

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

MISSION:

To interpret the natural world through research, education and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.

PURPOSE:

- To emphasize this unique and diverse region while maintaining a global perspective;
- To collect and preserve scientific specimens for research and as a continuous record of the changing world for future generations;
- To serve as a center for the scientific study of biological diversity and evolution;
- To provide dynamic leadership in natural history and environmental education through exhibits, publications, and educational programs, striving to make this outreach relevant to all the people of the San Diego region;
- To foster cooperative efforts in natural history research and education throughout our region.

HISTORY:

Established in 1874, the San Diego Natural History Museum is one of California's oldest and most respected cultural and science institutions. The Museum and its members have played a pivotal role the establishment of the San Diego Zoo, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Torrey Pines State Park, and Anza Borrego State Park.

PROGRAMS:

The Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias (BRCC): Established in 1996, the BRCC focuses Museum research on the biology, ecology, paleontology, and geology of our region: the greater Baja California peninsula, from Pt. Conception near Santa Barbara to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. A major emphasis is placed on developing binational research collaboratives between U.S. and Mexican scientists.

The Environmental Science Education Center (ESEC): Established in 1998, ESEC provides leadership in science education programming throughout the region. Working with K–12 schools, parents, and the public on both sides of the border, ESEC promotes environmental literacy, and provides life-long learning opportunities. The Museum also presents permanent exhibitions that explain the geologic and biological dynamics of the region, as well as traveling exhibitions that examine natural phenomena found around the globe.

Exhibitions and Films: The Museum's award-winning exhibit design team creates exhibitions that focus on the unique and biodiverse southern California region. In addition, the Museum hosts several traveling exhibitions each year which teach visitors about our natural world as it is today and as it was in the past. The award-winning *Ocean Oasis* provides Museum visitors an introductory overview of our region and the forces which shape it. The film, which the Museum co-produced, takes viewers on a fascinating journey into two remarkably different, but inextricably linked worlds—Mexico's Sea of Cortés and the Baja California desert. A second giant-screen film is shown alternately with *Ocean Oasis*.

FACILITY:

Since completion of the construction and renovation project in Spring 2001, the Museum has more than doubled in size from 60,000 to 150,000 square feet. Features of the new building include:

- An 8500-square-foot exhibition hall for traveling exhibits
- A 300-seat theater auditorium
- Expanded education facilities
- Conference rooms, a roof-top terrace, and catering kitchens to accommodate seminars and special events
- Renovated Research Library and reading room

- New permanent exhibition halls
- Volunteer Center
- Space for future development of:
 - Distance Learning Center
 - A hands-on Discovery Center
 - Research demonstration Lab

MUSEUM GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

Governed by a Board of Directors elected by the Membership. This board sets policies and delegates responsibility and authority for the operation of the Museum to the President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Binational Advisory Committee guides the Museum toward being a resource for environmental research and education on both sides of the border.

The Intra-Museum Advisory Council consists of the Museum’s volunteer director and presidents of each museum volunteer organization. It meets monthly to evaluate programs and coordinate upcoming activities.

Accredited by the American Association of Museums.

MUSEUM ORGANIZATION:

Board of Directors

Chief Executive Officer

Administration and Finance Division

Accounting

Human Resources

Security

Building Operations

Retail Operations

Museum Stores

Public Programs Division

Admissions

Exhibits

Graphics

Volunteers

Website

Environmental Science Education Center

 Informal Education

 Formal Education

 Binational Education

Institutional Advancement Division

Annual Fund

Special Events

Planned/Major Gifts

Membership/President’s Circle

Corporate and Foundation Relations

Marketing/Public Relations

Research and Collections Division

Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias (BRCC)

 Research Support

 Earth Sciences

 Paleontology

 Mineralogy

 Botany

Invertebrate Zoology
Marine Invertebrates
Entomology
Vertebrate Zoology
Herpetology
Birds and Mammals
Scientific Publications
Collections Care and Conservation
Research Library

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Natural History Museum raised the funds for the construction of the original museum building in 1933 as well as the new expansion in 2001 and gave it to the City. The Museum operates the facility under a long-term renewable lease. The Museum receives approximately 5% of its annual budget from the Arts and Culture Commission.

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