

**SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANISATION'S
40TH ANNIVERSARY
PEOPLE IN
PRESERVATION
AWARDS**

JULY 27, 2023

MARSTON HOUSE ROSE GARDEN



Saving San Diego's Historic Places Together

Welcome to the momentous occasion of SOHO's 40th anniversary celebration of the People In Preservation Awards, an event that holds a special place in San Diego's heart. These awards are a testament to the dedication of property owners and community members in safeguarding our region's invaluable historical resources. Prepare to be inspired as we honor their remarkable efforts and pay tribute to the dynamic mix of our region's cultural heritage.

The PIP Awards honor individuals and organizations or agencies who have made significant contributions to our architectural and heritage sites and neighborhoods through their commitment to historic preservation. These passionate individuals, whom SOHO considers heroes and heroines, have dedicated their time and energy to safeguarding and restoring precious historic resources, helping to maintain San Diego as a meaningful place to live, work, and visit. Their efforts enrich the lives of all residents and visitors, and their impact will be profoundly felt by future generations.

This year marks a significant milestone for the PIP Awards as we celebrate four decades of honoring exceptional preservationists. Their work, projects, and programs have left an indelible mark on the city's heritage.

Over the past 40 years, SOHO has been privileged to honor a total of more than 700 outstanding individuals and entities with 432 People In Preservation awards for distinguished achievements in historic preservation.

We've recognized 111 exceptional homeowners and houses, each with its own architectural charm and unique history, and from a wide array of neighborhoods. The awards also showcase the breadth of talent and dedication of people in each area. Downtown, with its density of historic places, has been particularly fruitful: 42 winners have emerged from its lively streets. La Jolla, Balboa Park areas, and Mission Hills have also made major contributions, securing 30, 23, and 22 winners, respectively.

With a diverse range of categories, 150 recipients fall into the realm of non-buildings, which includes books, reports, and education. These awardees have broadened their fields, raising awareness and enlightening and inspiring us all.

Commercial buildings have left a lasting mark, earning recognition for innovation and impact. A total of 77, with 47 winners recognized for their adaptive reuse. The people steering these transformative projects have demonstrated their dexterity in creating spaces that inspire

and facilitate growth as they breathed new life into structures that would otherwise have been demolished and lost.

Forty recipients in the parks and cultural landscape category, whose dedication to preserving and enhancing our natural and cultural heritage, have enriched our lives. Additionally, 33 public buildings have been applauded for their functional excellence and architectural beauty.

Museums have played a crucial role in our cultural landscape, with 25 institutions being honored for their invaluable contributions to art, history, and education. Likewise, 21 religious structures have been celebrated for their architectural splendor and spiritual significance.

These individuals' and entities' extraordinary commitment to excellence has transformed our city and region, and our lives. As we applaud the accomplishments of this year's recipients, we also pay tribute to the collective efforts of those who came before them, and acknowledge the path they continue to forge for the preservationists yet to come. These exceptional people remind us to keep our vision clear, our passion burning, and our readiness primed for the challenges that lie ahead.

James D. Newland - Emcee

James D. Newland worked as a historian and planner with California State Parks for more than a quarter-century. He began his career as a state historian focused on cultural resource management and has led or been involved in the restoration of about a dozen national registered properties for State Parks, including the Crystal Cove Historic District Cottages and Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades.

Jim is the kind of public-spirited preservationist and educator you will find spending his Saturdays at the La Mesa History Center, but not because he's the former president. Rather, it is to be on hand to assist community members with their research in the archives, whether tracing their historic home's pedigree, or reaching for the apex of Mount Helix lore. He might also be researching for a new book, having already published four on La Mesa history and Cleveland National Forest, or perhaps preparing a talk that can be found on the History Center's YouTube channel.

SOHO honored Jim with the 2022 People In Preservation Award for Culture Keeper: La Mesa.

JULY 27, 2003
MARSTON HOUSE ROSE GARDEN

WE HONOR, RECOGNIZE, AND CELEBRATE
these people whose dedication and accomplishments have helped
provide a powerful sense of place for all San Diegans.

5PM - RECEPTION

6PM - WELCOME

David Goldberg - SOHO President

6:05PM - AWARDS CEREMONY

James D. Newland - Emcee

**2023 PEOPLE IN PRESERVATION
AWARD WINNERS**

Alvaro Ortiz

Gift to the Street

1897 Queen Anne Victorian House

David Goldberg

Legacy: Cultural Stewardship

Erik Hanson

Legacy: Guardian Advocate Distinction

Kristin Harms

University Heights Historical Society

Keeper of the Flame

University Heights Historical Marker Program

Jessica McGee

Legacy: Preservation Luminary

David Swarens

Legacy: Preservation Advocate Distinction

Carmen Lucas • Courtney Ann Coyle • Nick Doose • Rachel Ruston • Brian Williams

Culture Keeper: Tribal Cultural Landscape

Ab-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e Traditional Cultural Property

Diane Coombs

Lifetime Achievement

Dorothea Laub

Lifetime Achievement



Alvaro Ortiz
1897 Queen Anne Victorian
GIFT TO THE STREET

Alvaro Ortiz bought an 1897 Queen Anne Victorian house in the City of San Diego's Sherman Heights Historic District, a neighborhood representing architecture history and diverse community culture, in November 2021, mid-pandemic. The two-story house with bay windows had been vacant for nearly 25 years and hadn't seen a paint brush in over three decades. Termites, dry rot, lead paint, a sagging wood foundation, and other problems had ravaged the old home. Replacing rotted cast-iron plumbing pipes led him to recycle more than 300 pounds of metal. Armed with a master's degree in architecture, strength and determination, and neighborhood pride, Ortiz set about the laborious

Alvaro Ortiz (on right) and husband James Donaghe





restoration process. Before transforming his corner house with rich and beautiful period-appropriate paint colors, he replaced or restored exterior doors and windows, vintage glass, and woodwork and intricate trim. Surprised neighbors old and new who had written off the decaying house continue to stop by to share their memories of the house and to compliment his work. He's keeping the house's historic interior mostly intact and has refinished and saved the antique wood floors and existing trim. For repairs, he ordered timber in species and dimensions true to its original 19th century specs. Despite delays and setbacks associated with Covid-19, the house is once again gleaming with Victorian splendor.





David Goldberg

LEGACY: CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

David Goldberg traces his roots as a life-long preservationist to his early childhood homes in two of the historic Scripps Cottages (c. 1915) in La Jolla, followed by his family's move into a house designed by renowned San Diego Mid-Century Modern architect Lloyd Ruocco. His vivid memories of these special places remain powerful touchstones for him, spanning decades and leading to his purchasing a 1913 Arts and Crafts bungalow in Point Loma. He joined SOHO in 1978, and in these 40-plus years has volunteered and contributed in every area, from opening his home for public tours or home tour docenting to board and committee member to president. He has been involved with the La Jolla Historical Society for decades as a board

Left David Goldberg in front of his former family home, Scripps Cottage number 30; *right* La Jolla Historical Society's Wisteria Cottage





member and treasurer, and is now co-chair of its Historic Preservation Committee. He brings his professional background of financial expertise to both organizations to ensure their growth and success. His long-term advocacy and volunteer work is a testament to his deep passion for San Diego's architectural heritage and the city itself. And years before SOHO became the steward of the Marston House Museum, he was active in the Friends of the Marston House, evidence of his foresight in protecting the city's architectural treasures. SOHO applauds David Goldberg's commitment to preservation organizations and successful campaigns to save significant historic architecture and sites, resulting in a meaningful legacy of broad and far-reaching impact.



Left Scripps Cottage number 30; *right* The Marston House



Erik Hanson

LEGACY: GUARDIAN ADVOCATE DISTINCTION

Erik Hanson is a standout in the local preservation world with his command of many specialties, disciplines, and skills. He is being lauded for his singular dedication to historic preservation, education, activism, and advocacy in all forms. He comes by his advocacy chops honestly, as his father was an early Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 board member. His pioneering studies, analysis, and passion for the architecture and life of San Diego architect Irving Gill continue to support this innovative architect's ascendance to Modernism's pantheon locally, statewide, and nationally. To identify and document Gill's early Modernist designs in San Diego County at a time when the architect and his work were almost forgotten, he has sleuthed creatively and persistently and scoured

Left Erik Hanson with the Golden Hill Fountain Grotto; *Right* Irving Gill-designed La Jolla Woman's Club





FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

2450

written records. He later handcrafted exact reproductions of the architect's rare, geometric wooden furniture. Since the 1980s, as a volunteer and long-time SOHO board member, he freely shares his knowledge and discoveries with members, colleagues, and the public. He has also consulted on exhibit design and interpretation, as well as contributing essays to catalogues that document shows. He organized and curated an exhibit on Gill's architecture for the Oceanside Art Museum, which occupies and is surrounded by civic buildings Gill designed. Having closely examined historic architecture by a host of prominent San Diego architects, he is an expert on historic building materials. Behind the scenes, he also plays a vital role in preserving and archiving SOHO's own history. A historic homeowner with his wife and past SOHO board member Ingrid Helton in San Diego's South Park Historic District, Erik Hanson's preservation legacy looms large.

Left Irving Gill's First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1910. Photo courtesy Google street view; *right* Cobblestone stairs that lead to the Golden Hill Fountain Grotto





Kristin Harms

University Heights Historical Society

KEEPER OF THE FLAME

Kristin Harms, the energetic president of the University Heights Historical Society, and the organization itself are receiving the Keeper of the Flame Award. Harms conceived of and managed the creation, research, fabrication, funding, and installation of three 7-foot-tall historical markers, along with lifelong preservationist Ernestine Bonn, society members and community leaders. Designed and placed for high visibility, the markers describe City of San Diego Landmark No. 346—vestiges of the late 19th-century Mission Cliffs Gardens (established by philanthropist and businessman John D. Spreckels in 1898) and the adjacent Bentley Ostrich Farm (hatched in 1904). In 1997, UHHS successfully nominated what remains of the two storied

Left to right Ernie Bonn, Kristin Harms, Dr. Sandra Bonura



City of San Diego
Historical Landmark No. 346

This was once the entrance to Harvey
Newby's Chicken Barn, constructed in 1904.
Newby was the founder of a public eating
and drinking business for the #11 streetcar
that brought scores of visitors from
elsewhere to University Heights to see the
cathedral as well as Pilsener Club Gardens
and William Wilson (the 1912). The structure
was part of the 145-mile San Diego Electric
Railway network, established in 1892 by
railway entrepreneur John D. Spreckels.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 2002



SPEED
LIMIT
25



entities for historic designation. So Harms and Dr. Sandra Bonura, the author of *Empire Builder: John D. Spreckels and the Making of San Diego*, recently crafted the markers' text. Harms also designed the durable, cast-aluminum markers and, from University Heights, remotely monitored their fabrication at a Pennsylvania foundry. Ernestine Bonn, treasurer of the University Heights Community Development Corporation, was instrumental in securing a \$10,000 grant from the County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. And, in another of her community roles, she arranged for a San Diego city crew to plant the markers at no charge. They now stand near the remaining Mission Cliffs Gardens' 700-foot-long cobblestone wall and two redwood entry gates on Adams Avenue and on Mission Cliff Drive. Not your typical neighborhood project, the signs stand tall, as they educate and evoke pride in University Heights' history.





Jessica McGee

LEGACY: PRESERVATION LUMINARY

SOHO salutes Jessica McGee for her nearly two decades of philanthropy, generously volunteering her professional experience in accounting and human resources, and as SOHO's long-time treasurer as a board member. A regular presence in the SOHO office for 14 of these years, her fastidious financial oversight was crucial during the organization's years of major growth. Her steadfast monitoring of the numbers and meticulous attention to detail have contributed significantly to SOHO's financial stability, and a 24-year record of perfect and profitable finances, allowing us to successfully execute and expand our preservation advocacy, museum operations, revolving fund programs, and a myriad of educational

Left Jessica McGee stands in front of the Sherman-Gilbert House; *right* Western entrance to Balboa Park across the Cabrillo Bridge





projects and programs. Her reliable accounting expertise and vigilance have empowered SOHO to successfully carry out complex advocacy and legal and educational campaigns. In addition, her insights, guidance, and passion have helped shape SOHO's strategies, decision-making processes, and human resources policies. Jessica's advocacy work finds her everywhere from the office to the board room, from public testimony to the protest lines. Meanwhile, she has also managed to carefully restore and maintain her historic home in the Normal Heights neighborhood and become a master gardener a who is able to advise SOHO on our museum's gardens. For SOHO, Jessica McGee's extraordinary commitment and professionalism have significantly advanced our mission and impact, during good times and challenging pandemic times, making for a stellar legacy.

Left Hotel del Coronado; *right* Sherman-Gilbert House





David Swarens

LEGACY: PRESERVATION ADVOCATE DISTINCTION

David Swarens' unwavering and multifaceted contributions to SOHO and the region's historic preservation are on scales both granular and monumental. He has long played an essential role in SOHO's crucial negotiations and agreements regarding major precedent-setting preservation projects, including downtown San Diego's Warehouse Thematic Historic District, the Ballpark District, and the Hotel del Coronado's restoration and the adaptive reuse of its historic service buildings. His active participation and strategic acumen have been central and critically important to SOHO's winning strategies. He is a persuasive communicator in person and in writing, with an institutional memory linked to his infectious enthusiasm for preservation of historic places. His ceaseless

Left David Swarens in front of the Gill-designed Broadway Fountain; *right* Contributors in the South Park Historic District



NO
PARKING
8am - 10am

STOP

STOP





community involvement helped secure the City of San Diego's adoption of the Sherman Heights and the South Park Historic Districts, encompassing hundreds of historic homes and other buildings. These successful commitments attest to the profound impact of his leadership and his cultivation of public appreciation for San Diego's rich cultural heritage. Flowing between self-directed projects and collaborative work to advance preservation, David Swarens' ongoing outstanding commitment to preserving San Diego's architecture and heritage is an inspiration to all who aspire to make a meaningful difference in their communities. We all are the richer for his legacy.

Facing page Buildings in the Warehouse Thematic Historic District; *this page* Sherman Heights Community Center

*Carmen Lucas, Courtney Ann Coyle,
Nick Doose, Rachel Ruston, and
Brian Williams*

Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti'e Traditional Cultural Property

CULTURAL KEEPER: TRIBAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Carmen Lucas, an Elder in the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Indians has worked in the field of Cultural Resource Management as a Native American Monitor, consultant, and educator for nearly thirty years to protect tribally significant sites. She and the multidisciplinary team of Courtney Ann Coyle, Nick Doose, Rachel Ruston, and Brian Williams are receiving this award for their precedent-setting 354-page illustrated report about Ah-Ha' Mut-ta-ti' e (Water Mountains), a Kwaaymii/Kumeyaay sacred ancestral place centered around and up to the venerated peaks of Laguna Mountain in the Cleveland National Forest. They spent five years researching, conferring with other Indigenous people, collecting oral histories, and writing about this remote preserve. State historic preservation officials who



Left to right Nick Doose, Brian Williams, Carmen Lucas, Courtney Ann Coyle, and Rachel Ruston at Laguna Meadow





Laguna Meadow; *facing page* Storm Canyon



received the report concur that the mostly undeveloped area, which sustains ongoing tribal spiritual life and practices, legends, shared wisdom, and daily sustenance, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The far-reaching report could be a model for other tribal lands and preserves, especially because, as the authors state, it “celebrates the tribal cultural history of the Laguna Mountain area ... by lifting the tribal voice.”



Diane Coombs

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Preservationist Diane Coombs is a dedicated advocate and activist for the environment and community. She has perpetually contributed to numerous land-use and preservation projects in San Diego County for decades throughout her career and as a volunteer before and since her retirement. As a member of Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (C-3), she advanced C-3's commitment to fostering good governance, thoughtful planning and design through citizen engagement. Highlights of her tenure include the tremendous success in preserving the Tijuana River Estuary, now the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Southern California's largest coastal wetland and open to the public, and helping to stop plans for a concrete flood control channel of the San Diego River through Mission Valley.

Volcan Mountain Trail; *facing page* Diane Coombs in front of the Sikes Adobe Farmhouse





Tijuana Estuary; facing page San Dieguito Lagoon

Diane represented C-3 in the coalition that resulted in the 1985 Managed Growth Initiative, which requires public review and a city-wide vote to approve major developments in lands set aside by the City of San Diego for future development.

Following many years as Land Use Policy advisor to several San Diego County Supervisors, she dedicated a decade as executive director of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA). In that role, she secured swaths of land and water, collaborated with new and established partners, and helped to introduce city dwellers to our county's natural richness. Her actions began the ongoing successful preservation and protection of the remaining San Dieguito River Valley as a natural open space regional park.

Ambitious goals already met include many segments of the Coast to Crest trail between the coast at Del Mar to Volcan Mountain, north of Julian, with more to come, and the preservation and restoration of the historic 1870s Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, now a museum.





Dorothea Laub

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dorothea Laub's endeavors have made her possibly the most steadfast donor and champion of historic restoration projects in San Diego since the cultural preservation benefactors of the early 20th century. Much of her work has centered around the restoration of Balboa Park's historic buildings and landscapes, the historic buildings of Liberty Station Arts District, Point Loma Village restorations, and beyond. Her moral and donor support during the Save The Cabrillo Bridge campaign showed just how deep her love of the park goes. At Liberty Station, her love of dance led to the transformation of a 1940s former Navy building into Dorothea Laub Dance Place, now the home of the prominent companies Malashock Dance and San Diego Ballet. She also supported the preservation and adaptive re-use of other Liberty Station historic buildings:

Dorothea Laub Music & Arts Center at Liberty Station; facing page Dorothea Laub in front of the Point Loma Assembly;



Architect's rendering for the restoration of Balboa Park's municipal gymnasium.
Courtesy balboaparkcommitteeof100.org; Facing page Dorothea Laub Balboa Park
carousel. Photo courtesy Friends of Balboa Park



one dedicated to Music and Arts, and the Dick Laub NTC Command Center, named in honor of her late husband. Most recently, her generosity took center stage as the beloved Balboa Park carousel menagerie, dating back to 1910, underwent restoration and is set to enchant visitors once again when it reopens in July. She has a remarkable gift for recognizing why people need significant historic places in their lives. Her enduring projects are as varied as faithfully replicating a 1935 Palm Canyon pedestrian bridge in Balboa Park that had been lost, a work of the renowned San Diego architect Richard Requa, to renovating parts of the San Diego Automotive Museum to revitalizing the historic clubhouse of Point Loma Assembly, a local improvement society founded by 28 women in 1911. Her support is soon to be seen in the restoration of Balboa Park's 1935 Municipal Gymnasium, (originally the Exposition's Palace of Electricity and Varied Industries) being done by the Committee of One Hundred.



Thank you for joining SOHO at the 40th anniversary of the People In Preservation Awards in the historic Marston House rose garden for an extraordinary celebration of San Diego's preservation heroes and heroines.

May this event leave you inspired and brimming with hope and optimism about the remarkable achievements of historic and cultural preservation that can be accomplished by the people of San Diego.

We thank the members of the 2023 SOHO Board of Directors for their commitment, the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Bruce Coons, and the dedication of SOHO staff and volunteers.

All photos by Sandé Lollis, except where noted otherwise.



Through education, advocacy, and stewardship, SOHO's mission is to preserve, promote, and support preservation of the architectural, cultural, and historical links and landmarks that contribute to the community identity, depth, and character of our region.