissioned a Historic Structures Report for the city's only privately-owned local historic landmark. The HSR will enable the City to adaptively reuse the house as an environmental education center as part of the headwaters of the Los Angeles River and the Headwaters Master Plan.
- **Bayview Opera House, Inc. for Bayview Opera House.** In 2004, the 300 seat South San Francisco Opera House (Bayview Opera House) received a Save America's Treasures grant to restore its hardwood floors. The San Francisco Arts Commission, which owns the building, and the tenant organization, Bayview Opera House, Inc., completed the project, and in the process discovered that the hall's original 1888 Douglas fir floor, thought to have been replaced by plywood, was still there under the plywood. Today, the Bayview Opera House is again a community cultural center in San Francisco's most underserved neighborhood.
- **San Francisco Presidio Trust for Presidio Public Health Service Hospital District.** This award recognizes the efforts of the Presidio Trust to revitalize the Public health Service Hospital District, which had been left vacant, deteriorating and prey to vandals for 25 years until the Presidio joined the National Park system in 1994 and established the Trust. The project is a model for sustainable historic preservation, one of the first in the nation to be certified LEED for Neighborhood Development.
- **City of Richmond for Richmond Memorial Civic Center.** This award recognizes the City of Richmond's three-year \$100 million project to rehabilitate the Richmond civic Center. A national leader in sustainability policies and home to many "green" businesses, as well as the leading green jobs training program in the nation, Richmond can again turn to its Memorial Civic Center as a center of civic and cultural activity, serving as a symbol of hope, prosperity, and growth for its citizens.
- **Richmond Friends of Recreation/Save the Plunge Trust and Todd Jersey for Richmond Municipal Natatorium.** This award recognizes the rehabilitation of the Richmond Municipal Natatorium (aka the Plunge), an historic public indoor swimming pool listed on the National Register. Its importance stems from the fact

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that during World War II when thousands of workers flowed into Richmond to work in the shipbuilding yards, the racial tension that sometimes arose elsewhere was markedly absent at the Plunge, where Richmond's citizens enjoyed a swim in an atmosphere of civic unity and harmony.

- **California State Parks for Restoration and Reconstruction of the Cosmopolitan Hotel.** This award recognizes California State Parks and its partners for their restoration of the former Casa de Bandini restaurant to the period when the building was operated as the Cosmopolitan Hotel, from 1869 to 1874. The hotel is significant because its 180-year history reflects cultural shifts and architectural and construction changes as San Diego evolved from a Mexican pueblo to an American Frontier community. A generous grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and a dedicated and talented team of consultants and artisans all contributed to the project's success.
- **San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority for Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Restoration and Reconstruction.** This award recognizes the restoration and reconstruction of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, built around 1870 and significant as one of the oldest structures in San Diego County. Restored in 2004, the resource was almost completely in a major wildfire in 2007, so has been restored (again) to its 1881 appearance; it interprets the rich agricultural history of San Diego's San Pasqual Valley.

More information about the Office of Historic Preservation is available at www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

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