



For immediate release

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Rancho Los Cerritos Appoints New Development Director; Tessa Cavenah

LONG BEACH, CA — Rancho Los Cerritos is proud to announce the promotion of Tessa Cavenah to Director of Development. Tessa Cavenah will head the growing development department for the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation as of January 1st, 2020.



Pictured: Alan Fox, vice-chair of the RLC Board and Tessa Cavenah

Tessa Cavenah has more than 12 years of experience in the nonprofit development and museum sector. She earned her B.A. in History from California State University, Long Beach and spent more than 5 years developing and managing public programs for the Bowers Museum before joining the Memorial Medical Center Foundation. She has spent the last two years working in the development department of Rancho Los Cerritos. This makes her the natural choice to lead Rancho Los Cerritos' growing development department as the foundation continues to put a greater emphasis on fundraising. "Having just celebrated the 175th year of the historic house, we realize we need to be sustainable for the next 175 years and beyond," says Executive Director, Alison Bruesehoff.

In 2014, the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation entered into a public/private partnership with the City of Long Beach to manage the city-owned landmark. Since this transition, the foundation has been expanding its development department and is excited to have Tessa Cavenah at the



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head to bring the foundation into the future. “Going into 2020 Rancho Los Cerritos will be updating its vision and mission and we are putting plans into action to better serve the public as we move forward,” states Executive Director, Alison Bruesehoff.

Tessa Cavenah began working for Rancho Los Cerritos in October of 2017. She is responsible for building community, foundation, and corporate support for Rancho Los Cerritos. She leads projects that inspire visitors to join in RLC’s effort to sustain and grow with a focus on preservation, innovation, and education. In 2018 Tessa created RLC’s first-ever membership program and was part of the team that launched the comprehensive campaign *Opening Doors* which will double the public’s access to the historic adobe. In 2019 she secured a \$1 million grant from Port of Long Beach to launch the *Looking Back to Advance Forward* campaign and executed a successful 175th Anniversary Gala for Rancho Los Cerritos which raised over \$168,000. While working for Rancho Los Cerritos she also graduated from the 2019 class of Leadership Long Beach.



Pictured: Tessa Cavenah and Kirk Keller, Director of Studio One Eleven; the team designing RLC’s state of the art stormwater recapture system as part of *Looking Back to Advance Forward*.

In 2020, Tessa Cavenah plans to expand the projects of Rancho Los Cerritos that support their mission of preservation, innovation, and education. An exciting step forward happening in 2020 is *Looking Back to Advance Forward*. Planning has begun with a design team for the innovative stormwater retention project that will allow Rancho Los Cerritos to capture, store, and reuse rainwater on the historic property. An education team is also being put together to create ways to inspire and educate visitors and students on wise water use. As part of the *Opening Doors* campaign, restoration of Llewellyn Jr.'s 1930's bedroom is nearly complete and the room will begin to be furnished as an exhibit space in 2020. The development department will also



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support education programs including RLC's newest award-winning program *Long Ago Long Beach*. These campaigns and programs will continue to grow in 2020 thanks to Tessa's new role.

Tessa is excited to dive into 2020 and support all that Rancho Los Cerritos does for the community. In her free time, Tessa Cavenah enjoys traveling and visiting other historic landmarks with her boyfriend Rob.

About Rancho Los Cerritos

Rancho Los Cerritos is the only Long Beach, State, and National historic landmark in Long Beach, California. It is operated by the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation in a public/private partnership with the City of Long Beach. The Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation is the historic voice for the diverse people who shaped Southern California. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 pm and include free parking, admission, and tours. The site echoes with the rich history of indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, and American California. While visiting, you can see the latest exhibits at the Visitor Center, tour the 175-year-old adobe home, and stroll the gardens. When you tour the house, you can immerse yourself in the stories of the families who helped transform Southern California from its ranching beginnings to a modern, urban society. The site also includes a research library and archives. Along with our public hours, we host events for all ages including storytime, bird walks, and garden tours. You can also rent the site for private events such as weddings, corporate retreats, and luncheons.

Check out www.RanchoLosCerritos.org to plan your visit and register for events.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up to date on the latest things RLC.

About Rancho Los Cerritos's Opening Doors Campaign

Rancho Los Cerritos recently embarked on a multi-year campaign to restore previously unseen rooms of the historic adobe and open doors to a dynamic learning experience for generations to come. Through the *Opening Doors* campaign, Rancho Los Cerritos will complete Phase Two of its Master Plan, which will nearly double access to the Rancho and transform the experience for visitors into true "living history." Guests who visit during public hours can take a sneak peek at Llewellyn Jr.'s 1930's bedroom.



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For more information about the campaign and to see restoration plans, visit rancholoscerritos.org/openingdoors.

About Rancho Los Cerritos's Looking Back to Advance Forward Campaign

Looking Back to Advance Forward is a project to capture, store, and reuse rainfall on our historic property. The purpose of this project is to create an innovative model for stormwater retention that will serve as a national model. This project will use two distinct methods for capturing, storing, and treating stormwater—one that uses new technology, and one that uses traditional methods. Rancho Los Cerritos thanks Port of Long Beach for providing the initial funding of \$1 million for this project.

For more information about the campaign and to see restoration plans, visit <https://www.rancholoscerritos.org/supportgive-now-hub/looking-back-to-advance-forward/>.