

SAVE THE DATE

60th Anniversary Annual Awards

Sunday, September 28th

See you in September!

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Santa Barbara Beautiful

www.sbbeautiful.org

Info@sbbeautiful.org

805-965-8867

A 501(c)(3) Corporation
Tax ID# 23-7055360

Santa Barbara *Beautiful* THE NEW LEAF

SPRING 2025

IT'S AN HONOR to greet Santa Barbara Beautiful's friends and members via this newsletter. Thanks for being part of our circle of supporters and taking a moment to discover how you can get involved. We need you and will welcome your participation.

Ideas and creativity have been percolating among the board members in the last few months. From our annual Arbor Day celebrations complete with our flags flying on State Street and tree plantings to working to launch a community mural program, and implementing an updated website design, board members are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work.

We're also in high gear collecting nominations for the 60th Anniversary annual awards event, which is set for September 28th.

An easy way to be involved would be to nominate any property projects you've noticed around town that deserve positive recognition. And, it is really fun when one of your nominations wins in its category! We included a nomination form below for your use.

Since our last newsletter, the board has grown, with six new or returning faces. You can meet them below. Their presence has allowed the organization to explode with new energy and to move forward.

Enjoy! And I hope to see you around our beautiful Santa Barbara!



Kerry Methner,
Santa Barbara Beautiful President

Kerry Methner



Photo by Jeffrey Sipress

Birds eye view of 2024 I Madonnari Italian Street Painting Festival at the Santa Barbara Mission. Don't miss this year's festival celebrating its 38th anniversary over Memorial Day weekend, from May 24 - 26, 2025.



SB Beautiful Board Members David Gress, Caroline Rutledge, Penny Haberman, Nathan Slack, Leslee Sipress, Roman Baratiak, Melinda Mettler, Patrick McGinnis, Kerry Methner, Jacqueline Dyson, and Mark Whitehurst with the 2025 Arbor Day Proclamation in front of City Hall

ARBOR DAY — A CELEBRATION OF TREES



SBB was delighted to once again partner with the City of Santa Barbara Urban Forestry Program and return to local schools for tree planting celebrations.

What began at local schools in 2000 as a pilot project has evolved into an eagerly anticipated tradition of hands-on tree planting by the children. Tree-related book donations to the schools and public libraries are now a vital element of our long-standing commitment to educating our future leaders.

This year four local schools participated in planting twenty-eight trees (a new record!) for their school campuses. Tree species included: apple; fruitless olive; jacaranda; strawberry (arbutus); tulip poplar, and crape myrtle.

A special Thank You to Kelly Fresch, Adams Elementary School Principal; Amy Alzina, Cold Spring School Superintendent/ Principal; Casie Kilgore, Franklin Elementary School Principal; and Demian Barnett, Peabody Charter School Principal.

Tree-related Arbor Day Books were donated to the local schools and public libraries: Elementary School Book: *The Tree Lady* by H. Joseph Hopkins and Secondary School Book: *Twelve Trees* by Daniel Lewis.

A kick-off California Arbor Day celebration was held in March at City Hall with the presentation to SB Beautiful of an Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Randy Rowse in Council Chambers. Our partnership with the city has qualified the City of Santa Barbara as “Tree City USA” every year since 1980.



SAVING HISTORY: STATE STREET ‘JELLY PALMS’ RESTORATION

By David Gress, Arborist & SBB Board Member

Santa Barbara Beautiful’s activities for Arbor Day 2025 included an ambitious project to replace historic palms, recently lost, that had been standing for 100 years in the parkway median of State Street on the Upper Eastside.

In 1917, a wide parkway was installed in the center of State Street, between the north-bound and south-bound lanes, in the blocks between Mission Street and Constance Avenue, with two sections of median in each of those blocks.

In 1924, each median section was planted out with two Jelly Palms (*Butia capitata*), also known as Pindo Palms. Native to South America, these lovely palms carry long, arching, blue-gray colored fronds.

In 2023, the State Street Parkway, including its palms, was designated a Historic Landmark by the Santa Barbara City Council.

Recently, members of the Upper Eastside Association requested that the City of SB replace two of the old Jelly Palms in the State Street Parkway that had been lost over time leaving gaps in the Parkway’s historic landscape design.

Santa Barbara Beautiful had been looking for an Arbor Day tree planting project that would make a significant contribution to the community – restoration of the State Street Parkway palms seemed perfect.

The State Street Parkway restoration project consisted of several parts: a) purchasing a new palm (a boxed, 8-foot tall, Jelly Palm) from a local palm nursery and hiring a professional landscape contractor to plant it in a median section, to replace an historic palm that had been lost; b) hiring the contractor to dig up from a median section a 6-foot tall Jelly Palm (which had grown from a seed of an historic palm but had sprouted too close to a median curb to be left in place) and to replant it in a median section, to replace a second historic palm that had been lost; and, c) having the contractor dig up three seedling Jelly Palms (that had also sprouted in the medians in inappropriate spots) and to plant them in Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden (along the Micheltorena Street side) in locations that needed more palms. Recycling at its best!

The landscape contractor for this project was Wilson Environmental Contracting, Inc.

The crew started and completed all parts of the project in one day, March 20, 2025.

The State Street Parkway project was a gift from Santa Barbara Beautiful to the community – a gift that should last for the lives of the new Jelly Palms, perhaps another 100 years.



MORE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS



Cold Spring School 6th Grade Class returns to their "full grown" Kindergarten tree named "Fred"



Kindergarten Class plants an apple tree named "Appley" at Cold Spring School



Norman Daniel King, David Gress, and Melinda Mettler at the Peabody Charter School for Arbor Day tree planting



SB Public Library Staff with SBB Board Member Roman Baratiak who hand-delivered many Arbor Day books



Jacaranda Tree, one of the two Official City Trees of Santa Barbara



Photo by Priscilla@SantaBarbaraSeen.com

FLAGS ON STATE STREET

The Santa Barbara Beautiful Flags flew up and down State Street for a week in celebration of National Arbor Day on April 25th.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Santa Barbara Beautiful supports higher education by funding the SBCC Foundation Scholarship for Environmental Horticulture.

TREE OF THE MONTH

Our ever-popular Tree of the Month column written by Past President and Certified Arborist David Gress is posted on our website; featured online at Edhat.com and published in *Voice Magazine*.

[Learn More About Trees of the Month...](#)

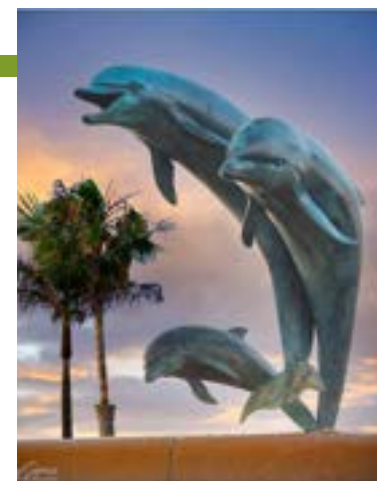


Photo by Jeffrey Sipress

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Santa Barbara Beautiful is to stimulate community interest and action toward the enhancement of Santa Barbara's beauty as a complement to current and future government and private activity.

Santa Barbara Beautiful is an organizations of volunteers dedicated to beautifying our area in a variety of ways not only by working independently but also by cooperating with city departments, neighborhood associations and other agencies. Formed in 1965 by concerned civic leaders, Santa Barbara Beautiful is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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SANTA BARBARA BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Santa Barbara Beautiful is proud to have funded these important legacy projects:

2025: THE SB MURAL PROJECT

Melinda Mettler created an archive commemorating over 100 local murals for which she won the 2024 Santa Barbara Beautiful President's Award.

Did you know there are over 100 exceptional murals in Santa Barbara? They range from historic WPA murals from the 1930s, to 1950s mid century modern to a multitude painted in the Chicano tradition from the 1970s onward.

More recently street artists have bejeweled the Funk Zone with their creativity. Enjoy them all with the mural map and guide found at www.sbbeautiful.org.



"The Year of the Dragon" mural by artist DJ Javier
[CLICK HERE](#) to download the "Murals of Santa Barbara" Map

2025: CITY STREET TREES GRANT

Over 100 new city street trees were planted over the Winter & Early Spring with a \$20K grant from SB Beautiful.

EQ25 ALLIANCE: THE 1925 EARTHQUAKE THAT TRANSFORMED OUR CITY

"The 100th anniversary of the June 29, 1925, Santa Barbara earthquake offers a unique opportunity for Santa Barbara to learn from our past, reflect on our present, and plan for our future," stated Steve Hausz Chair, EQ25 Steering Committee. "It is a recognition of our community and its resilience." SB Beautiful became a sponsor of this educational program.

[Learn More About Community Grants & Grant Applications...](#)



2024 Obern Trail Gingko Tree Planting by volunteers from CycleMAYnia and SBB board members



EQ25 Kick Off Event attended by SBB Board Members and Friends: Roman Baratiak; Jacqueline Dyson; Mark Whitehurst; JoAnn Mermis; Melinda Mettler; Nancy Wahl; Kerry Methner; Caroline Rutledge and Marcia Rickard

Photo by Isaac Hernandez de Lipo of Mercury Press



Adams School Mural Team Leaders: Sara Leo, art teacher; Kelly Fresch, school principal; and Emiliano Campobello, mural artist

2025: ADAMS SCHOOL MURAL 'OCEAN GUARDIANS IN CHUMASH TERRITORY'

A collaborative community art project is a 40ft x 10ft mural large enough for 500 students to create their own artwork for public display. Co-sponsored by SB Sister Cities/ Puerto Vallarta; SBCEO Children's Creative Project; Rotary Club SB North; and SB Beautiful.

MORE FUNDED COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 2025: Channel Islands Restoration/ San Marcos Foothills Preserve Informational Kiosk
- 2025: Friends of SB Library Eastside Public Art Project
- 2025: Pianos on State
- 2025: I Madonnari Italian Street Painting Festival
- 2024: Obern Trail Community Tree Planting of Eight Gingko Trees
- 2024: Summer Solstice
- 2024: Michael Towbes Library Plaza Opening Day "Plaza Palooza"



(From Left to Right) Roman Baratiak; Jean Ferguson, 102 year old resident of Wood Glen Hall; and John Seigel Boettner

COMMUNITY PROJECT 'CYCLING WITHOUT AGE'

A moveable feast of public art on wheels is ready to hit the streets!

Seven hand painted trishaws have been crafted through a partnership between Santa Barbara Beautiful and Cycling Without Age spearheaded by John Seigel Boettner.

A trishaw is a three-wheeled vehicle that is specifically designed to bring back the thrill of being on a bicycle even if you are not pushing the peddles to transport the passenger.

The stunning makeovers were recently carried out by local artists: Solange Aguilar, Izabella Garfias, Kevin Gleason, Blair Looker, Dez Porter, Jeff Shelton, and Richard Wilke.

Santa Barbara Beautiful provided the funds for each artist to receive a \$750 honorarium.

"Recognizing art and artists in our community and daily lives is part of the mission of Santa Barbara Beautiful. Partnering with Cycling Without Age is a way of creating beauty in the paradise we live in. We appreciate their creative, inclusive efforts to mobilize people and get folks out into Santa Barbara's fresh air," stated Mark Whitehurst, SBB Arts & Culture Committee Chair.



2025 SANTA BARBARA BEAUTIFUL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to Right: Roman Baratiak, Mark Whitehurst, Patrick McGinnis, Caroline Rutledge, Cynthia McClelland, Leslee Sipress, Kerry Methner, Penny Haberman, Duke McPherson, JoAnn Mermis, David Gress, Melinda Mettler, Francine Kirsch, Nathan Slack, Jacqueline Dyson, Jeffrey Sipress, and Norman Daniel King

COMMEMORATIVE TREE PROGRAM

The Commemorative Tree Program has become very much In-demand. Our donors appreciate the personal attention given to each heart-felt request.

“A Tribute from Claire”

“...I am surprising my family (with this commemorative plaque) - no one knows that I am doing this.

Our family has been vacationing in Santa Barbara for over 50 years. Spending our summers together in our favorite place. My grandpa started the tradition for our family - bringing his wife and four children to the Miramar every summer. The tradition continued even after the Miramar closed and as his children married and had their own children.

I am 27, the oldest of 13 grandchildren, and I have never missed a summer in Santa Barbara. I moved to Santa Barbara in my early 20s and lived there until getting married and settling down close to my family in Las Vegas. My grandpa and I would joke that nobody loves Santa Barbara as much as the two of us do. It is a city I hold near and dear to my heart for many reasons. I go back and forth often, especially after my grandpa passed unexpectedly in September 2024. I feel so close to him there.

When I learned about the commemorative tree program - I thought this tree (at 628 State Street) would be the perfect spot. There is nothing my grandpa loved more than sitting on State Street and eating at The Habit with his family. Family is everything to him.

I know this will be a very special tree for our family and I hope that it will feel a little bit like he is still there with us. The grief has been insurmountable.”



Commemorative Tree Plaque dedicated to the family puppy, “Ringo Starr”



“A Tribute from Claire” commemorative tree plaque location

Commemorative Trees Make Great Gifts!

Honor a special someone or a special occasion with an attractive commemorative plaque that will be installed at the base of an existing street tree – located in the parkway between the sidewalk & the street – within the City of Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara Beautiful has participated in the planting of over 14,000 street trees, so there are plenty of trees from which to choose! Your Application Fee includes a Free 1-Year Membership.

Click Here for the Online Application



JOIN US!
Become A Member
Give A Donation
Make A Difference

We cherish your Support. Help us continue to keep Santa Barbara beautiful with a New or Renewed Membership! Make a Sustainable Monthly Donation to your favorite beautification effort; Dedicate a Tree or Sponsor a Scholarship.

CLICK HERE for Membership Opportunities & Benefits

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Robert Adams
- Jan Angus
- Roman Baratiak
- Joyce Bianchi
- Claire Blackhurst
- Rubin Boxer
- E. Onja Brown-Lawson
- Kathryn Burba
- Glen Casebeer
- Laura Yanez
- Devon Delaney
- Jacqueline Dyson
- Christie Gallagher
- Robert Giffin
- Scott Gordon
- David Gress
- Penny Haberman
- Watsuki Harrington
- Dacia Harwood
- Caitlin Hensel
- Daniel Norman King
- Francine Kirsch
- Paula Kislak
- Gretchen Lieff
- Joan Mayer
- Cynthia McClelland
- Patrick McGinnis
- Duke McPherson
- JoAnn Mermis
- Melinda Mettler
- Elizabeth Montague
- Dean Noble
- Richard Reed
- Trace Robinson
- Joan Rutkowski
- Jeffrey & Leslee Sipress
- Nathan Slack
- Lynette Spievak
- Jeffrey Stevens
- Katie Stiene
- Joseph Vaccaro
- Nathan Vonk
- Mark Westerhoff
- Philip Whaley
- Ryan Wilson

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



ROMAN BARATIAK is Associate Director Emeritus from the UCSB Arts & Lectures Program where for forty years he curated and managed A&L's extensive and eclectic public lectures program and cinema series. He currently serves on the Executive Team and Steering Committee of Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara, is Programs Chair with the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and is a Santa Barbara County Arts Commissioner. He enjoys cycling, reading and appreciating & protecting the beauty of Santa Barbara.

NORMAN (DANIEL) KING has long been committed to volunteer service, dedicating his efforts to improving his community. In the late 1990s, he joined Santa Barbara Beautiful as a board member and spearheaded a significant community beautification project on the Westside. During his term as SBB president in 2000 he initiated the first “Community Service Award” that has now become an annual tradition. After 22 years in Los Gatos, Daniel has returned to Santa Barbara, eager to continue contributing to the organization he helped shape.



FRANCINE KIRSCH was born in France and began her artistic journey in ceramics at Santa Barbara City College. She furthered her studies in Japan, where she discovered stone carving. Returning to Santa Barbara, Francine taught ceramics at The Anacapa School while continuing her work in clay and stone. An active participant in the California Sculptors Symposium and Santa Barbara Studio Artists, her work has been showcased in galleries and exhibits worldwide, with pieces in private collections across the globe.

PATRICK MCGINNIS transitioned into art as a continuation of his technical career. Aesthetics have always played heavily in his work, whether designing an aerospace component or an analytical instrument. He is a member of 10 West Gallery, Board Member; Abstract Art Collective, Past President; Central California Artist Collective, Photography & Sculpture; Gallery 825, LA Art Assoc. He has exhibited work in local Santa Barbara and LA galleries. Patrick's art is in many private collections.



DUKE MCPHERSON is a Certified Arborist with over six decades of experience in tree care, ecological restoration, and horticulture. He holds a B.S. in Zoology from UC Santa Barbara and has pursued extensive arboricultural education. Founder of multiple tree care businesses, he has also led restoration efforts on the Channel Islands. A dedicated community volunteer, Duke has served on various advisory boards, including the Santa Barbara Street Tree Advisory Committee and Santa Barbara Beautiful.

MELINDA METTLER is a still life oil painter who began her career as an art director at the legendary advertising agency Young & Rubicam in New York. While there, she received a Cannes Lion, One Show and Clio. For 8 years, she was Director of the School of Advertising at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco and in 1993 was honored as an Outstanding Alumni. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, majoring in Advertising/Graphic Design.



60th Anniversary Annual Awards 2025 Nominations ARE NOW OPEN ~ April 8 to May 18, 2025

Santa Barbara Beautiful is now soliciting nominations in ten categories for their 60th Anniversary Awards program which takes place on Sunday, September 28th.

Each of the last 60 years, Santa Barbara Beautiful has called on our community to recognize and appreciate their neighbors who work to build on the city's natural beauty. At the Annual Awards, the results of their beautification efforts are recognized.

Property award categories have been adapted to meet the real and growing importance of climate change and the need for environmental stewardship.

Learn more at www.sbbeautiful.org



YOUR NOMINATION:

1. Street Address:
2. ZIP (required):
3. Category (s):
4. Property Owner or Business Name:
5. What makes this a winning nomination?
6. Submitted by: _____ Telephone/email: _____

2025 AWARD CATEGORIES

- 1. Multi-Family Residence** ~ Condos, Retirement Facilities... Sustainable (ie: water or energy saving) building elements? How does it fit in or enhance the streetscape?

2. Single Family Home, Small Lot (<1/2 acre) ~ Sustainable (ie: water or energy saving) building elements? Does it fit in and/or enhance the streetscape?

3. Single Family Home, Large Lot (>1/2 acre) ~ Sustainable building elements? Does it fit in and/or enhance the streetscape?

4. Mixed-Use Building: Commercial & Residential in one building; Sustainability elements? Does it fit in and/or enhance the streetscape? Does it have *LEED Certification?

5. Commercial Building ~ (Public Buildings, Hotels, B&Bs): Sustainability elements? Does it fit in and/or enhance the streetscape? Does it have *LEED Certification?

6. Commercial Sign

7. Art in Public Places ~ Murals, Sculpture, etc... (Hugh & Marjorie Petersen Award for Art in Public Places)

8. Historic Revitalization: Recently revitalized gardens and/or buildings with a historic character

9. Santa Barbara Commons: Public Open Space: Parks; Medians; Parkways; Streetscapes: places we gather to build community and connect with nature.

 - There is no limit to the number of entries a person may submit.
 - Winners are selected by independent judges based on merit, not on the number of nominations.
 - *The Awards Committee reserves the right to adjust categories depending on the nominations received.*

ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES:

- Entries must be visible from the street or via public access.
- Completed projects between Ortega Ridge Rd to Turnpike Rd.
- Properties in ZIP CODES: 93101 • 93103 • 93105 • 93108 • 93109 • 93110

HOW TO ENTER:
EMAIL form to:
SBBBeautifulAwards@gmail.com
MAIL form to:
Santa Barbara Beautiful,
P.O. Box 2024
Santa Barbara, CA 93120
QUESTIONS? Call: Mark Whitehurst at 805-895-3614



Save the Date!

60TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL AWARDS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse with SBB Officers Kerry Methner; Mark Whitehurst; JoAnn Mermis; and Jacqueline Dyson

2024 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS "COLORS OF SANTA BARBARA"

PROPERTY AWARDS WINNERS

- Single Family Residence (Small Lot):
1250 Bel Air Drive
- Single Family Residence (Large Lot):
3781 Hope Terrace
- Commercial Property:
Validation Ale, 102 E. Yanonali Street
- Commercial Sign: Santa Barbara Bowl
- Santa Barbara Commons Public Open Space:
Elings Park 1298 Las Positas Road
- Hugh & Marjorie Petersen Award for Art in Public Places:
Year of the Dragon Mural 126 E. Canon Perdido

SPECIAL (COMMUNITY) AWARD WINNERS

- President's Award:
Melinda Mettler, for the "Santa Barbara Mural Project"
- Heritage Oak Award for Lifetime Achievement:
Bob Cunningham



To download the map click the "Murals of Santa Barbara" button on the SB Beautiful website home page



2024 President's Award presentation to Melinda Mettler by SBB President Kerry Methner



2024 Heritage Oak Award for Lifetime Achievement award presentation to Bob Cunningham by John Palminteri