

# HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Ashbaugh, *Board President*  
*Chair, Education Outreach Committee*

Sandy Baer, *Vice-President*  
*Chair, Dallidet Committee*

Benjamin Peterson, *Secretary*

Camille Slayter, *Treasurer*  
*Chair, Finance Committee*

Jim Andre, *Director*

Sharon Gottesfeld, *Director*

Michael Miller, *Director*

Julie Moore, *Director*

Lynette Tornatzky, *Director*  
*Chair, Development & Marketing Committees*

John Villa, *Director*

### STAFF

Thomas Kessler, *Executive Director*

Kaylee Scoggins-Herring, *Collections Manager*

### WEEKEND MANAGER

Stacey Avelar

### RESEARCH ROOM ASSISTANTS

Allen Ochs  
William Pierotti

### VOLUNTEER LEADERS

John Schutz  
*Chair, Exhibits Committee*  
*Acting Chair, Collections Committee*

Victoria Brien

Rick Nagano

Debbie Collins

Marilynn Scoggins

Victoria Wood

Dave Hannings

Gary Hoving

Mary Meserve-Miller

Dawn Cerf

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County was originally incorporated in 1953. Our Mission Statement is to:

*“Promote the understanding and appreciation of San Luis Obispo County’s historical and cultural heritage.”*

This past year has been one of “historic” dimensions, as the nation experienced the loss of over 600,000 people and a crippling economic loss to the Covid-19 siege. As we confronted this challenge, our society was also gripped by a moment of reckoning in the wake of a murder in Minneapolis, resulting in widespread demonstrations, calls for criminal justice reform, and a renewed conversation about racism and civil rights.

In SLO County, even as we closed our Museum and visitor facilities, the History Center recognized our unique responsibility to record and preserve the stories that reflect this national “moment” while they are still fresh in our minds and memories. We’ve now reopened the Dallidet Adobe, and will re-open the County Museum on July 4 weekend. Soon to come: A long-planned exhibit to honor the contributions of our Jewish community in the 19th & 20th Centuries. As we do so, the History Center is looking ahead to the coming weeks and months to expand and confirm our role in reflecting the evolving view of our history as a community in this, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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The report addresses the following elements of our activities at the History Center over the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

*“People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors.”*

*Edmund Burke*

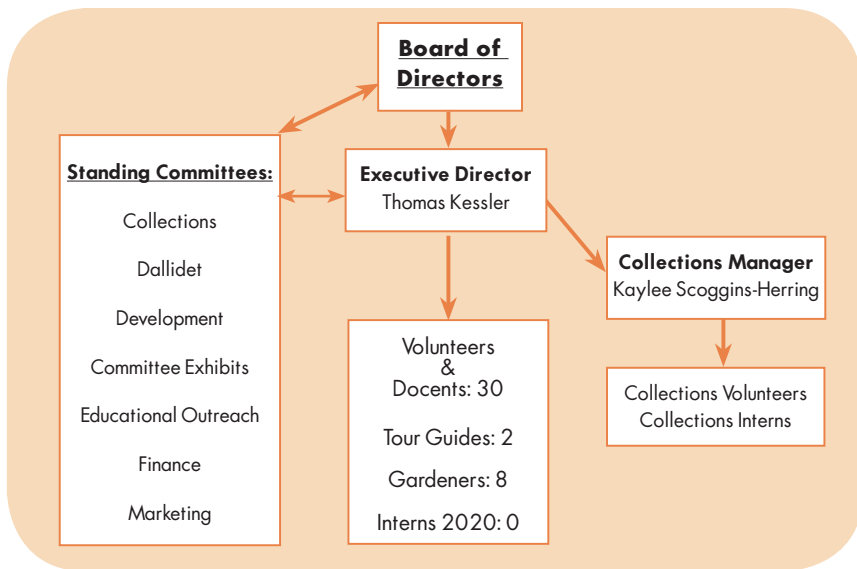
## OVERVIEW

The Mission of the History Center of San Luis Obispo County, according to our by-laws, is as follows:

*“The History Center promotes the understanding and appreciation of San Luis Obispo County’s historical and cultural heritage. The History Center collects, preserves and exhibits historic artifacts, records, images, and documents and provides access to its collections in both traditional and digital forms, for research, study, and educational purposes. The History Center cooperates with other regional organizations and promotes their goals and programs.”*

**Pursuing this mission in the pandemic year of 2020-21 was a unique challenge for our organization, but we responded:**

- ◆ Although the Museum has been closed since early March, 2020, we did deploy part-time staff and volunteers to open the Dallidet Gardens on most summer weekends. (The interior of the Adobe remained closed).
- ◆ We maintained our two full-time employees and thereby qualified for workforce financing loans to maintain our payroll and the important services they provide to our community, to the Board, and to our members.
- ◆ Our quarterly Carnegie Lecture Series continued with the video-conferencing format available on Zoom, with only one lapse in June 2020. Two recent lectures in March and June, 2021 drew over 125 attendees.
- ◆ The Carnegie Lectures have found a new focus, highlighting a particular historic site within the County and adding a weekend of events with information on the surrounding area.
- ◆ We launched a series of “Self-Guided Walking Tours” of the sites featured in our Carnegie Lectures. These are short documents that we will offer online and in print; in the Fall, we’ll consolidate these documents into a new annual La Vista to assure that the History Center continues its role in documenting the County’s history.
- ◆ We held a successful Annual Appeal to our members and offered an online Auction to replace the usual Gala.
- ◆ We continue to expand the History Center’s membership base, including the addition of Annual and Event Sponsorships.
- ◆ Most importantly: In June, the Board of Supervisors agreed to restore the annual subvention for support of the County Museum and our Collections, a small subsidy that had been in place since 1981 until suspended during the worst months of the global pandemic.



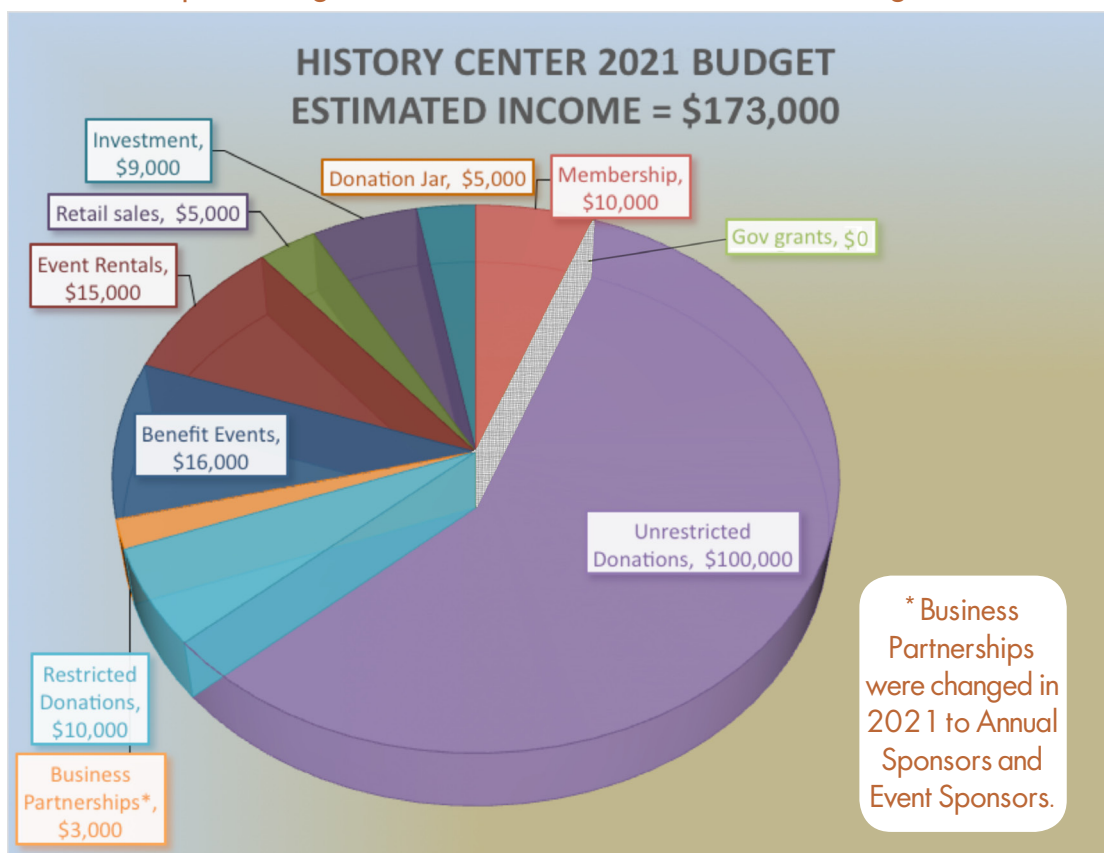
## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE HISTORY CENTER OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCES

In December 2020, the History Center adopted a new 2021 budget that reflected significantly reduced revenues due to long-term closures of the Museum and Dallidet, and the elimination of the County subvention. We reduced our planned expenditures as well, although we maintained our two full-time staff positions and thereby enabled continued work on our research services, Collections management, and basic maintenance of our facilities.

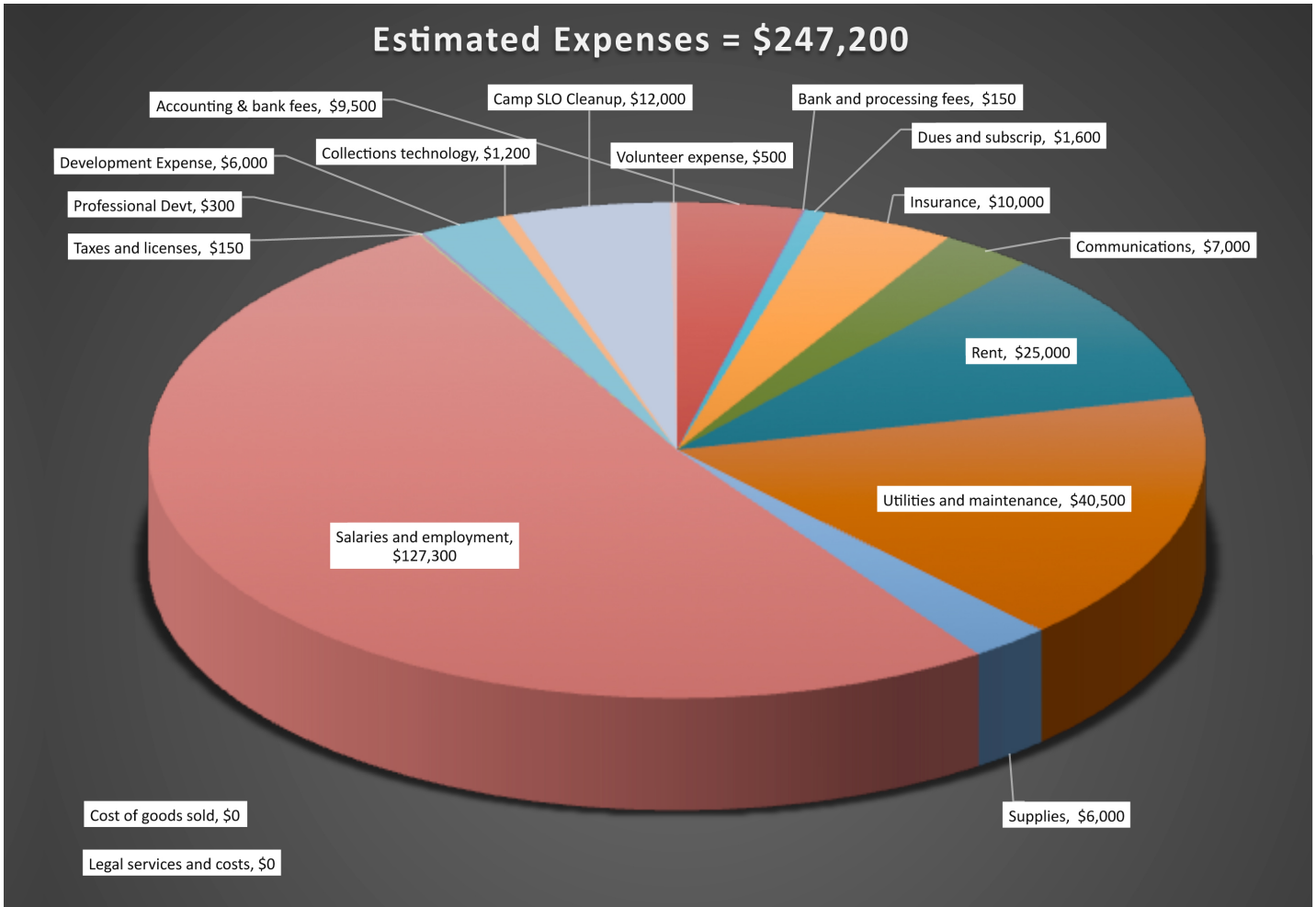
In recent months, with the assistance of Mechanics Bank, our staff succeeded in obtaining critical financing in the form of forgivable loans from the funds made available the CARES Act and the American Recovery Plan. Our Development Committee worked with donors at all levels to “fill the gap” left by the cancellation of our subvention agreement from the County. This support has been critical for our sustainability.

Our adopted budget for 2021 is reflected in the following charts:



## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCES

As noted on this page, the History Center estimated a continued deficit of about \$77,400 for this calendar year. That deficit will be eliminated, however, as a result of the expected receipt of the County's subvention of \$110,000 in mid-summer 2021.



**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020 OUR BALANCE SHEET SHOWED THE FOLLOWING  
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:**

As seen in this balance sheet, the History Center has substantial assets and investments; it should be noted that this accounting does not include any assumed market value of the Dallidet Adobe.

**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 · Cash Accounts	
1001 · Petty Cash - Museum	370.00
1003 · Cash on Hand - Museum	<u>80.00</u>
<b>Total 1000 · Cash Accounts</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>1100 · Bank Accounts</b>	
1101 · Mechanics Bank	
Checking	24,558.34
1102 · Mechanics Bank Money	
Mkt	<u>16,993.10</u>
<b>Total 1100 · Bank Accounts</b>	<b>41,551.44</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>42,001.44</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>1300 · Investments</b>	
1301 · Mutual Fund - Collection	
#2585	170,249.60
1302 · Mutual Funds - Museum	
#2616	300,494.69
1303 · Mutual Fund -General	
Fund #2612	59,283.57
1306 · Mutual Fund - Dallidet #	
0619	<u>10,587.50</u>
<b>Total 1300 · Investments</b>	<b>540,615.36</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>540,615.36</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>582,616.80</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
<b>1800 · Fixed Assets</b>	
1802 · Computer Equipment	4,278.55
1803 · Equipment	12,857.74
1806 · Dallidet	<u>274,376.00</u>
<b>Total 1800 · Fixed Assets</b>	<b>291,512.29</b>
1850 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-10,788.00</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>280,724.29</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>863,341.09</u></b>

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
2000 · Accounts Payable	<u>1,252.50</u>
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>1,252.50</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2300 · Sales Tax Payable	7.74
2600 · Rental Deposits	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,007.74</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,260.24</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
2700 · SBA Economic Injury Loan	<u>25,000.00</u>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>27,260.24</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 · Unrestricted Fund Balance	820,299.27
<b>3100 · Restricted Funds</b>	
3106 · County Subvention	17,957.03
3115 · Dallidet Adobe Endowment	<u>10,587.50</u>
<b>Total 3100 · Restricted Funds</b>	<b>28,544.53</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>-12,762.95</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>836,080.85</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>863,341.09</u></b>

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### *Transitioning to new post-Covid responsibilities and opportunities*

by John B. Ashbaugh, June 24, 2021

As President of the Board, it's my primary responsibility to prepare the Annual Report for the History Center of San Luis Obispo County which we're presenting at our Annual Meeting on this date. Thankfully, this report will now benefit from our knowledge that:

- 1) All "public-facing" programs of the History Center, including the Museum, Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, and walking tours, can now be open for business at full capacity.
- 2) State and County requirements for masking, social distancing, and sanitizing are being systematically lifted and we can be confident that our employees and volunteers are going to be safe while performing their tasks as we welcome visitors back to our facilities.
- 3) The County Board of Supervisors has approved an addition of \$110,000 to the County budget to restore funding for the operation of the County Museum at least for the coming fiscal year.

As we return to full pre-pandemic operation, a number of pieces must now fall into place for effective and efficient management of our collections, exhibits, and facilities. In addition, we must give proper attention to that which is our most valuable resource: The network of volunteers and donors who have partnered with the History Center to serve our mission. Toward that end, the following programs and initiatives are envisioned for our organization as we look to the future:

◆ Staff is working with the Exhibits Committee to re-open the Museum on Thursday, July 1!

◆ The Dallidet Committee has already re-opened the Dallidet Gardens and Adobe to weekend visits, and we are actively working with event planners to improve its infrastructure as an event venue. (See separate report from the Dallidet Committee below).

The major challenge with both the Museum and the Dallidet is recruiting, training, and managing a reliable corps of volunteers to supplement our paid weekend staff. I will work with staff to accomplish this in a timely manner so that we can be in full swing by July 15.

In the next few weeks, we will also launch a new exhibit to highlight the important role played by our local Jewish Community in the development of the County.

◆ Staff and your Board leadership are creating a partnership for a new "Cultural District" with our non-profit neighbors in Downtown San Luis Obispo to advocate for the successful development and expansion of cultural institutions like our County History Museum in the Carnegie Library, the Museum of Art across the street, the Children's Museum and SLO Rep's new theater project along Monterey Street.

◆ The new Educational Outreach Committee, which I chair, will work with the County Superintendent of Schools and each District's curriculum coordinator to bring school groups from all the K-12 districts in the area.

This program will restore the time-honored traditions of having children at all grade levels – but especially 3rd and 4th grades – schedule visits to the Museum and take part in "story-telling" as well as hands-on history projects with our volunteers and staff.

An important aspect of this program will be the collaboration of our organization with local tribal leaders and native educators who can inform students about the indigenous people of this region and the important role they continue to play in our modern society.

◆ The Educational Outreach Committee will also manage and direct our Carnegie Lectures on a quarterly basis in the future, using the successful model that we used for the last year: We will partner with other historic preservation groups in SLO County to put a spotlight on their efforts to preserve and maintain historic sites.

In September, we'll host the leaders of "Friends of the Adobes" who maintain the Rios-Caledonia Adobe in San Miguel, a unit of the SLO County Parks system.

In December, we'll co-host with the South County Historical Society and introduce Joseph Dana, a direct descendant of William Goodwin Dana, highlighting the restoration of the Dana Adobe and Cultural Center in Nipomo. We will work with the many, many descendants of the Dana, Munoz, and Delissegues families to honor the contribution of their ancestors and the way that they represent the multi-cultural nature of our community.

◆ In the fall, the Educational Outreach Committee will combine our first four "Self-Guided Walking Tours" in 2020-21 into a new La Vista en Foco according to the program outlined in the December 2020 message to the Board.

◆ We are launching weekly 1-hour Saturday morning walking tours of Mission Plaza starting at the History Center. These tours emphasize the story we told in March about the 1858 Committee of Vigilance and its dreadful application of the noose against six Californios right next to our museum.

◆ We are working with Pierre Rademaker, a long-time supporter of the History Center and a noted graphic design professional, to generate a design for our "Donor Recognition Wall" in the mid-level foyer for the Carnegie.

The tentative plan that Pierre has proposed would mount a display on the east wall to identify our largest donors (\$2,000 and more), using a relatively large font and incorporating business logos where warranted.

The west wall has more space and is suited for a larger display of the many more names of donors who are at a range of \$100 - \$1,999 per year.

◆ The Development Committee and its corollary Marketing Committee will continue to be responsible for managing all fund-raising events other than those organized by the Dallidet Committee, including an Annual Gala and Auction.

The Development Committee will also be responsible for providing input to the Donor Recognition Wall project and recruiting new donors and sponsors.

The Marketing Committee will continue to generate the quarterly newsletter, The Historian, and seek a sustainable funding model for its production, printing and mailing.

The Board should consider the need to hire a Development Director with the proper skill set to identify sponsorship candidates, grant opportunities, and philanthropic partners for the History Center.

◆ The Nominations Committee has delivered three excellent new candidates for the Board who are on the ballot to be added to the Board during the Annual Meeting: Leola Dublin MacMillan, Dean Sullivan, and Kathleen Cairns.

Throughout the year, all Board members should continue to recruit and evaluate new candidates for our various Committees – and all of us should continue to seek out qualified individuals for Board membership where they share our passion for local history.

Our Board will soon be considering nominees for our Annual Preservation Awards, traditionally presented by the History Center in the Fall. Ideas are welcome even at this early stage in the process for any of three categories that we have utilized in the past: Local historic preservation organizational advocacy; local historic preservation volunteer; and local history scholarship.

◆ Personnel – a new Personnel Committee will be responsible for:

A) Developing a set of Personnel Policies and Procedures for the organization for adoption by the Board; and

B) Reviewing salary and benefit issues; and

C) Reviewing personnel matters that warrant intervention by the Board to avoid or minimize conflicts or performance issues that may otherwise impair the effectiveness of staff or volunteers in fulfilling the mission of the organization.

Finally, looking ahead, we intend to initiate a project with the County Administrator and the Clerk-Recorder's office to establish a "Hall of Records" facility where important and perishable County public records and private documents can be archived and curated. We initiated a meeting with Clerk-Recorder Tommy Gong in February 2020 along these lines, but this work was deferred due to the pandemic – and just last month, we lost Tommy Gong! We will work with his successor on this project. Stay tuned – and please join me in wishing Tommy well in his new position in Contra Costa County.



## DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

The Development and Marketing Committees were extremely busy during 2020 and 2021 with Lynette Tornatzky and Mary Meserve-Miller as Co-chairs of both committees. Due to Covid restrictions forbidding “normal” Benefit Events, like our annual Gala, along with the loss of the Subvention monies, creative efforts towards obtaining additional funding became a top priority.

**As the committees needed comprehensive structure and detailed planning, new Mission Statements were created.**

### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MISSION

*Create and adhere to Board authorized Annual Development Department Income (and Expense) Budgeted Goals for the History Center of SLO County.*

Development Department Line Items consist of:

#### Current Income Line Item Titles

- 4010 Membership Dues
- 4020 Unrestricted Donations
- 4040 Benefit Events
- 4060 Business Partnerships

After much research, the committee requests (for future financial statements) new Line Item titles which more accurately describe and detail income generated, as follows:

#### Suggested New Income Line Item Titles

- 4010 Membership Dues
- 4020 Unrestricted Donations
  - 4020.1 Annual Appeal
- 4040 Benefit Events
  - 4040.1 Gala
  - 4040.2 Dallidet Soup Samplers
  - 4040.3 Auction
  - 4040.4 Carnegie Club Reception
- 4060 Sponsorships
  - 4060.1 Annual Sponsorships
  - 4060.2 Event Sponsorships

**Suggested new Expense Line Items directly correlate with suggested new Income Line Items.**

## MARKETING COMMITTEE MISSION

*Develop strategies for communicating the History Center of SLO County's Mission to the general public, existing and potential donors.*

### LINE ITEM 4020: UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

The Annual Appeal mail campaign, conducted in December, 2021 (Line Item 4020) had a proposed budgeted goal of \$15,000. The mail campaign resulted in exceeding the goal by almost 100%, resulting in 28,452.50 in unrestricted donations.

Of note? The loss of \$70,000 (from the cancelled Subvention agreement with SLO County) required an explanatory appeal in the mail campaign's cover letter, which inspired one extremely generous (anonymous) donor to pledge to donate \$70,000 - a pledge that was fulfilled in two phases, part in 2020 and the rest in 2021.

*Please see the attached Annual Appeal cover letter and Donation Form, Exhibit A.*

### LINE ITEM 4040: BENEFIT EVENTS

Line Item 4040, titled Benefit Events, with an original proposed goal of \$22,000 in gross receipts, created an additional unique challenge for the Committees, due Covid restrictions limiting social gatherings.

Due to an ingenious idea and generous offer by Board Member John Villa, the Committees planned, marketed and executed a "drive thru BBQ" in December, resulting in \$6,000.

The Dallidet Committee provided another creative solution with two Soup Sampler fundraisers garnering over \$8,500. Delicious soups were created from vegetables at the Dallidet gardens and an astonishing zero dollars were spent creating these popular Soup Sampler fundraisers.

We also conducted an Online Auction chaired by Sharon Gottesfeld that took in \$6,000.

**All in all, all projects produced a gross income of \$14,075.**

*Please see the attached Drive thru BBQ and Soup Sampler marketing materials, Exhibit B.*

## ANNUAL SPONSORS

The 2021 Annual Sponsors are in alphabetical order: Jim André and Paul Kellogg, Blakeslee & Blakeslee, Glenn Burdette, the Del Monte Café, John Schutz and Villa Automotive. There is also one who wished no public mention, so I will not mention this sponsor, but will say a sincere and heartfelt thank you, you know who you are!

## EXHIBIT A - ANNUAL APPEAL COVER LETTER



# HISTORY CENTER

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



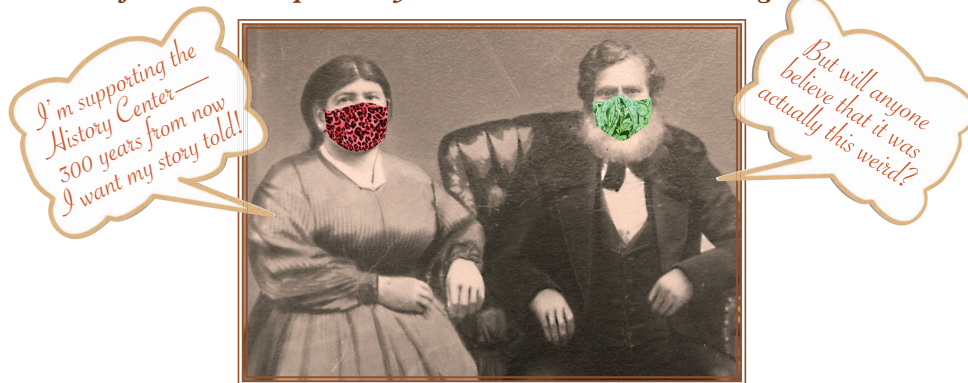
Dear

October 2020

**Greetings from the History Center of San Luis Obispo County! We hope you and yours are doing well.**

Now, more than ever, people are aware that we are living through history. It feels like every day the grinding monotony of quarantine, social distancing, and Covid-19 precautions are met with a new sharp punctuation in the form of some event that we know historians of the future will be studying avidly, both locally and worldwide.

**This underlines the current and future mission of the History Center: to promote the understanding and appreciation of San Luis Obispo County's historical and cultural heritage.**



***Basilia Hernandez Higuera 1832 - 1911 • Tomas B. Higuera 1818 - 1886***

*Tomas arrived in San Luis Obispo in 1855 and bought property in the center of the town, where he ran a successful ranch and eventually opened a butcher's shop. The street adjoining his property was named after him. The couple had 15 children!*

2020 has had a major impact on our operations. We have been forced to close our Museum in the Carnegie Library AND the Dallidet Adobe, and had to cancel all events from March 6 through now. In July we received some very bad news: **The County of San Luis Obispo, due to the economic collapse, has withdrawn from their Subvention Agreement with us, canceling \$70,000 in funding that we had anticipated this year.**

In view of this crisis, we're asking for you to show your support for YOUR History Center with a contribution at any level that you can afford. We intend to re-open our facilities AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE to do so—but we need to eliminate our budget deficit and restore our fiscal health as we take all necessary steps to safeguard the physical health of our staff, volunteers, and visitors.

On the bright side, we have some exciting opportunities to share with you including:

- **History Center Holiday Drive-Through BBQ—Sunday, December 6 (See attached Rack Card for details)**
- **Online Auction—November 18 through December 11 (See attached Rack Card for details)**
- **History Center Online Virtual Tours and Carnegie Lectures**
- **Fun filled Historical Scavenger Hunts with prizes**
- **Go to [www.historycenterslo.org](http://www.historycenterslo.org) for details!**

Meanwhile, we're asking you to help us respond to this crisis.

To support the History Center with your tax deductible donation, **please return the slip on the attached Donation Form** or visit our online Donation Center at: **[www.historycenterslo.org/support](http://www.historycenterslo.org/support)**.

Thank you for your generosity!

John B. Ashbaugh, Board President

Thomas Kessler, Executive Director

696 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 • Phone (805) 543-0638 • [www.historycenterslo.org](http://www.historycenterslo.org)

## EXHIBIT X - DONATION FORM

# HISTORY CENTER

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

696 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 • Phone (805) 543-0638 • www.historycenterslo.org

# DONATION FORM

### \$10,000 CURATOR

- Dallidet Wine Tasting Party for 12 guests
- Private Tour and Lunch for 6 at Hearst Castle
- Premiere Sponsorship for all 2021 History Center Special Events
- Ten 2020 Holiday BBQ Tickets & Event Sponsorship
- Donor Recognition Plaque
- Historic Framed Photograph
- La Vista Full Page Advertisement

### \$5,000 VISIONARY

- Dallidet Wine Tasting Party for 8 guests
- Private Tour and Lunch for 4 at Hearst Castle
- Major Event Sponsorship for all 2021 History Center Special Events
- Eight 2020 Holiday BBQ Tickets & Event Sponsorship
- Donor Recognition Plaque
- Historic Framed Photograph
- La Vista Half Page Advertisement

### \$2,500 FOUNDER

- Dallidet Wine Tasting Party for 6 guests
- Event Sponsorship for all 2021 History Center Special Events
- Six 2020 Holiday BBQ Tickets & Event Sponsorship
- Donor Recognition Plaque
- Historic Framed Photograph
- La Vista Quarter Page Advertisement

### \$1,000 BENEFACTOR

- Four 2020 Holiday BBQ Tickets & Event Sponsorship
- La Vista Quarter Page Advertisement

### \$500 SUPPORTER

- Two 2020 Holiday BBQ Tickets
- Business Card La Vista Advertisement



Private Tour and Lunch at Hearst Castle



Dallidet Wine Tasting Party

**Your support helps keep SLO County history alive and more accessible to the community and visitors from all over the world.**



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### Mission Statement

The History Center's mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of San Luis Obispo County's historical and cultural heritage.

Contact person

Name as you wish it to appear in publicity

Street Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Email

Phone

Payment Method:

Check

Credit Card

Signature

Date

Want to use a credit card online? Visit our website: [www.historycenterslo.org/support](http://www.historycenterslo.org/support)

The History Center is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, tax ID number 95-6150680. Donations are tax deductible.

DRIVE THROUGH BBQ

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

34 South Street *Villa Automotive* San Luis Obispo

Sunday ❄ December 6 ❄ 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tri-Tip Block • Salad & Dressing • Loaf of Sourdough • Quart of Beans

\$50 easily feeds four!

DRIVE THRU BBQ



Henry Cass, son of Capt. James, and wife Marjie Mathews Cass, in an early touring car overlooking Cass's father's pier at Cayucos, 1912.

Proceeds benefit the History Center of SLO County

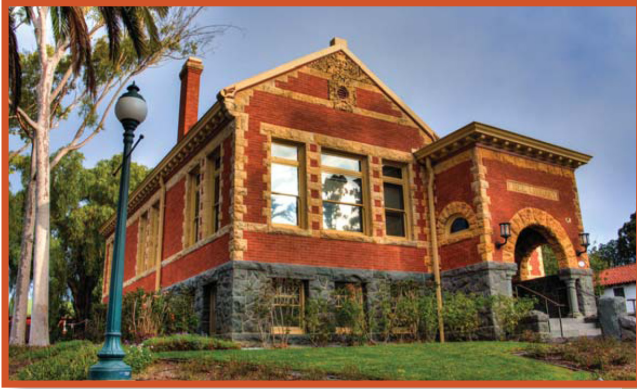
You do the Holiday shopping, we'll make Sunday Supper!

Tickets: [www.historycenterslo.org/bbq](http://www.historycenterslo.org/bbq)

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Jim Andre and Paul Kellogg





**Carnegie Library Building**  
Home of the History Center of SLO County  
696 Monterey Street

Our home base is at the renowned Carnegie Library Building in downtown SLO. Staff and volunteers diligently collect, analyze, and preserve historic photos, documents and artifacts, providing a foundation for exhibits and educational programs. With three exhibit spaces and a Book Shop, the History Center Museum is open to the public and also hosts our renowned quarterly Carnegie Lectures!

**As a member, you will receive:**

- \* Invitations to exhibit openings and Carnegie Lectures
- \* Media blasts regarding upcoming events & volunteer opportunities
- \* 10% discount on Book Shop purchases
- ◆ \$25 gift certificate to the Book Shop
- A History Center T-Shirt

# HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Whether new or recurring, History Center members support the only non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting ALL of San Luis Obispo County's history! Did you know the History Center of San Luis Obispo County has two properties?

In 1953, Paul Dallidet deeded the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens to the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society which was established through the work of community members Peter Andre, Miles Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Banning Garrett, Joe and Jean Novoni, and Stella and Young Louis.

A popular site for outdoor gatherings, it hosts a multitude of heirloom, exotic and enticing edibles which are used to create our popular "Soup Samplers." Guided tours are held throughout the year and the venue is also available to rent for weddings, private parties or corporate gatherings!



**Dallidet Adobe and Gardens**  
1185 Pacific Street

### *Carnegie Club Member*

- Discounted rental of the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens
- Invitation to the Annual Carnegie Club Reception



<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$20 *	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$60 *	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist \$250 * ◆ ■
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$40 *	<input type="checkbox"/> Collector \$100 * ◆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carnegie Club</i> \$500 * ◆ ■ ●

Annual Sponsorships by foundations, individuals & businesses are encouraged! Please contact our staff.

**We need your support NOW more than ever! Won't you make history with us? Please make checks out to: History Center SLO County.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Want to use a credit card? Visit our website: [www.historycenterslo.org/support](http://www.historycenterslo.org/support)**

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**HISTORY CENTER**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

November 18 - December 11

**HOLIDAY  
ONLINE AUCTION**



Do you think we should get Aunt Myrtle a Zipline ride?

Well, she is 108 years old, but why not?

*Mrs. Nesbit and her sister in the 1850s.*

**Do your Holiday shopping with us online!**

*Proceeds benefit the History Center of SLO County*



[www.historycenterslo.org](http://www.historycenterslo.org)



# WALKING TOURS

## HISTORY CENTER SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### ETO PARK AND BROOK STREET IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

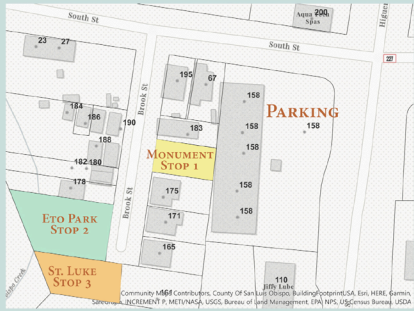


*A Self-Guided Walking Tour Through a Historic Neighborhood*

#### INTRODUCTION

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County is excited to share our very first Walking Tour Guide in hopes of encouraging community members to explore a little-known area that reveals an important part of the diverse cultural history of the City of San Luis Obispo: The Eto Park/Brook Street neighborhood.

This walking tour may echo some of the conflicting emotions that were encountered by those who lived and built businesses in this confined, two-acre tract. At times, these residents surely felt tranquility, but later turmoil. Hard work and diligence were followed by confusion and despair. We are honored to share this compelling story, because this unassuming corner of SLO Town may assist us at this critical moment when our community, and our nation, is experiencing a national reckoning in regards to racial tension and social justice.



To begin the tour, consider parking at the small strip of shops near 158 South Higuera where it's easier to find an accessible parking space, rather than on Brook Street. We encourage you to patronize the small businesses there, which include a bagel shop, a convenience store, a Mexican restaurant and more.

As you stand in this busy parking lot, try to imagine it when it was the heart of "Japantown" (see map at the end of this guide). From 1923 to 1928, a Japanese immigrant named Yoroku Watanabe leased the site of 158 Higuera, a one-acre parcel across the street from the San Luis Obispo terminus of the narrow-gauge Pacific Coast Railway. Watanabe couldn't purchase the property due to the 1913 California Alien Land Law, but his lease from the estate of a Prussian immigrant enabled him to build a one-story wood hotel, rooming house, pool room, restaurants, commercial garage, fish market, and wholesale and retail grocery. This complex was then purchased in 1929 by a young Japanese-American citizen, Robert Fukunaga, who upgraded Watanabe's buildings and expanded the hotel to a 2-story brick structure. Japantown became the southern gateway to the city along newly-designated Highway 101 (Higuera Street).

This diminutive borough is located southwest of San Luis Obispo's Higuera Street and South Street. It highlights the fascinating legacy of two distinct cultural communities who contributed so much to our history: Japanese Americans and African Americans. Eto Park is a tranquil and picturesque garden dedicated to the memory of those Japanese Americans who developed and resided in this neighborhood, prior to their forced removal from their homes and businesses in 1941-42 after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Standing adjacent to Eto Park is Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church, representing the heart of the African American neighborhood that evolved here in the 1940s.

This tour was published in March 2021, when the Covid-19 pandemic was active. Please wear a mask/face covering and maintain a social distance of 6 ft from people not in your household. Visit [www.emergencyslo.org](http://www.emergencyslo.org) for the latest in public health advice.

## HISTORY CENTER SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### MISSION PLAZA IN 1858 AND THE COMMITTEE OF VIGILANCE



*A Self-Guided Walking Tour Through a Historic Neighborhood*

#### INTRODUCTION

##### FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VIGILANTES—AND THEIR VICTIMS

Mission Plaza has been described as "the jewel of downtown San Luis Obispo." Most residents and visitors link this site to the origin story Spanish padres. They held a Mass nearby in 1772, and began construction of the mission complex at this site in 1794, the fifth in the chain of 21 California Missions.

The Plaza has been used for joyful community events, and as the entrance to Mission church services. Obscured is a darker history: In May and June of 1858, in front of the Mission, a self-appointed Committee of Vigilance used the Mission as a jail and impromptu court-house, and systematically hunted down and hanged seven "Californios" (people native to California prior to the 1850 Statehood). Because they had been Mexican citizens prior to the War with Mexico, these men were deemed US citizens when the war ended in 1848; they were still American citizens ten years later when their necks were stretched.

The "official story" is that the Vigilantes had rid the County of murderous

bandits, the so-called "Powers-Linares Gang." The truth is more complicated.

This Self-Guided Tour tells the story of one woman and four men at the center of the 1858 Vigilance activity in Mission Plaza: Ramona Carrillo de Pacheco y Wilson, her son Romualdo Pacheco, Jr. and Walter Murray (the Vigilantes), and Jack Powers and Pio Linares (their victims).



The violence that permeates the story of the Committee of Vigilance casts a shadow over Mission Plaza. There's a lighter story of Ramona Carrillo de Pacheco y Wilson however: Her faith and devotion to her son, to her extended family, and to her community clearly helped to pacify San Luis Obispo and to all of California during the earliest hours of its transition to American rule, even after 175 years.

Step into the story and begin the tour at "Site 1," now the home of our SLO County History Center, formerly the Carnegie Free Library (1905) at the south end of Mission Plaza. In 1858, this was the "town home" site of Ramona Carrillo de Pacheco y Wilson and her husband Captain John Wilson.

*Mission Plaza Guide to the Sites  
Courtesy of the City of San Luis Obispo*

Visit [www.emergencyslo.org](http://www.emergencyslo.org) for the latest in COVID public health advice/restrictions.



## HISTORY CENTER SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### LA LOMA ADOBE/ RESERVOIR CANYON TRAIL



*A self-guided walking tour on the Reservoir Canyon Trail*

#### INTRODUCTION

The History Center of San Luis Obispo County features the La Loma de la Nopalera Adobe (La Loma Adobe) and its setting within the Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve—land that has been occupied for as long as 15,000 years by native peoples. Hikers can fully access the beautiful Reservoir Canyon Trail from either of two trailheads (✳), planning their hikes with care (plenty of water and sunscreen) for the difficult 4.5 mile terrain. There is limited parking at each trailhead, and remember, if you pack it in, pack it out.

Enjoy your hike!







## COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

The History Center has revolutionized one of our offsite storage locations! Our collection stored at Camp SLO was inaccessible during the early portion of the pandemic, and a pest problem developed. Clark Pest Control worked with the Collection Committee to develop a plan to remove, disinfect, clean and reorganize the storage space. Some of the pests had caused permanent damage, and those items were deaccessioned and disposed of, but the rest of the collection has never looked better!



Thanks to the diligent work of Phil Tillman, John Schutz, Bill Pierotti, and Gary Hoving each of the 600 plus County Assessors books have been cleaned, reorganized, and are presently being cataloged to be made accessible for researchers. We can't wait to share these records dating back to the 1880s with you!



## DALLIDET COMMITTEE

The History Center decided in Spring, 2020 to open the Dallidet Gardens for weekend visitor access subject to a regimen that was recommended by SLO County Public Health Department to assure Covid-19 safety. We employed a part-time staff person to monitor visitors, and kept the adobe closed to visitors. We ultimately closed the garden for the season at the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens on Sunday, September 6, 2020, until Memorial Day 2021. Tai Chi and Mindfulness classes continue in the Gardens throughout the summer and early fall (October), and the property is also available for other activities within covid-19 guidelines.

Stacey Avelar served as our wonderful weekend docent with Marilynn Scoggins and Sandy Baer assisting on rotating Sundays. Attendance varied from 10 to 50 each weekend day, and everyone respectfully followed mask wearing and other covid-19-related restrictions. Visitors varied from Cal Poly and Cuesta College students, to tourists, “staycationers” and multi-generational families.

Marilynn was also instrumental in getting the city to fabricate a new Dallidet Adobe sign to replace a very faded one previously on Walnut Street at Santa Rosa Street. See attached photo of the new, much larger sign and the old one. Thanks to Dave Hannings and his helper, this sign has been posted on our property at the end of the Pacific Street cul-de-sac and new landscaping is underway.

The gardens continue to flourish due to Dave Hannings’ unflagging horticultural expertise and his genteel generosity. Even though we were unable to showcase the fruits (and vegetables and flowers) of his labor at History Center-sponsored events, Dave and his helpers produced an astounding array of plants, from heirloom Black Fatsu Japanese pumpkins to chocolate jalapenos to Purple Opal basil. Elderberries, alpine strawberries and loganberries gave way to a Giant Mongolian sunflower and many other sunflower varieties and straw flowers among others.

A collaborative weekly effort by Dave (photographs), Sandy (research and writing) and staff (posters), the “What’s Blooming at the Dallidet” was launched on the History Center’s Facebook page in the spring and continues. Staff also posts Dave’s winning photographs of the gardens on the History Center/Dallidet web site. A calendar for 2022 is now in production using these photographs and narrative supplied by staff and the committee, emphasizing the beauty of the Dallidet gardens.

Thanks to Dave Hannings’ outreach to SLO County Farm Trail/FARMstead and Victoria Wood’s financial contribution, we are now members. Their mission is to “bring folks together through locally grown via agri-CULTURAL experiences, events and gatherings.” The founder, Lynette Sonne, visited with Dave at the gardens and expressed an interest in holding workshops or other events at the Dallidet. We will be listed on the “Farm Trail” map and our logo will be displayed on their web site. They are currently offering virtual tours, a possible outlet for our Dallidet gardens and adobe virtual tours.

As a downtown property, we are not immune from the homeless plight and regrettably, we have again seen a return of encampments in the San Luis Creek adjacent to the Ramona Depot. We are working with the CAT team to alleviate the problems of trash, drug use and other nuisances from this unfortunate population.

With respect to our financing, the History Center has welcomed the initial funding of a \$50,000 pledge by Jim Andre and Paul Kellogg to go toward the establishment of an endowment for the facility. In order to raise operating revenue, we also held two very successful “Soup Samplers” in November, 2020 and February 2021, using vegetables and fruits that were cultivated at the Gardens by Master Gardener Hannings and prepared by a culinary team led by Debbie Collins. We welcomed any ideas, thought and observations about the 2021 season at the Dallidet.