



# *Las Angelitas del Pueblo*

## *Newsletter – Winter 2019*

*El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument*  
*[www.lasangelitas.org](http://www.lasangelitas.org)*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Las Angelitas Events**

##### **Docent Training Class**

Tuesdays, March 5 – April 2  
and Monday, April 8  
10 am – 12:30 pm

##### **Spring General Meeting**

Monday, April 8, 10 am – noon

##### **Docent Appreciation Luncheon**

June 2019, date TBD

#### **Pueblo Events**

##### **Lantern Festival Marking End of Chinese New Year Festivities**

Saturday, March 2, 2019 noon – 6 pm  
Note: Tour Office is closed this day

##### **Arbor Day Celebration**

Saturday, March 30 10 am – 3 pm

##### **Blessing of the Animals**

Saturday, April 20 noon – 5 pm

##### **Cinco de Mayo**

Saturday & Sunday, May 4-5, 11 am – 9 pm

##### **LA Opera: “Via La Zarzuela”**

Sunday, May 19, 2 pm – 5 pm

##### **EPPA Wine Celebration**

Thursday, June 20, 6 pm – 8 pm

##### **Ecuador Independence Day Parade & Festival**

Thursday, June 20, 11 am – 6 pm

##### **LA's 238<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Saturday, August 24, 6 am – 1 pm  
(Bike/Walk from Mission San Gabriel to the Pueblo starts at the Mission at 6 am)

### **Winter General Meeting**

We discussed a number of topics at the Winter General Meeting on January 14, 2019. The meeting was called to order by El Pueblo General Manager Chris Espinosa, who made some opening comments about recent developments within Las Angelitas, and announced the new Board of Directors:

President: Dave McMenamin

Vice President: Carmela Funicello

Treasurer: Kate Probst

Secretary: Joyce Pais

Chris also announced that the Tour Office now has an alarm system (see the message from Chris below).

Next, Jim Crawford from the Western National Parks Association described the history of the Gateway to Nature and some of the educational and informational programs available there (see the article on page 4 for details).

Finally, Dave McMenamin made some comments about various topics concerning Las Angelitas (see the President's Message on page 2)

### **A Message from Chris Espinosa**

On Monday, January 14, 2019, I was given the opportunity to address Las Angelitas del Pueblo members on certain changes to ensure that the organization is operating effectively now and into the future. El Pueblo has been working closely with the Board and the El Pueblo Park Association in re-securing Las Angelitas' corporate status with State of California, as well as to re-secure its non-profit tax status, which will take some additional time. Progress has also been made in getting the organization's financial documents in proper order due to previous Board member vacancies. I am happy to announce the election of new Board Officers as we begin the new year: Dave McMenamin, President; Carmela Funicello, Vice-President; Joyce Pais, Secretary; Kate Probst, Treasurer, as well as continuing Board Members Michael Fujita, Membership/Directory and Mark Trevor, Tour Data. The department will continue to work closely with the Board to provide support and assistance.

**Security Alarm:** There is now a security alarm in the Tour Office. The alarm is disarmed from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm on tour days (Tuesday – Saturday). It is armed at night and all day Sunday and Monday. See the article on page 8 for details.

## President's Message

**From Dave McMenamin**

As you probably know, Las Angelitas has been in flux over the last few months. For several months last year we only had one officer on the Board of Directors, so El Pueblo Management and EPPA stepped in to help us get back on track. Special thanks to Chris Espinosa, Lisa Sarno and Michelle Garcia-Ortiz for their efforts in helping us, and to Don Sloper and Kate Probst for all the work they have put in during this transitional period. Special thanks also to Marilyn Lee, Frank Damon and Jeanne Conklin for providing helpful input and comments at the January Board Meeting.

The big step at the Board was the approval of the new officers listed on the first page. This allows us to move forward with the Federal and State paperwork that we need to update, and complete the transfer of financial tasks to Kate Probst.

We are working on implementing procedures aimed at avoiding problems such as those encountered last year. First, we created a master calendar containing all filing dates for Federal and State paperwork, and dates when periodic payments are needed (for things such as website hosting fees, annual computer software fees, etc.).

We are also working on procedures to make the transition of tasks from one person to another as smooth as possible. This includes creating written instructions for various procedures (such as maintaining and updating the website, managing docent sign-ups, etc.).

It also includes moving to a standard set of e-mail addresses so that the e-mail address does not change when the person handling a task changes. In the past, changing e-mail addresses has resulted in some members not receiving e-mails because their e-mail system thinks they are spam. The e-mail addresses we've set up so far are:

[news@lasangelitas.org](mailto:news@lasangelitas.org): Communications to Las Angelitas docents: Newsletter, field trip notices, meeting notices, etc.

[training@lasangelitas.org](mailto:training@lasangelitas.org): Docent Training

[info@lasangelitas.org](mailto:info@lasangelitas.org): General Information

You should make sure that your e-mail system does not think that e-mails from [lasangelitas.org](http://lasangelitas.org) are spam. We also have a long-term goal of creating a complete electronic version of all Las Angelitas documents, including meeting minutes, newsletters, etc. We will also keep notebooks of some of these documents on one of the bookshelves in the inner office of the Tour Office.

This will be part of the normal Las Angelitas computer backup and will preserve these documents in case the paper versions in the office files are destroyed by some natural or manmade disaster.

The Board also decided that this year we will mail out the dues notice to all members in May. In addition, we will be having nominations for officers for the 2019-2020 year. Details will be e-mailed to members when nominations open and may include requests for volunteers for various Las Angelitas projects.

If you have any questions or suggestions, e-mail me at [training@lasangelitas.org](mailto:training@lasangelitas.org).

## New Docent Training Class

The winter docent training class will be held on the following six days:

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2  
Monday, April 8

Classes run from 10 am to 12:30 pm and are held in the Tour Office. A complete notebook of training materials is provided to each student (there is a \$25 charge for these materials).

These classes differ from previous classes in two ways.

First, the class on April 2 will be a field trip to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History to see the "Becoming Los Angeles" exhibit and the "Los Angeles History: A Mexican Perspective" mural discussed on page 6. All Las Angelitas Members are invited to join in this outing (admission to the museum is free since it is the first Tuesday of the month).

Second, in the last class (Monday, April 8), the students will receive their lanyards and be introduced to the membership as part of the Spring General Meeting. This meeting will also include a review of Las Angelitas progress and an update of things going on in the Pueblo, including the transitional homeless shelter in parking lot 5, expansion of the Chinese American Museum, water museum, main restroom remodeling, etc. The meeting will conclude with a behind the scenes tour of the Pueblo led by Chris Espinosa, which all Las Angelitas members are invited to participate in.

If you know anyone interested in becoming a Las Angelitas docent, they can enroll or get additional information by e-mailing [training@lasangelitas.org](mailto:training@lasangelitas.org). In addition, there is a JPEG file attached to the e-mail with this newsletter containing an image of the small training flyer that you can post on any of your social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, local bulletin boards, etc.).

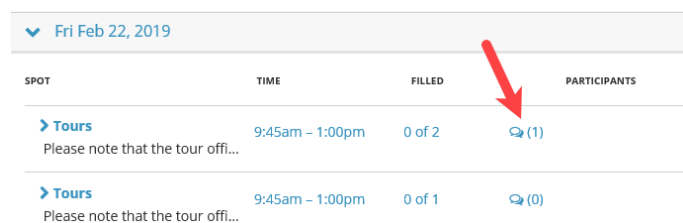
## Docent Sign-Ups and SignUp.com

The new version of SignUp.com that was implemented in December has caused some confusion. We have been working with El Pueblo Management (EPM), which is currently administering SignUp.com, to simplify this system.

Originally, the new version had separate “spots” named “Conduct Walk-In Tours” and “Greet Guests in the Tour Office.” This was interpreted by some docents to mean that Las Angelitas would no longer be leading scheduled tours (that is, we would only lead walk-in tours and answer questions in the Tour Office). This is not true. We have changed the names on the spots to simply “Tours.” Starting in April, there will be only spot with two or more openings, depending on the size of scheduled tours.

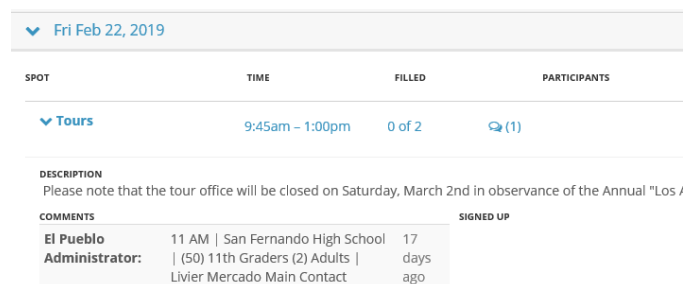
### Finding Tour Information

Within the new SignUp.com, you can determine if there are tours scheduled for a given day by looking at the “Comments” for that day. When using a computer to access SignUp.com, there is an icon for each spot indicating whether or not it has a Comment:



SPOT	TIME	FILLED	PARTICIPANTS
<a href="#">Tours</a> Please note that the tour offi...	9:45am – 1:00pm	0 of 2	(1)
<a href="#">Tours</a> Please note that the tour offi...	9:45am – 1:00pm	0 of 1	(0)

Clicking on a spot with a comment displays the Comment, typically tour information:



SPOT	TIME	FILLED	PARTICIPANTS
<a href="#">Tours</a> Please note that the tour office will be closed on Saturday, March 2nd in observance of the Annual "Los /	9:45am – 1:00pm	0 of 2	(1)

COMMENTS		SIGNED UP
El Pueblo Administrator:	11 AM   San Fernando High School   (50) 11th Graders (2) Adults   Livier Mercado Main Contact	17 days ago

Also, if a tour is listed in the Comments (or on the “Weekly Tour Schedule” in the notebook in the Tour Office), Las Angelitas docents will be giving the tour.

Note that there may be tours of the Pueblo led by EPM staff, typically for school groups younger than Third Grade and groups that have specifically asked for the EPM staff. These tours will not show up in SignUp.com or the Weekly Tour Schedule.

## “Help Wanted” E-mails

We are sending out “Help Wanted” e-mails again from the e-mail address [lasangelitastour2019@icloud.com](mailto:lasangelitastour2019@icloud.com).

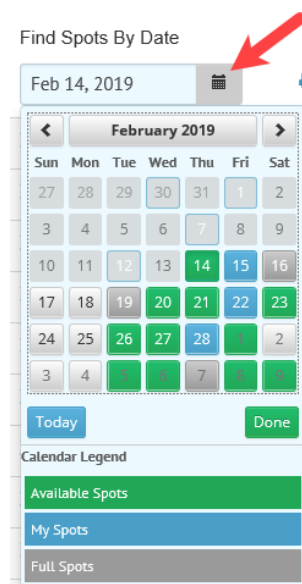
We will soon will be sending an e-mail to all Active Docents, and to Associate Docents who have given tours in the last two years asking, if you want to receive the Help Wanted e-mails. Please respond to this e-mail with one of the following choices

- Option 1: Send Help Wanted e-mail each week
- Option 2: Send only when there is a special need
- Option 3: Do not send Help Wanted e-mail

With Option 1, you will automatically receive the Help Wanted e-mail each week, which allows you to easily see when tours are scheduled and where there is a need for additional docents (without having to look at each day in SignUp.com). With Option 2, you only get a Help Wanted e-mail when there is a large group or groups and there are several docent positions that need filling. With Option 3, you never get the Help Wanted e-mail. You can select Option 3 if you have a fixed schedule and don’t want to know about tours scheduled on your days, or if you use SignUp.com directly to determine when to sign up.

### Snapshot of Open Spots

When using a computer to access SignUp.com, you can get a quick snapshot of the next few weeks by clicking the calendar icon next to the date (red arrow below). This displays a calendar such as the following:



In this calendar, a green date indicates that there are open spots, while a gray date indicates that all spots are filled. Your own spots have blue dates.



## Gateway To Nature



The Gateway to Nature was opened in 2016 by the Western National Parks Association (WNPA) in conjunction with the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. Many National Parks have a concessionaire that operates services within the parks, including gift shops. The WNPA operates gift shops and provides other services and programs in 71 parks in the Western United States that do not have their own concessionaires.

When the Gateway to Nature opened, it was a combination of information center and gift shop, with the emphasis on gift shop sales. The gift shop sales were not totally successful for two reasons. First, the store was not in a National Park, where many of the sales are for items associated with the particular park. Second, many teachers were reluctant to bring student groups into a center that was primarily aimed at selling something. Because of this, the Gateway to Nature was converted last year to an information center only. One of the main goals of this center is to educate visitors, especially young visitors to the Pueblo, about the local parks, forests and public land in and around Los Angeles.

One government program on which information is available in the Gateway to Nature is called "Every Kid in a Park." This program provides free passes allowing fourth graders and their families to visit public lands, waters and parks for one year free of charge. Although the closest parks to Los Angeles (Channel Islands National Park and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area) do not have entrance fees, this pass allows holders to avoid the entrance fees to parks that do have entrance fees, such as Joshua Tree, Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. Individual passes are available on the website [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov), which also allows teachers to get passes for each Fourth Grader in their class.

The staff at Gateway to Nature has been developing virtual reality visits to various parks. This allows visitors to experience visiting parks while here in the Pueblo, to generate interest in actually going to these parks. In the future, we hope to work with the Gateway to Nature to develop some virtual reality programs for Los Angeles history.

While the Gateway to Nature staff is currently working on some new exhibits, one of the current exhibits is a scale model of the Pueblo, believed to be from the 1960s. It contains some features that were planned but never implemented. For example, in the first photo below, the Garnier Building/Chinese American Museum has a large skylight on its roof that does not exist.



Everyone is encouraged to visit the Gateway to Nature, which is normally open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am-3 pm. Docents should point out the Gateway to Nature on tours, along with the other museums in the Pueblo. Also, everyone is encouraged to mention the Every Kid in a Park program to third and fourth grade teachers, including telling the teachers about getting passes for every student in their classes.

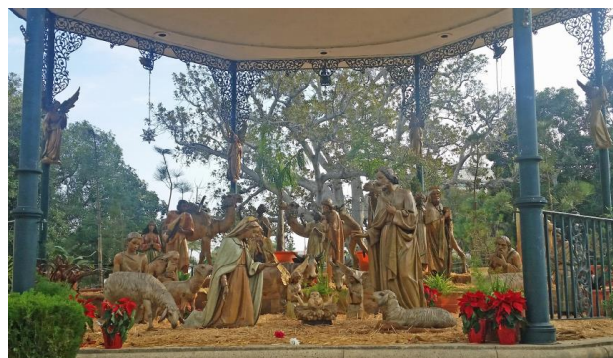


## Happenings in the Pueblo

### Día de Los Muertos



### Holidays in the Pueblo



### Exhibits in the Pueblo

**“Lightsapes: Re-envisioning the Shānshuǐhuà”:** Reimagining the philosophies of Chinese landscape paintings, the exhibition brings forward new media works and immersive light-based installations that are not often explored within this genre.

February 7 – November 10, 2019, Chinese American Museum, Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

**“Leo Politi’s Los Angeles Works of Love and Protest”:** A collection of original art by beloved Italian-American artist and Caldecott Award-winning author Leo Politi.

February 12 – May 19, Italian American Museum  
Tuesday-Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm



**“From Her Brilliant and Bold: An Exhibition Honoring African American Heritage Month & National History Month”**

February 15 – March 31, Biscailuz Gallery  
Friday-Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

**“Landscapes and Land Dwellers: Photography of Place by Rafael Cardenas”:** This exhibit follows the self-taught photographer on a journey exploring the Eastside neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

Through March 25, 2019, LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes

**“Greyhound Diaries: Economic Inequality in the U.S.”:** A collaboration with singer-songwriter and journalist Doug Levitt, Greyhound Diaries explores economic inequality in the United States through the lens of the Greyhound Bus.

February 7 – May 29, 2019, Museum of Social Justice



## L.A. History: A Mexican Perspective Mural



In preparation for Los Angeles's bicentennial in 1981 (and the ensuing Olympic Games in 1984), L.A.'s Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) commissioned a mural by artist Barbara Carrasco depicting the history of the city. The 16' by 80' mural, shown above, is a marvelous depiction of L.A.'s history.

On the left is Queen of the Angels, whose strands of hair separate scenes of 51 different events in the city's history in chronological order from left to right. These events include many, if not most, of the topics we discuss in our tours, including Tongva life, the arrival of the Spanish, the building of the San Gabriel Mission, the arrival of the Pobladores, the Los Angeles Plaza, La Placita, the Mexican-American War (including the Old Woman's canon), Calle de Los Negros, Pio Pico and the Pico House and the whitewashing of America Tropical.

However, the CRA objected to 14 of the events depicted in the mural and wanted them changed. These included the whitewashing of America Tropical, the Japanese internment during World War II, the Zoot Suit riots and even the portrait of Biddy Mason and Dodger Sandy Kofax pitching (since Dodger Stadium is in the background, and many people were displaced for its construction). When Carrasco refused to make these changes, the CRA wanted to destroy the mural, but Carrasco won legal ownership of it.

The mural was in storage most of the time since 1981. It was briefly shown at Union Station during the Los Angeles Festival in 1990. Last year, it was again displayed in the historic ticketing area of Union Station for several weeks. This showing was not without controversy, since the display area is rented out for events, and at seven such events (mainly on the weekends), the mural was covered with black fabric the day of the event. On such days, there was extreme disappointment that the mural was not visible, including by an 85-year-old woman and her caregiver, who had taken the train from San Diego to Los Angeles just to see the mural.

The good news is that the mural is currently on display at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History. This is the first showing of the full mural in a museum setting, and is displayed floor to ceiling and takes up three walls. This is significantly more impressive than in Union Station, where the mural was mounted on scaffolding above the historic ticketing windows:



In addition, the exhibit has a 70" touch screen that displays the entire mural. You can touch any of the 51 scenes in the mural to display an explanation of that scene.



The mural exhibit (*Sin Censura: A Mural Remembers L.A.*) runs through April 21, 2019. Admission to the museum is \$15 (\$13 for seniors 62+ and for Students), and there is a \$2 discount for tickets bought online. The museum is free the first Tuesday of the month, and is also free for Los Angeles County residents on Monday-Friday from 3 pm to 5 pm. The museum also includes the *Becoming Los Angeles* exhibit, which was recently updated, and includes information on much of what our tours include.

## Spotlight on the Pueblo

### Merced Theatre



The following is a summary of the Merced Theatre section in the History Department's *History of the Building is El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument*. This section is based on an unpublished Ph.D. dissertation by Robert C. Huber on the Merced Theatre, and from the Historic Structure Report on the Merced Theatre prepared for the Old L.A. Company, 1984-1990.

The Merced Theatre (shown above in the 1870s) is the oldest building in Los Angeles constructed specifically for theatrical performances. It was built in 1870 by William Abbot, the son of Swiss immigrants. Abbot moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 1854 and "advertised himself as a furniture dealer and repairer, upholsterer, coffin maker and bathhouse proprietor." He later added theatre manager and saloon keeper to the list.

In 1856, Abbot bought the Merced Theatre lot from his brother-in-law. At the time, the lot had a prefabricated wood-frame building that had been transported around the Horn in 1851. He used this building as a furniture store (and possibly as a residence).

In 1858, Abbot married Maria Merced Garcia, after whom he named the theatre, "La Merced."

The architect for the Merced was Ezra Kysor, who was also the architect for the Pico House and the Cathedral of St. Vibiana (the latter with Walter J. Matthews). Prior to construction, Abbot signed an agreement with Pió Pico to have the south wall of the Pico House made twice as thick as it otherwise would have been so that the wall could be used as a retaining wall.

The grand opening of the theatre was on December 30, 1870, which included a concert and lecture by Judge Henry K. O'Melveny. The first performance in the theatre was *Fanchon the Little Crickett* on January 30, 1871.

The Abbot family lived on the third floor of the theatre. On February 18, 1871, the first floor opened as the Pico House Billiard Saloon and Bar. This was moved over to the Pico House in 1873. In this year the theater interior was remodeled and a balcony was added.

The capacity of the theatre was between 359 and 400, and the drop curtain had "a beautiful Italian landscape." In 1875, theatre tickets cost \$1 for Parquette chairs, 95 cents for balcony seats and 59 cents for the gallery. The exterior portico and balcony in the photo to the right were added in 1875. A band often played on the balcony to attract patrons.

Most of the performances in the theatre were in English, although there were also some in Spanish. On May 21, 1876, the opening of Wood's Opera House to the South essentially ended the Merced Theatre's role as a theatre. The last major performance in it was in Spanish on January 21, 1877.

Following its decline as a theatre, the building was used as a National Guard Armory, followed by the Salvation Army and later a cheap hotel. From 1883-1884, the ground floor housed a store named Barker and Allen, the start of Barker Brothers Department Store. According to the Los Angeles Conservancy website, "At the turn of the twentieth century, the building offered a safe gathering place to LGBTQ individuals through its hosting of masked balls. At these costumed balls, LGBTQ individuals were able to socialize with one another under the safety of their concealed identities. They were also free to dress in clothing of the opposite gender without fear of persecution."

There are some misconceptions about the Merced Theatre. First, that the Merced Theatre is taller than the Pico house because Merced wanted it taller. However, it is taller because the second-floor stage required a ceiling higher than normal, which increased the height of the whole building. Second, that people could enter the theatre on the second floor directly from the Pico House, therefore not having to go out onto the street. However, it appears that there were no doors between the two buildings on the second floor. There was a door between the two building on the first floor allowing entry to the billiard hall and saloon from the Pico House.

Current plans call for the Merced Theatre, along with the Masonic Hall next door, to become the home of Channel 35, the City of Los Angeles' public access station, which broadcasts meetings of the City Council and other government-related meetings and events.



## Tour Office Alarm System

Due to an attempted Tour Office break-in last year, Las Angelitas requested that El Pueblo Management install a security alarm system in the office. This installation is now complete. The alarm is disarmed by Security each tour day (Tuesday through Saturday) at 7:30 am, and is rearmed those days at 5:30 pm. It is armed all day on Sunday and Monday (in addition to from 5:30 pm to 7:30 am on tour days).

The alarm control is mounted on the wall to the right of the door into the inner office of the Tour Office (above the fire extinguisher):



Before entering the Tour Office, you should look through the window to see if the light on this control is green (disarmed/ready) or red (armed). If the alarm is armed (Red), call Security (213-658-3721) to have them disarm it. You need special permission to disarm the alarm on Sunday, Monday or in the evening. To get permission, call Dave McMenamin (818-434-9463). If you disarm the alarm (with permission) at any of these times, call security to arm the alarm when you are finished in the office.

## Chinese American Museum Donation

The Chinese American Museum recently received a \$500,000 donation from the Moy Foundation, a family-run philanthropic group established by Dr. Carl K. Moy, a longtime supporter of the museum. The gift will be used for expanding CAM's collection, new exhibitions, educational programming and research. CAM will name a gallery the Carl K. Moy and Linda C. Moy Family Foundation Gallery.

## Verizon Commercials at the Pico House

Two 2018 Verizon commercials were filmed in front of the Pico House. The first was shown at Super Bowl time, and included an outdoor café in front of the Tour Office (red umbrellas on the left of the photo):



The second was a Verizon Christmas commercial:



## Join Las Angelitas on Social Media!

Please take a moment to check out our website, as well as our other online pages:



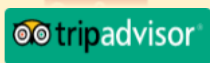
<https://www.facebook.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo/>



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<https://www.yelp.com/biz/las-angelitas-del-pueblo-los-angeles>



Search for [Las Angelitas del Pueblo](#)

## Editor: Lindsay McMenamin

Contact me with history tidbits, news or notes, and interesting articles written by you:

[news@lasangelitas.org](mailto:news@lasangelitas.org)

Deadline for next newsletter: April 15, 2019

## Tour Statistics

Number of people toured, full year

2018: 6,836

2017: 8,102 (includes special tour in June, 2017, with 600 attendees)