

# OLD TOWN CHAMBER NEWS

oldtownsandiego.org

February 2023

@VisitOldTownSD

## 2023 Garra Day & Youth/Social Pow Wow - March 18

You're Invited! The Antonio Garra Day celebration, as well as a Youth & Social Pow Wow, will take place on March 18, 2023 in Old Town.

The Garra Day celebration starts at 11am with a speech by Mr. Linton, a descendant of Garra, at El Cam-po Santo Cemetery.

The event will include speakers, birdsingers, and booths with information about Cahuilla history and culture. The theme of the event is

to celebrate the life and legacy of Antonio Garra and the contribution of San Diego Native Americans to the local community.

A Youth & Social Pow Wow hosted by the San Diego Unified School District's Indian Education Program will be happening at the same time at the Harold J. Ballard Center, located at 2375 Congress St from 10am to 4pm. We can't wait to see you there!



### February is Museum Month

San Diego Museum Month is an annual event that takes place in February where more than 60 museums, historic sites, gardens, zoo/aquariums and other attractions in San Diego County offer 50% off admission to visitors.

To participate in this event, visitors need to pick up a pass at one of the more than 80 public libraries in San Diego. The pass will allow them to enjoy the discount

on admission fees for the entire month of February. Digital Passes are also available.

This is a great opportunity for residents and tourists to explore the rich cultural heritage and diverse attractions of San Diego at a reduced cost. So, if you are in San Diego in February, don't miss this chance to visit your favorite museums and attractions at a discounted price.

### Save the Date: Clean California Community Day March 25th

Caltrans is inviting all Californians to participate in "Clean California Community Days" — a statewide event that spans March 17 to 27, 2023.

Communities across the state will create new habits that reflect pride, learn about proper trash disposal, environmental impacts, and discuss with neighbors how to improve their community.

Old Town San Diego is partnering with CalTrans to host our very



own clean-up on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Everyone is encouraged to join in this statewide call-to-action!

More information will be available soon. In the meantime, please email alex@oldtownsandiego.org with any questions.

## Join the Vibrant Community of Vendors at Harney Street Market

Are you a local vendor looking for a new opportunity to showcase your goods and services? Look no further than the Harney Street Market!

Located in the heart of Old Town San Diego, the Harney Street Market is a vibrant community event that brings together local vendors, artisans, and small businesses to sell their wares and connect with customers. Whether you're an artist selling your latest masterpiece, a baker offering homemade baked goods, or a crafter selling handmade items, the Harney Street Market is the perfect platform for you to share your talents with the community.

The Harney Street Market takes place every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm on Harney Street between San Diego Avenue and Congress Street.

In addition to selling your goods, the Harney Street Market also provides an opportunity for vendors to connect with other small business owners, network with customers, and build relationships with the community. It's a chance to build a loyal customer base and gain visibility for your business.

If you're interested in becoming a vendor at the Harney Street Market, please contact us to fill out an application. We look forward to welcoming you to the market and helping you grow your business!

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be a part of one of the most popular markets in the city. Sign up today and see your business thrive. For more information, please contact us at (858) 272-7054 or email [info@oldtownsandiego.org](mailto:info@oldtownsandiego.org).



### African Diaspora Museum

The African Diaspora Museum in Old Town San Diego is a unique and fascinating cultural destination that showcases the rich heritage of Africa and its impact on the world. The museum is divided into three main exhibit areas: the Africa Room, the Americas Room, and the United States Room. Each of these rooms presents extensive educational information in the form of charts, timelines, and graphics, accompanied by other culturally relevant items that offer a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Africa.

2471 Congress St  
(619) 220-0022

[africanmuseumsandiego.com](http://africanmuseumsandiego.com)

### Spring Restaurant Week Returns March 26

San Diego Restaurant Week, presented by the California Restaurant Association, returns to wow diners in its 20th year with over 100 restaurants across 30+ neighborhoods for eight days of dining from Sunday, March 26, 2023, through Sunday April 2, 2023. San Diego Restaurant Week invites diners to "Spring into Flavor" with diverse menus featuring special prix-fixe pricing throughout the county. Diners can enjoy a variety of diverse menus featuring special prix-fixe pricing throughout the county.

Let the Chamber know if your business is participating! We'd love to share your specials with our network. Please contact [alex@oldtownsandiego.org](mailto:alex@oldtownsandiego.org) for more information.



## Looking for Summer Workers on J-1 Visas?

If your business requires more workers at a particular time of year to handle a seasonal demand, one way to meet your staffing needs is to hire students attending foreign colleges or universities who are on their break (summer or otherwise) between academic years. The U.S. State Department has made this possible by authorizing organizations to sponsor foreign college and

university students for participation in work/travel programs.

The students, who are given a short-term J-1 visa, get the opportunity to interact with U.S. citizens, experience U.S. culture while sharing their own cultures with Americans they meet, travel in the U.S., and work in jobs that require minimal training and are seasonal or temporary. Such jobs

let them earn funds with which to help defray a portion of their expenses. You, as the employer, benefit from access to a pool of talented, educated young workers available when you need them most.

The Old Town San Diego Chamber is getting emails from students looking for work in Old Town San Diego. Our community is

also home to the Irish Outreach Center, a nonprofit dedicated to helping Irish students coordinate their time in San Diego.

Please contact [alex@oldtownsandiego.org](mailto:alex@oldtownsandiego.org) for more information.

Irish Outreach Center  
(619) 291-1630  
2725 Congress St #2G

## County Supervisors Designate “Mormon Battalion Commemoration Day”



The Annual Mormon Battalion Parade & Community event, which took place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 in Old Town San Diego, was a resounding success. The event brought together members of the community to celebrate the history and contributions of the Mormon Battalion, a group of approximately 500 men who served in the United States Army during the Mexican-American War.

In recognition of the event and the significance of the Mormon Battalion, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors resolved to make January 28, 2023 “Mormon Battalion Commemoration Day.” Supervisor Joel Anderson was in attendance at the event to present event organizers with the special resolution, highlighting the importance of the day and the significance of the Mormon Battalion.

The Dutch Oven Cook-off competition was also a hit, with local chefs showcasing their skills and competing for the title of the best Dutch Oven dish. The competition resulted in the “Best of Show” award going to Craig Turner for his “Cowboy: Beef Wellington” dish, and other category winners included Lemon Ricotta Cake, Tortellini Soup, and Black Bread.

The winners received gift cards from some of Old Town’s most popular restaurants, including Casa Guadalajara, Rockin’ Baja Cantina, Congress Cafe, Miguel’s Cocina, Pizza Bella, and Cold Stone Creamery.

The event also included activities for kids, such as cattle wrangling, brick-making, and pioneer doll-making, which kept them entertained throughout the day.

## Donate to the New Trash Can Lid Fundraiser

The Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce is launching a fundraising campaign with a purpose of replacing the old wooden lids of barrel trash cans in the area with new ones made of durable polyethylene. The new lids are designed to be resistant to rust, chips, and fading, ensuring a long-lasting solution to the community’s trash management needs.

The wooden lids currently in use have proven to be inadequate and have begun to deteriorate over time, leading to litter and waste being scattered throughout the area. With the new polyethylene lids, the Chamber of Commerce aims to not only provide a more efficient and effective trash management system but also to improve the overall appearance of the community.

The replacement of the old lids is a significant project that requires financial support from the community. The Chamber of Commerce is asking for donations from local businesses, residents, and other organizations to help fund the project. The goal is to raise enough money to purchase and install enough lids to replace all of the old wooden ones in the area. The cost for each trash can lid is \$100.00.

The new polyethylene lids have many benefits over their wooden counterparts. They are fade resistant, so they will not lose their color over time and will maintain their appearance. The lids are also rust and chip resistant, meaning they will last much longer and require less maintenance compared to the old wooden lids. This will result in a more cost-effective solution for the community in the long run.

The Chamber of Commerce hopes that the community will support this important project and help to improve the overall appearance and quality of life in Old Town San Diego. Donations can be made by contacting [alex@oldtownsandiego.org](mailto:alex@oldtownsandiego.org).



## Free Small Business Assistance through SBDC



The San Diego & Imperial Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is primarily funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration via a cooperative agreement and the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development via grants.

Diego and Imperial Valley SBDC services provided to assist you in starting, growing, and succeeding with your small business. Services offered span topics including accounting, marketing, human resources, technology security, manufacturing, distribution, and finance. Review more business topics below, and request expert training as well as one-on-one assistance from our experienced advisors and trainers.

Discover the range of San

More information: [sdivsbdc.org](http://sdivsbdc.org).

## Advertise with the Chamber

Advertising with the Chamber can provide businesses with access to a targeted audience, enhanced credibility, networking opportunities, community support, and cost-effective advertising. All of these benefits can help businesses to attract new customers and grow their businesses.

There are several advertising opportunities available:

- Flyers, Posters, Guides, and Videos in Visitors Center
- [www.oldtownsandiego.org](http://www.oldtownsandiego.org)
- Special event sponsorships

For more information, contact [alex@oldtownsandiego.org](mailto:alex@oldtownsandiego.org).

## Upcoming Meetings

### Promotions Committee

Tuesday, March 14 - 10am - Café Coyote

### Community Planning Group

Wednesday, March 8 - 3:30pm - The Whaley House

### Chamber Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 15 - 8:30am - Mormon Battalion

[View Meeting Agendas & Minutes ->](#)



## Storefront Improvement Program - City of San Diego

The Storefront Improvement Program (SIP) revitalizes building facades visible to customers, neighboring merchants and residents. The City of San Diego provides free professional design assistance and financial incentives to small business owners who wish to make a creative change to and improve the curb appeal of their storefronts.

### Program Incentives

The City of San Diego offers three different rebate options through the SIP:

- **Standard:** Awards the applicant for one-half of the eligible construction costs up to an \$8,000 maximum.
- **Historic Restoration:** Awards the applicant for two-thirds of the eligible construction costs up to a \$12,000 maximum. Historic photos showing the property as it will be restored to must be submitted.
- **Multiple-Tenant Commercial:** Awards property owners with a commercial building that leases to multiple small business tenants one-half of the eligible construction costs up to a \$16,000 maximum. Each qualified tenant must have his or her own street-facing entrance.
- **Promise Zone:** Awards participants an additional 30% above their approved reimbursement amount.

[Learn More About this City Program ->](#)



## Get In Touch

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San Diego, CA 92110

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