

May 12, 2025

Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board Hearing

Present historic preservation awards recognizing the work of nine different individuals and organizations in Ventura County in honor of Historic Preservation Month 2025.

Item No. 4b



Purpose

The intent of the Preservation Awards is to:

- *Recognize that cultural and historic resources are an important component of a quality environment and worthy of preservation for present and future generations;*
- *Help foster an awareness and appreciation of Ventura County's rich history and variety of cultural resources among both residents and visitors; and,*
- *Acknowledge that historic resources could not be protected without the dedicated efforts of individuals, advocates, property owners, community organizations, and volunteers who are responsible for their preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.*



Award Recipients

- I. Japanese American Citizens League for Excellence in Restoration of Oxnard's historic Japanese Cemetery.
 - *The historic Japanese Cemetery, located in the city of Oxnard, was designated Ventura County's eighteenth landmark in 1971.*
 - *The cemetery has been vandalized numerous times over the years. In 2017, the cemetery suffered some of the worst vandalism it has faced since the 1980s.*
 - *The Ventura County Japanese American Citizens League stepped up to preserve and maintain the site. The chapter is passionate about restoring the site and honoring traditions to respect the deceased Japanese pioneers of Ventura County.*

Japanese American Citizens League Volunteers at a Cleanup Event



Source: Japanese American Citizens League

Award Recipients

2. David Hertz & Laura Doss-Hertz and Frances Rehwald for Excellence in Preservation of the Tony Duquette Historic District, 9199 Cotharin Road and 11688 Cotharin Road, Malibu, CA 90265

- *The Tony Duquette Historic District, focused upon the creations of nationally significant artist and designer Anthony “Tony” Duquette, includes multiple resources across two parcels under separate ownership.*
- *Through the efforts of the property owners, the district retains its integrity of location, with key elements remaining within the original boundaries, even if relocated or repurposed after fires.*

Collage of Contributing Resources to the Tony Duquette Historic District



Source: Daniel D. Paul

Award Recipients

3. Dr. José Alamillo and his team of student researchers for Excellence in Grassroots Organizing and Community Development related to their research into historical Bracero farmworker labor camps in Ventura County

- *Dr. José M. Alamillo, professor of Chicano/a Studies at CSU Channel Islands, is a scholar of farmworker labor camps and farmworker moments in Ventura County.*
- *In 2025, Dr. Alamillo and his team of student researchers identified a total of 35 labor camps that employed and housed Braceros during the 1942-1964 period in Ventura County.*
- *As a result of their work, conversations surrounding the diverse stories of our local history have continued, and new and different ways to acknowledge our past are being explored in the community.*

Dr. José Alamillo Speaking on the History of Farmworker Labor Camps in Ventura County



Award Recipients

4. Skateboarding Hall of Fame in Simi Valley for Excellence in Organizations Supporting History or Historic Preservation

- *The Skateboarding Hall of Fame in Simi Valley is a living time capsule of skate culture, preserving over 1,000 boards from the 1950s and '60s to today—including some super-rare finds from the Soviet Union and underground skate clubs of the '80s and '90s.*
- *By showcasing how skateboarding evolved and recognizing the trailblazers who helped shape it, this museum protects a vital piece of our shared cultural history.*
- *It also keeps Ventura County's unique skate legacy in the spotlight, making sure future generations understand how our region influenced a global phenomenon.*

Skateboarding Hall of Fame



Source: Skateboarding Hall of Fame

Award Recipients

5. Fillmore Historical Museum for Excellence in Organizations Supporting History or Historic Preservation

- *The primary mission of the Fillmore Historical Museum is to preserve the history of the community of Fillmore and its surrounding areas and to make this history accessible and understandable to residents and visitors.*
- *To this end the museum has restored three local buildings – the 1887 Fillmore Depot, the 1905 Hinckley House and the 1919 Rancho Sespe Bunkhouse. The museum volunteers develop displays of photos and memorabilia from the Fillmore, Bardsdale, Sespe and Piru communities and provide tours of its historic buildings for local schoolchildren, residents and guests.*
- *The Fillmore Historical Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. With the help of docents and volunteers they are open 4 days a week to the general public*

Fillmore Historical Museum

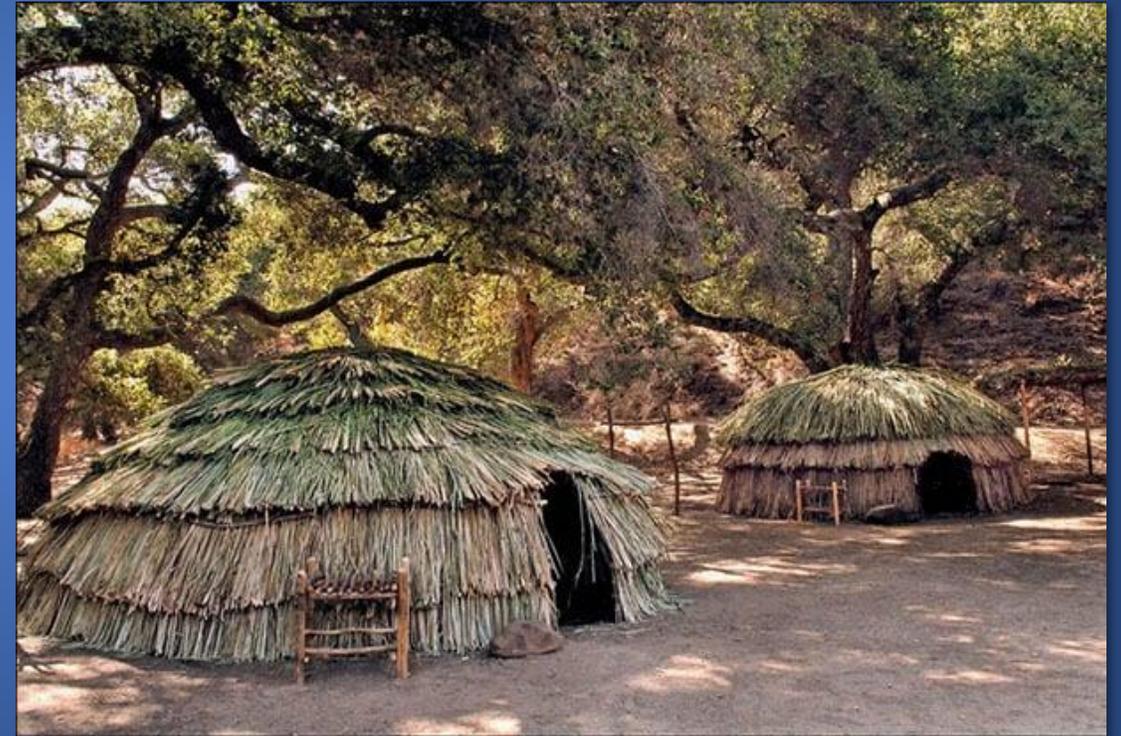


Award Recipients

6. Chumash Museum in Thousand Oaks for Excellence in Organizations Supporting History or Historic Preservation

- *The Chumash Indian Museum is a historical site and living history center. This museum is dedicated to restoring and preserving an awareness of the Chumash people and their historical, cultural, material and present-day influence, as well as the natural environment and historical significance of this site.*
- *Through life-sized reproductions of Chumash life, exhibits, events, and educational programs, the Chumash Indian Museum serves as a gathering place for a partnership with the native and non-native communities connecting the past with the present to continue our shared future.*

Chumash Museum, Thousand Oaks



Source: Chumash Museum

Award Recipients

7. Friends of Heritage Square in Oxnard for Excellence in Organizations Supporting History or Historic Preservation

- *Heritage Square in Oxnard, CA dates back to 1985 when the idea to preserve the city's historical and architectural heritage took root.*
- *After many years of dedication and hard work, the square officially opened its doors to the public in 1991.*
- *Since its inception, Heritage Square has become much more than just a collection of beautifully restored buildings; it has grown into a vibrant community hub, event center, and cultural hotspot.*
- *Managed by the Friends of Heritage Square, the square hosts a wide range of events, celebrations, and educational programs, fostering a sense of pride and appreciation for Oxnard's heritage among locals and visitors alike.*

Heritage Square, Oxnard



Source: Heritage Square

Award Recipients

8. Beverlee McGrath for Excellence in Individuals Supporting Preservation

- *Ms. Grath is the owner of the Scarlett/McGrath Ranch, a historic property consisting of a centrally sited Queen Anne Style farmhouse surrounded with mature landscaping and a variety of outbuildings in support agriculture and farm animal-related educational tours of the property.*
- *Ventura County Superior Court Judge Charles McGrath, grandson of Robert McGrath, and his wife Beverlee McGrath moved to the Scarlett/McGrath Ranch property in 1970. In addition to raising four children on the property, Beverlee was an actress, singer, and a lobbyist and activist for animal rights.*
- *She continues to reside on the property, which is still farmed by the McGrath family. Beverlee recently sponsored exhaustive research into the property as part of its successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.*
- *Beverlee held a luncheon to celebrate this milestone in December 2024 and regularly hosts events and tours at the property.*

Scarlett/McGrath Ranch luncheon, December 2024 (Ms. McGrath in green)



Award Recipients (Beverlee McGrath, Scarlett/McGrath Ranch)



Award Recipients

9. Adam's Forge in Simi Valley for Excellence in the Promotion and Implementation of Historical Programming

- *Adam's Forge is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that seeks to provide a safe, inclusive, diverse and thriving community where people of all ages and backgrounds can share in the traditions, knowledge, artistry and skills of metalsmithing and other hand-crafted arts.*
- *Adam's Forge is creating a thriving blacksmithing community through classes and events that inspire and support aspiring artists, tradespeople, and community.*
- *Blacksmith shops are one type of building or structure characteristic of the Pioneering Settlement (1864–1898) historical context theme of Ventura County's history, often associated with agriculture.*
- *Adam's Forge promotes this historical context by preserving the skill of blacksmithing through lessons, presentations, and living history.*

Blacksmith Class at Adam's Forge



Source: Adam's Forge

Preservation Awards 2025



Cultural Heritage Board
Ventura County



PRESERVATION
AWARDS



COUNTY of VENTURA
Resource Management Agency