

OLD TOWN CHAMBER NEWS

oldtownsandiego.org

November 2023

@VisitOldTownSD

City Council Recognizes OTSD Día de Los Muertos

The Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce recently received a significant honor from the San Diego City Council: an official proclamation recognizing Día de Los Muertos and the annual candlelit procession. This historic event took place on November 2, 2023, a date deeply symbolic as it coincides with the traditional observance of Día de Los Muertos, a day for honoring deceased loved ones.

City Councilmember Jen Campbell presented the proclamation in

a ceremony filled with cultural significance and community pride. The ceremony was held moments before the commencement of the annual candlelit procession, a poignant event that has become a staple in the Old Town community, attracting visitors from all over to partake in this unique cultural experience.

Linda Acuña and Steve Blasingham, esteemed members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, received the ...
(continued on page 3)



A Night of Lights and Harmony

Join us for an evening of sparkling lights and melodious harmony on Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the historic Whaley House complex (2476 San Diego Ave).

Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce and Old Town Trolley Tours are thrilled to usher in our historic community's holiday season with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

In a cherished tradition of community and celebration, we proudly present an evening featuring an amazing lineup of two distinguished choral



groups—enthusiastic students from San Diego Academy in National City and local-favorite, the Mormon Battalion Historic Site ensemble.

Prepare to be enthralled as the evening air is filled with joyous renditions of holiday classics. Savor hot cocoa and fresh holiday treats as you and your family countdown to the spectacular moment when we officially welcome the holiday season.

Celebrate Spirit of Community & Tradition at 65th Ann. Las Posadas

Join us in rekindling a cherished tradition as we proudly present the 65th Annual Las Posadas on Friday, December 8, 2023 at Heritage County Park. The festivities begin at 7:00 pm, offering neighbors and friends a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a time-honored celebration that echoes with centuries-old Mexican traditions and the warmth of the holiday season.

Presented by the Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Old Town Trolley Tours, and the Mormon Battalion Historic Site,

this event reverberates with community spirit and historical reverence, offering an immersive glimpse into the journey of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

Following the finale, guests are cordially invited to the Mormon Battalion Historic Site for an evening of refreshments and camaraderie. Enjoy a captivating live music performance to uplift your spirits and foster connections. Engage in moments of joy and unity as the tunes resonate with the vibrancy of the holiday season, bringing people together in celebration and song.

All Members Invited to Attend Chamber Annual Meeting on 12/6

We are delighted to extend an invitation to all our valued members to attend our Annual Meeting, a special evening of recognition and appreciation. This event promises to be a delightful occasion, taking place on Wednesday, December 6th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, at Cafe Coyote located at 2461 San Diego Ave.

This annual gathering is more than just a meeting; it's a celebration of the incredible individuals who make Old Town San Diego the vibrant and thriving community it is today. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and contributed to the vitality of our historic neighborhood. The Annual Meeting is our chance to express our heartfelt gratitude and honor those who have made a significant difference.

This Annual Meeting is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our volunteers and chart a course for an even brighter future. Together, we will continue to make Old Town San Diego a place where history thrives, businesses prosper, and community bonds grow stronger. We can't wait to see you at Cafe Coyote on December 6th!



Send the Chamber Your Holiday Operating Hours, Specials, Sales, and Deals

As the holiday season approaches, we at the Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce are gearing up to spread festive cheer throughout our beloved community.

We are excited to invite all our esteemed members to participate in a special initiative to enhance the holiday experience in Old Town San Diego. We are requesting your assistance in compiling and sharing your holiday operating hours, specials, sales, and deals with us, which we will then publish on our official website. This will provide potential customers with valuable information and help drive foot traffic to your businesses during this festive season. Please email alex@oldtownsandiego.org.



Remembering Geoffrey Mogilner of Racine & Laramie

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Geoffrey Mogilner, of Racine & Laramie Tobacconist. Geoff, who established the store in the late 1960s, was not only a respected businessman but also a beloved member of our community.

Racine & Laramie Tobacconist has been a cornerstone of Old Town San Diego for over five decades, thanks to Geoff's vision and passion. His commitment to quality and exceptional service made Racine & Laramie a trusted name among enthusiasts.

Geoff was not just a successful entrepreneur; he was a devoted member of our community. He actively contributed to the preservation of Old Town's rich heritage.

Geoff's passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew him. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. Geoff's legacy will forever be remembered, and his impact on Old Town San Diego will endure.

Fueling Hope: Old Town's 2023 Food Drive

The Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of our annual food drive, running through December 8, 2023.

Our aim is to bolster the local food pantry within the heart of Old Town Community Church. This year, we're igniting the spirit of giving to light up the lives of families right here in our community.

Excitement is building, and our donation bins will be popping up at various businesses across the community, including the Old Town Visitors Center at 4010 Twiggs Street.

Join us on this journey, and let's light up Old Town with generosity and love! The grand finale awaits on December 8, 2023, right after the annual "Las Posadas" event in Heritage County Park.

Everyone's invited, so bring your enthusiasm and your friends!

The thrill of making a difference awaits you! Every contribution counts, and even the smallest gesture can turn the tide.

If your business is interested in hosting a donation box, please call (619) 228-9340 or email alex@oldtownsandiego.org for more information.



Looking Back on Día de Los Muertos 2023: A Celebration to Remember

As the sun sets on another remarkable Día de Los Muertos celebration in Old Town San Diego, we can't help but reflect on the magic, culture, and unity that illuminated our historic streets. Over the course of three unforgettable days—October 28, October 29, and November 2—thousands of visitors and locals came together to honor this cherished tradition.

The Weekend Mercado was a true showcase of artistry and craftsmanship. Local artisans displayed their talent, offering handmade treasures that captivated our senses. Families, friends, and curious souls roamed the streets, exploring a world of culture and creativity.

Throughout the weekend, the State Historic Park came alive with color and tradition. Hands-on activities engaged the young and young at heart, while sugar skull painting workshops allowed us to unleash our inner artists. In the Plaza de Armas, San Diego artists transformed the grounds into a fabulous artists' studio, celebrating the diverse communities

that shaped Old Town.

The Candlelit Procession on November 2 was the crowning jewel of our celebration. The procession, led by Danza Azteca Atlachinolli and accompanied by the enchanting Mariachi Los Toritos de San Diego, made its way through the historic streets. It was a moving tribute to those we've lost and a celebration of the enduring spirit of Día de Los Muertos.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated volunteers who poured their hearts and time into making this celebration a reality. We extend our deepest gratitude to our major sponsors, including Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Casa Guadalajara, Bazaar del Mundo, Café Coyote, Casa de Freds, The Whaley House Museum, Old Town Trolley Tours, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Arts Council, San Diego Public Library, and the City of San Diego Arts & Culture Commission. Your support made this celebration shine.

(continued from Page 1)

proclamation on behalf of the Chamber. Their leadership and dedication to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Old Town San Diego have been instrumental in the success and growth of these events.

The proclamation by the City Council is a testament to the importance of cultural preservation and the role of community events in fostering unity and understanding. Día de Los Muertos, a tradition with deep roots in Mexican culture, has become a bridge connecting diverse communities in San Diego, celebrating life, memory, and the enduring spirit of those who have passed.

The candlelit procession, following the proclamation ceremony, was a moving tribute, with participants carrying candles and adorned in traditional attire, their faces painted in the iconic Calavera makeup. The procession wound through the historic streets of Old Town, a living tableau of color, music, and emotion, encapsulating the essence of Día de Los Muertos.

This recognition by the San Diego City Council highlights

the growing appreciation and respect for cultural diversity within the city. It underscores the Council's commitment to supporting events that enrich the cultural tapestry of San Diego and promote a deeper understanding among its residents.

The Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce, through events like the candlelit procession, continues to play a vital role in preserving and sharing the rich cultural heritage of the area. The Chamber's efforts in organizing and promoting these events have not only contributed to the cultural vibrancy of Old Town but have also helped in drawing visitors and fostering economic growth in the region.

As the community celebrated this special day, the proclamation served as a reminder of the power of traditions in bringing people together and the importance of honoring our past while embracing our shared future. The Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the City Council and community members like Linda Acuña and Steve Blasingham, has set a shining example of how cultural celebrations can be a powerful tool for community building and cultural exchange.



Sign Up for Community Newsletters

Attention Chamber members! We have an exciting opportunity for you to stay informed. By signing up for newsletters from our local political representatives, you can gain valuable insights into the decisions and policies that directly impact our business community. These newsletters provide a convenient and timely way to receive updates on upcoming legislation, economic development initiatives, and community events.



Jen Campbell, City
Council District 2 →



Toni Atkins, State
Senate District 39 →



Chris Ward, State
Assembly District 78 →



Upcoming Meetings

- **Design Committee** - TBD - 2383 San Diego Ave
- **Parking Advisory Committee** - TBD - Via Zoom
- **Promotions Committee** - Tuesday, November 14 - 10am - Café Coyote
- **Organization Committee** - Wednesday, November 29 - 11:30am - 2383 San Diego Ave
- **Board of Directors** - Wednesday, November 15 - 8:30am - Mormon Battalion Historic Site

View Meeting Agendas & Minutes →



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
- Special event sponsorships

For more information, contact alex@oldtownsandiego.org.

Download the Get It Done App & Get Results

Get It Done San Diego is the official app for reporting non-emergency problems to the City of San Diego. App users can report problems like potholes or graffiti and connect directly to the City's work tracking system.

Get It Done can be used to report problems related to City assets, making appointments for Passport services or to schedule time at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Materials drop-off facility. Do not use Get It Done for reporting emergencies or other time-sensitive issues. It can take up to 48 hours to review your report or request for appointment.

Get It Done is available on Apple and Android devices.

Scan to Visit the Official City Website →



Get In Touch

Office & Visitors Center
4010 Twiggs Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Contact Information
(619) 228-9340
alex@oldtownsandiego.org

