

SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 388
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0388
Ph (805) 965-0093 (805) 966-9719 Fax (805) 568-1999

To Bring Alive the History of Santa Barbara for Present and Future Generations

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

PRESS CONTACT

Jared Brach
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
Ph: (805) 966-1279
Fax: (805) 966-9888
E-mail: jared@sbthp.org
Website: www.sbthp.org

TAPAS, VINO Y ARTE 2007: TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER TO CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF NEW SANTA BARBARA PRESIDIO RESEARCH CENTER

Vintners, restaurants, and artists confirmed for September 29th event

Supervisors Salud Carbajal and Brooks Firestone named Honorary Co-Chairmen



(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—**Saturday, September 29, from 3:00 until 6:00 PM, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation will celebrate the completion of the new Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center in conjunction with *Tapas, Vino y Arte 2007* at Plaza de Alhecama (215 E. Canon Perdido St).**

Several fine restaurants will be donating food stations, talented local artists will be donating their work for exhibition and sale (50% of all sales of paintings from participating artists will go to benefit the Trust for Historic Preservation), and several wineries will be pouring samples of their finest vintages. **Featuring live music by the Laguna Blanca Jazz Band**—guests will stroll, drink, eat, and bid on local art as they wander through the historic plaza and explore the new Presidio Research Center.

Tapas, Vino y Arte 2007 also includes **a silent auction and a raffle drawing for an 8-day, 7-night trip for two to Spain—featuring lodging at select Spanish Paradors and round-trip airfare courtesy of Santa Barbara Travel Bureau. The cost per-person is \$100 (\$75 tax-deductible). For more details or to purchase tickets visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093.**

Major Sponsor: Channel Coast Corporation

Featured Artists: Jamee Aubrey, Susan Belloni, Chris Chapman, Pedro De La Cruz, Camille Dellar, Deborah Ferguson, Holli Harmon, Blair Harper, Jeremy Harper, Larry Iwerks, Lori Lenz, Lizabeth Madal, Cree Mann, Thomas Mann, Margaret Nadeau, Judy Nienow, Warner Nienow, Jerilynne Nibbe, Chris Potter, John Rowbottam, Kim Snyder, B.J. Stapen, Rich Untermann, Lynn Weber

Featured Wineries: Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards, Bedford Thompson Winery & Vineyard, Bridlewood Estate Winery, Buttonwood Farm Winery & Vineyard, Fiddlehead Cellars, Firestone Vineyard, Foxen Winery & Vineyard, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards, McKeon-Phillips Winery, Rusack Winery

Featured Restaurants: Fresco at the Beach, Montecito Country Club, Panino, Pascucci, Playa Azul Café, Santa Barbara Olive Co., The (805) Deli, The Taj Café, Three Pickles, Tuttini



Exterior view of new Presidio Research Center

Housed in a classic Spanish-Colonial Revival building, the Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center is located on the site of the former Santa Barbara School of the Arts, which opened its doors in the 1920s and served the community until 1938. The building later became part of the campus of the Adult Education Program of the Santa Barbara School District. In 1981, it was incorporated into El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, which is operated under a unique long-term agreement between the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and California State Parks.

Considered one of the finest artist's studios ever built in Santa Barbara, the Trust has made every effort to restore the building to its original appearance while simultaneously meeting current building codes and facility storage needs. The new Presidio Research Center will house all Trust curatorial and research collections, making many items readily available to the public for the first time. The collections document and reflect the peoples who have lived in the Santa Barbara Presidio neighborhood since the eighteenth century. **These artifacts, manuscripts,**



Interior view of renovated Presidio Research Center

maps, photographs, and other materials are used to support El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park's exhibits and educational programs, as well as to provide the public with unique resources for local history.

Using original blueprints the Trust conducted meticulous research of the building and its history to ensure accurate reconstruction and refurbishment of the historic site. Efforts include the examination of cross-section samples of stucco and wood trim from the building (using microscopic and infrared analysis) to determine the original paint colors—the building has been repainted to match the first colors, as well as the restoration of original hardware on all doors and windows throughout the building.

Fundraising for the Presidio Research Center began in 1999 for planning, and a capital campaign was launched in 2003. In 2006 a \$323,000 grant from the California Culture and Historical Endowment (CCHE) together with matching funds provided by the Trust, completed the funding for the new Research Center. Thanks to the donations of hundreds of individuals, private foundations, City of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency, and California State Parks, this valuable community resource is now completed. **Once officially opened to the public, use of the facility and access to the collections will be free of charge to all visitors.**

Tapas Vino y Arte 2007

Saturday, September 29

3:00 to 6:00 PM

Plaza de Alhecama, 215 E. Canon Perdido St, Santa Barbara, CA

Ticket cost \$100

More information (805) 965-0093 or www.sbthp.org

ABOUT the 215 E. Canon Perdido Street Site—Originally designed by Architects Soule, Murphy and Hastings and built by contractor James Crow in 1928 for a total cost of \$14,000—the structure was the only permanent building for the Santa Barbara School of the Arts, the center of the fine arts movement in Santa Barbara from 1927 to 1938. The Great Depression and the discontinuation of funding from the Carnegie Foundation led to decreased enrollment and finances contributing to the schools closing in 1938. In 1939, community leader Alice F. Schott purchased the School's property, saving the buildings from an uncertain future. In 1945, Schott deeded the property to the Adult Education Program of the Santa Barbara School District, which they occupied until 1981 before outgrowing the site and moving to a new location. The California Department of Parks and Recreation purchased the site for \$850,000 in 1981. The studio and workshops have been leased to artists, theater groups, and small businesses while formal plans for the site were developed. A general plan for the property was adopted by the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Barbara City Council, and the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation in 1988.

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation—Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization working to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force in the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. The Trust is also preserving and restoring the Santa Inés Mission Mills—the site of a future California State Park and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian community in the Presidio neighborhood. The Trust is currently reconstructing the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara’s birthplace. Using over 50,000 adobe bricks made on site, these additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors’ center, and with the help of the new Presidio Research Center, serve to interpret the city’s Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present. The new Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center will be unveiled to the public at the Trust’s *Tapas, Vino y Arte 2007* celebration on Saturday, September 29, 2007. **For more information visit www.sbthp.org**

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