



Save Our Heritage Organisation

PEOPLE IN PRESERVATION AWARDS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

MARSTON HOUSE ROSE GARDEN

Saving San Diego's Historic Places Together

Welcome to the 42nd annual celebration of SOHO's People In Preservation Awards, an event that holds a special place in San Diego's heart.

This year the PIP Awards honor the individuals, organizations and businesses who have made significant contributions to our region's architectural and heritage sites and neighborhoods through their commitment to historic preservation. These passionate individuals and entities have dedicated themselves to safeguarding or restoring our irreplicable historic resources, helping to maintain San Diego as a meaningful place to live, work, and visit.

Historic preservation is not just about saving old buildings; it is about celebrating the stories, cultures, and artistic expressions that these structures embody. By preserving our historic sites, we also preserve the cultural and artistic heritage of our community. This fosters a sense of belonging and identity among residents, allowing diverse voices and narratives to be honored and shared. In doing so, we create vibrant, inclusive spaces that reflect the richness of our community's history and promote a deeper understanding of one another.

This year's winners join the more than 700 outstanding individuals and entities that have been

honored over the last 42 years with 432 People In Preservation awards for distinguished achievements in historic preservation.

The stellar efforts of these extraordinary people in preservation that we salute today also represent three transformative themes: The triumph of National Historic Districts, the ingenuity of adaptively reusing historic buildings, and the enduring impact of lifetime preservationists.

Innovative adaptive reuse projects showcase the creative and sustainable approach to preserving historic structures and providing vibrant, affordable housing. These projects not only preserve our architectural heritage but also address pressing urban needs for affordable housing while championing sustainability. This is preservation with a purpose—saving our planet, one building at a time.

Recognizing the giants among us whose lifelong dedication and exemplary work have helped shape San Diego's preservation landscape, SOHO pays homage to these special individuals whose accomplishments remind us that the passion of a few can create a lasting impact for many.

And two communities who achieved prestigious National Historic District status represent

an authentic demonstration of residents' commitment to preserving their shared heritage. These communities serve as shining examples, inspiring others to revere and protect their own local history.

Preservation work demands resilience and fortitude but above all, it demands a passion for the cause. Every recipient of a People In Preservation award shares this common trait. A passion for wherever their journey has brought them to care about and maintain these cherished places. Their pride and enthusiasm for their work are what make them award-winners. And it is an honor to share these stories of triumph with others.

At the heart of these themes lies a universal truth: Preservation is about people. It's about fostering a sense of belonging, honoring our roots, and weaving the rich and diverse tapestry of the past into the fabric of our future. This year's Lifetime and Legacy Award winners embody this spirit, leaving an indelible mark on San Diego's cultural identity and distinctive character.

The extraordinary commitment of these individuals and entities to excellence has transformed and enriched our city and region, and their impact will be profoundly felt by future generations.

Bob Lehman - Emcee

Bob Lehman is executive director of the San Diego Museum Council, advocating on behalf of more than 80 museums and cultural institutions including SOHO's Marston House Museum & Gardens and Warner-Carrillo Ranch House.

As vice chair of the San Diego County Arts & Culture Commission, he represents the culturally rich District 4, which includes Balboa Park's world-class museums, artist studios, and theaters. Bob is also chair of the arts advocacy organization San Diego ART Matters and serves on both the Arts + Culture: San Diego Task Force and the Balboa Park Cultural Advisory Board.

He and his husband enjoy historic preservation and have overseen the designation of two homes including a 1912 Hillcrest Craftsman and a 1922 Banker's Hill Georgian Revival, which they fully restored.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024
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.

4PM - RECEPTION

5PM - WELCOME

David Goldberg - SOHO President

5:05PM - AWARDS CEREMONY

Bob Lehman - Emcee

**2024 PEOPLE IN PRESERVATION
AWARD WINNERS**

La Jolla Historical Society • Seonaid McArthur • Molly McClain

Nick Agelidis • Diane Kane

District Delivered

La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District

Talmadge Historical Society • Laura Henson • Geoffrey Hueter • Eileen Magno

District Delivered

Talmadge Park Estates Historic District

Mark G. Wiesner and Kerri Klein
Commercial Restoration
1926 Blanche Barry Apartments

Judith Swink
Legacy

Diane Kane
Lifetime Achievement

Howard Greenberg
Lifetime Achievement

*La Jolla Historical Society, Leonaid
McArthur, Molly McClain, Nick Agelidis,
Diane Kane*

La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District

DISTRICT DELIVERED

The La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District is a stunning stretch of Pacific coastline, rich with dramatic caves, coves, wind-sculpted cliffs, historic cottages, and a thriving sea lion colony. Once the unceded ancient homeland of the Kumeyaay Nation, this area began its transformation into La Jolla Park between 1887 and 1940. The district, home to iconic landmarks like La Jolla Cove, the Children's Pool, and Coast Walk, reflects La Jolla's international appeal for its scenic beauty and the profound impact of nature on well-being.

Anchored by the lush 5.6-acre Ellen Browning Scripps Park, the district extends from Coast Walk to Whale View Point. Coast Boulevard, marked on La Jolla Park's 1887 Subdivision Map, remains the central artery, offering breathtaking views framed by belvederes, palm trees, and green lawns. The district includes 35 contributing resources—ten buildings (including two previously listed landmarks), eight sites, and 17 structures. Among these are the endangered 1894 Red Roost and Red Rest redwood bungalows, five public beaches, and four stairways connecting the seashore to La Jolla's commercial

Left to right Nick Agelidis, Lauren Lockhart, Diane Kane, Seonaid McArthur, and Molly McClain. Next page left Aerial view of the Children's Pool. Photo by Nick Agelidis; next page right Along the Coast Walk above the cliffs







area. Even today, much of the shoreline remains public, reflecting La Jolla's cultural identity and economic success.

The La Jolla Historical Society, driven by strong public interest, sponsored a detailed report covering the years 1887 to 1940, led by art historian Seonaid McArthur and University of San Diego history professor Molly McClain, with photographer Nick Agelidis, and assistance from architectural historian Diane Kane. Their goal was to support the creation of a National Historic District.

In May 2024, the La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring the preservation and protection of this cherished cultural, environmental, and social landscape for future generations.

*Talmadge Historical Society, Laura Henson,
Geoffrey Hueter, Eileen Magno*

Talmadge Park Estates Historic District

DISTRICT DELIVERED

In 2023, residents of San Diego's Talmadge community undertook the creation of the Talmadge Park Estates Historic District. Covering 138 acres and nearly 600 resources—mostly homes in revival styles like Spanish Colonial Revival and Minimal Traditional—the area is distinguished by its iron entry gates from 1926 and 1928, installed by developers Roy and Guy Lichty to attract home buyers.

Facing delays in the City's processing of historic districts, volunteer residents, led by the newly formed Talmadge Historical Society, initiated a National Register of Historic Places District nomination with assistance from Heritage Architecture & Planning. Volunteers meticulously researched and documented hundreds of resources, including contributions from renowned developers and architects such as Cliff May and Louise Severin. The effort, led by Laura Henson and Geoffrey Hueter, also highlighted significant events and figures within the Talmadge Park subdivisions. Through websites,

Facing page Volunteers and members of the Talmadge Historical Society and Heritage Architecture & Planning gather at one of the original gates still standing on Adams Avenue at 49th Street





Norma Drive streetscape, looking southeast; *facing page* Original gate at Monroe and Euclid Avenues looking northwest

community meetings, media outreach, and information booths at neighborhood events, volunteers kept residents informed and engaged throughout the nomination process.

The research revealed Talmadge Park Estates as a dynamic example of San Diego's suburban development in the post-Great Depression era, progressing with the Federal Housing Administration's small/minimum house principles and adapting to meet post-World War II housing demands. Supported by comprehensive descriptions of 419 contributing and 175 non-contributing resources, the Talmadge Park Estates Historic District was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2024.

To facilitate research and community engagement, Geoffrey developed two web-based databases. One consolidated existing research data, accessible to volunteer surveyors via smart devices. The other allowed homeowners to contribute their property's history, photos, and drawings. These initiatives exemplify the society's dedication to preserving the community's architectural and cultural heritage.





Mark G. Wiesner and Kerri Klein

1926 Blanche Barry Apartments

COMMERCIAL RESTORATION

After Mark G. Wiesner and Kerri Klein purchased a neglected 1926 Mission Revival-style apartment building in Hillcrest, their top priority was historic designation as a local historic landmark and a Mills Act contract, which would help provide the funds for investing in the building's restoration.

Success followed when the Blanche Barry Apartments, named after a longtime owner and resident, were designated historic in November 2021. This recognition led to a Mills Act contract, which was used to restore and renovate the nearly century-old building.

Left to right Kerri Klein and Mark Wiesner; facing page 1926 Blanche Barry Apartments. Photo courtesy the winners



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They focused on restoring historic windows, doors, and original architectural details, paying special attention to the front balcony to meet recently upgraded safety codes.

In addition, they rebuilt two studio apartments and a communal laundry space, previously located in an unpermitted garage that they removed. The studios, now airy and modernized, echo the main building's Mission Revival architecture and feature private outdoor spaces.

The project was not without challenges. Despite obstacles, Mark and Kerri successfully blended historic and new elements, enhanced the property with drought-tolerant native landscaping, and preserved crucial rental housing. Their work not only met their financial goals but also set a new standard for historic preservation along Centre Street and the rear alley.

Right New landing and stairway; *facing page* View of one of the newly rebuilt studios with the private patio. Photo courtesy the winners





Judith Swink

LEGACY

Judy Swink embodies the spirit of a lifelong activist dedicated to preserving and enhancing San Diego's historic and natural treasures. For decades, she has worked to protect and improve the built, natural, and social environments of the region.

A passionate advocate for Mission Bay Park, Judy began shaping its future in 1989. Representing Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (C-3) during the park's master plan update from 1991 to 1994, she played a key role in balancing habitat restoration with sustainable development. Her 18-year tenure on the City's Mission Bay Park Committee was crucial in safeguarding the park's integrity and accessibility.

As president of the Save the Coaster Committee, Judy led efforts to preserve and restore the 1925 Mission Beach Giant

Judy Swink across from the Giant Dipper roller coaster in Mission Beach; facing page Western entrance to Balboa Park by way of the Cabrillo Bridge





Dipper roller coaster. Designated a City of San Diego Historic Site in 1973 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the coaster gained National Historic Landmark status on its 75th anniversary. Judy's leadership ensured its continued operation, with proceeds from the Giant Dipper Historic Preservation Fund supporting local historic restoration projects.

Judy's commitment to community engagement is further demonstrated by her opposition to controversial redevelopment projects, including the Plaza de Panama project in Balboa Park. Her advocacy for preserving the park's historical essence and promoting public involvement reflects her deep-rooted sense of civic responsibility.



Alongside her activism, Judy's career in library science is marked by meticulous research and editorial skills. Her translation of an early homesteader's journal highlights her dedication to celebrating San Diego's diverse cultural heritage. Judy's indomitable spirit, persuasive powers, and profound work ethic have cemented her legacy as a staunch guardian of San Diego's cultural and natural heritage.

Above Plaza de Panama; facing page left to right Mission Bay Park; Giant Dipper roller coaster



Diane Kane

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Diane Kane is one of San Diego's most effective, experienced, and articulate advocates for historic preservation. For more than three decades, she has passionately worked as an educator, historian, planner, and preservationist.

Diane began her illustrious career conducting environmental reviews and surveys of historic properties for Caltrans in Los Angeles. She later served as a senior planner for the City of San Diego from 2003 to 2007, where she handled large-scale historic building surveys crucial to the city's long-range planning process.

Currently, Diane is a professor at San Diego State

Diane Kane in front of Wisteria Cottage in La Jolla; facing page Historic Cabrillo Parkway





University, where she teaches 19th- and 20th-century architecture history and urban planning. She holds a master's degree in art history from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in architecture history from UC Santa Barbara.

Beyond the classroom, she generously shares her knowledge and insights through leadership roles in preservation organizations. She serves as a trustee and vice president of programs for the California Preservation Foundation and is an active member of the La Jolla Historical Society's preservation committee, frequently testifying as an expert before San

Diego's Historical Resources Board. Her meticulous work includes the preparation of dozens of local, state, and national historic register reports, historic district nominations, cultural landscapes surveys, historic buildings and roads documentation, and environmental reviews.

Diane's work significantly raises public awareness of the cultural, social, and economic value of significant old structures and her passion for ongoing historical research have left an indelible mark on the preservation landscape. Thanks to her tireless efforts, our architectural and cultural legacies are cherished and protected for generations to come.



Historically designated 1935 La Jolla Post Office; facing page The Children's Pool, which is part of the new La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District



Howard Greenberg

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

When Howard Greenberg moved from Chicago to San Diego in the early 1980s, he was an accomplished accountant ready for a new adventure. A keen eye for architecture and sharp financial instincts brought him into the preservation field where his background served him well.

In 1985, he took a bold step and purchased the enormous Pioneer Warehouse, a six-story, historic building, which sat waiting for someone to recognize its potential. Despite being overlooked by many developers and investors, Howard saw something special in the block-long, red-brick warehouse. Through careful restoration and renovation, he transformed the 1918 building into Pioneer Warehouse Lofts. What was once nearly abandoned became a vibrant hub of live/work units, boasting spacious open floor

Left Howard Greenberg in front of his favorite project, the Pioneer Warehouse Lofts; *facing page* Simon Levi Company building live/work lofts



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1884 Backesto Building; facing page 1912 Julian Produce Co. Warehouse Building live/work lofts

plans, concrete floors, and beautifully preserved vintage architectural elements.

Pioneer Lofts was just the beginning. Howard, along with his partners Bud Fisher and Christopher Mortensen, went on to restore and renovate more than 18 historic buildings in downtown San Diego and its surrounds. Among these well-known listed historic landmarks are the Church Lofts, Simon Levi Building, McClintock Warehouse, the North Park Theatre, and the Lafayette Hotel.

Together, they practically wrote the City's live-work ordinance, making it possible for artists and other creatives to afford living and working downtown. This effort not only revitalized the area but also preserved the early 20th-century warehouse, industrial, and hotel architecture that gives San Diego its unique character.

Howard's work represents one of the single largest contributions to saving San Diego's historic places. Through decades of dedication, this impressive portfolio has breathed new life into downtown and North Park, ensuring the city's rich history is not only remembered but lived in and enjoyed.



Thank you for joining SOHO at the 42nd Annual People In Preservation Awards in the historic Marston House rose garden. This extraordinary celebration honors San Diego's preservation heroes and heroines.

May this event inspire you with hope and optimism about the remarkable achievements in historic and cultural preservation accomplished by the people of San Diego.

We extend our gratitude to the 2024 SOHO Board of Directors for their commitment year round to historic preservation, the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Bruce Coons, and the dedication of SOHO staff: Alana Coons, Kathryn Fletcher, Dean Glass, Ann Jarmusch, David Lakin, Robin Lakin, and Sandé Lollis.

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.

