



Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park

To preserve Elysian Park and to protect the park from encroachment

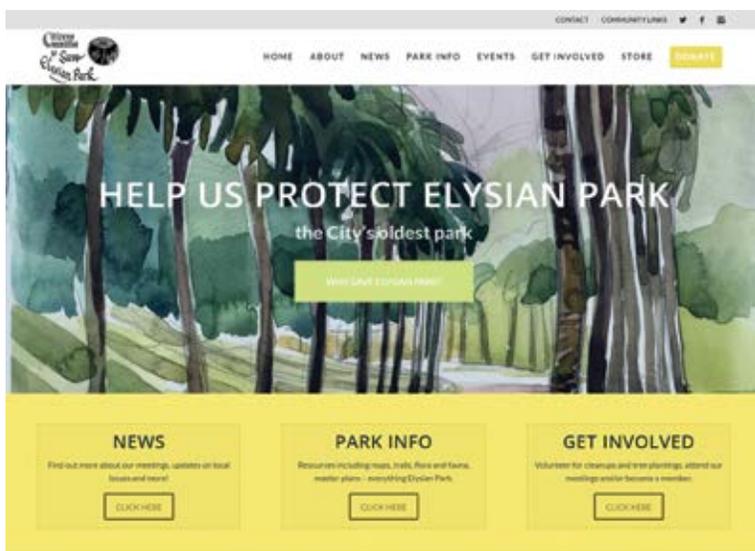
Spring 2018 | No. 146

New CCSEP Website Launched!

Visit us at www.elysianpark.org to view information on CCSEP and Elysian Park including news, events, meetings, trail maps, how to get involved, donate, and much more.

Thank you to the CCSEP Website Committee and webmaster/designer Kelly Erickson who have been working on this project for several months. Thanks to all who have contributed content and images!

The distinctive look of our new website is due to the stunning original watercolors of Elysian Park by artist Erik Sandgren (eriksandgren.com).



2017 54th Annual Banquet

At the 54th CCSEP Banquet on Sunday, June 4, 2017, a friendly crowd of neighborhood families and friends gathered on the green at Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park to schmooze, snack on tasty hors d'oeuvres, and listen to the sounds of the great Robert Berryman and his band. As the event moved indoors, a Mediterranean dinner of kebobs was served, and attendees purchased last-minute raffle tickets, prioritizing their favorite prizes displayed on stage. Highlights of the evening included the presentation of a certificate award honoring CCSEP past president Christine Peters by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell for Christine's many years of hard work, activism, and leadership. Once again the sold-out event reflected a community gathered in support of Elysian Park and the grass roots organization dedicated to serving it. A fun time was had by all and plans are already underway for next year's 55th banquet!



Victory Memorial Grove Rededicated

The California WWI Centennial Task Force, Los Angeles-Eschscholtzia Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Hollywood Post 43 of the American Legion, and others rededicated the restored "Great War" monument at Victory Memorial Grove.

The Grove is a largely forgotten parcel of Elysian Park. On June 14th, 1921, the DAR placed this monument as a permanent memorial to those who were lost in World War I. Over time the

park-within-a-park and monument had fallen into disrepair. The centennial of the war spurred various civic groups to try and revitalize it.

The restoration of the memorial has been led by Courtland Jindra, a member of the California WWI Centennial Task Force. Jindra discovered the Victory Memorial Grove while conducting research on WWI monuments. Jindra then worked to raise funds and recruit volunteers for the restoration.



The centerpiece of the grove is the original five-foot-high block of granite and plaque donated to the city by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1921. The block of granite had been covered with decades of graffiti and paint. Many of the trees from the original grove have been cut down.

On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, Flag Day, a ceremony with a color guard and bugler was held to rededicate the memorial. The ceremony borrowed many elements from the original dedication in 1921.



Park Cleanups

Trash Free Earth Organization will continue to help clean up the park but has cut back to once or twice a year in order to focus more on public education projects. CCSEP will pick up the slack and schedule cleanup events throughout the year. Without everyone's effort, the park would be overrun with trash.



Photo credit: Trash Free Earth

Tree Planting in the Park

Boise Paper and Office Depot, in partnership with City Plants, the LA Department of Water and Power, the Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the USC Alumni Real Estate Network, the LA Department of Recreation & Parks, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Arbor Day, the Alliance for Community Trees, and the Land Life Company hosted the second of three tree planting events in Elysian Park on March 11, 2017.



Photo credit: Council District 13

A variety of climate issues have contributed to the decline and loss of canopy cover in Elysian Park. On Saturday, March 11, volunteers planted another 125 trees in "Cocoons," a new tree-planting technology produced by the Land Life Company. The 100% biodegradable Cocoon supports seedlings through the first year of growth and allows trees to survive harsh drought conditions and develop strong, healthy root structures.

Red Bull Soapbox Race

On August 20th, the Red Bull Soapbox Race returned to Los Angeles and featured some of the wildest legal street racing around. Sixty-four teams of gear geeks and speed freaks built and competed in audacious custom-crafted, non-motorized vehicles with a view to wow the crowds and, of course, cross the finish line first. Participants raced down Angels Point Road in this exciting and amusing spectacle that challenged experienced racers and amateurs alike to use their imaginations and their street-racing skills to beat the clock and get the checkered flag.



While some cars this year looked like an overturned porta potty, a shuttlecock, and a hospital gurney, a common theme was food – such as a fruit cart, beer and spicy Cup of Noodles. One team to beat, in fact, was a giant street taco built by a two-time winning team from Canyon Lake, California. Another team with a Latin street-food motif was Elote Loco, whose car looked like the team's namesake—a giant ear of roasted corn with the traditional condiments of mayonnaise, cheese, butter and chili powder.

CCSEP was delighted that so many families and young people



flocked to the park and enjoyed the day. Red Bull did an excellent job staging the Derby, and we appreciated the way they took care to clean up the park after the event was over.

New CCSEP Meeting Location

CCSEP has found a new meeting home at the lovely Echo Park Branch Library at 1410 Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026, where on-site parking is available in the front of the building.

CCSEP Meetings will continue to be held the first Wednesday of every month at the new time of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For several months, CCSEP had been searching for a new meeting location (that doesn't charge a fee) after Barlow Hospital changed its policy of providing meeting space for community organizations.

See you at the Echo Park Branch Library, and hey, check out a book while you're there!



Echo Park Community Parade 2017

For the second year in a row, CCSEP had a "vanfloat" in the Echo Park Community Parade on Saturday, December 9th, 2017. Once again, Marion Siu was crowned the Queen of the CCSEP Float!

Peter Lassen, Dan Reza, and Kathleen Murphy handed out our new "introduction" cards as they walked alongside the float. Marion, John Cook, and Philip Murphy also handed out a few from John's van. Altogether, it was a fun outreach event and we enjoyed introducing community members to all that Elysian Park has to offer.

CCSEP t-shirts in white and grey will soon be available for purchase online thru our new website, elysianpark.org



Photo credit: Martin Cox



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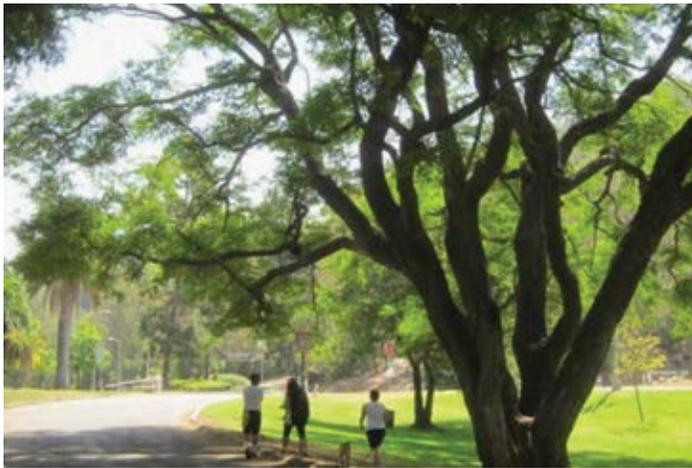


New Arboretum Maps Being Developed

All current maps of the Chavez Ravine Arboretum (available online), and the maps on NavigateLA are incorrect. Michael O'Brien, Secretary of CCSEP, and our favorite arborist, has been traversing the entire area to update the maps.

The map of Lower Palm Hill has been completed and posted on our Facebook page.

"Real" size vary according to section, but they are approximately 36" x 48."



One of the majestic Tipu trees in Chavez Ravine Arboretum

New Irrigation in the Park



The installation of the new irrigation system in the park continues. The DWP pipeline project has been placed on permanent hold due to new priorities at the DWP.

Installation of the new purple pipe for the new irrigation system continues in the park, currently in the Chavez Ravine Arboretum south of Grace E. Simons Lodge. It will use potable water until such time as recycled water is available in the park. The parts of the new system that are working represent a great improvement over the old system—no more wet spots or dry spots!

Proposed New Park Improvements

On Saturday, February 10th, 2018 the Department of Recreation and Parks held an information meeting about the proposed new park improvements to be funded by the \$12.5 million fund awarded to Elysian Park. The Department of Water and Power provided a "Park Enhancement Fund" when the decision was made to cover the Elysian Park Reservoir with a rubber cover.



The CCSEP fought diligently for years to maintain the Reservoir as a park amenity to include a water feature and open space improvements. After a protracted battle leadership at the DWP rejected the "preferred alternative" that buried the tanks and created more open space and recreation area and selected a significantly cheaper covered option. The CCSEP and then Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, were able to negotiate the Park Enhancement Fund.



This mitigation fund was also used to stagger-plant Palm Row with new palms, and to make possible the repair and installation of new irrigation lines throughout the park.

Fifteen project options were presented. Community members who attended the event offered written feedback on each

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Cont: Proposed New Park Improvements

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Photo credit: Mary-Austin Klein

proposal and voted on their favorites. No cost estimates have been discussed yet on the projects.

NEW PARK IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- North Broadway: Park Entry Landscape Beautification
- Community Garden: Site Security
- Buena Vista Point: New Disc Golf and Picnic Area
- Chavez Ridge: Disc Golf Addition
- Carob Grove: New Dog Park and Picnic Area
- Administration/Maintenance Building: Storage Area Roof Replacement
- Solano Canyon: New Synthetic Soccer Field and Restroom Upgrade
- Solano Canyon: New Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom
- Adaptive Recreation Center: Renovate Existing Building with Community Room and Ranger Office. Add New Exterior Restroom Building, Outdoor Basketball Court, Splash pad, and Skate Park
- Walnut Hill at Elysian Park at Riverside Drive: New Restroom, Improve Hiking Trails
- Morton/Academy/Fire Road: Improve Off Street Parking and Signage
- Victory Memorial Grove: Site Improvements and Planting
- Elysian Park Urban Forest: Tree Inventory, Assessment and Reforestation Plan
- Elysian Park: Staff 2 Park Rangers Dedicated to Elysian Park with Security Support for 3 Years
- Elysian Park: Update Draft Master Plan for Adoption by RAP Board of Commissioners

CCSEP Steering Committee

CCSEP meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m. Echo Park Branch Library at 1410 Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026

CCSEP FOUNDATION 501(c) 3

President: Philip Murphy
Vice President: Dan Reza
Secretary: Michael O'Brien
Treasurer: Terry Hair

CCSEP 501(c) 4

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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pamela Burgess, Andrew Garsten, Michael Kogan, Patricia Bauer Kogan, Peter Lassen, Sallie Neubauer, Christine Peters, and Marion Siu

EMERITUS/EMERITA MEMBERS

Scott Fajack, Mary-Austin Klein, and Isa-Kae Meksin

Special thanks to Michael O'Brien & Kelly Erickson for their newsletter work, and to Erik Sandgren for providing the Elysian Park watercolors.

Send inquires and letters to:

P.O. Box 26691 • Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 290-0065 | (213) 250-5528 FAX
info@elysianpark.org
Visit us online: elysianpark.org

Support the CCSEP. Join Today!

Annual Memberships

(Time for membership renewal is June 1st.)

- \$15 1-year Student and Senior Membership
- \$20 1-year Individual Membership
- \$30 1-year Family Membership
- \$100 1-year Business membership
- \$500 Life Membership

Please consider including us in your estate planning!

CCSEP Foundation is incorporated as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations & memberships are tax deductible.

Renew or purchase a membership online at our new website elysianpark.org OR make checks payable to CCSEP Foundation and send to:

CCSEP c/o Terry Hair, Treasurer
2446 Echo Park Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026