

# San Diego Archaeological Center

*preserving pieces of the past*

**The San Diego Archaeological Center's mission is to preserve archaeological collections and promote their educational, scientific and cultural use to benefit a diverse public.** The Center was founded in 1993 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) governed by a board consisting of a group of San Diego's foremost experts in California history and the field of archeology.

Extensive development in the San Diego region has resulted in the exaction of millions of archeological artifacts. There was no central location for archaeologists, academics and the general public to study the collections that were scattered amongst Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms and developers. Archaeologists, historians and CRM professionals worked toward the creation of a repository for the preservation, care, management and use of these artifacts with a single, interconnected system for tracking and research. In response to this vision, **The San Diego Archaeological Center** was formed.

***The Center curates collections for federal, state and local government as well as private agencies*** and is committed to increasing public access to these collections as a cultural and educational resource. The Center currently curates more than 627 collections and approximately 5,000 boxes of archaeological artifacts and associated documents from nearly 1,500 archaeological sites representative of the more than 19,300 sites in San Diego County. The collections, which continue to grow, document 10,000 years of the region's rich and diverse cultural history. Hundreds of thousands of artifacts are contained in the Center's collections and over 7,000 archeological reports have been collected and archived. A growing Research Library holds over 3,000 books and monographs relevant to archaeology that are catalogued on a computer database for research accessibility. The majority of accessioned collections have been entered into a GIS (Geographic Information System) database to further research and analysis.

***As a nationally recognized leader in the curation of archaeological collections,*** the Center meets the requirements set forth in Federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79 (Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections) and State of California Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections. The Center honors its public trust by meeting and exceeding NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) standards. Native American human remains and sacred objects are actively repatriated to San Diego's Native American tribes.

***The Center's exhibits and programs benefit diverse groups*** and the majority of programs are offered for free or at cost. Since 2003, over 130,000 students have received lessons in formal and informal settings.

- As State representative for the national program: ***Project Archaeology***, the Center provides professional development for educators and direct instruction to school age children. Over 60 teachers and 15,000 students have received program lessons since the program's inception.
- Environmental organizations and guides gain from our ***Artifact Interact program***.
- ***Public exhibits and outreach programming*** at the Center and large-scale venues reach over 1.3 million individuals annually.
- ***Second Saturday*** events and inter-organizational outreach programs bring experts in the fields of archaeology, history, anthropology and geology to lecture and facilitate workshops appropriate for toddlers to seniors.
- Exhibits and programs are designed to promote awareness and appreciation of American and California history prior to and after the arrival of the Spanish, as well as to promote interest in archaeology and the prehistory of our region.
- A new Video/Film Series was recently launched along with a Speaker's Bureau to reach new audiences.

The San Diego Archaeological Center continues to develop *new areas of research and programming and institutional preparedness*.

- The first phase of Anza Borrego ceramic research funded by the Bergole Archaeological Research Grant Program was completed in 2008.
- A National Science Foundation Research Project “Understanding Hunter Gatherer Grinding Technology” has begun that will have broad implication for collaborative and comparative research with other projects relating to the study of hunter-gatherer societies worldwide.
- The Center began development of *ASI – Archaeological Site Investigation Program* for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that will provide an immersion experience in the current technologies, methodology and processes of archaeology and has contracted with USD Nonprofit Leadership Program to define, evaluate and market this exciting new program funded in part by the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation.
- The Center will begin an exhibit and recycling awareness campaign project in collaboration with I Love A Clean San Diego in 2009 entitled “Quenching Our Thirst” Culture Environment and Change” which is funded by Pam Slater Price’s Community Grants Program and Pacific Life Foundation.
- To ensure that Center collections are secure, an Emergency Preparedness Plan was completed in 2008 with a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant.

The Center’s permanent facility is located in the San Pasqual Valley Agricultural Reserve, adjacent to the world-renowned Wild Animal Park, Coast to Crest Trail and San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park.

A Capital Campaign to change the features of the Center is underway to include improved curation and research facilities to house new and existing collections, an expanded library and research area, a spacious and light-filled lobby and enhanced exhibition space. The Center’s new entryway will feature native plant landscaping designed to promote conservation, outdoor exhibit and seating areas, water elements and improved signage to promote the Center as a regional tourist destination.