The New Children’s Museum of San Diego wins national recognition

By Jill Diamond

If you thought museums were only for adults, guess again.

The New Children’s Museum of San Diego, which is not only a popular local destination, but also one of 10 recipients recently awarded the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service by The Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The award is considered the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries. In the past 25 years, the accolade has celebrated institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions for individuals, families and communities. The award will be presented at a June 12 event in Washington, D.C.

According to Deputy Museum Director Tomoko Ruta, "The New Children’s Museum of San Diego is not only for adults, guess again.

Successful graffiti artist from San Diego to be featured at Festival of the Arts

By Cynthia Robertson

San Diego homegrown artist Dave Ross is making graffiti colorful, cute and a true art form and for that, he is being featured at the San Diego Festival of the Arts on the weekend of June 8-9. Ross is arguably best known for his creation of BunnyKitty, introduced in his 2016 book, “The Origins of BunnyKitty: A Tale for All Ages.”

It’s a book meant for families and it drives those messages home through characters like BunnyKitty and Mommy Bunny, who are based on my late mother and collaborator,” he said.

Ross’ mother wrote about the magic spell in these messages home through characters like BunnyKitty and Mommy Bunny, who are based on my late mother and collaborator,” he said.

“Significant change is never easy, but those who voted today looked to their conscience and found the courage to do the right thing for California,” Weber said.

Assembly member Shirley Weber and Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, both representing San Diego, celebrate the passage of AB 392.

California Assembly passes police use-of-deadly-force bill

The California state Assembly passed legislation last week authored by San Diego Assembly member Shirley N. Weber and Sacramento Assembly member Kevin McCarty that would restrict the police use of deadly force statewide.

The vote today on a 67-0 vote after law enforcement groups removed opposition and the bill gained the support of California Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

"The Assembly vote on AB 392 is proof positive that real change can happen. AB 392 will end preventable deaths and do so without jeopardizing the safety of law enforcement officers. It was long, hard work, but I am proud to be part of the effort with Assembly member Shirley Weber, law enforcement, victims’ families and others to find a path forward on use of force. I look forward to hearing AB 392 in the Senate," Atkins said in a statement.

“Significant change is never easy, but those who voted today looked to their conscience and found the courage to do the right thing for California,” Weber said.

“I have to thank the families who have lost loved ones to police violence. They have been the energy...Call For Delivery

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San Diego's 250-year history

Diana honored in London

Taste of Little Italy

Startup San Diego returns

Inside the Children’s Museum (Photo courtesy the New Children’s Museum of San Diego)

Graffiti artist David Ross at one of his murals of BunnyKitty and other characters he has created. (Photo courtesy David Ross)

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see Graffiti artist, pg15

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see San Diego's 250-year history
BAM Communications thrives Downtown

By Vince Meehan

San Diego native Rebecca Bamberger is the founder and CEO of BAM Communications, a local public relations firm located in the iconic El Cortez Hotel building. Her business cred is impeccable, having completed a MBA program at the University of Pittsburgh as their youngest graduate ever and founding multiple successful companies including Bite, the largest food tour company in the country. But Bamberger likes to have fun as well, and her twin offices at the El Cortez are testament to this. Her ground floor patio suites are decorated with an eclectic collection of motifs ranging from neon art deco to Warhol-style pop art. A theater-style marquee greets visitors at the entrance with customized messages. The kitchen is stocked with fresh coffee, local craft beer and unique bottles of wine. The result is a work place that feels like a place you’d want to chill out at. And this is the essence of BAM Communications.

“It’s great because it feels very homey and you’re also in a piece of history,” Bamberger said about her headquarter.

“So there’s the original archways and crown molding and things that you’re not going to find in a newer building, and I love that. I love architecture, and something as prominent as this building, which I’ve always known as a homey and a garden was just magic… and here we are!”

Bamberger likes to go by the name of “Beck” and her business card is made of metal with those letters stamped out of the middle. Her parents met while stationed in the Navy, and as many Navy people do, they decided to stay in San Diego. Early on, she was drawn to the idea of being a storyteller and landed a summer internship at KUSI. After college, she was hired as an associate producer at NBC 7/39 here in San Diego. Then she hosted her own talk show on the CW Network called “Best and Brightest in San Diego,” that featured local CEOs. “I had Ralph Rubio [of Rubio’s Fish Tacos] and he was just iconic,” Bamberger said. “I mean, how do you do an IPO with tacos? And how do you even start? He was just amazing!”

Bamberger won an Emmy Award for her show and fell in love with the art of storytelling. Along the way, she met a PR person who introduced her to the world of public relations and a light bulb went on. “I thought, ‘Oh, I can do a PR firm, that sounds easy-ish,’” Bamberger said recalling her first notion of entering PR. “You know, you have a phone, you have a laptop, and you’re good to go because unlike law or medicine, you do not need any degree or license or exam to qualify you as a PR person.”

Soon after, Bamberger started BAM Communications and began representing small local boutiques and businesses as well as a handful of restaurants. Her clients included Burger Lounge and Luna Grill, which have both gone on to achieve great success. But along the way, she decided to raise the bar by shifting her focus to tech companies, primarily venture capital-backed start-ups located in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and even overseas.

This strategy has proved to be very successful and given Bamberger the confidence to seek out new clients based on the potential they have to make the world a better place. It’s almost as if these companies have to pitch them, as opposed to the other way around. And Bamberger feels very strongly about representing companies that impress her. She chooses to focus on tech companies that are trying to solve large problems in today’s world, especially if it reduces waste or helps the ecosystem. “We focus on [what] we can argue, ‘If they become successful, this is going to be a good thing! Really, we look for as the number one thing, is this really a huge problem being solved, and do we think these people can do it?’” Bamberger said. “So just like they get all this money from venture capitalists, and they have to convince them to dole out the money, they need to convince us to represent them.”

Yes, there may be a little bit of swagger in the step of Rebecca as she leads BAM Communications into future success, but that success will be grounded in a fun environment at the top of El Cortez Hill. And while a tech community has yet to sink roots in San Diego, Bamberger sees that happening in the near future and looks forward to it.

—Vince Meehan can be reached at vinniemeehan@gmail.com.

Jill Veglahn enjoys a perfect San Diego afternoon on the patio

(clockwise from left) BAM Communications members Ramele Wallace, Jill Veglahn, Natalie Schoen, Kendall Aldridge and founder and CEO, Rebecca “Beck” Bamberger. (Photos by Vince Meehan)

The “new guy” Ramelle Wallace at his workstation.

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Block F adds greenscape and open space to East Village

Art on the Land
Delle Willett

I recently had the opportunity to get a virtual in-depth tour of Block F in East Village with Amber Lake of Carrier Johnson + Culture, with an emphasis on the landscape architecture which is what this column is all about, right?

Block F has 32 floors, 405 residential units, 56,000 square feet of office space and 20,000 square feet of retail. Start of construction is slated for 2020.

With F and G streets to the north and south and 15th and 16th streets to the east and west, Block F bookends the proposed East Village Green facing the current campus of the NewSchool of Architecture & Design. It’s a development that adds much needed greenscape and open space to the industrial and utilitarian urban landscape of East Village.

From the start, the design development of Block F has been a collaboration with architecture, interior design and landscape architecture through architect Ray Valera, interior designer Manuela Bravo-Smith, and landscape architects Martin Flores and Amber Lake—all of Carrier Johnson.

What evolved was an early design to integrate the rawness of steel, brick and glass. Interior design organizers polished concrete, stone and culvert-shaped apertures, and landscape architecture utilized steel grating, glass slag and exposed aggregate within bio-retention gardens.

Block F will provide for a minimum 12,600 square feet of eco-roof on the eighth level and pool level 32. The roof gardens are being designed specific to San Diego’s microclimates and exposure.

In addition, a significant portion of the green roofs are in the form of 3-foot minimum-in-height planters to allow ornamental and accent canopies for shade, color, and vertical interest. In an array of raised planters, ornamental trees like crape myrtle, dwarf orange or fruitless olive will provide a degree of shade and natural barrier providing texture and color in addition to sculptural form. And finally, a second tier of green roof is found above two multimedia hubs at level eight, providing shade and shelter for lounge space, TV monitors, dining areas and other outdoor gatherings.

The entry to Block F aligns with the East Village Green to the west and is considered a pocket extension of the green space or a “front porch.” Of the roughly 5,000 square feet allotted for garden space, 160 square feet are dedicated to open space.

The haunting history of the Cole Building

Gaslamp Landmarks
Sandee Wilhoit

The site of the current Cole Building, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and G Street, is one of the earliest developed properties in the area. Albert A. Cole, an early San Diego capitalist, purchased the property from Alonzo Horton in December of 1868 for $800 in gold. In 1873, Cole deeded a portion of the property to Verlaque for $1,250 in gold, netting himself a tidy profit.

At the same time, Cole had a frame building well under construction on the site. This building, a one-story wooden frame structure, had three storefronts with frame partitions and slate or tin roofs. Businesses in the storefronts included a grocery, a restaurant and a fruit stand. Another tenant was Theodore Verlaque, a native of France, who was intent on opening a place for the sale of liquor and wines. In 1878, Verlaque took out a two-year lease from Cole, and promptly subleased the property to Theodore Lehmann for nearly twice the amount of money he was paying Cole. Verlaque was not only a successful restaurateur, saloon keeper and wine maker, he also ran large herds of sheep from the hills of La Jolla to the Narrows, which is now part of Anza-Borrego State Park. He foresaw future growth in that area, and with a fellow Basque, August Grand, he established the Verlaque Store, the first business, and built the first house in what would become the city of Ramona. Verlaque’s children remained in the area and ran the store until 1960. Both structures are still standing and are preserved as historical landmarks in Ramona.

In 1882, Cole decided to expand his property and built yet another store on the site. Charles Snider was also still active on both sides of the property and had expanded to a barber shop and bathhouse. The city directory at the time lists the barber shop as Snider’s and the bathhouse as his wife’s business. C.P. Francisco’s grocery store opened in Cole’s new building, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and G Street. This building, a one-story wood frame structure, had three storefronts with frame partitions and slate or tin roofs. Businesses in the storefronts included a grocery, a restaurant and a fruit stand. Another tenant was Theodore Verlaque, a native of France, who was intent on opening a place for the sale of liquor and wines. In 1878, Verlaque took out a two-year lease from Cole, and promptly subleased the property to Theodore Lehmann for nearly twice the amount of money he was paying Cole. Verlaque was not only a successful restaurateur, saloon keeper and wine maker, he also ran large herds of sheep from the hills of La Jolla to the Narrows, which is now part of Anza-Borrego State Park. He foresaw future growth in that area, and with a fellow Basque, August Grand, he established the Verlaque Store, the first business, and built the first house in what would become the city of Ramona. Verlaque’s children remained in the area and ran the store until 1960. Both structures are still standing and are preserved as historical landmarks in Ramona.

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More than just office space
Coworking sites continue taking root Downtown as demand remains high

By Dave Fidlin

The historic Broker’s Building in Downtown San Diego is undergoing a metamorphosis this year as the deeply rooted site gets ready for its next chapter — hosting a modern office concept behind a still-growing business model.

Spurred by the announcement of $100 million in Series A funding early this year, Carlsbad-based CommonGrounds Workplace announced plans of opening a Downtown location next summer at the Broker’s site, 404 Market St.

When CommonGrounds opens its doors, it will join a growing list of other businesses throughout the Downtown area that offer variations on coworking amenities for entrepreneurs and employees of companies opting to forgo dedicated office space.

Use of co-working spaces costs money — something the local coffee shop does not charge, right, for the use of a table and chair as you sip on your brew.

“We were 98% occupied within the first eight months,” said Rachel Quinto, regional sales manager with Novel’s San Diego location, referring to the first phase of the operation. “We’ve seen huge growth.”

Quinto said coworking spaces are well suited for San Diego — particularly Downtown, where entrepreneurship has been growing and flourishing in recent years.

“In San Diego, we’re seeing a lot of business growth,” Quinto said. “People are attracted to the affordable and creative options we have available. We’re on a really exciting growth trajectory right now.”

Downtown Works, which operates out of a former law firm building, 5050 W. B St., began offering its amenities in September 2016 and has experienced similar growth, Candace Vanderbilt, community curator, said.

Before Downtown Works opened its doors to the business community, Vanderbilt said the office space was drastically overhauled aesthetically and functionally to mesh with the operation’s mission statement.

“For us, it’s more than just having space available,” Vanderbilt said. “It’s about collaboration and creating a sense of community.”

Vanderbilt said she and others working at Downtown Works share in the passion of being part of a trend that keeps growing.

“This is an area that’s just blossoming with startup enterprises,” Vanderbilt said. “We’re trying to support that ecosystem.”

As for CommonGrounds, Bates said the operation is being positioned differently from others in the industry space in the hopes of standing out from the crowded pack.

In addition to offering coworking space, CommonGrounds is offering a tailored solutions model known as workplace-as-a-service. The goal, according to Bates and others in the company, is to create flexible workplace products and services geared toward companies ranging from start-ups to Fortune 1500 enterprises.

“CommonGrounds’ entrance-grade workplace design fosters an enriched work life environment engineered to help companies attract and retain talent,” Bates said in a January news release announcing the Series A funding commitment.

CommonGrounds’ imminent emergence Downtown came together, in part, through a partnership forged with Pacifica Enterprises, a San Diego-based real estate investment firm.

With Pacifica’s resources and expertise in the mix, CommonGrounds’ shared workplace in the Broker Building also will be complemented with several ground-level restaurants and a rooftop deck with panoramic views.

—Dave Fidlin is a freelance journalist with a special affinity for San Diego and its people. Contact him at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net.
Standout quote

“Not all money is good money. The people and relationships are more important than just getting money in the bank.”

Jonathan Knight, CEO of Uprise Energy, a company focused on creating accessible and mobile wind turbines, joined colleagues for a discussion on the challenges and processes involved in entering the clean tech space.

Standout speaker

One of those most powerful assets of Startup Week is the network of individuals and companies who have learned from the successes and failures of navigating the early stages of a company or organization — and are willing to share those stories.

One of this year’s speaker standouts was Darcy Shiber-Knowles, the senior quality, sustainability, and innovation manager at Dr. Bronner’s. While not an entrepreneur herself, Shiber-Knowles deftly answered questions from entrepreneurs hungry for information on becoming a benefit corporation and structuring their ideas around sustainability and fair business practices. Shiber-Knowles emphasized the value of collaboration and the importance of shared values.

Standout company

Your life. Your schedule. Right now.” The website tagline for Aira is a motto many Americans would resonate with.

Aira develops and leverages technology aimed at providing ease of visual access and movement to people experiencing low vision. With an app, a pair of cool futuristic glasses, and an agent, Aira promises increased access to information, engagement, and independence — and is well in the process of raising capital.

Startup story

Having an idea and developing a product is just one part of the journey of going to market. You need buy-in.

In a joint session with Sam Neuhauser of Enspyre Society, a creative agency focused on cause branding for nonprofits, and one of their clients, Active Valor, attendees got a look at the impact of powerful storytelling.

Active Valor is relatively new to the nonprofit scene but quickly gained traction with its inspiring mission and compelling digital storytelling.

They tap into the strong military presence in San Diego by pairing veterans and Gold Star children (those who have lost a parent in military service) for a day of adventure and opportunities for mentorship. And it’s a unique opportunity for spouses to connect with each other and watch their children thrive.

For Enspyre Society, proof of concept achieved.

—Lana Harrison is the communications coordinator for the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She can be reached at larrison@downtownsandiego.org.”

SD Startup Week standouts

Downtown Partnership News
Lana Harrison

This time last week, the San Diego Convention Center was awash with eager entrepreneurs looking to make those big ideas come to life.

This year marked the seventh iteration of the growing San Diego Startup Week conference, which seeks to highlight and energize the innovation ecosystem in the San Diego region.

Under the leadership of Jarrod Russell (who assumed the role of executive director of Startup San Diego this past year), the conference grew to include workshops, networking events, pitch competitions, and mentoring throughout the region in Downtown, Clairemont, and Barrio Logan, and with a nod to the region’s bi-national economy, a kick-off event in Tijuana.

In the age of worrying climate reports and poly styrene bans, a welcome inclusion in this year’s lineup was many workshops with a focus on sustainability and the role that social enterprises, nonprofits, and companies with an eye toward social good have in the business community.

With three session tracks and a wide menu of workshops and activities to choose from each day, the content was both diverse and wide-reaching and really only fully accessible by attending (so stay tuned for next year).

In the meantime, here are a few standouts from San Diego Startup Week 2019:

Standout quote

“Not all money is good money. The people and relationships are more important than just getting money in the bank.”

Jonathan Knight, CEO of Uprise Energy, a company focused on creating accessible and mobile wind turbines, joined colleagues for a discussion on the challenges and processes involved in entering the clean tech space.

Finding (and maintaining) capital at the beginning stages of a company is on everyone’s mind in the startup world. Knight’s advice was a wise call to recognize that behind checks and financial commitments are people with their own set of expectations and values.

Standout speaker

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FROM PAGE 4

COLE BLOCK

building, and as he promised to “have a neat assortment of fresh goods from San FrancIsco,” he received a rush of business from local customers.

By 1892, the successful Mr. Cole decided to, once again, expand his holdings. He planned to replace the one-story frame building with a three-story brick building. He hired prominent architect John R. Stannard to design the structure. Stannard had also designed the Sherman-Gilbert House, the Louis Bank of Commerce, the Minear Building, the Nanking Cafe, and the Callan Hotel.

Additionally, he designed the glass dome for Madam Tingley’s Theosophical Society in Point Loma and a fire station at 25th and Broadway.

Stannard described his proposed project as being a symmetrically arranged structure with cream-colored bricks set in red mortar. He allowed for three large store rooms on the Fifth Avenue side of the building, and one store room on the G Street side. The main entrance to the second- and third-floor rooms was to be on G Street and would feature a perfectly formed arch with a wide stairway of Oregon pine finished in white cedar ascending to the upper floors. Stannard envisioned 24 rooms on each floor, all arranged exactly alike. The interior was also to be finished in white cedar. He incorporated granite keystones in the arch and the use of Arizona red sandstone for the window sills. The keystones are unique in the Gaslamp, and not found on any other buildings. The elaborate roofing line was to feature large pinnacles.

Albert Cole hired Thomas Jobbitt and Peter F. Schaniel to construct the building. Jobbitt and Schaniel ordered materials from Whittier Fuller and Company; San Diego Paint Company; Olsen, Graham and Wolton; and West Coast Lumber in Cole’s name. In most cases, Cole made a minimum payment down with no terms discussed for the remainder of the costs. At the close of construction, none of these companies received any remuneration and were finally forced to take legal action.

The corner of the Cole Building showing the intricate roof (Photo by Tim Trevorski)
On the street where you live: An interview with Andy Asaro

Little Italy Culture & Heritage
Tom Cesaroni

The Convivio Now and Again Series comprises oral histories from Italian-community members. I conducted an oral history with Little Italy resident Andy Asaro, who discusses how he landed his role as the neighborhood behind Little Italy of long ago.

In the Disney-Pixar film “Up,” the older protagonist refuses to give up his longtime home to commercial developers, and when he finally must leave, his journey begins as he takes his house with him by helium balloons in great animated fashion. I was reminded of this Disney character when I conducted an oral history with Long Island resident Andy Asaro as I sat in his family home on India Street and made notes on the rampant commercial redevelopment all around him.

In contrast to his “Up” curmudgeon counterpart, Andy’s affable manner gives him a fixture in the Italian neighborhood.

Andy recalls the many tastes, sounds, and scents of his childhood neighborhood, which still form many of the memories of his youth. Andy’s family moved to the area when he was two, and everybody was real oiled by the time they were done — eat that or wine. And the food was toward the early ’50s, they got a liking for Manhattans, so I became an official, Manhattan makers. I got really proficient at making Manhattan drinks. And after I took them to this day. We made wine every year, and I just could not stand the taste of wine. We had hooch all over the house, and I never touched it — never — because I didn’t like it. But once I turned about 22, 23, my taste buds completely changed.

Andy laughs at that remark, as it seems ages ago. “I was a great detail about winemaking, an important activity for his family. “I used to love to make wine. We used to either go to Patella or go up to Escondido or Ramona. Patella was a wholesale producer down on J Street, and so we’d order the grapes from him. We’d order about 1,200, 1,400, 1,500 pounds. So my grandfather had the press and the grinders, so we’d sit it all here and squeeze it out in the garage and then bring it down [to the cellar] and put the wine in the barrels down there. Once, I almost blew myself up because they used to sell used whiskey barrels because they would use them once and then they’d put them up for sale. So they were ordinarily very cheap — $8, $9, $10 a barrel. So you’d wash the barrel out, and then you would, if it had been used for wine or whatever, you’d burn a sulfur stick in there and top it up so it would kill all of whatever bacteria was in there. So you’d fumigate it, basically. So you had to be careful with the whiskey barrels because the fumes of the whiskey were still in there even though you washed it out. If you [tried] to burn a sulfur stick in there without washing it out first, the thing would explode. Well, apparently I didn’t wash it well enough. The sulfur stick — I put it in there, and it went vrooom! It didn’t blow up, fortunately. And around the whole neighborhood during that season all the gutters would be running red. And the smell, that’s a combination of many things — the aroma, of the neighborhood. Andy says, included the fresh bread from the many bakeries around town: Roma Bakery, Frank’s Bakery, Quality Bakery, and Victor Lupini’s Bakery. And he recalls Ben Hur Coffee and Sun Spices. About Ben Hur Coffee, Andy remembers, “My grand mother’s house was right behind it, [Ben Hur Coffee] had this giant hopper on the roof and they used to roast coffee there and then grind it and put it in bags and take it out. When they roasted coffee, what a smell, whoa — you just couldn’t believe it. Yeah — just terrific.”

—Visit conviviosociety.org to learn more about our mission, vision, project such as Born & Bred that will serve street tacos filled with corn tortillas, dry-aged beef, avocado-lime crema and hot sauce; and Café Gratitude that will serve “Blessed,” which is tempeh bolognese with quinoa pasta, cashew mozzarella, broccoli and spinach, as well as “Adoring,” which is their tiramisu.

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While Taste of Little Italy participants visit various restaurants sampling different bites from each in exchange for a stamp on their passport, they can also enjoy live music scattered throughout the charming community on streets and in Little Italy’s signature piazzas. Food lovers will have the chance to take in the views surrounding the neighborhood’s 48 square blocks, including San Diego’s sunset sparkling over the bay while discovering new and traditional eateries in San Diego’s top culinary hub.

Tickets to Taste of Little Italy can be purchased online for $45 per person before the event and $50 at the door.

To stay connected with Little Italy, check out what’s going on in the neighborhood by following the community on Instagram and Twitter: @LittleItalySD and Facebook: LittleItalySD. To learn more things happening in the neighborhood, visit LittleItalySD.com.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@littleitalyad.com.
What fits between two pieces of bread? Find out at the Earl of Sandwich, a new downtown eatery titled after British lord John Montagu, who is attributed for inventing the sandwich in the 1700s. With more than 30 locations stretched across the U.S., and one in France, the Florida-based chain features everything from French dips and tuna melts to roast beef with cheddar and chipotle chicken. There are also brisket sandwiches, well-stuffed wraps, soups and salads. Indoor-outdoor seating is available. 650 First Ave., 619-241-2241, earlofsandwichusa.com.

Rich Sweeney has joined Tocaya Organica. (Facebook)

Former Top Chef contestant Rich Sweeney has taken on the role of area culinary director for Los Angeles-based Tocaya Organica, a popular health-conscious eatery with locations in the Gaslamp Quarter (755 Fifth Ave., UTC in La Jolla (4301 La Jolla Village Drive), and another coming soon to One Paseo in Carmel Valley. Sweeney, who is also known for the comfort fare he dished up when operating the former R Gang Eatery in Hillcrest for five years, most recently served as executive chef for North Italia in Fashion Valley Mall. Before that he helmed the kitchens at Waypoint Public in North Park and the former Florent Restaurant & Lounge in the Gaslamp. “I’ll be doing quality control and training-development for locations in San Diego and Arizona,” Sweeney told us, adding that he is fond of Tocaya’s culinary concept.

“The entire menu starts out vegan, and then if you’re a meat eater, you can add meat and cheese to the dishes. We buy organic. And the environments are cool and welcoming—not hoity.”

tocayaorganica.com.

Get your beer and sake fix on the flight deck of the USS Midway Museum during the 17th annual Beer & Sake Festival, from 7 to 10 p.m., June 13. The event is presented by the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana. It will feature dozens of vendor offering food and drink tastings. Participants include Green Flash, Anchor Brewing, Ozeka Sake, Underbelly, Wisemattac Asian Foods and more. Guests must be 21 years or age or older to attend. Tickets range from $40 to $120, 910 N. Harbor Drive, 619-544-9600, Japan-society.org.

Avocados are taking center stage at Little Italy Food Hall throughout the month of June commemoration of a partnership the venue has formed with the California Avocado Commission. Each vendor within the food hall has incorporated the fatty fruit into a special dish for the occasion. At Not Not Tacos, for example, look for avocado-crab flatbread as well as pearl couscous with crispy tofu and avocado. The Roast Meat and Sandwich Shop is mingling avocado with salmon in a single-serving bowl, while the pizza alla Mediterranea at Ambrogio 15 now temporarily includes the fruit in the topping. At the food hall’s bar, avocado even shows up in a “California margarita.” 530 W. Date St., 619-289-7187, littletulifeodhall.com.

Seven years equates to decades in the restaurant business. And the owners of Meze Greek Fusion in the Gaslamp Quarter are celebrating that milestone with free hors d’oeuvres starting at 8 p.m., June 22. The party will also welcome the debut of a new cocktail called “lime in the coconut” made with RumHaven, fresh lime, pineapple, vanilla and allspice. Priced at $13, a proceed from the sales will be donated to Rady’s Children Hospital. 345 Sixth Ave., 619-550-1600, gaslampmeze.com.

— Frank Sabatini Jr can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

Chicke翅膀 rule the day at an upcoming Downtown festival. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)
Himmelfberg’s in the East Village is a shining example of how caring humans invest their time and money into preserving the legacies of deceased loved ones.

Formerly Harvest by the Patio, owner Gina Champion-Cain, of the locally based Patio Group, decided earlier this year to shake up the original concept of contemporary, wholesome cuisine by introducing dishes that are a little more fun and retro.

In doing so, she directed her culinary team to develop things like sloppy Joe sliders, corn dog poppers, loaded tater tots, buttermilk-fried chicken and Philadelphia cheesesteaks. Healthy options still exist in the form of veggie wraps and quinoa bowls. But they seem like foreign intruders to the ‘70s-era rock-and-roll environment she assembled as a tribute to Joey Himmelfberg, a dear friend she lost three years ago to a sudden heart attack.

Himmelfberg was a lover of ‘70s and ‘80s rock music. He cherished social gatherings, running, surfing, good grub and beer. He was also fond of the laid-back beach culture of the city and the hipsterism that mantled beneath melted mozzarella and fresh basil, it wasn’t a bad sub. But it wasn’t the Paesano version I grew up eating in Buffalo, New York.

Other food choices include beer-battered cod with tater tots, pepperoni-sausage (or plain cheese) flatbreads, of strawberry salad, grilled cheese with tomato soup, and the double-patty “Himmelfburger” with American cheese, onions, pickles and special sauce on a sesame seed bun.

The burger (or a fried chicken sandwich) served with tater tots is specially priced at $10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For dessert, we cured our hankering for chocolate cake with a four-layer version accompanied by vanilla bean ice cream. There’s also seasonal cheesecake and root beer or Coke floats. But with a full bar slinging draft beer and clever cocktails, I’ll likely skip the concoctions next time around and lounge over beers in this mini rock-and-roll hall of fame.

Note: Live music is featured Thursday through Saturday evenings.

Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of “Secret San Diego II” (CW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

For the love of Joey

Himmelfberg’s

369 10th Ave. (East Village)
619-541-8301, himmelfbergs.com

Prices: Appetizers, salads and bowls, $6 to $15; sandwiches, burgers and flatbreads, $9 to $16.

Weekday lunch special (burger or fried chicken sandwich with tater tots), $10
Empathy in dealing with tragedy

By David Dixon

In order to get through the aftermath of tragedy, some people are compelled to share their experience with others. Missy Schaaf, who currently lives in Orange County, is doing just that with “An Evening for Life,” scheduled for June 24 at the Horton Grand Theatre.

A dancer and aerialist, who performed in Las Vegas for over a decade, the San Diego-born Schaaf and her husband suffered a tragic loss last June when she gave birth to a stillborn baby. Unable or unwilling to move on from this tragedy, and following a conversation with her therapist, Schaaf eventually came up with the idea for the event.

“My therapist recommend- ed that I put love somewhere, in order to memorialize and honor my daughter,” she said. “I realized that I could put up a benefit show, since it’s in my wheelhouse.”

The sequences in the show are themed around the grieving process, and include specific sub- jects such as love, shock, anger and, finally, acceptance.

She chose to put on “An Evening for Life” in San Diego, mainly because of her local ties to the city.

Schaaf, the co-director of the project, is collaborating on it with many talented people, including singers, dancers, aerialists, and artists involved with Cirque du Soleil. Given her artistic background and ties to San Diego, it comes as no surprise that she has drawn a variety of talented entertainers from the county and Las Vegas to work with her on this “philanthropic theatrical show.”

Schaaf picked Natalie Walstead as the co-director of the project. The two of them have a long history of working together and have choreographed several dance pieces in Las Vegas and around the world. Given their experiences and success together, Schaaf loves to work with Walstead.

Another San Diego-based artist involved with the project is music director Vanessa Dinning. She became involved after talking to Schaaf’s stepfather, photographer Ken Jacques, who is known for photographing arts events in San Diego.

“Schaaf outlined what she was looking for, including music that required particular voices, includ- ing a male tenor and female vo- calists,” she said. “When Schaaf told me what her vision was, and what she needed, it became something enjoyable to put together.”

Proceeds from the event will go to Empty Cradle, a pregnancy and infant loss support, educa- tion and remembrance nonprofit organization located in Santee. Empty Cradle helped Schaaf in her time of need, and she contacted its president, Rachel Redhouse, to see if the organi- zation would work with her on “An Evening for Life.” “I’ve been helping a little bit, but Schaaf is the big planner, [and] is doing a great job,” Redhouse said. She is aiding Schaaf by providing some items for the silent auction that will take place before showtime.

Schaaf is happy to be part- nering with Empty Cradle. “It is support for women and families who have lost children,” she said. “They are educating the public at large about grief and loss.”

Given the theme of the show, it’s understandable if some people may wonder if the perfor- mance is too emotionally draining — particularly if they have lost children under tragic circumstances.

Dinning, Redhouse and Schaaf all feel, however, that the night will be meaningful for a lot of people. “I think for some, this could be a difficult, but important, event,” Dining said. “For others who have had similar experiences, it will be a cathartic and freeing evening.”

“I think it’s not just going to be an event for people who have experienced a loss,” Redhouse said. “It’s for those who sur- round those people, like family and friends.”

“It’s going to be a beautiful production,” Schaaf said. “I real- ly hope that people will come and enjoy it, while being surrounded by their community…I hope they help support Empty Cradle and the arts.”

“An Evening for Life” takes place on Monday, June 24. For tickets or more information, visit eventbrite.com or aneveningforlife.wixsite.com/

FROM PAGE 1

NEWS BRIEFS

and the moral compass for mak- ing this possible.”

Cephus Johnson, an executive board officer for Families United 4 Justice, said the bill is a step in the right direction for preventing future deaths. His nephew, who was killed by Bay Area Rapid Transi- it police in 2009, was the subject of the film “Fruitvale Station.”

“As an impacted family member and the uncle of Oscar Grant, there is no horror compa- rable to the excessive use of force by the police that takes your loved one’s life. This horror is forever etched into your memory, perhaps, because it could have been prevented,” he said. “AB 392’s goal is protecting human life and safeguarding human rights.”

San Diego Organizing Project, a federation of 28 faith congrega- tions, also supported the bill.

“For San Diego and communi- ties across the state, California’s Act to Save Lives is a beacon of hope in a time of moral crisis. I’m overjoyed at the Assembly’s vote this afternoon to advance AB 392 and look forward to it becom- ing law,” Jeffrey Karahamuto, of the nonpartisan organization, said. “I’m especially pleased to see that law enforcement withdrew its opposition to this sensi- ble bill.”

AB 392 will change the standard under which officers use deadly force. AB 392 will require that officers use deadly force only when there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury

see News Briefs, pg 15
GRAND OPENING EVENT
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FROM PAGE 6

a result of these financial woes and a bad case of the grippe (old fashioned term for influenza), Cole died by shooting himself in the head. The cost of the building was $35,000, and Cole’s net worth was in excess of $100,000, so it was speculated that his money woes and flu could not have been the sole cause of his untimely death.

Eventually, the Cole estate settled the debts and the administration of the estate was granted to Cole’s wife, Maria. She also continued to improve the property. As Cole’s brothers and sisters expected some compensation from the estate, Mrs. Cole bought them out for $42,000 and retained full control of the property.

In 1892, Mrs. Cole sold a portion of the land to Ralph Granger for $22,000 in gold coin. Besides his commercial interests, Granger founded a musical conservatory at his house in Paradise Valley. He also owned one of the finest rare violin collections in the world. The house, now known as Granger Hall, is a historic landmark in National City.

Prior to the turn of the last century, tenants of the Cole Building included the Lion Clothing Company and the Coronado View Hotel. In 1899, Samuel I. Fox bought the Lion Clothing Company, and moved the business to his new building on Sixth and Broadway. The Coronado View remained until 1925, and subsequently became the Welcome Hotel and then the Kelsey Hotel. Sam Lesinsky, another clothier, followed Lion’s and remained until 1922.

Maria H. Cole died on Sept. 15, 1924. At the time of her death, the Cole property was listed as having a value of $90,000. This parcel and several others were to be held in trust for 25 years by the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank. When the trust elapsed, the bulk of the estate was to be given to various charities, which Mrs. Cole had previously supported.

Throughout the ensuing years, a variety of businesses operated on the property. Some of the more interesting were the People’s Fish Company, the Owl Loan Company and the Palm Cafe.

The current occupant on the street level of the property is a popular sports bar, restaurant and nightclub named Whiskey Girl. According to the manager, Jerry Lopez, this lively and popular venue also appears to be haunted, as several very unusual occurrences have happened in his office late at night after closing. Additionally, before Whiskey Girl took over the venue, a manager of the previous business, La Strada, quit her job after claiming to have seen a fully manifested apparition. Nothing unusual in many of these old buildings with colorful histories! Whiskey Girl also owns the Double Deuce, another popular bar in the Gaslamp. I wonder who lurks there?

—Sandee Wilhoit is the historian for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org.
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$2 OR MORE PER SQ. FT.
A milliner in London

London Hat Week featured The Great Hat Exhibition from April 2 to April 12. The theme was “World Garden,” featuring 200 hats from around the world. I was honored to have three of my hats chosen to be in the exhibition. I invited Dame Zandra Rhodes to attend the private viewing party on April 2 at the Menier Gallery in London. We arrived at the gallery filled with floral hats in every room. The milliners were inspired by beautiful landscapes using flowers and plants to create a visionary delight. The evening gave me the chance to meet talented milliners from around the world. One of my students Christina Shalit had two hats in the exhibit. Monique Lee Millinery curated this exciting exhibition. Co-founders were Georgina Abbott from Atelier Millinery and Becky Weaver from HATalk Magazine.

For my visit in London, I stayed with Zandra Rhodes and had a tour of her design room, workshop and the screen-printing room where all the work is created. I was very excited to visit her Fashion & Textile Museum while I was there. The current exhibit focuses on the talented Mary Quant, who was a major influencer in the ’60s. London Hat Week had over 80 hat-related events that took place during this special time. Classes were ongoing with milliners from around the world. I enjoyed taking a course on couture trim from Vlad Straticius, who hails from Spain, and then a fun class on metal hair vines from Denise Innes- Spencer, who is the creative director of the British School of Millinery. Spencer was also the tour guide for a day trip to Luton where the hat trade began. We were able to tour the Victorian Hat Factory and then had a bus ride around Luton to buy millinery supplies. I also attended another wonderful master class with the Irish milliner Lina Stein, who taught us how to create elegant headpieces with floating leaves.

I took a special class with couture London-based milliner Dillon Walbroek, who trained under Philip Somerville (known for making hats worn by the Queen). My class was on sparterie (rare Japanese-made blocking fabric which contains paper and muslin constituents) — a product that was not available in the U.S. — so I jumped at the chance to work with Dillon. The following day, I had a private lesson with him. I made a Jackie Kennedy pillbox from a gorgeous silk dupioni fabric using sparterie for the foundation. This was a fabulous experience.

One of my favorite activities was volunteering as an ambassador for the Supplier Fair at Guy’s Hospital Atriums. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and greet more milliners from around the world. One of the

Launch party for London Hat Week with (left to right) Georgina Abbott, Diana Cavagnaro and Becky Weaver

Center hat is Diana’s Floral Delight entry in the World Garden exhibit

Diana in class with Irish milliner Lina Stein, presented by The Creative Workshops for LHW19

Diana’s blue and gold macaw feathered hat for the HATalk Magazine competition

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in the Historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn more about our hat designer, teacher and blogger at DianaCavagnaro.com-

The Chapman Collection

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www.thechapmancollection.com
Some of the 80 artists performing at the inaugural Wonderfront Music & Arts Festival, to be held Nov. 22-24 in Downtown San Diego, were finally announced on June 3.

At a June 3 announcement ceremony held in the Gaslamp Quarter, festival founders Paul Thornton and Ernie Hahn, along with brand ambassadors Tony Hawk and Trevor Hoffman, revealed the big names that would take the three-day event’s seven stages — such as San Diego’s own Slightly Stoopid, MGMT, Walk the Moon, X Ambassadors, Miguel, Tyga, and Busta Rhymes. Stage locations include various parks and piers along the Port of San Diego, from South Embarcadero up to Broadway Pier.

Other artists that will be performing include: Phantogram, Japanese Breakfast, Vince Staples, Los Tucanes de Tijuana, Los Angeles Azules, Ximena Sariñana, Victoria La Malá, Big Gigantic, Thievery Corporation, DJ Z-Trip, Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike, 3LAU, Chrome Sparks, and Gioli & Assia.

Hawk will be skating along side other professional skateboarders next to his own Huckjam Stage, which will feature Pennywise, Suicidal Tendencies, X, The Vandals and more.

“I’m really honored and excited to be partnering with Wonderfront to bring something to San Diego that’s long overdue,” Hawk said during the lineup announcement. “I remember Street Scene, got to see Sex Pistols there. That was exciting, and I’m excited to be bringing my own flavor to this whole festival.”

For those who don’t remember, San Diego Street Scene was one of America’s largest music festivals held every summer in San Diego from 1984 to 2009. According to the San Diego Union-Tribune, the festival would bring in an upwards of 32,000 people to the Downtown area — something Hahn hopes to recreate during the week before Thanksgiving: “typically a slow time for the city.”

“What we’re here to announce today is really the culmination of going back to when Street Scene left San Diego,” Hahn said. “And it was such a loss. It worked so well in San Diego but it didn’t work when it left and went somewhere else. That’s because the secret sauce was San Diego.”

“This would be the last major festival of the year,” he continued. “It’s when San Diego needs an event. They don’t need it in August or September; the hotels are full. But it’s like a ghost town when you get here the weekend before Thanksgiving. We’re gonna change that.”

This announcement is only the first phase, with more musical acts to be revealed in August. Ticket options include both single-day and weekend packages, yacht parties, meet-and-greets, and VIP access. Three-day passes start at $225 and are available now at wonderfrontfestival.com.

—Emily Blackwood can be reached at emily@sdnews.com.

FROM PAGE 4

three-quarters of it is open to the public. The remaining quarter is an extension of the interior lobby space and will be secured in the evening for resident safety and convenience.

The front porch will be open and available to visitors throughout the day. A coffee kiosk located at the southwest corner of the green space serves street-side and public park-side, and a cafe or restaurant anchors the northwest corner framing the public space.

The conscious effort to celebrate and promote sustainability was to incorporate a green and overflow system geared towards large rain events and rooftop discharge into bioretention gardens. Acting as rain-capturing gardens, water spills from rooftop to tier to a small bioretention basin at the entry. In non-rain events, it’s a planted garden.

From the street, the landscape design took the city’s tree palette to heart utilizing gateway and district trees as required. Chinese flame trees will be planted along F and G streets and Chinese elm trees along 15th and 16th.

The ground level clearly organizes structured, architectural plants such as foxtail agave and stalked bulbine to contrast against a formed, consistent green-screening hedge identifying the nearby fault line and buffering the lobby entry. Small cape rush, common rush and flax lilies integrate structured form with the softer color of Douglas fir rust, cape rush, common rush and flax lilies integrate structured form with the softer color of Douglas fir.

The green roofs of levels eight and 32 consist of grasses and sedums to create a carpet and varied mixture of color and texture. Forest panay introduces flowering color within structure planters and the understory plant material such as agave with softer, kinetic grasses.

The larger of the raised planter areas proposes a small grove of dwarf citrus such as kumquats for color, visual interest and scent.

The lower terrace of the public park blends the public realm with the earthy, sustainable feel of the bioretention gardens with texturing paved, exposed aggregate, and rock mulch. This is a contrast to the urban hardscape setting along 15th street and the rest of Downtown San Diego.

To complement the rough texture of the urban garden, the upper park terrace showcases a graphic tile pattern leading residents and visitors to the main entry.

The public park takes the significant rise in elevation from street to the lobby or club level into consideration with the use of a central stair and sloped walk. Off-road within the building introduces the start of the sloped walk that “hovers” over a storm-water garden giving an industrial vibe with the use of steel grating.

What is seen below is a garden of large angular rock mulch, water insulating plants with a softer Reed feel and at the top, up-lit glass slats emphasizing the main entry.

Level eight and 32 utilize concrete planters to identify circulation and gathering spaces beneath the green-roofed multimedias hubs. Ipe wood deck pavers define a space for outdoor activities such as yoga, and synthetic turf handles the wear of an outdoor exercise studio in one location and dog run in another.

Watch for progress!

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellewillett@gmail.com.

Tyga, Miguel, Slightly Stoopid, X Ambassadors and more announced in Wonderfront Festival lineup

By Emily Blackwood

Tony Hawk is one of the brand ambassadors of the Wonderfront Festival. (Photo by Emily Blackwood)
David Ross will be the featured artist at the San Diego Festival of the Arts.

His mother’s hopes and dreams for him and all of her children, Ross said, was to do good things in the world and for good things to come back to them. It was his mother and grandmother recognized his artistic abilities at a very young age and nurtured it.

“I come from an inherently creative family full of painters, doodlers and people who are into crafting. They saw right away that I had these tendencies and did everything they could to help me develop the skills needed to be successful,” he said.

And that he did. Ross is one of the first artists bridging the gap between street culture and fashion, with his popular BunnyKitty apparel. Timing was everything, he explained. In 1991, at the age of 19, he was discovered by designer/entrepreneurs Ken Block and Damon Way. At the time, the popularity of hip-hop on the West Coast, going on to inspire movements all over the world that are still flourishing today.

“Graffiti writers don’t care much about what people think and that is part of what drove us to do what we did,” he said.

Ross explained that the mental image and perception of graffiti has changed on its own, largely because more people are learning that graffiti is a true American art form that began with children in Philadelphia and New York City.

"These kids had no voice and wanted the world to know that they were there. They had nothing but this form of expression that they had invented amongst themselves to distract them from the decay around them," Ross said.

Still, Ross has always had a light-hearted approach to his aerosol work. Next to his graffiti pieces, he paints bunnies, cats, pigs and other characters. One day, he merged the two and BunnyKitty was born.

“Two of the cutest animals combined into one, who wouldn’t love that? She is also mischievous but this form of expression has a heart. I think many people relate to this. And I think that people are really trying to be a new superhero,” said Ross.

Inspired by illustrators Shel Silverstein, Jim Henson, Frank Oz and Vaughn Bode, Ross created BunnyKitty as an iteration of these artists’ work. Since Ross’ first illustrations of BunnyKitty in 2001, he has evolved, growing organically from the under the ground to the top to top level in the graffiti art world.

Even with all his success, Ross feels honored and thankful for being featured in the San Diego Festival of the Arts and being able to watch his art form go from being rejected by so many to being embraced by collectors and artists not only internationally but now in his hometown,” Ross said.

Cynthia Robertson is a local freelance writer.
Ave. in the Gaslamp Quarter, National Donut Day. The with sustainable straw man and entertainment complex will give away free donuts to the first 500 people in line when doors open at 11 a.m., plus all donuts will be half-priced throughout the day on Friday, June 7.

World Donut-Eating Championship
The No. 4-ranked competitive eater in the world, Matt Stonie, and the No. 1-ranked female competitive eater in the world and No. 7-ranked overall, Mikki Sudo will face off at the third-annual National Donut Day World Donut-Eating Championship hosted by The Salvation Army. The event, part of a fundraising challenge for much-needed veteran services in greater Los Angeles, will take place at 10 a.m. on the USS Midway.

Friday, June 7

FEATURED EVENTS

The annual Avolu celebration returns to Downtown this year. The second annual Avolu event, the best party of the summer.

Saturday, June 8

San Diego Downtown News - Advertise your local event in our community print and online publication. Visit our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages. For more information, please visit our website.

Saturday, June 15

Taste of Gaslamp
Eating at 35 Downtown restaurants can be a fun activity. The 25th annual Taste of Gaslamp, presented by Karl Strauss, provides an opportunity to accomplish this. The restaurants will be offering dessert for the neighborhood's local community. The neighborhood's local community.

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day Jazz Brunch at the Westgate Hotel
Celebrate dad this Father's Day with craft beer and live jazz at The Westgate Hotel. Enjoy a selection of premium beers, wine, and cocktails.

Sunday, June 16

Mezé Greek Fusion
Mezé Greek Fusion, located at 345 Sixth Ave. in the Gaslamp Quarter, will whisk fathers away to the Greek isles with two featured food and beverage pairings. The first pairing, priced at $29, includes a Greek beer and Mezé burger, ground beef and lamb mixed with feta cheese, garlic, onion and mint, topped with sautéed onion, mushrooms, Swiss cheese, lettuce and Mezé aioli, served with Mezé fries or Greek salad. The second pairing features the restaurant's lamb shepherd's pie, brined in red wine, fresh tomato sauce, cinnamon and tomato sauce, served with grilled asparagus and lemon. This pairing, priced at $29, is available for $17 for Father's Day.

Monday, June 17

Cancer Prevention Class
Learn what you can do to reduce your risk for cancer at this free event hosted by Sharp HealthCare.

Tuesday, June 11

Barrio Art Crawl
The Barrio Logan Cultural Art District will be the site of this month’s Barrio Art Crawl. Art District will be the site of this month’s Barrio Art Crawl.

Tuesday, June 11

Café Sevilla
Celebrate Father's Day at Café Sevilla. Treat dad to a prix-fixe menu including ﬁnely julienned short ribs, accompanied by a glass of house red wine for $25. Father's Day.

Tuesday, June 11

3rd Annual Avolu
The annual Avolu celebration returns to Downtown this year. The second annual Avolu event, the best party of the summer.

Wednesday, June 12

Saturday, June 15

Taste of Gaslamp
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Saturday, June 16

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San Diego commemorates 250 years
A broad sweep of our city's history

By Karen Scanlon

Once a dusty hamlet and a boomtown gone bust, today San Diego is the eighth largest city in the nation. Put on your par- ty hats — July 16 marks the 200th anniversary of America's Finest City and the celebration is underway.

When San Diego we know today began on July 16, 1769, the dedication of Mission San Diego de Alcala by Spanish friars, Fathers Junipero Serra and Juan Crespi,” notes San Diego History Center historians Dave Miller, Ph.D., and Andy Stratham, Ph.D.

Of course, some 2,000 years before the arrival of the Spanish, native Kumeyaay were settled in the area. Miller and Stratham note that, "Archaeological evidence of earlier inhabitants survives in the form of Native American houses and pottery. Kumeyaay ancestors have been here far longer, perhaps 10,000 years."

Originally, the mission was located on Presidio Hill. Two- hundred years earlier, the same bit of soil had been acclaimed in 1542 and named San Miguel by Spanish explorer and navigator, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

Another Spanish explorer and entrepreneur, Sebastian Vizcaino, came along in 1602 and gave the area a new name, San Diego. Presidio Hill is often mistaken today for Mission San Diego, but that first mission church, located on what is today the site of the Do- siders, and the houses of civil- ians have crumbled over time into shapeless mounds of clay. (Archaeological excavation is ongoing.)

This original mission was relocated in 1774 to its present site six miles inland in Valley Center.

The striking structure that stands on Presidio Hill today was dedicated in 1929 as the Junipero Serra Museum. Constructed in the simplicity of early Franciscan churches, Serra Museum was gifted to the citi- zens of San Diego by George W. Marston, department store own- er, politician, and philanthropist.

Serra Museum would become the keeping place of aged docu- ments, maps, and photographs collected by pioneer historians, and a permanent home to San Diego Historical Society.

Gaining Independence

History notes that the Mexican War for independence began in 1810, and by 1821, Mexico had gained freedom from Spain.

"San Diego became part of Mexico in April 1822 when the Mexican flag was raised over the Presidio." (The early fort, or headquarters of the American Army, stayed put on the hill when the mission was moved.)

Inhabitants of the Presidio began to settle in what is known today as Old Town State Park. New arrivals were few, and in 1838, San Diego's bleak status was revoked with fewer than 150 residents.

"San Diego remained a small outpost in Mexican California, relying on ranching and the lucrative hide and tallow trade." After a revolt against Mexican rule, a good bit of fission with Alonzo Horton occurred in 1846 when the Mexican flag was raised in the square at Old Town. The Mexican- American War ended in 1848, and two years later, California was admitted to the United States as the 31st state in the Union.

"More money than brains"

William Heath Davis arrived in San Diego in 1850 envisioning a prosperous seaport communi- ty. La Jolla Point up his New Town was so scarce that he shipped-pre-fabricated Saltbox- like houses across the Pacific. "One of these houses stands on Island Avenue in its third location as the Alonzo Horton House." It was a hard sell for people to leave Old Town.

Davis' wealth had been the result of his developing trade routes between Hawaii, China, and San Francisco. Said a San Francisco fire in 1853 destroyed the bulk of his earnings and he decided to go to the Bay Area. Davis abandoned his New Town San Diego efforts, and residents dubbed it "Davis' Folly."

New Town withered until new life was given it by Alonzo E. Horton in 1867. Horton was a speculative purveyor during the gold rush, but when that boom died out, he came to San Diego.

Long story short, Horton purchased 960 acres at a land auction. Judge Hollister outbid on a parcel and insisted Horton give him an acre for all that you have bought. (A mile equals one-tenth of a pen- ny.) The Judge was a wharf builder and was satisfied that Horton must have more money than brains.

"You can have it, Horton, I'll give it to you an acre for all that you have bought!"

—Judge Hollister, in an 1867 land auction competing with Alonzo Horton

Gun emplacements began to dot the hills of Point Loma as early as 1870, and by 1904, the U.S. Army post of Fort Rosecrans was completed. Fifteen gun bat- teries were constructed. Today their decaying remains are near- ly hidden from view.

"San Diego diversified: commerce forged a relationship with the U.S. Navy as far back as 1902 with the building of a coalation station at La Playa. Steam ships of the era needed fuel. However, dredg- ing the bay was of critical issue before the Navy could coax into staying.

"Federally funded mili- tary infrastructure would benefit growth and commer- cial shipping," note Miller and Stratham. Pressure of Congress brought the creation of a training station, shipyard, hospital, and other facilities over 100 years, including the U.S. Marine Recruit Depot. "William Kortner, San Diego's 'little ship's man,' an enterprising businessman, helped establish San Diego as a Navy town in the years between two world wars."

Men and their flying machines

Names like John John Montgomery, with his first successful heavier-than-air flight at Otay Mesa in 1883, and the exploits of Glenn Curtiss truly established aviation development in San Diego. Curtiss began an aviation training school at North Island. "Commercial aviation took off, too. T. Claude Ryan arrived in San Diego in 1925 to help launch a regularly scheduled passen- ger airline with flights to Los Angeles, and designed the monop- lane that Charles Lindbergh would make famous in 1927," say Miller and Stratham.

San Diego would also be- come a major center of military air production. In 1933, Reuben H. Fleet relocated his Consolidated Aircraft plant here, which produced the B-24 bomber and longer-range PB4Ys. Chula Vista-based Rohr Aircraft, Ryan Aeronautical Company, and General Dynamics remained re- gional employers long past the second World War.

Extracurricular San Diego

In 1916, brothers Harry and Paul Wegeforth launched the San Diego Zoological Society and the formation of San Diego Zoo with 'leftover' animals from the 1915 exposition. "San Diego's promotion of tourism is also evident in the development of Mission Bay. A 1958 master plan paved the way for boat launches, beaches, play- grounds, hotels, and the opening of SeaWorld in 1964," Miller and Stratham said.

Turns out, Alonzo Horton had brains and money, that he foresaw a city worth more than a tenth of a penny. Today, he might enjoy a craft beer, a jaunt through vibrant neighborhoods like Barrio Logan, or a trek across San Diego-Coronado Bridge. Cheers, San Diego, 250 years! "

Karen Scanlon is a freelance writer who can be reached at kscanlon@gmail.com.

San Diego Downtown News thanks San Diego History Center and historians Drs. David Miller and Andy Stratham for con- tributions to this article. For a complete timeline of San Diego's history, visit sandiegohistory. org/archives/biographicsubject/ timeline/
The New Children's Museum is thrilled to receive the National Medal. Being recognized on a national scale for the work we are doing both inside the museum and out in the community reinforces how integral we've become to the fabric of this great city.

Combining two elements often not seen together — contemporary art and a place for children to learn and play — the New Children's Museum seeks to innovate and expand boundaries, all in the interest of sparking the imaginations of its young visitors, Kuta said.

Selected from 30 national finalists, the 2019 National Medal winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. Through their community outreach, these institutions bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.

“Artists are often at the cutting edge of new ideas,” said CEO and Executive Director Judy Forrester. “Sometimes, they make waves that people aren’t quite ready for, but we think that is really important. As a museum, we need to be forward thinking and embrace diversity.

Art is a great way for people to express themselves, to explore, to discover, to take risks, and to fail safely. We engage artists because they model these things for us, and the kids get to experience it all firsthand.

“This is an incredible honor for the New Children's Museum, and for the entire San Diego community. Our partnerships with community centers, social service organizations, schools and other groups over the past 11 years have enabled us to share our unique approach to art, creativity and play,” Forrester continued. “It’s also a testament to our strong board of directors and wonderful staff, whose efforts truly made this win possible.”

As part of the award celebration, San Diego community member Rizzhel Javier will travel to Washington with the museum to accept the National Medal on behalf of the New Children's Museum and provide a personal account of the impact the museum has had in the community.

Javier is a San Diego artist that has been inspired by — and inspirational to — the New Children's Museum. In 2018, she led art-making workshops at community centers, as well as in the museum.

Her project, “People and Places,” set the theme for outreach programs Mass Creativity and Comunidad, as well as for a temporary installation in the museum’s Community Gallery.

“The workshops the New Children’s Museum provides are really beneficial to the community because they are able to access a lot of areas of San Diego that might not typically go to the museum or have the resources,” she said.

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museums, where they aim to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through innovative and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Located Downtown, the museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. The museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources.

Families across San Diego have a fondness for the museum and like to spend time there exploring its many options.

“The museum is an incredible venue for creative growth and beauty. We love bringing the twins here to play and explore,” said Nick and Agatha Borrelli, who have two kids and have been visiting for two years. “Whether it’s with us, our wonderful nanny, Danielle, or our family members, the museum provides a unique opportunity to expose our children to the magic potential of their imagination … and simultaneously release their wiggles!”

“My best memory at the museum is hard to describe,” added Alexandra Albro, who has three kids and has been a member for five years. “I love seeing the wonderment on the children’s faces when they learn something new. You see their eyes widen and they feel a sense of accomplishment. I think that’s my best experience.”

“AFTER our first visit to the museum, the kids loved it so much that we knew we would be back often, so a membership was an easy choice,” said Kim Belverud, who has two children. “My kids were 4 and 2 at the time of our first visit and they loved playing around in ‘Wobbleland.’ They are tactile learners and love learning with their hands. As parents, we loved the variety of the art installations and how often new works are introduced. We also loved the different activities and programs the museum offers.”

The New Children’s Museum of San Diego is located at 200 W. Island Ave., San Diego, CA 92101.

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Neuman & Neuman Real Estate successfully represented more buyers and sellers in 92101 than any other agent, team, or brokerage during the past 12 months with 112 closed transactions.

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