

# BALBOA PARK

## FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE



# *Welcome to the...*

# BALBOA

## Family Activity

### **What Is It**

This family guide is designed with YOU in mind! There are lots of fun things for families and other groups to do in Balboa Park already, and we hope the activities in this guide will take that fun just a little farther. There are activities for nine museums and twelve outdoor areas in Balboa Park in this family guide. We hope you will stay longer and play more by doing these activities while visiting beautiful Balboa Park!

### **What To Do**

Using each activity, have fun exploring the museums and free outdoor gardens! For some of the activities you will need a pencil, but for all of them you will definitely need your wonderful imagination. Have fun, be creative...and play!

### **How It's Organized**

As you work your way through the guide, you will notice that it is divided into sections. Each color grouping represents a geographic area in the park, and the activities in these areas are within walking distance, even for small children. You can refer to the map on page 4 for more detailed information.

# PARK

## Guide

### **Who Put This Together**

The Informal Curriculum Experiences, a sub-committee of the Balboa Park Educators Council, conceived and designed the Balboa Park Family Guide. Many thanks to the members of the committee for their efforts and energy: Debbie DeRoma, Mary French, Julie Kendig-Lawrence, Amanda Lincoln, Paige Simpson, Cristina Trecha, and Roberta Wells-Famula. Also we owe a very special thank you to the graphic designer, University of California San Diego student, Lucy Truong. This project represents many tireless hours volunteered by Ms. Truong and the committee. It brings us great delight to present this guide, and we truly hope it brings your group hours of enjoyment!

### **What If I Have Questions**

Throughout the guide you can find the contact information for each of the participating organizations. If you would like information related to the distribution, creation or use of the brochure, please feel free to contact the Balboa Park Visitors Center at (619) 239-0512 or [info@balboapark.org](mailto:info@balboapark.org).

## Map & Legend

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. San Diego Air & Space Museum*   | 7. Mingei International Museum               | 14. Zoro Garden*                            |
| 2. San Diego Automotive Museum   | 8. Alcazar Garden*                           | 15. Bea Evenson* Fountain                   |
| 3. International Cottages*   | 9. The Old Globe*                            | 16. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center          |
| 4. Spreckel's Organ Pavilion*  | 10. San Diego Museum of Art                  | 17. San Diego Natural History Museum        |
| 5. Palm Canyon*  | 11. Timken Museum of Art*                    | 18. Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden* |
| 6. Japanese Friendship Garden  | 12. Persian Water Carpet*                    | 19. Desert Garden*                          |
|  Visitors Center* | Photographic Arts & San Diego History Center |   |
- \*Free Activity Areas





# ***Come Fly With Us!***

The San Diego Air & Space Museum is located underneath the flight path of the San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field). Most of these airplanes are powered by jets. In front of our Museum are two airplanes. Both are jets, but one is the fastest human-carrying jet in the world—the “Blackbird” high-speed reconnaissance aircraft.

**Take a look at both planes** without looking at any signs. See if you can figure out whether these are models or real planes that once flew. What clues might make you think that they are either fake or real?

\*For the answers look at the plaques below each airplane.

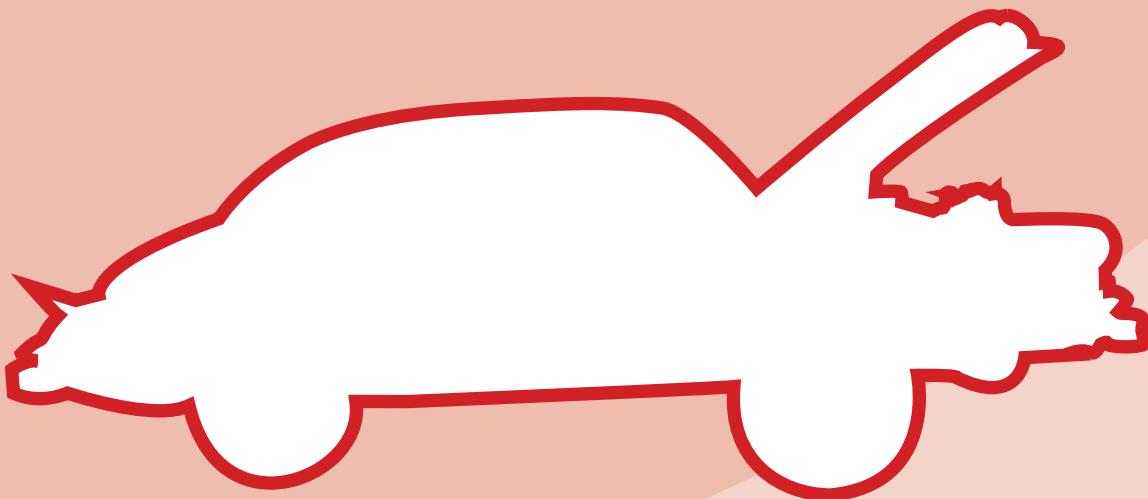


# ***Louie Mattar's Fabulous \$75,000 Car Exhibit***

In 1952, Louie Mattar and two other men established a cross-country endurance record by driving Louie's uniquely customized 1947 Cadillac from San Diego to New York and back without stopping. Their trip totaled 6,320 miles and required refueling from a moving gas truck three times! As you can see from the exhibit, Louie and his co-drivers had all the comforts of home. This trip was highly publicized, and the press went wild in all the cities he visited along the way.

**Spend a few minutes looking**  
carefully at Louie Mattar's car and answer the  
questions on the next page...

**Draw the car's special features.**



**Fuel costs were very different when Louie made his trip in 1952.**

Estimate how much do you think it would cost to travel 6,320 miles in Louie's car today.

**(6,320 mi. ÷ 8 mpg)  
x cost of gas per gallon  
= \_\_\_\_\_**

**Draw or describe your dream car for a cross-country trip.**

What special gadgets does yours include?



# ***Around the World***

The House of Pacific Relations and the first 15 International Cottages were founded in 1935 as part of the California Pacific International Exposition. Today there are 32 nations represented. See how many nations you can spot!

**Find at least one cottage** that represents a country from each of the continents below. Write the name of each country in the appropriate spaces.

<b>Asia</b> _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>Europe</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>South America</b> _____ _____ _____ _____	<b>North America</b> _____ _____ _____ _____



**Choose a flag** from one or more of the nations you found. Look closely at the windows, doors, and signs on each of the cottages.

**Notice the colors** on the flag. Each one has a meaning.

Colors	Meanings
<b>Black</b>	determination, ethnic heritage, and/or defeating one's enemies
<b>Blue</b>	freedom, vigilance, perseverance, justice, prosperity, peace, and/or patriotism
<b>Green</b>	the Earth, agriculture, fertility, and/or Muslim religion
<b>Red</b>	courage, revolution, hardiness, blood, and/or valor
<b>White</b>	peace, purity, mountain snow, and/or innocence
<b>Yellow/gold</b>	the sun, wealth, and/or justice

**Design a flag** for your family in the blank space below.



## ***Time to Show Off!***

Palm Canyon is a two-acre tropical oasis, containing more than 50 species of palm trees. Some of the trees are almost 100 years old. They were planted in 1912 for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition to show off how many different kinds of palm trees could grow in San Diego's beautiful climate.

**View the canyon** from a wooden walkway at the top or venture down to the canyon floor. Can everyone in your group spot a different type of palm tree? Beware! Eucalyptus trees, magnolias, and a Morton Bay Fig tree with long, curvy roots may try to fool you.



**Take a closer look.** Who can find palm trees with...

- ☐ Leaves like elephant ears
- ☐ Dangling bananas, flowers, or seed pods
- ☐ Bark that looks like shaggy fur
- ☐ Bright green trunks
- ☐ Bark that looks like cartoon eyes
- ☐ Something special no one else has spotted



**Pick a favorite palm.** When you're finished, stand on the wooden bridge, one by one, and show off your favorite palm tree pose!

## *The Gift That Keeps On Giving*

Have you ever pooled your pennies with your brother, sister, or friend to give a gift? In 1914 brothers John and Adolph Spreckels each paid half for the Spreckel's Organ Pavilion and gave it as a gift to the people who live in and visit San Diego. Today it remains one of the largest outdoor organs on the planet! A condition of the gift was that free concerts must be provided for the public. That tradition continues at 2 p.m. on Sundays in the summer.

**When the organ is not in use,** it is covered by a 20,000 pound iron curtain. One critic said the big iron curtain and the two columned wings made the organ pavilion look like a “mechanical monster in a mad movie.”

**Using the photo below,** draw monster features like big, gnarly teeth or horns on the organ.



**Over the years** many famous people have played music or given speeches on the Pavilion stage. Here are a few...

- Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States who began his term at the start of the Great Depression
- The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, also called “America’s Choir,” it boasts the longest-running continuous radio network broadcast in the world.
- Albert Einstein, German physicist who discovered the photoelectric effect, developed the theory of relativity, and explained the universe as a whole.

**Is the stage empty right now?** Wouldn’t you like to have your moment on stage at Balboa Park’s organ pavilion? If no one is performing, take your place on the stage and give a speech, sing your favorite song, perform a dance routine, or show off your best talent! Don’t forget to take a bow for your audience when you are finished.



## *The Winding Pathway*

The Japanese Friendship Garden is an expression of friendship between San Diego and Yokohama, Japan. The Japanese word for garden is niwa, which means pure place. Walking the garden path, or roji, allows us to slow down and wonder about the universe.

**As you enjoy a walk** through the Japanese Friendship Garden on the winding pathway, use the clues below to find interesting things.

**What am I?** I am colorful and enjoyable to watch. A cloth replica is flown during Boy's Day in Japan.

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**What am I?** The Japanese word for this creature is kaeru which also means to "come back". I like to jump.

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**What am I?** I represent good luck and long life. I like to take my time getting around. Look for me near the pond.

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# JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

**What do you see?** The designer of the Zen Garden didn't want to specify what it represented. Instead, he wanted you to use your own imagination.



**Some people believe** that evil spirits move in straight lines. By walking “zig zag” or taking the winding pathway they believed that they could avoid the evil spirits. Also, by taking the winding pathway, people can enjoy the beauty of the garden and anticipate what lies ahead.



## *Become a Museum Detective*

What can art tell us without words? Your job today as a detective at the Mingei International Museum is to use your eyes and mind to uncover clues to some of the mysterious objects on display in the museum.

**First, select an object** in the museum.

Study it closely with your eyes and mind. Notice everything you can about it--the details, the colors, the patterns and shapes.

**Next, sketch the work of art.** By drawing it, you come to understand it better. Use this box to make a sketch of your object and label the parts.





**Finally, ask these questions** without reading the gallery labels. Use your own judgment and imagination.

- 1.** What materials do you think were used to make this object?
- 2.** Look closely: was the object made by hand or with machines? Imagine how the artist might have formed this work.
- 3.** What do you think this object could be used for?
- 4.** When might this artwork have been created? What tells you this?
- 5.** What could this object tell us about the place where it was made? The person who made it?
- 6.** Are there symbols (pictures or designs that represent something else) in this artwork? What could these symbols mean?
- 7.** Why might the artist have created this object?

## ***Make a Poem!***

Find inspiration from the sculpture *Poet and Muse* by Niki de Saint Phalle, located at the entrance to the Mingei, and write a poem about it. Use the suggestions under each line to structure your poem. Then share your unique poem aloud with your group!

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**one word title**

---

**descriptive word**

---

**descriptive word**

---

**action word**

---

**action word**

---

**action word**

---

**feeling word**

---

**feeling word**

---

**one word title**

**(can be same or different as above)**



# POET AND MUSE

1439 El Prado, San Diego, CA • (619) 232-7931 • [mlingei.org](http://mlingei.org)



## *Fountains, Sounds*

Alcazar Garden, named because its design is patterned after the gardens of Alcazar Castle in Seville, Spain, lies next to the San Diego Art Institute and Mingei International Museum. The two colorful tiled fountains in the garden are both symmetrical.

### **Sit down on one of the benches**

near the fountains. What do you hear? Can you hear more with your eyes closed?

**Try describing these sounds!** For each category below write an onomatopoeia for a sound you hear in Alcazar Garden. An onomatopoeia is a word that imitates a sound. For example, smash, chirp, and buzz are all onomatopoeias.

**Nature ( \* )** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Human ( 😊 )** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mechanical ( # )** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Try to replicate those sounds

with your voice, body or other objects you have on hand. Many famous composers were inspired by the sounds in their own environments to create pieces of music. Now it's your turn!

## Write your own composition

using the sounds that you wrote down. Do you want your music to be soft and gentle; loud and raucous; something you can dance to?

## Try using the patterns below

to create an Alcazar Garden Melody:

In this ABA pattern, your **Nature** sounds will be repeated every time you see the \*

Your **Human** sounds will be repeated every time you see the 😊

Your **Mechanical** sounds will be repeated when you see the #

\* \* 😊      😊 😊 😊      \* \* 😊

# 😊 #      😊 # #      # 😊 #

\* \* 😊      😊 😊 😊      \* \* 😊

Musical compositions are made up of rhythms, beats, tempo, patterns and more. Try mixing it up by changing the rhythm and tempo of your composition.

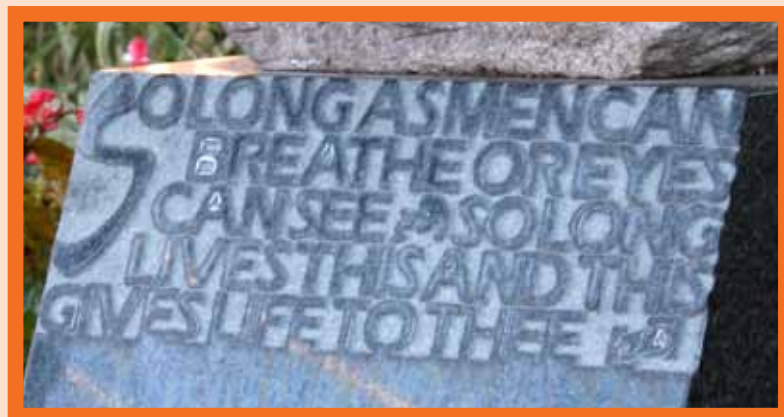
## Explore Theatre History!

The plaza outside the three theatres is home to some little-noticed but fascinating elements. Explore the plaza and discover a world of theatre in your imagination.

- ☐ **Look for a bench** with carvings representing three different plays and name the three plays.



- ☐ **Find these words** written somewhere around the plaza:



**Who is the person** whose face can be seen above the quote? Why is this person important to The Old Globe? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ☐ **Find three faces in a fountain.**

What kind of characters do you they might be? How do you think they would move? What kind of voices would they have? Put together a mini-performance using sound and movement from your chosen character and show it to your group!



☐ **Standing in front** of The Old Globe theatre, recite the following line by William Shakespeare in your best actor's voice...

All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players.



## *Portraits Are Paintings With Personality*

Upstairs at The San Diego Museum of Art you can meet many interesting people! The people in the paintings have lots to share with you about who they are. By looking closely you can discover many things.

**First, look at their faces.** Can you figure out what they are thinking? Feeling? What do you think they are looking at?

**Next, look at their clothes.** Some are wearing fancy clothes, and others are wearing work clothes. Discuss with your family what their clothes tell you about their daily lives.

**Notice the objects** in each portrait painting. Can you find a flower? A scroll? A medal? These objects were very important to the people in each portrait.

# SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

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**If you were in a painting** how would you pose?  
What would you wear? What important objects would you include?  
Use the space above to draw your ideas.

# *Find the Art, Solve the Mystery!*

☐ **Find a painting with a view** of a crowded city square. Have everyone in the group say one thing they see until no one can find anything new. How many dogs can you count?

☐ **Seek a painting** of a pale woman wearing a fancy red dress. Look at what you're wearing and compare it to the woman's dress. How is the clothing similar or different? What do you think she does for fun? What is your favorite part of this painting?

☐ **Look for a painting** of a violent storm and a ship in distress. Imagine that you are looking at this ship from a boat close by. Describe the sounds that you would hear. What do you see that might make these sounds?

☐ **Search for a painting** that includes a plate of fish. Can you guess what's behind the fish? Do you like this painting? Explain why. Count how many round shapes you find. This type of painting is called a still life. It gets its name from the fact that everything in it is still and does not move. Be the first person in your group to find another still life in the Museum.

## A Rug Made of Water?

There are 28 fountains nestled among the beautiful buildings and luxurious gardens of Balboa Park, but the Persian Water Rug is the most unique and subtle of them all. You'll have to put on your best fountain-spotting eyes to find this one!

**As you face** the botanical building, which is next to the Timken Museum of Art, the Persian Water Carpet is immediately behind you in a narrow but lush garden between the Casa de Balboa and the House of Hospitality.

**Meet Mr. Richard Requa**, renown San Diego



architect who designed the Persian Water Rug. He traveled the world and was familiar with the famous, ancient Persian gardens. The style of this fountain is called *chadar*, which means shawl.

**Imagine you are traveling the world!**

While sitting around the Persian Water Rug, craft a story of your adventures with your family. This game is played by sharing one sentence at a time. The first person starts the story and passes to the next person until it ends.

# *Be Creative and Have Fun!*

Explore Balboa Park with a camera and a few riddles! Before starting your hunt, you can visit the Museum of Photographic Arts for artistic inspiration. Notice the different angles photographers choose to use and how they arrange their subject in the frame.

**Read the riddles below**, figure out the answer word, and embark on a photo scavenger hunt throughout the park. When you find the answer to the riddle in the park, take a picture of it.

- 1) “If I am a yellow koi I cannot be called **BLONDE**. Because I am a fish that swims in a \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 2) “After I’m born from a chrysalis in the Zoro Garden I fly up to the **SKY**. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 3) “Niki de Saint Phalle is the name of my **CREATOR**. I am a sculpted creature. I am an \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 4) “I sit in front of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and can shoot up water as high as a **MOUNTAIN**. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.”



**Try using some of the techniques** listed below that many photographers in the Museum used.

## Bird's-eye view

The photographer is above the subject looking down.



## Worms's-eye view

The photographer is below the subject looking up.



## Close-up view

Zoom in and move close to the subject.



## Long shot

When the photographer stands at a distance from the subject



# *Be a Junior Historian!*

Historians are experts on what happened in the past. How do they become experts? Historians study primary sources. Primary sources come from records created during the time period being studied. Examples can include photographs, diaries, letters, speeches, government documents, newspapers, or even objects. They help historians get as close as possible to a person or event so they can learn what really happened.

**Now is your chance to become** an expert, too! Walk through the galleries and find an example of each of these types of **PRIMARY SOURCES**:

- ☐ **DIARY**
- ☐ **PHOTOGRAPH**
- ☐ **MENU**
- ☐ **LETTER OR MANUSCRIPT**
- ☐ **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT**

## DIARY

Name of object \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Year \_\_\_\_\_

## PHOTOGRAPH

Name of object \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Year \_\_\_\_\_

## MENU

Name of object \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Year \_\_\_\_\_

## LETTER OR MANUSCRIPT

Name of object \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Year \_\_\_\_\_

## GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

Name of object \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Year \_\_\_\_\_

## What do each of these primary sources

tell you about people who lived in San Diego? Pick a primary source in your home and write about what historians 50 years from now will say about you.

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## *Butterflies Flutterby!*

Zoro Garden is one of the original gardens in Balboa Park. It's full of colorful flowers that butterflies love. They need these plants at every stage of life whether they are an egg, a caterpillar, a pupa or a grown butterfly.

**Look closely at the leaves** and flowers of the different plants. Can you find a caterpillar munching on a leaf? Can you find a butterfly feeding on the nectar of a flower?

### **Learn the American Sign Language**

word for butterfly! Simply lock together your thumbs (with the palms of your hands facing inward) and flutter your fingers to represent the movement and shape of the butterfly.

**Make up a butterfly dance** and show your friends and family how graceful a butterfly can be!





# *Splish, Splash*

Take a look around the fountain between the San Diego Natural History Museum and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. This fountain, the Bea Evenson Fountain can spray up to 60 feet high!

**Want to know a secret?** There's an instrument controlling the height of the fountain's spray. This weather instrument, an anemometer (an-eh-mom-ater, commonly known as a weathervane), can be found on top of a nearby lamp post. Need a clue? It looks like a small fan made of spoons.

**When the wind is strong,** the anemometer's drag sends a signal to the fountain to reduce its force.

**The fountain is named** after Bea Evenson (1900-1981) who preserved the Spanish colonial architecture throughout Balboa Park. Bea Evenson was a prominent civic leader and a force to be reckoned with--an appropriate personality to match the fountain named in her honor.



# ***I Notice...I Wonder***

Find an exhibit that interests you and then follow the directions below.

## **I notice...**

Share with members of your group 3 things you notice about this exhibit.

## **I wonder...**

Come up with 2 questions you have about the exhibit and explore some answers with your friends or family.

## **Going further...**

How does this exhibit relate to something in your daily life?  
Discuss your ideas with your group.

## **Try this at home:**

Roll a piece of paper into a cone shape, leaving a small hole at the pointed end and tape the edge. Put the small end near your ear and point the cone in different directions. Listen carefully. What do you notice?

# Fossil Mysteries

In the exhibition, Fossil Mysteries, you can learn about the prehistoric plants and animals that lived in San Diego millions of years ago!

☐ **Find three animals** from the Eocene period (34-55 million years ago) that still live in San Diego today. Look for one in the water, one on land and one in the tree.

**Water** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Land** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tree** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Find a sea animal** that lived in the Pliocene period (1.8-5 million years ago) but is now extinct.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Find three animals** that are extinct. That means that these animals do not live or exist today.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## *Nature Quest*

The Rose Garden opened in 1975 and is home to about 180 varieties of roses that are usually in bloom from March through December.

**Types of roses you may see. Check them as you go!**

- ☐ **Hybrid Teas:** single long stem with one bloom
- ☐ **Floribundas:** low-growing bushes with hardy roses
- ☐ **Grandifloras:** tall rose bushes with bloom clusters
- ☐ **Ramblers:** climbing roses

**List all the colors of roses** that you see in the garden. Be as descriptive as you can, or make up color names!

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**Look for one rose in each of these categories** and write it's common name, found on plaques in the soil:

- a. hybrid tea: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. floribunda: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. grandiflora: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. rambler: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Look for words** that are common in many different rose names. List three here:

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☐ **Look for a rose with**

a human name: \_\_\_\_\_

a funny name: \_\_\_\_\_

the longest name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Sniff around some roses.** Find your favorite rose and rename it whatever you want in the line below:

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## There's something about roses...

Here are some meanings that people attach to different color roses:

**Red** - Love, honesty, bravery

**Dark Red** - Unconscious beauty

**Yellow** - Friendship, joy, respect or jealousy

**White** - Peace, purity

**Lavender, Purple** - Love at first sight, enchantment

**Black** - Protest or death

**Blue** - Support and faith

**Orange** - Fascination and desire

## *Stop, Look, and Listen!*

This garden is full of crazy plants! Take a minute to look around and notice the bizarre shapes of the different cacti and succulents. The Desert Garden was established in 1976 next to the Rose Garden and contains over 1,300 plants from around the world. Peak bloom is January through March.

**When scientists look closely** at nature, they are observing. What can you observe in the garden?

**Now find a quiet, comfortable** space in the desert garden and sit silently for two whole minutes. Watch your surroundings very carefully and record what you see and hear.

**I saw...**

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**I heard...**

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**Choose two cacti** from the garden and draw them here. Think of the cacti as people. You can turn them into characters and tell their story.



**What's your story of the cacti people?**

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## *Follow the Clues to Find these Spots...*

...throughout Balboa Park!

Once discovered, check the box.

### **1) You can find this sculpture**

in a garden next to an art café, a lovely place to lunch on a sunny day.



### **2) When you look for me**

a glance up would be smart, as you enter San Diego's oldest Museum of Art.

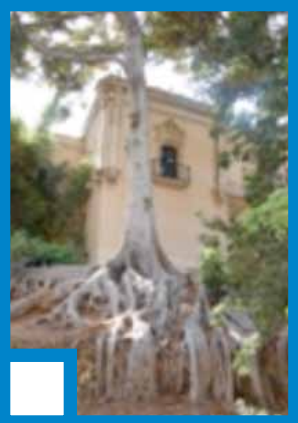
### **3) Sunday summer**

afternoons, follow your ears to me, where pipe organ concerts are held for all to enjoy for free.



### **4) Look up to see us throughout**

the park. We've been here since 1915, Balboa Park's start.



## 5) Thank Katie Sessions

for the park's beautiful trees. Walk down the winding steps to gaze upon me.

## 6) Look for the diamonds

dressing the tower. Can you hear the bells ring every hour?



## 7) Here is a hint to find

the man in the hat: It is a place where kids sing, dance and act.

## 8) ORDEM E PROGRESSO

marks this spot, on the building where you can find a map or a delicious meal that's hot.



## 9) This popular place

for weddings is for plant lovers too, with seasonal gardens, fountains, and two vases of blue.

**10) Can you spot this corona,**  
Spanish for crown? It's where the San Diego  
Floral Association can be found.



**11) A charming sculpture**  
leads you to a museum featuring artists alive  
and local too.

## Answer Key

- 1) Tumbleweed by Mark di Suvero at the San Diego Museum of Art Sculpture Garden
- 2) San Diego Museum of Art Facade
- 3) Spreckels Organ Pavilion
- 4) Arch end detail at the Lily Pond
- 5) East side of Casa de Balboa, near Zoro Garden
- 6) San Diego Museum of Man
- 7) East wall of the Casa del Prado Complex, across from Natural History Museum
- 8) House of Hospitality facade, near Visitors Center
- 9) Alcazar Garden
- 10) South wall of the Casa del Prado Complex, across from San Diego History Center
- 11) House of Charm facade, entrance to Mingei International Museum

\*Photo #3 BPCP property. All other photos by Andrea Morales.

## Special Thanks

The members of the Informal Curriculum Experiences committee would like to thank Balboa Park Central for funding the printing costs of this brochure. Their support made this project possible.



Balboa Park Central is a non-profit organization dating back to the 1920s. It promotes cultural and recreational use of Balboa Park through books, brochures, maps, and other resources. All this information is available in person at the Visitors Center or online at [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org).



