



## Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra  
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA CONTACT

Tim Aceves

Director of Advancement, SBTHP

(805) 961-5378

[tim@sbthp.org](mailto:tim@sbthp.org)

## The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Receives Grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities



### NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of [NEH CARES](#). \$40.3 million in grants were awarded to more than [300 cultural institutions](#) across all 50 states and the

District of Columbia to support essential services, staff, and programs.

“Over the past few months we have witnessed tremendous financial distress at cultural organizations across the country, which have been compelled to furlough staff, cancel programs, and reduce operations to make up for revenue shortfalls caused by the pandemic,” said NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. “NEH is pleased to provide \$40 million to preserve thousands of jobs at museums, archives, historic sites, and colleges and universities that are vital to our nation’s cultural life and economy.”

SBTHP’s \$29,634 grant will fund the second iteration of its new, annual school program, *Where We Are From* (WWAF). In partnership with Santa Barbara Junior High School (SBJHS) and UC Santa Barbara’s History Department, WWAF is a multi-week, cross-disciplinary, interactive program held at [El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park](#) that reaches approximately 400 seventh-grade students and their families.

The program involves hands-on, multimedia and digital learning activities utilizing the Park’s historical

resources and digital learning platforms. The grant will also provide SBTHP with the opportunity to hire four graduate students from UC Santa Barbara's History Department as project consultants and co-facilitators.

As SBJHS history teacher Kristin Martinez-Pettit explained, the goal of this program is to "build a sense of community amongst the students as well as stoke their interest in the human story while cultivating their own." SBJHS's Principal, Lito M. García, says that the positive effects the program on his students has revealed the "importance of collaborating with a local organization



to enhance our students' understanding of their city, their home." The NEH CARES grant will also allow SBTHP to adapt the program for new modes of learning designed for remote access. Mr. Garcia explains, "As we have entered new ways of educating our youth beyond the school site the need for access to digital platforms and devices is greater than ever. *Where We Are From* must continue for several reasons. One, the educational value of research, reading, writing, and speaking. Two, the intrinsic value of knowing more about the community you live in. Three, the need to have access to and the ability to learn remotely."



For the highly competitive [NEH CARES grant category](#), NEH received more than 2,300 eligible applications from cultural organizations requesting more than \$370 million in funding for projects between June and December 2020. Approximately 14 percent of the applicants were funded.

Images above and above right, students participate in *Where We Are From* in 2019.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE HUMANITIES**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

## **ABOUT THE SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) stewards the past and present of the Presidio Neighborhood and inspires preservation advocacy throughout the County in order to create a more vibrant community. SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara's 18th century birthplace, under an agreement with California State Parks. In addition to portions of the Spanish fort, El Presidio SHP includes the Alhecama Theatre (1925) and the campus of the Santa Barbara School of the Arts, and Jimmy's Oriental Gardens (1947) the last visible connection to Santa Barbara's Chinatown. The organization also operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820's adobe home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra, and the Santa Inés Mission Mills near Solvang, CA. SBTHP produces dozens of community and school programs throughout the year to provide access to these special historic places. SBTHP is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; learn more at [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org).