SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Supporting organizations provide the Department with volunteers, sponsor fund raising activities, cultural and educational events, and support the Department in improving each of the gardens with funding for capital projects, services, and supplies. The California Arboretum Foundation is the supporting foundation for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

California Arboretum Foundation

The major accomplishment during this reporting period was the completion and dedication of the new Hall of Environmental Education. This 10,000square-foot building provides the badly needed indoor space to house major flower shows, exhibitions, and fund raising events. A fully equipped kitchen is included in the Hall. The Hall was constructed with funds raised by the California Arboretum Foundation and donated to the County of Los Angeles.

The Foundation donates approximately \$50,000 per year for equipment, supplies, and repairs in the operation of the garden. In addition, the volunteers donated over 60,000 hours to special events, garden maintenance, and services to the public provided through the Arboretum.

As of June 30, 1981, the Foundation membership totaled 3,300. Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes, the volunteer group of the Foundation, has an active membership of 309.

Fund raising events for the two years included the Baldwin Bonanza and the Queen Anne Frolic. The annual Baldwin Bonanza plant sales were held the first weekend in May. Net proceeds from the two plant sales were in excess of \$80,000. The Queen Anne Frolic, an open house of the historical area, provided an evening of entertainment and netted proceeds over \$17,000. The event is held biennially.

Other Foundation activities included the operation of the gift shop, summer picnic concerts, open house at the Santa Anita Depot, and the Fall Garden Fair.

Descanso Gardens Guild

Descanso Gardens Guild is the non-profit organization dedicated to serving Descanso Gardens.

Membership in this organization was 1,300 as of June 30, 1981.

The Guild's primary objective has been the raising of funds for a new multi-purpose hall and entranceway complex. Building for the new complex is planned to start shortly in the coming fiscal year. The total amount raised was \$888,532.00.

The Guild donates approximately \$15,000 per year towards the operating expenses, supplies, plant materials, repairs to equipment, and purchasing of new equipment and tools.

Over 35,000 hours of volunteer work was also contributed in aiding the garden from propagating plants to conducting tours, operating the gift shop, and sponsoring fund raising events.

Major Guild events included summer concerts, Paseo por Descanso walks, plant sale, arts and crafts festival, and a Christmas show.

South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

Organized in 1961, the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation assisted the Department in developing a new botanic garden over a landfill that was once a diatomaceous earth mine.

During this reporting period the Foundation provided the funds, through donations and grants, for the Cliff Graham Shade Garden, the Charles Wiley Garden, and a new gift shop from funds provided by an ARCO grant.

The Foundation allocates approximately \$12,000 per year toward the garden for supplies, tools, and repairs to equipment, including the tram. An additional amount of \$10,000 was paid to the county towards the building fund that was used to construct the administrative public services center.

The active volunteer group donated over 22,000 hours to help with the maintenance of the gardens.

The Foundation sponsored an annual plant sale and operated a gift shop for fund raising. Other cultural activities included the annual Christmas show, Sunday afternoon lectures, walks, adult workshops and classes through Harbor Community College, and cosponsorship of many flower shows.



1961. "Supporting organizations." *Biennial report* 1979-81, 21–23.

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