A Letter from California Missions Foundation

California Missions Foundation is celebrating its 21ST birthday! An idea and a vision to address the preservation needs of our California Missions and related historical sites has become reality with the help of our partner foundations, our members, and individual donors. Your commitment to CMF has helped countless projects throughout the state as our Missions, Presidios, Ranchos and Asistencias find themselves better today than they were when CMF first began its efforts in 1998.

Helping to preserve the California Missions and conserve its vast collection of colonial artwork continues to be a priority for CMF. With the 2018 grant cycle, the California Mission Foundation continues supporting art conservation, granting funds to priceless artwork and artifacts conservation, building stabilization and preservation and restoration, and a historic Duran Choir Book.

Research and Education are also key focuses of CMF. Our annual conference and highly acclaimed fall journal, Boletín, provide a platform for the latest borderlands research as so many have worked for many years helping to tell the story. A very successful conference was held in February in San Diego, California and a special issue of Boletín is planned to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the founding of Missions San Diego de Alcalá (1769), San Carlos Borromeo (1770), San Antonio de Padua (1771), San Gabriel Arcángel (1771), and San Luis Obispo de Tolosa (1772).

Our fourth grade field trip program, “All-Aboard-the-Bus” continues to provide important transportation funding for Title I students to be able to visit their local mission. We frequently hear from teachers that these field trips help to motivate their students and they find that once they return to the classroom, the students are more engaged in all subject matters.

21 years and counting. It has been a meaningful two decades. CMF is proud of everything that has been accomplished, and we are thankful to everyone that has joined and supported the effort to preserve our Missions, and related historical sites.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Imwalle
CMF Chair

David A. Bolton
CMF Executive Director/CEO

Cover images: Commemorating 250 years since the founding of the Alta California missions and presidios, this CMF Annual Report cover features images (from top right clockwise): Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the reservoir and back country between Asistencias San Antonio de Pala and Santa Ysabel, Mission San Antonio de Padua, the Petaluma Adobe of Northern California’s General Vallejo, and Mission San Francisco Solano in present-day Sonoma. Photos by CMF Executive Director David A. Bolton.
California Missions Foundation would like to thank its 2018 preservation partner Foundations, all of whom helped make a series of preservation and conservation grants possible throughout the Mission and Presidio chain: **Bank of Montecito**, **Brewster West Foundation**, **The Charles D. and Frances K. Field Foundation**, **The Charles D. and Frances K. Field Fund**, **Kelly Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust**, **Linden Root Dickinson Foundation**, **Dan Murphy Foundation**, and the **John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation**. CMF is proud to have assisted and administered these various grants and projects.

**Mission San Antonio de Padua**
For decades, the Franciscans called this mission home, and while there, they enjoyed a large library on the inner courtyard side of the historic front convent wing. CMF in partnership with the Field Foundation, and the Mission Savnio Preservation Campaign worked to transform this library including new period style flooring, furnishing, electrical, painting and displays. This on-going project will be undoubtedly one of the featured rooms at this historic mission complex.

**Mission Santa Barbara**
The “Duran Choirbook” which belonged to Fr. Narcisco Duran is being restored. Fr. Duran was Father-President of the California Missions several times and was known for his work as a choir director. For many years Duran taught instrumental and vocal music to local native peoples of San Jose and Santa Barbara Missions in the early to mid 19th century. This important historical artifact was in desperate need of restoration and conservation to allow its use by researchers and scholars to come. The Los Angeles Paper Group is carefully working on each individual page, including an overall surface cleaning and addressing the erosion which the Gall Ink has caused over time. The “Duran Choirbook” pages were pasted onto an already constructed book, an atlas, which was then reused as paper and resources were scarce during that time period. LA Paper group is carefully going through the atlas/choirbook and in some cases allowing the pages that have fallen apart to remain apart and in other cases re-attaching the atlas page to the choirbook page in order to balance the full history of the object with preservation needs.

**La Purisima Mission SHP**
La Purisima Mission SHP has a large wooden sculpture that was in need of major treatment to consolidate loose and flaking paint/gesso layers. This involves conservation treatment. The statue, *Virgin La Purisima*, is more than a decorative item, it is important as it represents the significant role of art to inspire religious devotion within the mission system. The sculpture had numerous areas of loose gesso in the folds of the robe and areas of cleavage and loose paint in the left cheek area of the face. Treatment includes photographic documentation, thorough cleaning, stabilization of all loose gesso, paint and gilt, retouching areas of loss, removal and repair of 4th digit, and final protective varnish application.

**Mission Santa Clara**
Preservation of the integrity of the interior historical aesthetic and architectural remediation was required for filling/stabilizing earthquake cracks and settle damage. The Mission’s 1928 interior ceiling and wall surfaces, featuring “formerly” colorful, detailed frescoes and décor have not been comprehensively conserved in 90 years. Years of soot, moisture intrusion, earthquake and settling damage, plus fading due to sun exposure, point to the need for conservation. The project began with the mission balcony area and its surfaces and...
**Mission Santa Clara, continued**

then the Nave ceiling/upper walls with the help of an electric scissor-lift. The Proscenium Arch, framing the Sanctuary/Altar area is now fully conserved revealing its original colors and detailing. The last phase is cleaning/conserving of the painted ceiling.

**Mission San Buenaventura**

An 18th-19th century Statue of the Immaculate Conception (Mexican, Spanish Colonial) roughly five feet tall was successfully conserved. The statue, made of wood with a gessoed and painted fabric gown, had been heavily restored in the past and was covered in many layers of over painting. The statue had multiple damaged areas, including broken fingers. The statue was first cleaned, and then delicate repairs were made to bring the statue back to as close to its original luster as possible.

**Mission San Juan Bautista**

The process of bringing the Mission archives collection and its associated inventory and artifact research content to museum standards continues. The aim of the project is to update information and/or document MSJB artifacts on display, in offices and in storage: This includes all 3D & 2 dimensional objects (integrated furniture), books, and paintings in an effort to refine Mission Museum inventory and begin the process of defining artifact preservation needs. This project is also helping to develop essential research cultivation of useful deliverables. This includes the development better informed content for parish and guest media as well as the bases for a Mission research database from which to identify the significance of artifacts to regional history. All artifacts receive an updated condition report as required for insurance purposes. This includes photos (various details), measurements/weight, and where needed, a conservation priority report listing objects with damage and/or in need of preservation. Most objects will take a soft cleaning in order to prepare the condition/conservation reports. All documentation including photo(s) will be recorded in the museum’s current archives Past Perfect Data System.
In 2005, the “All-Aboard-the-Bus” field trip Grant Program was started in the greater Los Angeles area, and the program was expanded into Monterey County in 2012. Funding for the program is provided by grants from the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation, The Upjohn California Fund, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Pebble Beach Company Foundation and the William H. Hannon Foundation. All fourth grade classes in California study the Missions as part of the state mandated social studies curriculum, and the ability to personally visit a Mission greatly enhances students learning and excitement about history.

The “All-Aboard-the-Bus” program continued to provide an invaluable hands-on experience to over 3,000 fourth grade students in Los Angeles, Monterey, and now Santa Barbara Counties. Students were able to visit their local Mission to see, feel, and hear first hand the rich history of California.

Through these field trips students are able to understand the importance of preserving historic artifacts and buildings.

The “All-Aboard-the-Bus” Field trip Grant Program hopes to continue to inspire future generations to pursue educational endeavors, and to take an interest in history, preservation and restoration of the 21 California Missions and related historical sites.

“At the Mission, they had the opportunity to see what life was like in California during that time period. This experience certainly increased student content knowledge, bought it to life, and left an impression on them. In their journals, they wrote about how ‘Our field trip was so amazing’ and how ‘we had so much fun while learning’.

Your support provided free access to a day filled with many unique experiences and increase student knowledge about our history”. — Teacher from Villacorta Elementary

One teacher reported that the volunteer docent at Mission San Gabriel, was a descendant of one of the first inhabitants of the mission and that gave a greater perspective for the students. “The students were given a 30 minute lesson on all the different historical aspects of how the church started, the materials used, and what each remnant signified.” The kids would make statements like, “Wow, now it makes more sense!” — Daniel Phelan Language Academy students with their teacher at Mission at Mission San Gabriel

“Dominguez Elementary School went to visit the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel. It was an interesting day because while we had been learning about the California Missions in class, the trip made the lessons real. A few of the students had visited another mission, but the majority never had the opportunity, so it was a true educational experience seeing rather than just reading about it.” — Students of Dominguez Elementary School At Mission San Gabriel Arcángel

35 SCHOOLS SENT FOURTH GRADE CLASSES ON FIELD TRIPS TO THEIR LOCAL MISSION OR RELATED SITE:

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY**
- 59th Street Elementary
- Celerity Achernar Charter school
- Christian Sorensen Science Academy
- Daniel Phelan Language Academy
- Dominguez Elementary School
- Emma W. Shuey Elementary School
- Gabriella Charter School
- George Washington Elementary
- La Verne Science & Tech Charter School
- Marvin Ave. Elementary
- Plasencia STEAM Elementary School
- Santa Teresita
- St. Andrew School
- Villacorta

**MONTEREY COUNTY**
- Boronda Meadows Elementary
- Cesar E. Chavez
- Chualar Elementary
- Del Rey Elementary
- Echo Valley Elementary
- El Gabilan Elementary
- King City Arts Magnet
- La Gloria Elementary
- Los Padres Elementary

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**
- Mission Park
- Monterey Park
- Natividad
- Ord Terrace
- Prunedale Elementary
- Roosevelt Elementary
- San Vicente Elementary
- Santa Lucia Elementary
- University Park Elementary

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**
- El Camino Elementary
- Franklin Elementary

Photos: Marvin Ave. Elementary in Los Angeles County visiting Mission San Gabriel (top), Students from Emma W. Shuey Elementary School on a field trip to Mission San Gabriel (bottom), Classes from Mission Park Elementary in Monterey County visit Mission San Juan Bautista (left).
### Individual Contributors

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**Income 2018**

- 88% Grants & AATB
- 8% Mission Studies
- 5% Individual Donations
- 2% Memberships

**Expenses 2018**

- 62% Grants
- 14% AATB
- 9% Mission Studies
- 15% Operations

#### Partner Foundations

Brewster West Foundation  
Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation  
Linden Root Dickinson Foundation  
Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation  
The Charles D. and Frances K. Field Fund  
William H. Hannon Foundation  
Montecito Bank and Trust  
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Pebble Beach Company Foundation  
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The Upjohn California Fund
The California Missions Foundation is dedicated to preserving the historical California Missions and their associated cultural resources for public benefit.

You can support CMF by visiting their website: www.californiamissionsfoundation.org or contacting them at (805) 963-1633 or info@californiamissionsfoundation.org.

To continue supporting CMF, please visit their website:

You can make a legacy gift to CMF that will support the Missions beyond your lifetime. Your estate attorney can assist you in determining what is best for you.

Please let us know if you have made a planned gift to CMF or have any questions.

CMF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
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The California Missions Foundation
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