



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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Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Hosts 60th Annual Meeting

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) hosted the 60th Annual Meeting on January 21, 2023, in the Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. Meeting for the first time in-person since 2019, SBTHP members voted to elect new members Shelley Bookspan, Mia Lopez, and Lena Morán-Acereto to the board for a three-year term.

Following the election, SBTHP presented annual community awards and certificates of appreciation. Elvira Tafoya received the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award for her years of dedication leading and directing La Pastorella and for her many years of volunteering with SBTHP; the Main-Begg Farmhouse received the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award for their work to restore the historic home in Goleta; Dr. Paul Mori received the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award for his years of volunteer service on the Asian American Affinity Group; Salvador Güereña received the President's Award for his year of service to the SBTHP board and extensive committee-work; and Healing Justice Santa Barbara, City of Santa Barbara Architectural Historian Nicole Hernandez, and Page & Turnbull received certificates of appreciation for their work in completing the Santa Barbara African American and Black Context Statement.

2023 AWARDEES

ELVIRA TAFOYA

Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award

MAIN-BEGG FARMHOUSE

George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award

DR. PAUL MORI

Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award

SALVADOR GÜEREÑA

President's Award

SANTA BARBARA AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BLACK CONTEXT STATEMENT

Certificates of Appreciation

For a full list of award winners, please visit sbthp.org/award-winners >>

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



SHELLEY BOOKSPAN

Dr. Shelley Bookspan, a graduate of one of the first classes of UCSB's pioneering Public Historical Studies program, has had a multi-decade career as a professional consulting historian, based in Santa Barbara. In addition to having served as editor of *The Public Historian* and having developed the first undergraduate class in public history at UCSB, Dr. Bookspan founded one of the country's first history-based companies, PHR Associates. PHR Associates, later called PHR Environmental Consultants, served clients in matters ranging from cultural resource studies to Superfund investigations, from offices throughout California and Washington, D.C. Considered an expert in historical methodology, Dr. Bookspan has published numerous essays on research and analysis techniques. Dr. Bookspan also founded the video production company, LifeStory Productions, Inc., which combined oral history interviewing with archival research and emergent digital production technology. For the Trust, Dr. Bookspan and her LifeStory colleagues, wrote, produced, and directed a "biopic" of founder Pearl Chase, entitled, "My Friends Call Me Miss Chase." For the last three years, Dr. Bookspan has served on SBTHP's Development Committee.



MIA LOPEZ

Mrs. Maria Elena or "Mia" Lopez, is the Tribal Chair, Former Vice Chair; member and Tribal Representative of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation. Administrative Assistant at Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation, a Native Lead Non-profit organization. Liaison for the Tribe and the Cities of Santa Barbara & Goleta, the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura, NOAA and many Schools, Universities, State and Federal Organizations, she maintains relationships wherever she goes. Mrs. Lopez, has lectured on contemporary and historical Chumash life, bringing people together, from Kinder to Graduate Students and professionals, to acknowledge the land and Original People throughout Chumash territory. Maintaining these connections is very important to her and being able to share gives her the opportunity to talk a little about native plant history, and the many village sites, our cities are built upon. Her goal is to help her community heal themselves. By being a part of all these things, she can assure her community's, cultural, and spiritual wellness. Mrs. Lopez, also the Board Chairwoman of the local American Indian Health & Services clinic, helps complete the circle of care for her community by bringing awareness to services that provide physical and mental wellness.



LENA MORÁN-ACERETO

Lena Morán-Acereto is a native of Mexico City, Mexico and currently a resident of Ventura County, CA where she lives with her husband, son and two dogs. Lena is the CEO and founder of Bridging Voices-Uniendo Voces, LLC a consulting firm that focuses on language justice consulting interpretation and translation. Lena holds a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis on Social Justice and Leadership from Antioch University Santa Barbara. As an educator, activist and advocate, Lena's expertise has led her to facilitate workshops and training on topics of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice across California and provide language justice consultation to organizations, school districts and government agencies as well as present and speak at conferences throughout the United States. In addition to her work with Bridging Voices-Uniendo Voces, Lena is a Senior Consultant at JONES Inclusive, Adjunct Faculty at Santa Barbara City College, as well as a member of the Equity Advisory Roundtable for the California Transportation Commission. In

2018, Lena received Congressional recognition for her work in coordinating and providing language access services during and after the Thomas Fire and Montecito Mudslide disasters.

BOARD MEMBERS RE-ELECTED TO A NEW THREE-YEAR TERM

Jared Ficker
Anthony Grumbine
Joe Handerhan
Jessica Haro

THE BOARD ELECTED THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM

Michael Neal Arnold, President
Cody A. Makela, First Vice President
Deborah Aceves, Second Vice President
James Krautmann, Secretary
Kyle Slattery, Treasurer
Anthony Grumbine, Immediate Past President

To view the entire Board of Directors, please visit [<>](http://sbthp.org/staff)

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ABOUT THE PEARL CHASE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION AWARD

Each year the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation seeks to present the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award to a deserving community member or organization dedicated to the values that Dr. Chase stood for in the fields of historic preservation and conservation. This annual lifetime achievement award serves as a tribute to the life and work of Pearl Chase, the famous leader of community activism and preservation in Santa Barbara, and to the work that continues today as a result of the inspiration she provided.

ABOUT THE GEORGE AND VIVIAN OBERN PRESERVATION STEWARDSHIP AWARD

The George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate outstanding preservation work in connection with a specific project in and around Santa Barbara County. This prestigious award was named in honor of George and Vivian Obern in 2006 for their lifelong preservation work, including their successful efforts to save the Thomas Hope House (built 1875, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978), condemned by the county of Santa Barbara but saved by the Oberns.

ABOUT THE SUE HIGMAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is given to an individual or individuals who have made outstanding contributions of their time to SBTHP over the course of a year. Established in 2010, the award is named in honor of longtime SBTHP supporter and friend, Sue Higman.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Given by the President of SBTHP's Board of Directors, the award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the organization in the prior year.

ABOUT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Certificates of Appreciation are awarded in recognition for a variety of acts of service towards the mission of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

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 sbthp.org.