



MISSION BELL

Vol. 9, No. 3 / Fall 2020

Ring in the News of the Preservation Campaign for Mission San Antonio de Padua

A Message from Campaign Co-Presidents SUSAN GILL & ANN BECKETT

WITH YOUR HELP our fundraising campaign to date has allowed us to complete the seismic retrofit of Mission San Antonio. Our final effort for phase 5 of the campaign is the restoration of the quadrangle garden, the renovation of the Mission museum to preserve priceless artifacts, and the interpretation of important archaeological destinations on the grounds surrounding the mission.



Museum upgrades will include the addition of new exhibits utilizing valuable historic items. The visitor experience will be enhanced using diagrams and displays to tell the rich historic stories of Mission San Antonio.

The Mission archives include a priceless, irreplaceable collection of artifacts, photographs and paintings which bring to life California's history. A renovated archive room will ensure that the collection is cataloged and properly stored in

new climate-controlled cases and preserved for the future.

Preserving the important archaeological landscape features on the mission grounds and adding better interpretive signage and pathways will enhance the visitor's experience, providing educational opportunities for young and old of the early life of living in the past centuries.



The quadrangle garden restoration includes grading and concrete work, the replacement of water lines, repair and restoration of the fountain (with addition of recirculating pump), the installation of lighting in the garden area for more safety for overnight guests, and planting low maintenance drought-tolerant plants and preserving our famous roses. Plans for the garden are currently in process, with the overall goal being to offer an inviting environment for both daily visitors and retreat guests.

The renovated Mission museum and interpretive site plan ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to experience and appreciate the important historic narratives and dramatic, solitude of the Mission. Help us honor this timeless treasure by joining us in our final efforts. Thank you for your continued support! ■

Look for the Lights...Be a Light!

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator

FOR ALMOST A HALF of this year our news broadcasts have issued daily updates of darkness. We are told to socially distance, close our places of business, avoid being around other people as much as possible. We wash our hands repeatably, disinfect, wear face masks and plastic face guards. We stand six feet or more apart. All of this is necessary; all of this is being done to safeguard our most vulnerable.

Within the doom and gloom, rays of light offer hope. Vaccine research is promising, our homes and places of business have never been so CLEAN. Our remarkable technological world has expanded our knowledge and experience with online meetings and classrooms. Many families and friends are staying more connected than ever before. While we struggle to keep Americans safe and still get back to the business of work and school, our essential workers have held the front lines and have kept our world running for us all. What we need to realize, however, is that although we appreciate all they've done, we are all essential!

Each and every one of us is essential to our families, our friends, our communities. We are needed to bring light to a dark world. We check on each other, we lend a hand when someone needs help, we offer hope to the despairing, we lighten one another's burdens. We reach out. We bring light. Mission San Antonio is also a light-bearer to the community. For almost two hundred and fifty years it has offered light in the darkness and peace amidst the turmoil.

While current conditions still mandate that the Mission remain closed to the general public, the restoration work continues. We are working hard to have the Mission safe, restored and ready when the order is given that the doors can reopen.



South exterior wall located in quadrangle amid fabric repair process.

Chris Ingram's Lath & Plaster crew has worked continually throughout this pandemic and has completed the fabric repair and limewash of the east portion of the building (from dining room to end of garages).

They then moved to the fabric repair of the front wall of the Mission complex (southern exposure). This is a very lengthy process involving many layers of repair, with each needing to cure for a certain period of time before the next layer can be applied. Concurrently, they are working on the fabric repair of the south, west and north walls of the quadrangle. The damage to the south and west wall is fairly extensive, so this is also a long process.



Fountain repair process has begun. Brush Concrete (via Mark Switzer Excavating) begins hardscape August 3, 2020.



Front (South) external corridor nears completion of the fabric repair and limewash.

Fountain repair work has begun. We have removed all the broken plaster, cracked concrete, etc. and have begun the fabric repair. New inflow and outflow lines have been installed, as has

conduit for electrical supply to power the recirculating pump and the UV light filters that will keep the water clean and clear. It will take 6-8 weeks to have the fountain ready for our fountain expert, Dave McFadden, to begin working his magic with the rocks, plants and fish. It will be wonderful to restore the relaxing sounds of the cascading water back into our garden atmosphere.



New water lines replace old deteriorating one in quadrangle's Padres' Garden.

Mark Switzer Excavating has completed the demolition and replacement of all water lines in the garden. They have installed a back flow preventor, a pressure reducer valve and have added additional valves to allow us to isolate each section of the garden, should any water leakage issues arise at a future date.

Switzer Excavating has completed the new grading so that the garden topography is no longer flat. We worked together to establish a more natural-looking terrain. The hardscape portion of the garden project began on Monday, August 3rd, 2020. This segment is complete and includes all pathways of travel, ADA compliant steel plates at each pathway connection linking to the loggia, and the "patio" located at the fountain area designed to accommodate future gatherings. The concrete apron at the garages is also complete.

Pete Vachek continues to paint...I am sure he thinks this job has no end! It's a very large Mission and we are so fortunate to have his talent at work on this project!

Madrone Landscaping has been contracted to make our vision come to life. They will install the low-wattage path lighting, irrigation, plants and ground cover. It is our objective to have all of this work completed by the end of October, 2020.

We have contracted for 16 redwood benches for the quadrangle setting and are in negotiations for the additional seating for the interior of the garden. We also now have a new bench for the front area outside the main church and have had all of our other benches deep cleaned and restored.

We are working on new signage and hope to have this part of the project completed by the end of the year. We also need a new main site sign – we are entertaining concepts and bids at this time.

Project costs as of July 31, 2020 are:

Phase I	\$3,089,727.92
Phase II	\$2,119,799.55
Phase III	\$1,354,527.51
Phase IV	\$1,754,149.25
Phase V	\$2,019,969.09

TOTAL \$10,373,156.29

(please note that these numbers are updated as painting, fabric repair of the building, and miscellaneous items are completed)

Phase V garden restoration costs to date are \$34,982.97 with incoming invoicing of an additional \$500,000 by the end of calendar year 2020.

The Sibbett Group (Museum Consultants) estimate for the museum upgrade, site interpretation and archival protection is \$994,152. For this work to be completed in 2021, we need to aggressively raise funds.

Our money reserve is being seriously tapped. We need an influx of cash to continue moving forward.

Help us complete the "Telling of the Mission's Story". We need to raise an additional \$1.5 Million to fully enable us to best "Tell the Story". These funds will complete the museum upgrades included in Phase V, protect and provide better access to our archival treasures, protect, delineate and interpret the foundations of our historic landscape, and provide better signage to inform and educate our visitors. We are almost there. We need to finish to ensure that the Mission continues to serve the community for many, many future generations. We need to be able to fully "Tell the Story of Mission San Antonio de Padua".

We are a resilient people. We have faced challenges before and have risen to meet the need. We will do this again. The coronavirus is a formidable challenge...so was raising over \$10 million dollars to accomplish a seismic retrofit and restoration of a 250-year old Mission.

You are essential to the success of Mission San Antonio's retrofit and restoration. I believe in you...I believe in us. Together we will continue to rise to meet the challenge and continue to be lights for a dark world. We simply can't stop now; we are so close to completion! Please continue to give and encourage others to do the same. Let's continue to shine a light in the darkness. ■

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MISSION BELL *Fall 2020*



Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

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Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

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is Greatly
Appreciated**

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