

# California, Uniquely Diverse

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

California State Parks is the steward of historical collections that have been developed over the past 130 years. The Statewide Museum Collections Center serves the Department's goals of preservation and access to the cultural resources held in trust for the people of California. The Center provides an optimal preservation environment for the Department's statewide collections and artifacts from parks throughout the statewide system.



*To archaeologists, the human past is owned by no one. It represents the cultural heritage of everyone who has ever lived on Earth or will live on it in the future. Archaeology puts all human societies on an equal footing.*

**BRIAN FAGAN,  
ARCHAEOLOGIST  
AND AUTHOR, 1996**



### THE FACILITY

The Statewide Museum Collections Center is a state of the art, LEED Silver certified building designed to house the State's cultural heritage collections. The concrete construction of the former military warehouse provides a self-regulating passive environment that reduces energy consumption while extending the life of the objects.



CALIFORNIA  
STATEWIDE  
**MUSEUM  
COLLECTIONS  
CENTER**

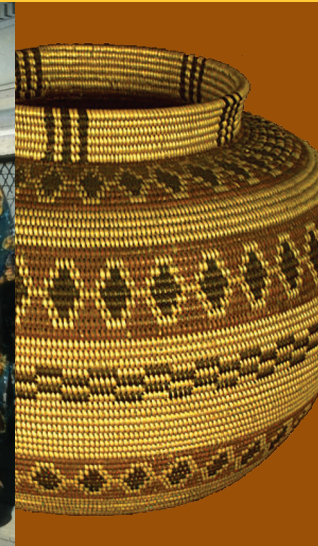
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[www.parks.ca.gov/collectionscenter](http://www.parks.ca.gov/collectionscenter)



The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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## THE COLLECTIONS

### Archaeology

Archaeology pulls back the layers of time, allowing us to better understand the complexity of past human activity and experiences. The Center's archaeological collections help tell the stories of original inhabitants, exploration and the settlement of varied cultures from across the globe. In the Center's archaeology laboratory, State Archaeologists study specimens and data gathered from sites throughout the State Parks system.

### History

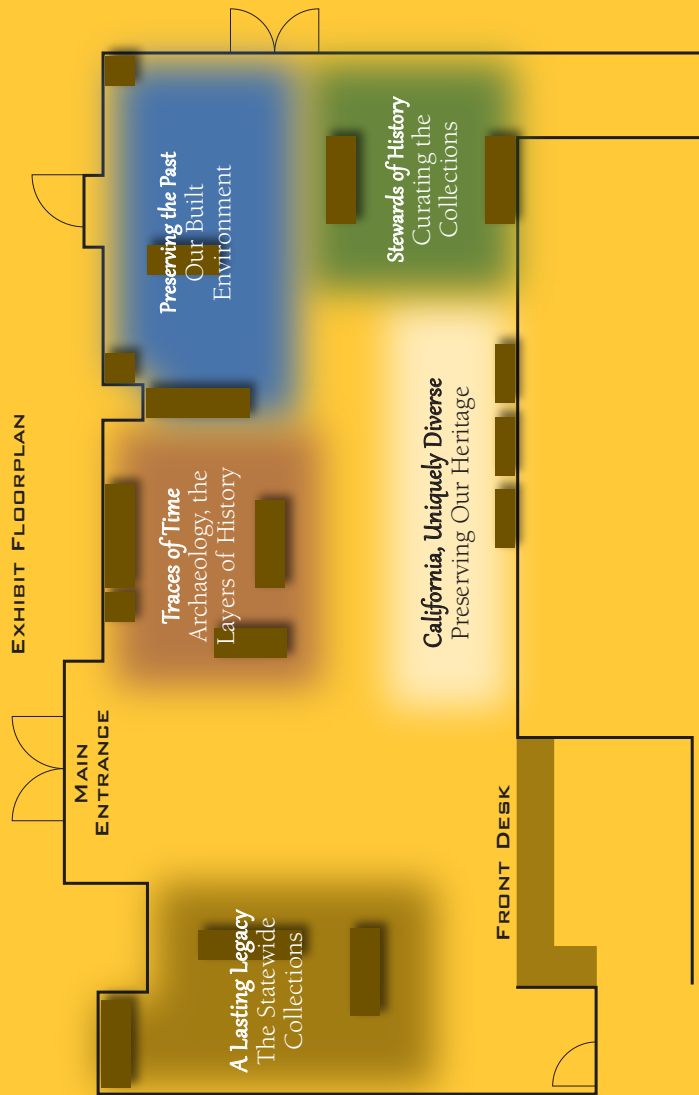
California's built environment tells a richly diverse story of settlers from around the world. These resources connect us to a shared heritage of cultures colliding, merging and evolving. State Historians use the Center's architectural artifacts, photographs and documentary materials in their research on historic structures and landscapes which offer valuable evidence of the lives and customs of earlier generations of Californians.

### Museums

The Center houses a vast collection of museum objects illustrating the story of California's rich heritage, assembled over the years. Though many of our most important historical artifacts are featured in our museums throughout the state, when collections are not on display, they are often transferred to the Center. The work of Curators, Archivists, and Collections Managers entails processing, preserving and documenting California's largest collection of artifacts, documentary materials, and photographs.

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*The past is not the property of historians; it is a public possession.  
It belongs to anyone who is aware of it, and it grows by being shared.  
It sustains the whole society, which always needs the identity  
that only the past can give.*

DR. WALTER HAVIGHURST, WITH HERITAGE SO RICH, 1966

### PUBLIC HOURS

The Statewide Museum Collections Center exhibit area is open to the public, Tuesday through Friday, 1 – 4 pm, except major holidays. Admission is free.

### MUSEUM EXHIBIT

*California, Uniquely Diverse: Preserving our Heritage* - the Center's inaugural exhibit - explores the origins and breadth of State Parks collections and the work performed by the cultural specialists who care for them.

### TOURS

#### TOUR RESERVATIONS:

[SMCC.TOURS@PARKS.CA.GOV](mailto:SMCC.TOURS@PARKS.CA.GOV)

The Center is a working collections management facility and its "open storage" concept allows tour participants to go behind the scenes for a close-up look at the diversity of materials acquired by cultural specialists throughout the state and how these historic objects are stored and preserved. Tours require more than half a mile of walking on concrete floors through cool processing rooms and storage areas. Sweaters and comfortable shoes are recommended.

School tours are geared toward high school and college students and youth groups of these ages. The guided tour will focus on the work done

by collections management professionals; Curators, Archivists and Archaeologists. A nominal fee is charged for tours.

### ON-LINE RESOURCES

Information on State Parks museum collections and virtual exhibits may be viewed at [www.parks.ca.gov/collectionscenter](http://www.parks.ca.gov/collectionscenter).

### RESEARCHERS

Researchers will be served by appointment. Please email us at [SMCC.Research@parks.ca.gov](mailto:SMCC.Research@parks.ca.gov).



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