

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

California Arboretum Foundation

Introduction

The California Arboretum Foundation was duly incorporated in 1948 as a non-profit foundation to sub-lease the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum from the County and to administer the fledgling garden. The Foundation was originally responsible for providing personnel, maintenance and plant material. In 1953 the Foundation relinquished direct management of the facility to Los Angeles County which established the new Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. The Foundation continues to this day as the private support organization for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Membership

During the biennium membership in the Foundation remained steady at approximately 4,000 individuals, garden clubs and other horticultural organizations.

In 1988-89, a new membership group, Arboretum Associates was designed for the business community to encourage support from the corporate sector. The Foundation placed a high priority on increasing corporate memberships.

The Foundation installed a new membership software package in 1989. This software, Raiser's Edge, provides sophistication in tracking contributions, designing reports and communication with specific groups within the membership base.

Total contributions from the Foundation membership program were \$192,543 in 1988-89 and \$187,221 in 1989-90.

Special Projects Revenue

	<u>1988-89</u>	<u>1989-90</u>
A. Garden Show	\$ 121,549	\$ 97,803
Preview Party	19,805	24,960
B. Queen Anne Open House	656	880
C. Weddings	35,148	12,777

Community Service Awards

In 1990, the Foundation President, Mrs. Alice Frost Thomas, received the Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Los Angeles County in recognition of her outstanding support of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. She was also named recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in the Fine Arts and Humanities category by the County.

Grants

A. The Arboretum Masterplan Campaign has benefited from generous contributions from many foundations and individuals during the past two years. California Arboretum Foundation Trustees set the pace with gifts and pledges of nearly \$110,000.

Grants	Grants
<u>1988/89</u>	<u>1989/90</u>
\$ 210,235	\$ 99,685

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, Master Plan projects started or completed during this biennium included the Blanche Hinman Garland Orchid Greenhouse, The Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden and the Bog Garden and Weep Wall. Work also began on renovation and expansion of the Peacock Cafe.

While one major donor to the Master Plan projects requested anonymity, other major donors included:

J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Foundation
Santa Anita Foundation
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

B. The State of California provided a grant to continue the **Air Quality Control Demonstration Greenhouse**. Supervision was provided by the Arboretum staff. The grant paid for staffing and operating costs. Grant funding during the biennium was \$39,996 in 1988-89, and \$40,811 in 1989-90.

C. The Fletcher Jones Foundation provided funding (1988-89, \$10,000; 1989-90, \$20,000) for automation of the Foundation office and for an analysis of the Arboretum Education Program.

D. ARCO Foundation contributed \$25,000 in 1988-89 to fund the first of a two-year pilot program to establish a Volunteer Coordinator position for the Arboretum with the objective of improving management, recruitment and training for volunteers.

E. Internship program

The internship program provided a superb educational opportunity for college students while also meeting staff needs during one of the Arboretum's busiest seasons. Funding provided by the Foundation in 1988-90 was \$57,857, and in 1989-90 \$49,708.

Descanso Gardens Guild

Introduction

The Descanso Gardens Guild was formally incorporated in February 1960, following several years of informal activity during which the founding members were instrumental in convincing the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to preserve the old Manchester Boddy Estate, now Descanso Gardens, as a botanic garden for the enjoyment of the citizens of Los Angeles County. The Guild continues as the private non-profit support organization for the enrichment of Descanso Gardens.

Membership

Because of a very concerted drive, membership in the Descanso Gardens Guild increased from 3,707 in 1988-89 to 4,081 in 1989-90. This same growth was reflected in the volunteer effort which increased from 44,905 hours in 1988-89 to 55,967 hours in 1989-90.

Volunteer Programs: 1988-89--1989-90

The volunteers of the Descanso Gardens Guild are primarily responsible for what is termed "program enrichment" at the Gardens. These are programs which are not funded through the County but which add to the educational and recreational enjoyment of visitors to Descanso Gardens. During the biennium such activities have included:

1. Providing hostesses for the art gallery in the Hospitality House.
2. Conducting the month-long Christmas Show at the Gardens during December each year.
3. Staffing a speakers bureau which provides twice-weekly slide presentations and lectures at the Gardens.
4. Conducts organized school tours for over 6,000 students per year on such subjects as: pond ecology, how plants grow, native plants, critters of Descanso, Indian uses of plants, trail techniques, forest environment, bird identification and early California ranchero days



1961. "California Arboretum Foundation." *Biennial report* 1988-90, 16–18.

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