



city: Indian Wells

NEW THIS YEAR!

Desert Oasis: The Cavanaugh Adobe

9/13 - 9/14

One of Indian Wells' first homes (1922), this adobe survived desert extremes to become Historic Landmark #1. Architect Michael Burch's restoration preserved its hand-troweled walls and 'El Oasis' gardens - a rare example of early Coachella Valley homesteading. Look for the original citrus trees planted by the Cavanaugh family, who hosted Hollywood stars escaping prohibition.

city: Desert Hot Springs

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Cabot's Desert Fantasy: A Folk Art Palace

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Doors Open California participants will receive free and special access to this marvel of a museum in Desert Hot Springs. Cabot's Pueblo was built beginning in 1941 and was always intended to be a museum in addition to the residence for Cabot and Portia Yerxa. The Hopi-inspired building is hand-made and created from reclaimed and found materials from throughout the Coachella Valley

Self-taught architect Cabot Yerxa built this 5,000 sq ft pueblo from salvaged railroad ties and soda bottles. The 'musical staircase' plays notes when climbed, and hidden courtyards mimic Hopi villages he studied. Don't miss the rooftop view of the San Andreas Fault.

city: Riverside

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Riverside's Recycled Manor: The Peter J. Weber House

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Architect Weber built his 1930s home from demolition scraps - Mission Revival tiles from a razed church, a staircase from a silent movie set. The 'radio room' has speakers embedded in hand-carved redwood panels. Ask to see the secret patio where Weber tested concrete mixes.

city: San Bernardino

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Enterprise: The Inland Empire's First Skyscraper

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 10:15am to 6:45pm

The 1927 'modern classical' tower housed the region's first elevator and a speakeasy behind the 5th-floor law library. Original blueprints show how the Andreson family built it to survive prohibition - spot the hidden compartments where they stashed liquor permits.

city: Long Beach

NEW THIS YEAR!

Coastal Time Machine: Rancho Los Alamitos

9/13

This 7.5-acre Tongva-Gabrielino site evolved from native village to Spanish ranch to 1930s garden showpiece. The 1790 adobe's walls contain horsehair for strength, and the barnyard preserves rare Shire horse breeds. Don't miss the 'Moonlight Garden' with night-blooming cereus planted in 1926.

city: Long Beach

NEW THIS YEAR!

Elmer Grey's Hidden Cathedral: 440 Elm

9/14

The 1913 First Church of Christ Scientist astonishes with 30-foot coffered ceilings and a 2,500-pipe organ. Architect Elmer Grey (Beverly Hills Hotel) designed this Long Beach landmark with Moroccan tilework and a 7,000 sq ft ballroom. The most impressive room is the Sanctuary, with 30' coffered ceilings, leaded-stained glass doors, a 7000 sq ft ballroom, 2 story stained glass, and a hand-carved organ grill covering a 2500 pipe Murray-Harris organ. Learn how its stained glass survived earthquakes to become an events venue.



City: Los
Angeles

NEW THIS YEAR!

Bank to Books: Spring Arts Tower's Reinvention

9/14

Crocker National Bank's 1920s Art Deco HQ now houses LA's last indie bookstore. Marvel at the original vault doors repurposed as art installations and the 14-foot chandelier that once watched over million-dollar deposits. Architects will point out the building's clever 'banker's light' system - still functional.

City: Los
Angeles

NEW THIS YEAR!

1931 Frozen in Time: CalEdison's Lobby and 4th Floor Balcony City Views

9/14 | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Step into Downtown LA's best-preserved Art Deco lobby, where black marble floors reflect gilded elevator doors and a ceiling mural of 'the Spirit of Light.' The 4th-floor balcony - rarely open - offers views of Pershing Square exactly as 1930s tycoons saw it. Fun fact: The building's clock has kept perfect time for 90 years.

City: los
angeles

NEW THIS YEAR!

Book Lover's Paradise: The Last Bookstore

9/13

Navigate labyrinthine shelves in this 1914 bank turned literary wonderland. The Annex's vault holds rare first editions, while the 'book tunnel' and suspended book sculptures make perfect Instagram moments. Staff share tales of the building's haunted past - listen for the ghostly clinks of old safety deposit boxes.

City: Los
Angeles

NEW THIS YEAR!

Time Warp: Union Theatre & Velaslavasay Panorama

9/13

LA's oldest movie house (1910) now hosts a 360-degree painted panorama of 1920s Shenyang - the West Coast's only surviving example of this Victorian art form. Climb into the rotunda to be surrounded by the 40-foot-tall artwork, then explore the theatre's neon 'orange ball' sign that guided silent-film audiences.

City: Los
angeles

NEW THIS YEAR!

Deco Dreams: Downtown LA's Architectural Jazz

9/14 | 10am to 12:30pm

Glide past gilded lobbies and geometric marvels on this tour of DTLA's Art Deco icons. The Eastern Columbia Building's turquoise terra-cotta and the CalEdison's 1931 opulence reveal how L.A. embraced the Jazz Age. Guides share tales of craftsmen who molded these landmarks - like the Cicada Club's hidden speakeasy past.

City: Los
Angeles

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Hollywood High's Deco Treasure

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 11am to 3pm

The 1935 Streamline Moderne library houses a WPA mural of Hollywood's golden age - spot the hidden Clara Bow likeness and the Hollywood Bowl shell made of drama masks. Alumni include Carol Burnett and Laurence Fishburne; their yearbooks are displayed during tours.



City: Los
Angeles

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

The Ebell's Roaring '20s Revival

9/14 | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

L.A.'s 1927 women's club (where Amelia Earhart spoke) opens its Moroccan Room and Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Step behind the scenes of Hollywood history with Filmed at The Ebell, an all-new guided tour of The Ebell of Los Angeles and the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Discover how this iconic women-led campus has quietly starred in over a century of film and television—from Break of Hearts with Katharine Hepburn, to Forrest Gump, to Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer. Docents share tales of suffragette meetings and the secret tunnel to the now-gone Brown Derby.

Attendees will be able to explore the main building, the luscious garden & courtyard and the historic Wilshire Ebell Theatre, which together comprise the breathtaking 94,000 square foot campus, a noted architectural treasure recognized as a Los Angeles Cultural Monument and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Guests may reserve a spot for either the 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM tour. Each 90-minute walking tour is limited to 50 participants (100 total for the day) and includes multiple staircases. If you have mobility considerations, please reach out to Amelia at amelia@ebellofla.org so we can discuss accommodations. Please note that due to the historic nature of the building, not all areas are fully ADA accessible.

City: Los
Angeles

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Los Angeles Union Station Hidden Gems

9/20 - 9/21 | 11:00 to 14:00

Built in 1939, Los Angeles Union Station is an architectural gem in the heart of downtown L.A. The historic Ticket Concourse features a restored 110-foot-long ticket counter crafted from American black walnut, a hand painted, stenciled acoustic ceiling adorned with massive bronze, chandeliers, towering 43-foot windows, quarry tile flooring traversed by a multi-colored marble runner, glazed polychromatic "Deco" tiles from Gladding McBean Co., and much more. While this space is not typically open to the public, the "Hidden Gems" tours will offer Angelenos a behind the scenes look at this breathtaking treasure. Union Station is designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. Additional historic public spaces include the grand Waiting Room, entry vestibule, and the view of the facade with its iconic clock tower, followed by a stop at the original Fred Harvey restaurant, now a brewpub frequented by travelers and patrons alike.

City: Los
Angeles

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Time Capsule: Neutra's Family Sanctuary

(Original Title: The House Neutra Called Home: A Tour of Reunion House)

Sat., Sep. 13, 2025 | 10AM to 3PM

Enter the 1951 Reunion House preserved as Richard Neutra's family left it. See Dion Neutra's library, vintage Knoll furniture, and the architect's drafting tools. Experience signature 'biorealism' features: spider-leg supports, mitered glass corners, and integrated fountain. Hourly tours for 15 guests; park on Silverlake Blvd.

Don't miss this unforgettable journey into the lived legacy of one of modernism's most iconic families.

City: Los
Angeles

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Richard Neutra's Midcentury Lab

9/13 | 10AM to 4PM

Attendees will see the Neutra Office constructed originally as the Planning Professionals Building in 1950. The office housed Neutra and Alexander's combined practice during their partnership. The building features a number of character defining features associated with Mid-Century Modern architecture as well as some unique features of the architecture of Richard Neutra. The Building also has two office apartments (not accessible for this tour, but viewable via a QR code with video) offering insight into an early live/work, MFR, project by a master Modern architect.



City: San
Pedro

Cold War to Nature Preserve

9/13 | 10:30 to 12:00

Join us on Sat, Sept 13 at 1pm for a walking (approx. 1 mile) tour of the Preserve's restored coastal sage habitat and historic military structures..

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

A 1960s Nike missile assembly building now houses tide pool exhibits. The bunker tour reveals graffiti from soldiers awaiting Soviet nukes, while the restored coastal sage scrub habitat hides foundations of WWII artillery emplacements. Look for the 'ghost road' of paved-over gun mounts.

City: La
Puente
Valley

Bridges to Early San Gabriel Valley History: Workman & Rowland Estates

9/13 - 9/14 | Noon to 4 p.m.

Explore two brick landmarks from California's transition from Mexican to American rule. The 1842 Workman Adobe hides a tragic suicide room, while the 1855 Rowland House (southern CA's oldest brick structure) features ship masts repurposed as ceiling beams. Historians decode hidden symbols in the La Puente rancho's 50,000-acre history.

NEW THIS YEAR!

City: Ojai

Retirement Revolution: Grey Gables' Legacy

9/14 | 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

AARP founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus transformed this 1950s Ojai retreat into a model for active aging. See her original office with midcentury disability adaptations and the courtyard where retirees first danced to 'Rock Around the Clock.' The onsite historian shares never-before-seen photos of early member rallies.

NEW THIS YEAR!

City: Santa
Monica

Shotgun House: Santa Monica's Tiny Time Capsule

9/13 - 9/14

This 1897 worker's cottage - just 12 feet wide - showcases adaptive reuse at its best. Originally housing blacksmiths, it now displays artifacts from Santa Monica's 150-year history, including vintage surfboards and photos of the 'Looft Hippodrome' carousel. The backyard reveals original citrus trees from its farming days.

NEW THIS YEAR!

City: Santa
Monica

Hearst, Hollywood & Julia Morgan: Beach House Secrets

9/14

The Annenberg Beach House hides wild stories: Marion Davies' 110-guest parties, William Randolph Hearst's hidden tunnels, and Julia Morgan's pool designed for underwater film shoots. Docents share cocktail recipes from the 1920s and point out Morgan's clever drainage systems - still protecting the guesthouse from sea spray. Documentaries on Marion Davies and Julia Morgan will be viewable. The historic core is part of the present day Beach House, operated by the city of Santa Monica, and open to all. Back on the Beach Cafe, a quintessential beach cafe, is on site and a fantastic amenity for Open Doors visitors.

NEW THIS YEAR!



city: *Needles*

Route 66 Resurrection Tour

9/13 - 9/14

NEW THIS YEAR!

Journey through the Mojave's quirkiest preservation wins: a 1962 neon-lit truck stop turned artist colony, a Harvey House with its original Fred Harvey china, and Roy's Motel's Googie sign relit after 40 years. Guides share how NPS grants saved these icons - and where you can still get a vintage '66 burger.

This weekend event will showcase multiple restored, reused, and/or preservation-in-progress sites along the California Historic Route 66 Needles to Barstow National Scenic Byway. Attendees can take a guided motorcoach tour on Saturday and use their own cars on Sunday – visiting different properties each day, with speakers at each site. Participants can register for and attend one or both days' tours; each tour leaves from Barstow. If they wish, participants can stay at a group-rate hotel in Barstow on Friday and/or Saturday nights.

On Saturday, bus tour stops will include:

- Roy's (Amboy): An iconic motel / restaurant / gas station complex with a Googie style neon sign that has been restored and relit; a reopened gas station / gift shop; and plans for rehabbing and reopening the rest (with assistance from an NPS grant).
- Road Runner's Retreat (Chambless): A long-vacant, 1962 truck stop featuring a large neon sign. An example of grassroots, hands-on preservation that has received multiple NPS grants for its ongoing work.
- El Garces (Needles): A restored, partially adaptively reused, 1908 railroad station and Harvey House.
- Claypool Building (Needles): A 1930-2002 hardware store that spent decades with its Art Deco facade hidden by a metal slipcover. Now restored and reused as a community college's branch campus.

On Sunday, tour stops will include:

- Daggett: Multiple buildings reflecting the ghost town's era as a railroad stop and supply point. One, the 1926 California Information Bureau Building, received a 2024 NPS grant toward its rehabilitation and upcoming reuse as a museum. Several are on the National Register of Historic Places, including the 1890 Alf's Blacksmith Shop, designated in 2025; the architectural historian who authored that nomination (and two others in town) will speak.
- Newberry Springs: Legacy businesses that are seeking grants or undergoing other fundraising efforts for their rehabilitation
- Barstow: Casa Del Desierto, a 1911 train station / Harvey House hotel. Now adaptively reused with office space, two museums (open on Sunday), etc.

city: *Palos
Verdes
Estates*

Behind the Scenes in a Historic Seaside Library

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 10am to 4:30pm

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Myron Hunt's 1929 Mediterranean Revival landmark—flanked by an Olmsted Brothers-designed garden—was the Peninsula's first civic building. The reading room's hand-stenciled beams echo local kelp forests, while original leaded-glass windows cast dappled light onto terrazzo floors. Outside, the 'Moonlight Garden' blooms with night-scented cereus, a 1920s horticultural trend. The adjacent Malaga Cove Plaza (National Register-listed) features its iconic tile fountain, where early residents gathered after library lectures. Docents highlight Hunt's design quirks, like the study alcoves sized for ocean-view contemplation. Ask about the library's original 1929 card catalog—still intact—which lists titles like 'California Gardens' by Lockwood de Forest, reflecting the Peninsula's horticultural obsession.

city: *Piru*

Myth and Reality at *Ramona's* Real-Life Setting

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 1pm to 4pm

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

This 1853 rancho inspired Helen Hunt Jackson's 'Ramona' - see the chapel where the novel's wedding scene unfolded. The newly opened archives reveal photos of Mary Pickford filming here in 1910. Don't miss the 'Myth Wall' debunking Hollywood's Spanish fantasy vs. Californio reality.



City: *San Gabriel*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Mission San Gabriel: Rising from Ashes

9/13 | 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The 1771 mission's post-fire restoration reveals hidden layers - original Tongva pigments under whitewash, earthquake repairs using railroad ties. The garden's 'mission grapes' are descendants of Father Serra's plantings. New exhibits explain how the 2020 arson accelerated preservation tech. This special tour will be led by members of the restoration team.

City: *Newport Beach*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Richard Neutra's Healing Architecture at his Medical Office Complex

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 9A to 10A

This 20,000-square-foot medical office complex, designed by Richard Neutra in 1963, exemplifies his innovative approach to healthcare architecture. The building integrates outdoor gardens and water features with clinical spaces, reflecting Neutra's belief in nature's role in patient well-being. The 2023 restoration reinstated original design elements, including floor-to-ceiling windows and a central courtyard. Located in Newport Beach, the property is noted for its modular exam rooms and minimalist aesthetic. Tours highlight Neutra's use of industrial materials like steel and glass to create a serene, functional environment.

City: *Orange*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Artisans of Light: Historic Fixture Tour

(Original Title: Behind the Craft: Where Period-Perfect Lighting is Made)

Sat, Sept. 13th, 2024 | 8am to 2pm

Step inside Orange's premier lighting workshop, where artisans handcraft period-accurate fixtures for landmarks like the Gamble House and Union Station. Watch traditional metal-spinning and glass-blowing techniques recreate historical designs from original blueprints. See how 1920s patinas are replicated using century-old formulas. Tours at 8am, 10am, and 12pm (max 20 guests). Note: Factory has uneven surfaces.

City: *San Marino*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Adobe Resurrection: Michael White's Legacy

9/13

One of LA County's last 19th-century adobes, this 1870s San Marino treasure was saved from demolition by students. Its walls mix traditional tar with broken dishware for insulation. Preservationists will demonstrate adobe brick-making and share plans to turn it into a living history lab.

City: *South Pasadena*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Treasures Unlocked: South Pasadena's Attic

9/13 - 9/14

Housed in an 1886 train station, this museum displays quirky local history: Charlie Chaplin's forgotten cane, a gold-plated 'meteorite' hoax, and puppet heads from 1970s freeway protests. See the original 1903 photo of the Great Electric Train Race—a streetcar stunt that drew thousands—and blueprints for a 'ghost mansion' whose owner disappeared. Staff occasionally showcase fragments of Gilded Age staircases salvaged from demolished NYC mansions.

City: *Pasadena*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Prairie Style Secret: The Blinn House

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Chicago architect George Maher's only West Coast creation (1906) hides symbolism in every detail - from iris-motif stained glass (for owner Kate Blinn) to a fireplace inscribed with her favorite poem. Recently saved by Pasadena Heritage, the third-floor servants' quarters reveal early 20th-century domestic life.



city: San
Diego

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Villa Montezuma: Spiritualist's Palace

9/13 and/or 9/14 | 10:00 to 16:00

This 1887 Queen Anne Victorian, built for spiritualist pianist Jesse Shepard, features stained glass portraits of Mozart and St. Cecilia that cast colored light across its music room. The séance chamber's mirrored ceiling reflects candlelight—a dramatic touch for Shepard's alleged spirit communications. While guides share tales of midnight concerts, the museum emphasizes its documented history as a Gilded Age salon for artists and occultists.

city: Santa
Clara

NEW THIS YEAR!

Time Layers: 2,000 Years Under SCU

9/20 - 9/21

Santa Clara University's campus sits atop a Native American village, Mission-era walls, and 1850s college foundations. This rare tour showcases artifacts from ongoing digs - Ohlone tools, Spanish ceramics, and ROTC relics - stored in the 1888 Ricard Observatory. You may even get to see a 3D-printed replica of a Gold Rush-era pistol found near the Mission gardens!

city: Fremont

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Babies & Bunkhouses: Shinn Ranch's Untold Stories

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Psychologist Millicent Shinn's 1890s child studies (conducted here) revolutionized early education. See her notebooks documenting baby 'Joseph Jr.' - and the cook Fong Gan who spoiled him with sweets. The adjacent bunkhouse, one of the last 'China Camp' structures, reveals Chinese workers' roles in California horticulture.

city: Gilroy

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Gilroy's Attic: Forgotten Artifacts Unboxed

9/20 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rummage through the 1910 library-turned-museum's basement, where Ohlone arrowheads sit beside garlic festival memorabilia. Curators will demonstrate how they preserve 1800s wedding gowns and why a 'vampire killing kit' ended up in Gilroy. Look for the hidden vault with Prohibition-era stills.

city: Fremont

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Growing History: California's First Nursery

9/20 and/or 9/21

John Rock's 1884 experimental orchard supplied Hearst Castle's palms and WWII victory gardens. Today, the 'Old Adobe' hosts jam sessions under 150-year-old olives. Seek out the 'Mother Orange' tree - parent to 80% of California's citrus - and the test grove of failed avocado hybrids.

city: Fremont

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Blooms Through Time: Nursery Heritage Gardens

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Frances Roeding's 1930s 'show gardens' dazzled visitors with tulip carpets and rose mazes. Today, volunteers maintain her original designs, including a 'moon gate' framing Mount Hamilton. The packing shed's walls still bear chalkboards tracking shipments to Panama-Pacific Expo (1915) buyers.



city: San Jose

Two Eras Collide: Adobe to Victorian

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

San Jose's oldest building (1797) sits steps from Thomas Fallon's 1850s mansion - compare Mission-era adobe bricks with Victorian gas lighting. Kids can grind corn in the outdoor 'cocina,' while historians explain how the Fallons hosted Emperor Norton (SF's eccentric 'royalty').

city: Fremont

Patterson Family Secrets: 1857-1964

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Ardenwood Farm's 1857 mansion hides a Civil War draft dodger's crawl space and a 1920s 'icebox' converted for early penicillin storage. The tour includes attic access to view mourning dresses and the children's chalkboard where a young heir practiced his cattle brands.

city: Fremont

Time Travel at Ardenwood Farm

9/20 and/or 9/21

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Patterson House's architectural tour reveals why the 1850s 'Italianate' facade hides a 1910 Craftsman interior - follow the family's wealth through wallpaper layers. Bonus: The 'secret room' where the Pattersons hid Chinese workers during anti-immigrant raids.

city: Fremont

Film Detective: Saving Celluloid Ghosts

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Historian David Kiehn (who authenticated 'A Trip Down Market Street') shows how puddles, license plates, and shadows date forgotten films. Handle 1900s nitrate stock (safely!) and see his latest discovery - a 1912 circus parade with escaped tigers near City Hall.

city: Fremont

Fremont's First Family of Flowers

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

The 1876 Shinn House showcases Victorian horticulture - check the parlor's 'plant windows' for propagating rare camellias. The bunkhouse displays Chinese workers' ledgers listing wages paid in opium (legal until 1909). Don't miss the 150-year-old cork oak - California's oldest.

city: Redlands

Redlands Renaissance: Preservation in Action

Sat, Sept. 20 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Explore downtown Redlands' adaptive reuse success stories, which includes such exemplary projects as the 1908 Barton School (now offices) and Fox Theater's Art Deco revival. Learn preservation tools like tax incentives that created microbreweries in historic spaces. Includes access to a 1920s bank vault becoming a speakeasy. Conclude with networking in a century-old orange packing warehouse.



City: Virtual

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Digital Preservation Lab: IE Heritage Strategies

Thu, Sept. 20 | 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This virtual symposium addresses Inland Empire preservation challenges: adobe conservation in arid climates, repurposing Route 66 motels, and funding Mission-era structures. Case studies will include successful commercial-to-adaptive reuse conversions and midcentury housing rehabilitations using state tax incentives. Learn how stakeholders navigated zoning challenges while preserving character-defining features..

City: San Luis
Obispo

NEW THIS YEAR!

Sip & Stroll: Art and Wine at Julia Morgan's Monday Club

9/13 - 9/14 | 11:00 to 4:00

Step inside a 1930s Julia Morgan-designed landmark, where SLO County wines meet local artistry. The Monday Club's historic clubhouse - a rare Central Coast project by California's first licensed female architect - hosts rotating exhibitions by its talented members. Sip regional vintages beneath vaulted ceilings and original woodwork, then explore gardens planted with drought-resistant natives. Morgan's signature blend of Craftsman and Mission Revival styles shines here, just blocks from Mission San Luis Obispo.

City:
Atascadero

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Feminist Press: Atascadero's Printery Revolution

9/20 | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The 1915 Women's Press Building was the West's largest rotogravure press, printing suffrage magazines and LA Times inserts. Founder Mabel Lewis envisioned a utopia where women owned property. Today, restorers are piecing together Ralph Holmes' murals of pioneering women. The Italian Renaissance building's terracotta details hide symbols of equality, and the basement preserves original 'Linotype Lucy' machines. Recent discoveries include 1910s printer's proofs for suffrage materials hidden in wall cavities, along with ink stains from producing women's rights publications.

City: San Luis
obispo

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

SLO's Secret Stash: Artifact Warehouse

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 1:00 to 4:00

Peek behind the scenes at San Luis Obispo's collection of 50,000+ objects - from Chumash grinding stones to 1920s surfboards. Conservators will demonstrate how they stabilize adobe bricks and why that 'ordinary' lunchbox is actually a rare WWII civil defense relic.

City: San Luis
Obispo

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Dallidet's Oasis: 170 Years of Family

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 12:00 to 4:00

San Luis Obispo's oldest private adobe (1850s) has been home to just two families. The gardens - with original grapevines from French settler Pierre Dallidet - supplied wine to Mission San Luis Obispo. Look for the hidden 'temescal' sweat lodge used by Indigenous workers.

City: San Luis
Obispo

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Unsung Heroes: WWII Filipino USO Club

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

San Luis Obispo's 1940s USO club - one of three segregated venues (Black, White, Filipino) - hosted dances for 10,000+ Filipino servicemen. The exhibit features restored jukeboxes, a 'Victory Garden' recipe book, and oral histories of farmworkers turned soldiers.



city: *Salinas*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Boronda Adobe's Rancho Fiesta

9/27 | 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The staff and docents will provide guided tours of the 1844-46 Jos   Eusebio Boronda Adobe. Our tours will be presented in English and Spanish for our "Rancho Days celebration" of that weekend. Our tour guides will be costumed as reenactors for the period of significance, and guests will be provided tours of the newly opened Gumper-Castro Library, which includes the integration of vintage Victorian architectural elements and a treasure trove of books on early California history and culture. Finally, smaller groups will be provided a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archival Vaults of the Monterey County Historical Society featuring the Spanish & Mexican Archives spanning the period from 1770 through 1856 and the Archaeology Vault with its collections predating European contact on the central California coast and Monterey Bay. Finally, guests will be provided refreshments consisting of Mexican and early California-themed chocolate and soups of the period.

city: *San Luis
Obispo*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Chumash Engineering Marvels

9/20 and/or 9/21

Two 1801 adobes built by Indigenous laborers incorporate a still-functioning aqueduct system. The garden's 'three sisters' crops (corn/beans/squash) honor the original Tongva farmers. Legend has it that the walls have bullet holes from bandit Pio Linares' 1858 shootout with vigilantes.

city: *San Luis
Obispo*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Julia Morgan's Sisterhood

9/20 | 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Morgan's only Central Coast women's club celebrates 100 years with tours of her 'reverse floor plan' (kitchen upstairs!) and a documentary about members who smuggled suffrage pamphlets in piano benches. The garden's 'prohibition roses' still bloom where they hid wine during raids.

city: *Oakland*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Chinatown Stories: Oakland's Legacy of Belonging

9/20 | 2pm to 5pm

From the 1850s to today, Oakland's Chinatown has been a haven for immigrants. Start at the Chinese American Citizens Alliance lodge (established 1915), where vintage photos honor early leaders. Then, join a dim sum-fueled walking tour to meet shopkeepers and see murals celebrating resilience. Don't miss the alleyways lined with herbalists and bakeries - a living archive of community.

city: *Oakland*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Black Panther Women: A Mural's Radical Tribute

9/20 - 9/21

Jilchristina Vest's mini-museum and mural - painted on her home - spotlights the Black Panther Party's unsung heroines. Inspired by activist Ericka Huggins, the artwork depicts women who ran free clinics and breakfast programs. Inside, artifacts include protest signs and oral histories. Located near the Panthers' original headquarters, this grassroots space challenges systemic erasure.

City:
Petaluma

NEW THIS YEAR!

Riverfront Time Capsule: Petaluma's Victorian Secrets

9/20 | 10:30 to 12:00

Costumed docents reveal flamboyant 19th-century architecture in California's best-preserved river port. Learn how Petaluma's 1900s 'Egg Capital' wealth built ornate cornices and why the Mystic Theatre's ceiling hides a secret ballroom. The tour passes the 1914 McNear Building—Petaluma's former feed store with its iconic pressed-tin ceiling. While interior visits require special events, docents share tales of its grain elevator mechanics and role in California's poultry boom, where sailors once gambled beneath Tiffany-style skylights.



*City: San
Francisco*

NEW THIS YEAR!

San Francisco's Lost Arts & Crafts Chapel 9/20

Tucked near Twin Peaks, Reverend Worcester's 1870s chapel sparked California's Arts & Crafts movement. The redwood sanctuary - with hand-hammered copper lanterns and John Muir's favorite pew - influenced Julia Morgan and Bernard Maybeck. Docents explain how its 'Parkitecture' style inspired Yosemite's lodges and the Spanish Revival craze.

*City:
Healdsburg*

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Warnecke's Blueprint Vault: JFK to Hawaii 9/20 | 10:00am to 4:00pm

Dive into architect John Carl Warnecke's archives, featuring the original Eternal Flame sketches for JFK's grave and the Hawaii State Capitol's model. Handle 1960s drafting tools and see how his firm shaped Cold War-era D.C. The ranch's 'idea barn' displays never-built projects, including a floating White House.

City: Berkeley

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Maybeck's Forest Church: A Spiritual Experiment 9/20 | Tour 1 @ 9:30 am, Tour 2 @ 11:30 am to 1:00 PM

Berkeley's 1910 National Historic Landmark blends Gothic arches with redwood trunks. Maybeck designed the pews to face the garden ('God's first cathedral') and used industrial steel to create a 'floating' ceiling. The rose window's glass was salvaged from the 1906 earthquake - spot the subtle cracks.

*City:
Guerneville*

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Pond Farm Pottery: Bauhaus in the Redwoods 9/20

Explore Pond Farm, the Guerneville arts colony where Bauhaus master Marguerite Wildenhain taught ceramics from 1949-1980. Tour her hand-built studio and wood-fired kiln, nestled among redwoods in Austin Creek State Recreation Area. See where students like Robert Arneson learned Wildenhain's philosophy: 'The pot is a meditation.' Docents demonstrate her signature throwing techniques using local clay, while original tools display her mantra: 'No short cuts!' The outdoor classroom—with stumps for wheels—reveals how she blended European modernism with California craft. Now preserved by State Parks, the site includes her 'Moonlight Pond' glaze-testing spot and student cabins. Handle stoneware shards (with gloves) and learn why Wildenhain rejected mass production, insisting 'A pot must be true to itself.

City: Berkeley

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Julia Morgan's Berkeley City Club 9/20 and/or 9/21 | 10:00 to 16:00

The 'Little Castle' (1930) features a steel-reinforced concrete ceiling disguised as wood beams and a tiled pool where women once swam in stockings. Docents share gossip about the 4,000-member women's club, from secret suffragette meetings to Marlene Dietrich's legendary cocktail mishap.

*City: San
Francisco*

**RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER**

Richmond District Time Machine 9/20 and/or 9/21 | 4:30pm to 5:30pm

This surprise mystery courtesy of the Western Neighborhoods Project will be revealed as we get closer to the date. Be sure to register for updates!



City: *Glen
Ellen*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Sonoma's Secret City: 130 Years of Care

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 9am First Tour 10 am Second Tour to 10 to 11

This 1,100-acre campus mixes 1880s cottages with 1960s 'therapeutic' pools. Explore the fire station built by patients and the orchard where Luther Burbank tested plums. The cemetery's unmarked graves spark discussions about disability rights - tours include former staff sharing untold stories.

City: *Orinda*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Choo-Choo Time Machine: Redwood Valley Railway

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 11am to 6pm

Climb aboard 1/3-scale steam trains based on 1920s North Coast lines. Engineers explain how these miniatures use real coal and why the 'Dinky' was California's most hated train. Kids can try the 1900s handcar - it takes 4 people to power it!

City: *San
Francisco*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Treasure Island's Time Capsule

9/20 and/or 9/21 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The GGIE's last standing building was a Pan Am terminal with a map floor showing clipper routes. Now a museum, it displays fair souvenirs like 'Futurama' ride parts and Navy artifacts (including a kamikaze-damaged ship model). Rooftop tours highlight Bay Bridge changes.

City: *Mariposa*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Gold Rush Relic: The Canepa House & Pendula Store

9/20

This 1850s adobe and adjoining storefront - part of Mariposa's historic district - tell the story of Gold Rush-era resilience. Saved from decay by a devoted owner (who recently invested \$5K in clearing overgrowth), the property's thick walls and rustic timbers whisper of miners, merchants, and Mariposa's boomtown past. Peek into the Pendula Store, once a hub for prospectors, and learn about the ongoing push for landmark status.

City: *Fiddletown*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Gold Rush in Rammed Earth: Chew Kee Store

9/20 | 12pm to 4pm

Fiddletown's 1850s Chinese herb shop looks frozen in time - dried sea horses still hang above the counter, and herbal remedy labels flutter in the draft. Descendants of the last resident, Jim Chow, share stories of gambling dens and the 'doctor' who cured miners with bear gallbladder.

City: *Fiddletown*

RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER

Fiddletown Gold Rush Jamboree

9/20 | 12n to 4pm

Twang to live bluegrass in a 1850s gold camp where the Chew Kee Store's rammed earth walls keep temps perfect year-round. Blacksmith demos, frontier skits, and pie contests make this the Sierra foothills' most authentic throwback. Don't miss the 'Eureka!' gold panning station.



*City: Forest
City*

*RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER*

Gold Rush Boogie: Forest City Dance Hall

9/6 and/or 9/7 | 12 noon to 4:00 PM

Sierra County's last standing 1870s dance hall still has its original spring-loaded floor (for all-night waltzes) and graffiti from miners who paid \$1 per dance. The museum displays 'hurdy-gurdy girl' contracts and a shotgun used to settle disputes over claim jumpers.

*City:
Alleghany*

*RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER*

Alleghany's Gold Rush Theater

9/6 and/or 9/7 | 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The 1930s theater - usually locked - opens to reveal hand-painted scenery flats and a projection booth with original carbon-arc lamps. Locals will share tales of mining town premieres where the Sixteen to One Mine workers traded gold nuggets for popcorn.

City: Truckee

*RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER*

Outlaw Jail: Truckee's Steel Fortress

9/6 and/or 9/7 | 10:00 to 16:00

The 1875 stone jail added railroad track ceilings after an 1904 escape. See 'Baby Face' Nelson's graffiti and the 'drunk tank' with a 500-lb door. New exhibits explain how the 1964 closure coincided with the Winter Olympics - and the town's last public hanging.

City: Redding

NEW THIS YEAR!

Hidden Gem: Lim's Cafe's Untold Stories

9/13

Discover Redding's best-kept secret - a historic cafe serving the Sierra Nevada foothills since the mid-20th century. While the original owners' recipes remain a mystery, the building's neon sign and checkerboard floors evoke Route 66 nostalgia. Local historians will share tales of loggers and miners who fueled up here during California's timber boom.

*City:
Bridgeport*

NEW THIS YEAR!

Ghost Town Alive: Bodie's Arrested Decay

9/20 - 9/21

Wander Bodie's frozen-in-time streets, where 8,000 gold seekers once roamed. A 1932 fire spared only 10% of this 1870s boomtown, leaving saloons stocked with whiskey and schools with chalkboards intact. Rangers explain 'arrested decay' preservation - peek into the mill where ore was crushed, and spot bullet holes in the jail's walls.

City: Red Bluff

*RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER*

Chinatown Footsteps: A Family's Journey

9/6, 9/7, 9/20, OR 9/21 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Walk with fourth-generation descendants through Red Bluff's forgotten Chinatown, where their ancestors ran laundries in 1865. The tour ends at Oak Hill Cemetery with traditional Qing dynasty mourning rites. Participants receive replica 19th-century 'certificates of residence' - papers Chinese immigrants were forced to carry.



*city: Sierra
City*

*RETURNING
DOORS OPEN
PARTNER*

Sierra City's Gold Stamp Mill
9/6 and/or 9/7

The 1888 mill's 10-stamp batteries still crush ore monthly - stand close to feel the floor shake! Guides demonstrate how mercury extracted gold (and poisoned miners), while the assay office displays Loeffler family photos - including Adolph, killed in a 1944 mine explosion.