

The California Preservation Foundation Board of Trustees Announces the 2026 Slate of Nominees

The California Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026 slate of nominees for election to its Board of Trustees. The election will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Riverside Convention Center. In developing this slate of candidates, the Board Development Committee sought to achieve a good balance of incumbent and new Board members, and to focus on our overall objective of bringing people onto the Board who represent those we serve and have energy, ideas, passion, and time to commit to the Board of Trustees.

The slate of nominees is:

First 3-year term

Kelsey Kaline (San Diego). Kelsey is an architectural historian and urban planner whose work connects historic preservation, urban planning, and community resilience. She meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR 61) and brings both technical expertise and a forward-looking perspective on heritage's role in California communities. She holds dual master's degrees in Urban Planning and Heritage Conservation from the University of Southern California, where her thesis examined heritage as a tool for urban resilience, and a bachelor's degree in Sustainable Development from Vanderbilt University.

As a Long-Range Planner for the City of San Diego, she manages historic surveys and context statements, supports historic district creation, contributes to community plan updates, and engages in policy and resilience planning. She previously consulted on local, state, and national preservation projects, including Section 106 and 4(f) compliance. Her CPF involvement began as a 2018 scholarship recipient and continued through conferences, student presentations, and the award-winning Balboa Park Botanical Building project. She also brings nonprofit leadership experience with the Junior League of San Diego, AIA San Diego, and the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

Alice Valania (Sacramento). Alice has over 20 years of experience rehabilitating and modernizing California's historic landmarks, balancing efficiency with respect for the historic fabric and context of each site. She has successfully delivered projects across diverse delivery methods, ensuring client satisfaction while meeting regulatory requirements. Alice holds a Master of Historic Preservation and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Southern California, as well as a Master of Theological Studies from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and participated in a study abroad program at Universiti Malaya/USC in Kuala Lumpur.

She has served on the Highland Park HPOZ Board and the City of Sacramento Preservation Commission, assisting property owners and policymakers in developing strategies for growth within historic districts. Alice has been engaged with CPF for many years, speaking at the 2024 Bootcamp, supporting Sacramento Conference planning, and leading the Bateson Building study tour. She also brings nonprofit and governance experience from Sacramento Heritage, Inc., Society of Architectural Historians (SoCal Chapter), and accreditation work with USC. Her expertise in preservation, planning, architectural design, and stakeholder collaboration make her a strong contributor to CPF's Board of Trustees.

Second 3-year term

Gretchen Hilyard Boyce (Colfax). Gretchen is the founder of Groundwork Planning & Preservation, a consulting practice that holistically evaluates historic places utilizing the cultural landscape approach. With over 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors, Gretchen applies solutions-oriented approach to help clients adapt historic resources while protecting their cultural value. Since moving to California in 2007, Gretchen has guided her clients through some of California's largest planning projects including the redesign of the California State Capitol, India Basin Shoreline Park, San Francisco's Better Market Street, cultural landscape evaluations for Yosemite National Park, and hundreds of local planning projects. Gretchen previously held positions at the National Park Service, San Francisco Planning Department, and private consulting firms before starting her own practice in 2021.

Gretchen has evaluated historic resources for federal, state, and local agencies and was a co-author of the National Park Service's *Professional Procedures Guide for the Preparation of Cultural Landscape Inventories*.

Gretchen received a B.A. in architectural history from the University of Virginia and an M.S. in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has earned regional awards, she has taught adult continuing education courses in historic preservation and cultural landscapes, and has spoken widely at professional conferences and trainings. Gretchen has served as a volunteer with CPF since 2010. She is also a beekeeper, fiber artist, and gardener living in Placer County, California.

Matthew Worster, P.E. (Oakland). Matt Worster has more than 20 years of experience in investigation, design, and construction phase consulting of building enclosure components on both historic and contemporary structures. Based in the Oakland office of Simpson Gumpertz and Heger, he assists owners, designers, and builders with the entire building enclosure, including below-grade waterproofing, traditional and modern roofing, and wall claddings from terra cotta to titanium. Although a majority of his projects are in California, Matt also concentrates on colder climate projects in the Rockies. Matt holds an advanced degree specializing in structural materials, and he enjoys presenting his work to a variety of audiences. Recent projects with a preservation interest include the CPF award-winning SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, the CPF award-winning State Library and Courts Building, the Jesse Unruh State Office Building, and the Bateson State Office Building, all in Sacramento.