



'Experience' Is the Walk of the Town

By Andy Lippman
The Review

An idea gleaned at a convention in Columbus, Ohio, has taken root in South Pasadena, where both the city manager's office and Chamber of Commerce report that they are seeing good results from the new "Experience South Pasadena" program.

Mary Jerejian, management analyst in the city manager's office, said she was invited to go to the convention last year and saw all the ways that Columbus was showcasing itself.

"They had created tons of material for visitors, and I thought we could do some of these in South Pasadena," Jerejian said.

"We loved the idea," said Nichole Clark, communications manager at the Chamber of Commerce, which is working with the city manager's office on the program.

The idea was to come up with themes which might encourage people to take a walking tour of local businesses or places in South Pasadena.



Photo courtesy South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce CEO Laurie Wheeler (left) and Chamber ambassador Wende Lee enjoy a meal on a tour stop at Rice & Nori restaurant.

The first themes, which are "Around the World in South Pasadena" and the "Library Arts Trail" have been going since June 1 and continue through July 31.

Clark said that as of July 1, there have been 42 responses from people who scanned the QR code on the poster for the "Around The World" and for the "Library Arts Trail" tours. That may not be a true reflection of how many people have taken the

walking tours because some people have done them without scanning a code, which is on posters in front of the businesses or the library.

"Mary (Jerejian) mentioned a few months ago that she was working on a walking tour program for the city and wanted to somehow incorporate local landmarks and historic locations in the tours," said

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City Discusses Removing Racist Covenants

By Gavin J. Quinton
The Review

The South Pasadena City Council is discussing the best path forward in its pledge to locate and remove racially restrictive language from city-owned property deeds.

On Feb. 2, the City Council voted to condemn the city's history as a "sundown town," acknowledging its past practices of institutionalized racism. As part of that effort, the city committed to removing racially restrictive covenants from city-owned properties, which historically have contributed to the process of racial redlining in South Pasadena, according to the city.

There are 65 parcels that can be addressed in this effort, though city planning staff acknowledged in a City Council meeting on June

21 that the process may be more difficult than they projected when they made plans for the process in the city's housing element.

"At the time that the commitment was made and included in the housing element, I don't think that staff was aware of the level research and time involved in locating recorded documents that contain racially restrictive language," said Senior Planner Leah Demarest.

Instead, planning staff reached the conclusion that bringing in a third party to take on the task would be the best use of the city's staffing resources.

"We have realized this will require hiring a title company to do a very extensive title search and provide conditions of title guarantees which identify CC&Rs which

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Arroyo Seco Stables House a Storied History



Harley resides at the stables, which is home sweet home for 52 horses.



Caty Fragosa volunteers at Arroyo Seco Stables, working with horses such as Dulcinea. The stables have been family owned and operated since the early 1900s.

By Haley Sawyer
The Review

Fifty-two horses are humbly tucked into a corner of South Pasadena at Arroyo Seco Stables, a place where Briar Corder both feels the past and sees the future.

"My grandmother gave me a horse named Sundance when I was 4 years old," Corder recalled. "She told me he was mine; he wasn't actually mine but it didn't matter. My feet didn't even go past the edge of the flaps of the saddle and it was

amazing to be connected to a horse at such a young age."

Corder now owns Arroyo Seco Stables, one of the oldest and storied businesses in South Pasadena and she's helping riders of all kinds allow themselves to feel what she felt when she stretched her feet down to the edge of the saddle as a kid.

The staff at the stables works to make horses accessible to anyone who wants to ride or make a connection with an animal. Fees to board a horse are less than other barns around Los Angeles and lessons are kept affordable, too.

"It's always seen as ... an old money sport and I'm trying to change that a little bit," said trainer Isabel Simpson-Kirsch, who has been giving lessons at Arroyo Seco Stables for roughly a year.

Simpson-Kirsch is one of the newest additions to the stables since Corder took over three years ago. Other changes in recent years include a website and lots of outreach to the community on social media pages, although Simpson-Kirsch said that word-of-mouth promotion has also helped them gain clientele.

In a more physical sense, there

are new boards on barns and a new metal roof on a stable. A new plastic waterline to keep water for the horses cool has been installed, too.

Miguel Gonzalez, one of the longest-tenured employees, oversaw most of those changes. In his 35 years with Arroyo Seco Stables, he's now worked under Corder, her father, Terry Williams, and her grandmother, Margaret Williams. Although the work can be demanding, Gonzalez says it's worth it.

"I love the horses, I love animals. This is like therapy for me," Gonzalez said. "I prefer not to work in

a restaurant and things like that; that's kind of jail for me. This is like, I'm out of jail. I'm free. I'm like a bird. That's why I've been here for so long."

Like other staff members and volunteers at the stables, Gonzalez has a horse that he mostly rides on trails in the area and shows off in local parades. The intimate, emotional connection shared with a horse makes all the effort of riding and caring for the animals seem automatic.

"Learning how to ride horses

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Supervisors Vote to Expand San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted this week to support a motion Supervisor Kathryn Barger introduced in support of a congressional bill by Rep. Judy Chu to expand and preserve the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

"The San Gabriel Mountains are an asset in the 5th District that merit permanent protection so that the public can continue to connect with nature and access the respite it offers us all," Barger said in a statement. "In my district alone, the Public Lands Act would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by over 100,000 acres — a big feat."

This monument designation has been instrumental in pre-



Support to expand and preserve the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument received an added boost with the L.A. County Supervisors' unanimous vote of support this week for Rep. Judy Chu's bill, HR 3681. The national monument was established by President Barack Obama in 2014.

serving a diverse range of wildlife and ecosystems. Notably, it encompasses four wilderness areas — Magic Mountain, Pleasant

View Ridge, San Gabriel and Sheep Mountain — and showcases unique geological features. The San Gabriel Mountains also

serve as a vital water source, providing critical drinking water for humans, as well as sustaining native fish, animals, plants and essential habitats.

Two weeks ago, Barger joined Chu, Rep. Tony Cardenas, Sen. Alex Padilla, state Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo, Nature for All and many local community leaders to announce a federal legislative strategy to permanently protect the San Gabriel Mountains and expand the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

"By officially adding Los Angeles County's support today, we are showing our solidarity. Preserving these special lands for future generations is important to me," Barger said.