

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2004

Contact: Joe Rosato

(916) 653-9472

Historic Preservation Achievements

State Parks Announces 2004 Governor's Awards

SACRAMENTO – Recipients of this year's Governor's Historic Preservation Awards were announced today by the Office of Historic Preservation of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the Office of Historic Preservation to organizations and groups, and federal, state and local agencies whose contributions demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation. The awards were presented in a ceremony Wednesday, November 17, 2004 in the Governor's office at the Capitol.

Recipients of the awards for this year include:

Cultural Resource management for California Indians and CRM Professionals: Society for California Archaeology.

Since 1992, the SCA has maintained a Native American Programs Committee, to promote communication and exchange information between California Indians and professional archaeologists. As part of this program, the Committee has sponsored CRM workshops, distributed hundreds of copies of *Sourcebook on CRM, Archaeology, and Cultural Heritage Values*, and sponsored symposia involving Native scholars. The program is designed to empower Indian people to be more effective in interpreting, managing, and protecting significant Indian sites throughout the state.

-more-

Following the Smoke: Six Rivers National Forest and Karuk Indigenous Basket weavers

This program involves a series of weeklong gatherings in the Six Rivers National Forest of Forest Service professionals, volunteers, and Karuk basket weavers, to gather traditional basket weaving materials and remove heavy fuels to foster growth of hazel, beargrass, and other basket materials. The program was managed through the Forest Service Passport in Time program, through which volunteers may visit important historic and archeological sites on Forest Service land. Volunteers were able to gather materials, learn traditional basket making methods, and improve the habitat for these materials.

Heritage Hill Historical Park: Amigos de la Colina Docent Organization

This award is for Amigos de la Colina, a volunteer docent group that has since 1982 guided tours of historic buildings on Heritage Hill in Lake Forest. The park includes the 1863 Serrano Adobe as well as several other historic buildings moved to the park. The 61-members of the organization offer regular guided tours of the historic buildings, usually dressed in period costumes. They also organize large annual events at the site, including Rancho Days Fiesta, the Autumn Harvest Festival, and Victorian Christmas.

Historic Resources Inventory Management System: City of Ontario Planning Department

The City of Ontario, building upon earlier work by the City of Riverside, has developed a user-friendly, access-based data management system for its cultural resources. The system is designed to fulfill multiple objectives. It can track historic properties by location, designation status, architect, date of construction or other attributes. It can also be used to complete appropriate forms (DPR 531, National Register application and others). Other communities have adopted the framework.

Mission Dolores Digital Mural Project: Mission San Francisco de Asis

This award concerns the rediscovery of wall decorations in the Mission Dolores, painted in about 1791 but covered over in 1796 by an elaborate reredos at the rear of the altar. Two volunteers – Eric Blind, an archaeologist for the Presidio of San Francisco and Ben Wood, an artist – heard of the murals and developed a process for lowering a digital camera and lights into the narrow space between the murals and reredos, taking the first-known images of the 200 year old folk art. The project brought to public view this artwork which will likely not be seen in any other matter, since public view would require demolition of the 1796 reredos.

Mission Santa Ynez Aqueduct Mapping: Chip Fenenga and Kim Merz

This award is for Santa Ynez Valley High School teachers, Chip Fenenga and Kim Merz, who led their Environmental and Spatial Technology class in a GPS and GIS mapping of the largely undocumented aqueduct system of the Santa Ynez Mission. Using scientific methods,

the students were encouraged to hypothesize the path of the aqueduct, linking a known dam site and the probable contours for a canal. The students plotted the hypothesized alignment with a few exposed remnants, followed by “ground truthing” through filed surveys. The project contributed to our understanding of this resource and exposed many young minds to modern historic archaeological methods.

San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers: San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department

The 1878 Conservatory of Flowers, the oldest building in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and the oldest greenhouse in California, was severely damaged by storms in 1995. The building’s delicate wood frame and glass skin required major renovation to survive into the 21st century. The rehabilitation included steel reinforcement bars, hidden behind original and replacement timbers, as well as the installation of modern conveniences, such as bathrooms, interpretive displays, and handicapped access. The beautifully-restored structure was reopened to the public in late 2003.

Sesquicentennial Projects and Events: City of Santa Clara

This award concerns an extraordinary three-year celebration (2000-2002), commemorating the 150-year celebrations for the City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara University. The celebration is notable for its length and breadth. Events ranged from lecture series at the university, rededication of major landmarks (the Berryessa Adobe, the train depot, and others), walking tours, plays, and the unveiling of interpretive panels throughout the city.

Stansbury House Rehabilitation and Interpretation: Stansbury House Preservation Association

This award is for the Stansbury House Preservation Association, which exists solely to preserve and interpret the 1883 Italianate Stansbury House in downtown Chico. The home is owned by the City of Chico, which acquired it and its furnishings from the heirs of Dr. Oscar Stansbury, a prominent local physician. The Association has operated the house museum since 1975, offering weekend tours and many special events. It has also worked with the city to raise funds for restoring the interior as well as the exterior of the home.

Truckee Preservation System: Town of Truckee

This award is for a comprehensive “system” of historic preservation adopted by the Town of Truckee to firmly establish preservation as a planning element in this historic lumber and railroad town, near Lake Tahoe. The system includes a planning component (design guidelines, planning policies); an identification component (survey and evaluation work); a protection component (design review authority); and an outreach component (brochures and workshops on the economic benefits of preservation in a tourist community).

#