



La Campana

WINTER/SPRING 2024 | VOL. 50, NO. 1



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La Campana is a publication of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Members of SBTHP receive *La Campana* as a benefit of membership.

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SBTHP's 2024 Year of the Dragon logo designed by DJ Javier.

BACK COVER

An estimated 7,000 people attended SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Festival, held at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park on February 10, 2024, from 4-8pm. Photo by Michael H. Imwalle.

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Letter from the Executive Director



In the new year we always prepare for fresh changes with a feeling of optimism. The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's (SBTHP) annual meeting is a great way to begin the season of "new." At the annual meeting we celebrate the accomplishments of the prior year, including the community members who made a difference in preservation and interpretation of our community's historic resources. We also welcome new board members and begin the process of integrating them into our organizational community. You will find an article with more details about our annual meeting and our new board member in this issue.

This year we celebrated other new beginnings as well. Late in 2023, SBTHP was notified that we received a Stop the Hate grant. This grant is funded by the California Department of Social Services in partnership with the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs and is a response to the escalation of hate crimes against the AAPI community that began during the pandemic. The grant funds cultural awareness programs as a form of hate crime prevention, in addition to

direct support for the victims of hate crimes. This grant we received funds four projects for SBTHP over a two-year period.

The first project, which you will read more about in this issue, celebrates the Year of the Dragon and launched in early February 2024 to coincide with the Lunar New Year. Our work on the Year of the Dragon included a mural by local artist DJ Javier on the side of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens building (Structure of Merit, 1947), a local AAPI art show in the Presidio Chapel curated by Kai Tepper and Meiya Sidney, and a nighttime cultural festival celebrating the Year of the Dragon. The festival drew thousands of visitors to El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park.

The amazing launch of our grant-funded programs will be followed by three other significant projects. This summer we will open an exhibit about Santa Barbara's Filipino community, building upon our related oral history project at the Presidio Research Center. Next year we will produce a traveling display about the County of Santa Barbara's current work to redact restrictive covenants from housing deeds. Although restrictive

covenants preventing people from purchasing homes based on race, gender or other categories of discrimination have been illegal for decades, they still exist on the deeds. The work to find and remove them is producing an archive of information about housing discrimination in Santa Barbara. Our final Stop the Hate projects will include bystander trainings, which will be open to the public and designed to support allies with ways to respond in the event that they witness discriminatory behavior, harassment, or hate crimes. We will also run community focus groups about hate crimes in Santa Barbara and the types of resources that would be required to support victims at a county level.

We hope to see you at some or all these events and programs, and hope that your 2024 is also off to a wonderful start!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Petersen".

Anne Petersen, Ph.D.

SBTHP Celebrates Santa Barbara's Asian American Cultures with Year of the Dragon Festival, Mural and Art Exhibition at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

by Kevin McGarry, Associate Director for Public Engagement

In 2023, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation received a grant from the California Department of Social Services' Stop The Hate program. Part of an ongoing effort by the State to provide direct support for communities impacted by incidents of hate and support victims, the funding will allow SBTHP to facilitate four large-scale community-centered projects aimed at providing such support for Santa Barbara's diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. The first of these grant-funded projects was completed in the first quarter of 2024 and raised cultural awareness about and appreciation for Santa Barbara's Asian American community through public art, community programming and cultural experiences.

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, SBTHP and its Asian American Affinity Group welcomed approximately 7,000 people to the Presidio Neighborhood for the Year of the Dragon Festival at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. At this community Lunar New Year celebration, SBTHP revealed its Year of the Dragon Mural to the public, along with a multi-media AAPI art exhibition, which was on display inside the Presidio Chapel from February 10-21, 2024. THE DRAGON, co-curated by SBTHP

Board Member Kai Tepper and emerging artist Meiya Sidney, featured artwork by local, multigenerational AAPI artists and demonstrated the resilience of Santa Barbara's AAPI communities.

SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Mural, on display through the end of January 2025, honors the history, diversity and contributions of Santa Barbara's diverse AAPI community. Designed and painted by Daniel ('DJ') Javier, the mural also celebrates a new lunar year; the 2024 Year of the Dragon. A cherished zodiac character in many Asian cultures, the Dragon invokes feelings of hope, strength, resilience and unity for the future. DJ Javier is a Santa Barbara-based Filipino American artist, muralist and designer whose celebrated artwork, designs and murals have received critical acclaim throughout Southern California and around the world. Early in 2023, SBTHP approached DJ with the idea to create a large, public mural on an exterior wall of the historic Jimmy's Oriental Gardens building in El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. DJ had already worked with SBTHP in the past to create logos for the annual Asian American Neighborhood Festival. This collaboration, along with his interest in local Asian American history and his own family's story, made



Top: Hula Anyone performing in front of hundreds of attendees at SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Festival that took place at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park on February 10, 2024. Photo by Kevin McGarry. **Bottom:** Year of the Dragon Festival attendees exploring THE DRAGON Art Exhibition in the Presidio Chapel. Photo by Andrew Gartner Design Company.

him a natural choice for the project.

While working closely with DJ Javier, we learned more about his family story, his creative process and approach to his art, his inspiration behind the mural, and his hopes for what SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Mural will mean to his beloved hometown community of Santa Barbara. See our interview with DJ Javier below.

Tell us a little bit about your family story and how your family came and settled here, in Santa Barbara.

My parents arrived in the United States from the Philippines in the early 1980s. Originally, my family settled in Tampa Bay, Florida. After my three older siblings were born, but before I came into the picture, my father was offered a job in telecommunications in Santa Barbara. He moved our family to

California in the late 1980s. I was born in the West Covina area of Los Angeles, but within a few months my parents moved our family north to Santa Barbara. We moved to a neighborhood in Goleta, close to El Rancho Elementary and Dos Pueblos High School.

My parents were active in the local Filipino community, and my mother met friends in that community. I remember going with them to the Filipino Community Center building on State Street. Growing up, I was sometimes embarrassed about my Filipino background, because I wasn't surrounded by many people that shared the same sentiment and culture. As I got older, I really embraced my Filipino identity and heritage, and being a member of Santa Barbara's Asian American Community, more broadly.



DJ Javier in front of his nearly finished Year of the Dragon mural. Photo by Eric Foote.

How and when did you get interested in making art and choosing art and design as a career?

Growing up, I was obsessed with art and making art. I never considered myself naturally talented. My friends, classmates and teachers saw my passion and stoked the fire by encouraging me. I got better as I got older, and it was clear I was improving a lot. I feel like when growing up, every kid is an artist to an extent and then for whatever reason that fire gets extinguished. I think I just figured out how to keep it going, whether or not that fire in me seemed a little dimmer at times. Still today, my friends and family encourage me to continue with my art.

What inspired you to take on the project and what do you hope your Year of the Dragon mural will do for the Santa Barbara community?

For me, learning about the history of Santa Barbara's Chinatown and Japantown and the Asian American history on this particular block of East Canon Perdido Street was really inspiring. Getting to partner with people at the Trust to learn more, and looking through archival images and listening to oral histories helped me see the importance of the people that lived there and the place they created. The whole process felt like such a full-circle moment. Being Asian American and being a part of this community, I thought about how around 100 years after those communities of people lived here, someone in



A signature style of his work, DJ Javier adds bold, dark outlines to the Year of the Dragon mural. Photo by Andrew Gartner Design Company.

the community like myself who shares a similar heritage and cultural story is doing something like this to honor the place and the people; it just feels really special.

What does the Year of the Dragon represent to you? Have you painted dragons before? What inspires you when you set out to start a project like this?

At the time Kai (Tepper) and the Trust team approached me with this idea, I had done a few paintings and one mural that included the dragon imagery and theme. It is a motif that repeats itself in a lot of my work. The dragon is such bold signal of strength and resilience and being Asian American I really gravitate towards it. To me, it



Above Left: In his studio located in Santa Barbara's Funk Zone, DJ works on his dragon design. Photo by Casey McGarry. **Above Right:** DJ Javier and his collaborator, artist Tosh Clements (above right), using a projected image of DJ's dragon design at night to mark and make outlines on the mural wall. Photo by Kevin McGarry.



embodies something bigger and more important than just something cool to draw; it has meaning behind it. Being an artist and designer, I am inspired by a mosaic of different things- whether it's street art or surf culture or tattoo imagery or cartoons – as a designer I love branding, logos and typography. My work is a mix of all these interests and elements of my life, and I then ask how I can make it authentic to who I am. I use a simplified color palette and I think it's the graphic designer in me who likes to pare things down.

Were there certain images, quotes or artifacts that inspired the imagery in the Year of the Dragon mural?

I found a lot of the archival imagery inspiring. Also, I was inspired when reading about the Chung family and looking through old photos of the restaurant interior and the building itself. I was im-

mediately drawn to the “Double Happiness” Chinese symbol and the lines in those characters. Even the windows and the shapes and colors inside the restaurant made their way into the mural. I wanted to stay true to the traditional Chinese culture and the deep red colors and keep traditional Chinese New Year elements and imagery in mind. I also wanted to stay authentic to my style and color palette and bring my own perspective, as well.

Were there unique challenges with this mural project?

Every mural project brings unique challenges. Once I had the dimensions of the wall, I was able to scale my sketches and artwork down and complete a few final mural design options to discuss with the Trust. After the final design was agreed upon, I worked with the Trust staff to prepare the wall

and surrounding area for the mural installation process. This included power washing the wall and clearing plants and objects away from the wall itself. I then used a projector and traced the design in sections on the wall.

Because of a forecasted storm we extended the original timeline. I'm glad we did because it gave us more time and allowed for a couple rainy and windy days when we had to stop completely. After the storm passed, we finished the whole mural in a couple days.

Any final thoughts to share?

This was one of my favorite projects I've ever worked on because it was really special for me to do; someone from the community to invest back into Santa Barbara and its Asian American community, specifically. ●



Top: DJ Javier and Tosh Clements make their finishing touches. Photo by Kevin McGarry. **Bottom:** DJ Javier addressed attendees at SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Festival alongside SBTHP Board Member and THE DRAGON curator, Kai Tepper. Photo by Kevin McGarry.



SBTHP's Year of the Dragon mural by Santa Barbara-based artist and designer DJ Javier will be on display at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park through January 2025. Photo by Eric Foote.



61st Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation

by Tim Aceves,
Associate Director for Advancement

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) hosted its 61st Annual Meeting on the afternoon of January 27, 2024, in the Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. SBTHP members voted to elect Jeffrey Sherwood to its Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Following the election, SBTHP presented numerous Community Awards and Cer-

tificates of Appreciation. Pam Post & Tim Hazeltine received the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award for their forty years of work helping designate historic buildings throughout the City of Santa Barbara and County-wide; Manuel Unzueta received the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award for his historical murals and his tireless work to preserve public art throughout Santa



Barbara; Jeff Garfinkle received the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award for his extensive volunteer work in the past year at school and public programs including Our Communities, Our Stories, Historical Games Day, Archaeology Day, and Día de los Muertos. The UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center received the Partnership Award for its collaborative work with SBTHP's Public Engagement Department since 2019; including most recently their collaboration on a week-long teacher training held at El Presidio SHP: "The Making of Monuments." Luis Moreno was chosen as Life Honorary Member for his decades of participation in and support of SBTHP's many beloved

public and school programs.

SBTHP awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Simon Kerry for his work to keep Pearl Chase's legacy alive through his recent biography, *Miss Chase: Santa Barbara's Trailblazer*; Michael Montenegro for his sustained efforts to share Santa Barbara's Chicano cultural history and his participation in SBTHP events and programs; and Chris Parker for his service to SBTHP's Property Management Committee.

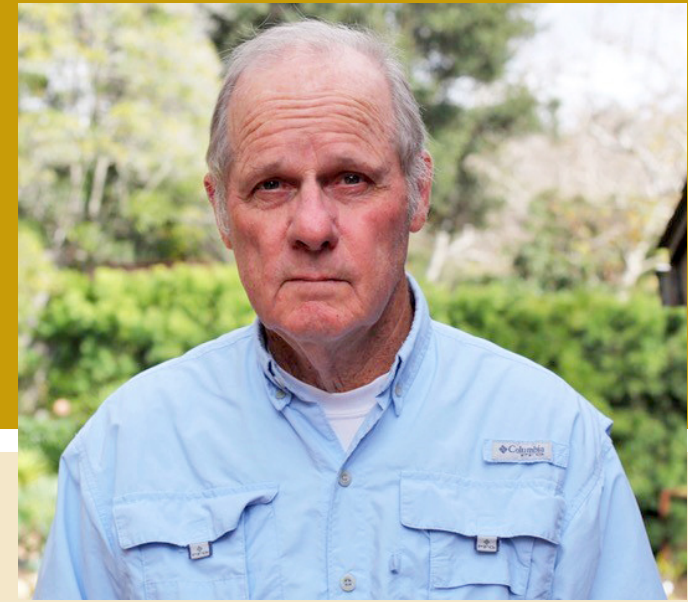
Immediately following the ceremony, members, awardees and guests enjoyed refreshments and delicious food from Rudy's Presidio Restaurant in the sunlit Presidio Orchard. ●



Top Left: Pam Post and Tim Hazeltine received the Pearl Chase Preservation & Conservation Award, presented by SBTHP Board Member Shelley Bookspan (left), SBTHP Associate Executive Director for Cultural Resources Michael H. Imwalle (center right) and SBTHP Board President, Michael Arnold (right). **Top Right:** Manuel Unzueta (center) received the George and Vivian Oborn Preservation Stewardship Award, presented by SBTHP Executive Director Anne Petersen (left) and SBTHP Board Member, Mia Lopez (right). **Bottom Left:** Jeff Garfinkle (center) received the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award, presented by SBTHP's Director of Programs Sarah Fenenga and Board President, Michael Arnold. **Bottom Right:** SBTHP's Partnership Award was presented to the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center's Director Susan Derwin (center left) and Associate Director Christoffer Bovbjerg (center right) by SBTHP's Executive Director Anne Petersen and Associate Director for Public Engagement, Kevin McGarry. All Photos by Tim Aceves.



Top Left: Luis Moreno (center) was declared Life Honorary Member by SBTHP's Executive Director Anne Petersen and Associate Director for Public Engagement, Kevin McGarry. **Top Right:** Former SBTHP Board President Mary Louise Days (center) accepted Simon Kerry's Certificate of Appreciation on his behalf, presented by SBTHP Director of Programs Sarah Fenenga and Board President, Michal Arnold. **Bottom Left:** Michael Montenegro was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by SBTHP Board Member Kai Tepper and President, Michael Arnold. **Bottom Right:** SBTHP Board Member Kevin Nimmons (left) accepted a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Chris Parker, on his behalf. All Photos by Tim Aceves.



SBTHP Welcomes New Board Member: Jeff Sherwood

Jeff Sherwood and his wife Jae moved to Santa Barbara over three years ago from Annapolis, Maryland to be closer to children and grandchildren. A California native, Jeff graduated from Colby College and Stanford Law School. He had a national law practice based in Washington, D.C. and received numerous honors and recognitions for his courtroom work—primarily defense of patent infringement lawsuits. He is now fully retired and enjoying life in Santa Barbara, midway between family to the north and the south. He is a regular volunteer at Lotusland, The Ensemble Theater Company and the Santa Barbara Foodbank. Jeff served three terms as the Parliamentarian for the Santa Barbara Newcomers Club. He is excited to be part of the SBTHP team. Jeff's pastimes include tennis, music, golf and painting. ●

Emerging Partnerships with Local Businesses Bring Custom Items to SBTHP's Gift Shop

by Melanie Magolan, Director of Visitor Experience



Jon Donaghy of Mind Garden screen printing SBTHP's Year of the Dragon logo onto t-shirts and tote bags in his studio. Photos by Celina Garcia.

Here at SBTHP's gift shop at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, we are always seeking out and sourcing new merchandise that connects with our public programming. Recent collaborations with local artisans and businesses have created custom, locally sourced products. In February 2024, SBTHP partnered with Santa Barbara creative studio Mind Garden and local artist and designer, DJ Javier. In February 2024, DJ produced SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Mural and designed SBTHP's Year of the Dragon Festival logo. At the Festival on February 10th, Jon Donaghy, owner of Mind Garden, led a live screen-printing booth where attendees could print SBTHP's Dragon logo onto t-shirts and tote bags they could take home. In the weeks following, Jon and the Mind Garden team helped create Year of the Dragon wooden coasters and key-chains, and t-shirts and tote bags with the full-color dragon logo; all of which are now for sale in SBTHP's gift shop, both onsite and online.

Museum Store Products, a frequent collaborator that helped our gift shop create custom SBTHP-themed puzzles, ornaments and journals is now helping us produce Year of the Dragon postcards, as well as other custom products related to SBTHP's archival collections. In addition to creating these printed products, we collaborated with regional soap maker, Soleil Holland of Nature's Sol Soaps. Soleil first worked with SBTHP to create soaps utilizing our 2021 extra virgin olive oil, harvested from SBTHP's

Santa Inés Mission Mills State Property. SBTHP's Olive Oil Soap in the shop comes in three fragrances: citrus (a blend of orange, lemon, and grapefruit), rosemary (which includes a touch of lavender), and lemongrass sage. Soleil regularly sells her products at the Mujeres Maker's Market, a community-based pop-up market at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and SBTHP programs that showcases the work of local women of color.

SBTHP is proud of the relationships we have built with our local and commercial partners, and we are grateful for the opportunity to create and offer our customers exclusive products showcasing SBTHP's community-centered programming as well as the Presidio Neighborhood's cultural diversity and layered history. ●



SBTHP's olive oil and soap display in the Presidio Gift Shop. Photo by Kevin McGarry.



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