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Balboa Park Conservancy Votes to Support Plaza de Panama Project

Plaza de Panama Project Aligns with Core Mission of Conservancy

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SAN DIEGO--(EON: [Enhanced Online News](#))--The Balboa Park Conservancy today voted 8-2 to support the Plaza de Panama project, a proposal to transform the core of Balboa Park into a grand public space for San Diego.

The Conservancy, created through a multi-year public process aimed at ensuring Balboa Park's long-term viability, was formed in September 2010 to assist the City with providing adequate resources necessary to fulfill Balboa Park's needs. The organization operates as a nonprofit public-benefit entity with the primary purpose of raising funds for investment in the park.

"The Conservancy is proud to lend its support to a project that aligns with our core mission and values," said Chuck Hellerich, president of the Balboa Park Conservancy. "The mission of our organization is to preserve and enhance Balboa Park for future generations to come, and the Plaza de Panama project would do just that."

The Plaza de Panama project, a proposal put forward by Dr. Irwin Jacobs and the Plaza de Panama Committee, would remove vehicle traffic from the heart of Balboa Park and return the plazas and promenades to their pedestrian use. The project will be financed largely with private donations, and represents the largest private investment in the park since the 1915 Panama-California Exposition and the 1935 California-Pacific Exposition.

"As competition increases for limited public financial resources, private investment and public-private partnerships are critical to sustaining and strengthening Balboa Park," said Carol Chang, vice president of the Balboa Park Conservancy. "The Plaza de Panama project sets an important precedent for future private investment in the park."

The Conservancy's pledge of support comes at a critical point for the Plaza de Panama project as it goes before the City of San Diego's Planning Commission next week, and then to City Council for final approval in July.

With the upcoming Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, the Conservancy is also tasked with working with the Balboa Park Centennial Committee to raise funds for the year-long celebration. This milestone will celebrate Balboa Park's heritage and look forward to its future with special events and exhibitions throughout 2015. The Plaza de Panama Committee aims to complete the Plaza de Panama project in time for the Centennial.

For more information, please visit the Balboa Park Conservancy website at www.balboaparkconservancy.org.

About the Balboa Park Conservancy

The Balboa Park Conservancy is a nonprofit public-benefit entity dedicated to preserving, enhancing and promoting Balboa Park for the enjoyment and education for present and future generations. The Balboa Park Conservancy carries out its management responsibilities by raising funds and carrying out capital improvement and major deferred maintenance projects in the Park, funding and organizing volunteer and other community programs in the Park, and assisting the City with the governance issues its faces in the Park. It is a 501(c)(3) California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation.

Contacts

Balboa Park Conservancy

Hiroko Kusano

619-814-1311

info@balboaparkconservancy.org

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