CALIFORNIA MISSIONS FOUNDATION APPOINTS DAVID BOLTON AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Larry Gould, Chair of the California Missions Foundation’s board of directors, announced recently the selection of David Bolton of Santa Barbara as the new Executive Director of the Foundation succeeding Dr. Knox Mellon who retired December 31 after serving more than eight distinguished years as CMF Executive Director. Bolton became the new CMF Executive Director on January 1, 2013.

“We are tremendously pleased that David Bolton agreed to be the California Missions Foundation’s next Executive Director,” said Board Chair Larry Gould. “He combines years of business and financial acumen with a passionate desire to preserve California’s missions. Knox Mellon’s unparalleled leadership has allowed the Foundation to donate millions of dollars for conservation and seismic retrofit projects at the missions during the past decade, and David will use his extraordinary entrepreneurial skills to lead and continue these efforts in the future.”

David Bolton is President of Cultural Global Media, Inc., which he founded in 1992. He has completed several documentaries, including ‘Inside the California Missions,’ ‘North America’s Mission Trails,’ ‘Junipero Serra: His Life, His Legacy and the Missions,’ and ‘Inside Mission Santa Barbara.’ A member of the California Mission Studies Association for more than 20 years, he currently serves as its volunteer Board President. “As someone who has a life-long interest in, and love of, missions, I am looking forward to this exciting opportunity to continue, and to enhance, CMF’s superb work in protecting and preserving these great California landmarks,” said David Bolton. “The missions are some of our State’s greatest treasures and must be preserved for future generations.”

Founded in 1998, California Missions Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, is the only statewide organization dedicated to the long-term preservation and restoration needs of all California missions for the public’s benefit. According to Dr. Knox Mellon, “Nothing defines California’s heritage as significantly as the 21 missions founded along the coast from San Diego to Sonoma. Their beauty, stature and character underlie the formation of California. The missions are California’s pyramids.”

For more information about California Missions Foundation, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.californiamissionsfoundation.org or call the CMF office at 805.963.1633.
At the Fall CMF Board Meeting, California Missions Foundation grants totaling $102,650.00 were awarded to 11 missions, the Royal Presidio Chapel at Monterey and CMSA (California Mission Studies Association). Requests for funding totaled $276,610.00 and the CMF Grants Committee faced a difficult task of choosing the requests that most closely met CMF guidelines as determined by the Grants Committee and Grants Chairperson Tina Foss.

Missions Santa Inés and San Antonio de Padua, and the Royal Presidio Chapel at Monterey received grants for restoration of historic paintings. Mission Santa Barbara was awarded a grant for consultation and collections management for the Huerta Garden, which preserves a variety of plants typical during the mission era. Missions Soledad and San Rafael received CMF grants for archaeological testing.

Meanwhile, Missions San Buenaventura, San Diego and Santa Cruz received grants related to the conservation of historic statues. Mission San Luis Rey will direct its grant toward restoring the Peyri Courtyard (below). Mission San Juan Bautista requested and received a grant to have its mission complex digitally archived by CyArk (San Juan Bautista CyArk Project). Mission La Purísima received a grant to replicate a historic bell clapper, and CMSA received a grant to support its upcoming mission studies and research conference at Santa Barbara February 15-17.

CMF staff will be working closely with each of the 2012 grant recipients during the work phases for which the grants were requested. CMF grants are awarded based on compatibility with CMF guidelines for “preserving the Landmark California Missions and their associated historical and cultural resources for the public benefit”. CMF is dedicated to preserving and conserving California’s national and historic mission treasures, their archives and related resources. Additional grants will be awarded throughout the 2013 calendar year.
A 2012 CMF Grant is being used to restore this historic, centuries-old statue of San Gabriel, which sits on the left wall adjacent to the Mission San Diego altar.

The close up picture shows the damage to the statue on the left side of San Gabriel’s face. Once restored, the statue will be returned and will once again be standing inside the Mission San Diego church.

CMF relocates office from Carmel to Santa Barbara

California Missions Foundation has relocated its office to Santa Barbara and will be moving into its new location at historic El Cuartel (right) this month. El Cuartel is the second oldest building in California with only the Serra Chapel at Mission San Juan Capistrano built prior. In conjunction with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, which operates the El Cuartel Building as part of its State Historic Park, El Presidio Real de Santa Bárbara (below), CMF is helping to establish a Mission and Presidio interpretative room inside of El Cuartel.

“It will be great for CMF to be housed in such a historic building,” said CMF Executive Director David Bolton. “This building is part of the Presidio complex -- a site where Father Junípero Serra last raised the founding cross at what he said at the time was the founding of the ‘Presidio y Misión de Santa Bárbara.’ It is fitting that CMF is now calling home a section of the complex that a man so important to our state's mission history played such a key role in establishing.”

The CMF office will be open throughout the week during regular business hours. Please call CMF at (805) 963-1633 if you are able to stop by to see our new historic office space.
CMF CONTINUES TO MONITOR SAT GRANTS FOR CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

California Missions Foundation is working closely with Missions San Luis Rey and Old Mission Santa Barbara administering the SAT (Save America’s Treasures) grants for each historic site that have been awarded by the National Park Service in conjunction with several national foundations including President Obama’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The SAT grant at Mission San Luis Rey covered seismic retrofitting of the mission church, while the SAT grant for Old Mission Santa Barbara is covering, among other projects, the seismic retrofit of the historic crypt below the church altar, the only such crypt at any of the California missions.

CMF has also assisted other missions, including Missions Carmel and San Miguel, with their SAT grants and continues “to do everything possible to make the process as smooth as possible for the missions,” according to CMF executive director David Bolton.

All SAT grants are matching grants with each mission required to raise at least half of the necessary funds through local fundraising.

A rare inside photo of the historic crypt below the altar at Old Mission Santa Barbara. Among those buried in the crypt are former Alta California Missions Treasurer, or Sindicato, Don Jose de la Guerra y Noriega, his wife, son Pablo, former California Governor José Figueroa and several distinguished Franciscans who served the Mission during the 1800’s.

Scaffolding on the Mission San Luis Rey church facade during the seismic retrofit.

You can help us to preserve California’s historic missions and all their cultural treasures!

Please call our office at (805) 963-1633 to donate by credit card, or click the button below to donate via PayPal!

About California Missions Foundation

Nothing defines California’s heritage as significantly or emotionally as do the 21 missions that were founded along the coast from San Diego to Sonoma. Their beauty, stature, and character underlie the
formation of California. All 21 missions are California Historical Landmarks; many have also been
designated National Historic Landmarks. The missions are among the most popular tourist destinations in
the state, attracting millions of visitors each year.

Founded in 1998, the California Missions Foundation was established with the objective of preserving and
protecting the missions. The Foundation is the only statewide organization dedicated to the long-term
preservation and restoration needs of all California missions and their associated historic and cultural
resources for public benefit.

Visit us online at www.californiamissionsfoundation.org.