



**Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation**
*El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens*

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

PRESS RELEASE

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SBTHP Announces New Board President and Presents Community Awards at Annual Meeting

(SANTA BARBARA, CA)— The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) announced a new Board President and recognized outstanding community members dedicated to historic preservation and conservation at the 48th Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation. Members and friends of

SBTHP gathered on January, 22 in the Presidio Chapel to honor awardees.



SBTHP is pleased to announce **the election of a new Board President, Robert L. Hoover**. Hoover is Professor Emeritus of anthropology at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he taught from 1970 to 1998. He received his A.B., M.A. and Ph. D. degrees in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, and has specialized in the prehistoric and historic archaeology of California. He has published in journals both in the United States and abroad, is a past-president of the California Mission Studies Association, and has served from 1984 to 1998 as a member of the State Historical Resources Commission.

Robert L. Hoover

The Pearl Chase Award is the highest honor SBTHP bestows on an individual. It is given to a person who has a distinguished record of preservation and conservation. At this year's Annual Meeting **the Pearl Chase award was presented to Francisco González for his various musical and theatrical contributions to SBTHP living history programs at El Presidio State Historic Park.**

González and his wife Yolanda arrived in Santa Barbara in 1985 just as the Presidio Chapel reconstruction was nearing completion. A group González among them approached SBTHP with the idea of producing a Virgin de Guadalupe (Tepeyac) play in the Chapel as part of the celebration opening the reconstructed chapel. González had arrived with a new vision of the Chapel—as a living history venue. Prior to this, emphasis had been placed on the Chapel as a museum experience.

In 1986, González proposed doing the Shepherds Play (Una Pastorela), based on a version that Pablo de la Guerra had transcribed from oral tradition in Santa Barbara. González adapted the play to include some English interspersed with the Spanish, and wrote a musical score and songs to accompany it. González also produced two other living history plays for SBTHP “If These Walls Could Speak” and “El Baile,” as well as numerous concerts to keep alive the songs and music of Early California.



Francisco González

SBTHP presented **the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award to Kathy Chalfant** in recognition of her long dedication and service to SBTHP. **Representing the City of Solvang, Honorable Mayor Jim Richardson and Council Member Joan Jamison accepted the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award.** Given to individuals or organizations that demonstrate outstanding preservation work in connection with a specific project in and around Santa Barbara County the award was presented in recognition of the significance of the long-term lease agreement between the City of Solvang and SBTHP over Lot 72, ensuring that the entire Mission Santa Inés National Historic Landmark District is protected for future generations.

A new SBTHP award this year, **the Sue Higman Internship Award was presented to Tacy Kennedy.** The Sue Higman Internship Award is made possible by a generous gift from Jim and Sue Higman, in honor of

Sue Higman's lifelong involvement and support of SBTHP. A former board member and Life Honorary Trustee, Higman was a stalwart volunteer, investing countless hours to move the mission of SBTHP forward. The Higman's established an endowment that will allow SBTHP to offer a paid, competitive, internship position annually. Internship projects will support an area of greatest need within the organization. This year's internship supports SBTHP's archaeology department and will allow for the compilation of a GIS (Geographical Information System) database to aide in the development and maintenance of the Santa Inés Mission Mills State Historic Park.

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About Francisco González: Francisco González is a musician, composer, and specialist in Mexican and Chicano music. During the last four decades he has worked in many capacities within Chicano/Mexican music: in performance around the world as a string musician specializing in Mexican harp; composing musical scores for films (most recently in *All the Pretty Horses*); doing lecture demonstrations; and in theater as a musical director for many professional theater productions. As award-winning musical director for the legendary El Teatro Campesino he toured throughout Western Europe.

González grew up in East Los Angeles surrounded by jazz, rock, salsa, and multiple Mexican musical traditions such as norteño, and jarocho musics. He co-founded, led, and composed music for Los Lobos in the 1970s.

In addition to theater and film work, González regularly performs Jarocho and Norteño music at clubs, fiestas, and other social gatherings. He also offers workshops for musicians, and lecture demonstrations on Mexican/Chicano music at universities, schools, and for community groups.

In June 2004 Francisco González received national recognition from the Smithsonian. He was invited to the American Folklife Festival for his many contributions to the musical life of the Chicano/a & Mexican communities. The Smithsonian highlighted Francisco's contributions as a music string craftsman. His custom-made strings produced at Guadalupe Custom Strings in Santa Barbara, California are distributed internationally.

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ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and recently purchased the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinct history. Learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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