

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

Dedicated to the Preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in Balboa Park



January 20, 2011

Leigh Ivey, Communications Assistant
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Threat to historic Cabrillo Bridge, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

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The board of directors of The Committee of One Hundred has carefully considered the current proposal, known as the Plaza de Panama Project, to remove parked cars and traffic from Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama, El Prado, Plaza de California, and Esplanade. We remain committed to this vision for recreating a grand public space. We believe, however, that these objectives of the Plaza de Panama project can and should be achieved without construction of a bypass bridge.

A bypass bridge that would connect the east end of the Cabrillo Bridge to the Alcazar parking lot is unacceptable. The proposed bypass bridge would require removal of a significant segment of the railing wall at the east end of the Cabrillo Bridge and would insert a prominent new element that would forever change the historic views created by architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.

The Cabrillo Bridge was an integral and celebrated part of the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition. Today the Cabrillo Bridge continues to provide residents and visitors crossing the bridge with an iconic view of the California Quadrangle, its California Building and tower. This is the same, memorable view that visitors experienced as they crossed the Cabrillo Bridge in 1915. When San Diego celebrates the Exposition Centennial in 2015, that iconic view should not be marred by the presence of a new and unnecessary bypass bridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Kelly, President
The Committee of One Hundred

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

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