RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

IMPACT REPORT 2022

Executive Overview

The amazing support from our community helped make 2022 one of the most remarkable years in Rancho Los Cerritos (RLC) history. With our new Strategic Master Plan in place and our continued work on expanding our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, we have never been more prepared to honor and share the diverse history of Southern California through the pillars of our work: Preservation, Innovation, Education and Stewardship. These goals serve as a guide to ensure that RLC continues to build its understanding of the past while considering the present and helping to shape the future of Long Beach, Southern California and beyond.

Besides the important work in the care and preservation of the buildings and gardens that comprise this treasure that has been entrusted to us, in the pages that follow, you will read about some of the important initiatives we have undertaken this past year and get a glimpse into some exciting plans to come. A few highlights include *Looking Back to Advance Forward*, our innovative stormwater retention and reuse project, the revamping of our educational programs, and the *Roots in California: Concepts of Home* exhibition which inspired 2022's incredible gala.

Now in the final stretch of our $7.2 million Opening Doors Campaign, we look forward to working with our generous community to raise the final $2 million to complete phase II of our three-phase Master Plan. On behalf of our donors, volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors, we offer our deep gratitude to everyone who has helped sustain and grow this National, State, and Local Historic Landmark.

Sincerely,

Alison Bruesehoff
Executive Director

Land Acknowledgment
Rancho Los Cerritos is located on the ancestral and current homelands of the Tongva/Gabrielino people who are the past, present, and future caretakers of the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands. We honor and extend our respect to the many Indigenous people who call these lands home.

Our Principles

DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility) Statement
Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation works to preserve the historic site and to honor and illuminate the region's cultural heritage through rough innovative opportunities that expand access to all communities. This statement is intended to describe our core DEIA values that we will uphold and model as we advance our mission.

Vision
Cultivate an inclusive and sustainable world by exploring the historic connections between people and Rancho Los Cerritos.

Mission
Honor diverse perspectives, enrich collaborative conversations, and inspire broader understanding through stewardship of Rancho Los Cerritos' natural and cultural history.

Values
In carrying out our mission, we will use these criteria of **Relevance**, **Responsiveness** and **Resourcefulness** in making decisions impacting the future of the Rancho. These guiding lights embody our values and help ensure that our choices are aligned with our vision and mission.

Experience the Rancho for Yourself

We look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to stroll the site, take self-paced or docent-led tours, enjoy a picnic, browse the museum shop or simply enjoy the serenity.

Admission is FREE and public hours are as follows:
1:00pm - 5:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday
10:00am - 5:00pm Saturday
Closed Monday & Tuesday

Please scan this code for more information about Rancho events:

Preservation

Veranda Repair for Preservation and Public Safety
In 2022, the Veranda Balcony was assessed by Millrock Restoration and determined in need of immediate repair and restoration. The wood structure runs the entire length of the second floor of the adobe and is a key architectural feature of the 1844 adobe home. Thanks to generous gifts from Steve and Nancy Dudley and the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association, the Rancho will begin repairs in 2023, ensuring its stability and the safety of all guests.

Fire Detection and Suppression System
Rancho Los Cerritos has taken the necessary steps to protect and preserve the historic site for generations to come by implementing fire protection across the site. Our ultimate goal is to fully mitigate the risk of fire damage to our historic structures and irreplaceable collections. Currently, no fire detection or suppression measures are in place to protect RLC facilities and artifacts. In 2022, we hired Heritage Protection Group, a world-renowned consulting firm, to assess the site and design a system for maximum protection. With funding through a capital grant from the City of Long Beach, as well as another generous donation from the Dudley Family, the Rancho will be able to install a fire detection notification and suppression system in 2023.

Volunteerism at RLC
Volunteers play a crucial role at Rancho Los Cerritos. Their dedication assists in preservation, enhances visitor experiences, and fosters a sense of community engagement, ensuring the continued vitality and relevance of this historic site.

During 2022, 169 volunteers, 20 of them brand new, contributed 10,358 hours. Regularly facilitating public hours, specialty events, gardening, curatorial work, outreach, education, serving on the foundation's Board of Directors and so much more, RLC volunteers are truly the lifeblood of the Rancho. Their level of support is equivalent to more than five additional full-time staff members, and we are so grateful!

Innovation & Environment

Looking Back to Advance Forward
In 2022, we kicked off construction of our innovative stormwater retention and reuse project, *Looking Back to Advance Forward*. The year-long process began by assessing the site through geotechnical surveys to determine the level of infiltration throughout. Various percolation tests were executed, and we determined that on-site infiltration levels are optimal for such a project.

A 22,000-gallon underground cistern was installed, pervious concrete and permeable pavers were put in throughout the site, and a series of drains were included to direct any water that does not naturally filtrate back into the cistern for use in our drip irrigation system. Additionally, we constructed an ADA-compliant observation deck over the arroyo.

RLC is now capturing 95% of stormwater to use for onsite irrigation, preventing runoff that drives litter, chemicals, and pollution into storm drains leading to the ocean. The completion of this project will lead to the creation of a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics). educational curriculum, programs, and tours to address critical issues of today - climate change, environmental justice, and water conservation.

Thank you to our partners Port of Long Beach, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for funding this project!

Historic Gardens and Grounds
Recognized by the City of Long Beach as an essential resource for the community's health and well-being, the Rancho provides accessible green spaces over much of its 4.7 acres. The beautiful native garden, orchard, and historic trees are part of environmental conservation efforts that also protect the natural habitat for wildlife.

Visitors enjoy historic trees planted in the mid-19th century as well as lush landscaping designed in the early 1930's by notable landscape architect Ralph D. Cornell. Interacting with nature correlates with reduced depression, anxiety, and stress and offers measurable mental and physical health benefits.

Exhibition

Roots in California: Concepts of Home
"Roots in California: Concepts of Home" is the Rancho's first Mexican and Mexican American exhibition that helped expand our interpretation of history at RLC, document and highlight the lives and labor of Mexican and Mexican Americans, and address gaps in our collection through research and collaboration. This community-driven exhibition demonstrated the importance of the Rancho in the development of the city of Long Beach and allowed RLC the unique opportunity to spark conversations about social issues and affirm its commitment to amplifying the stories that have been overlooked.

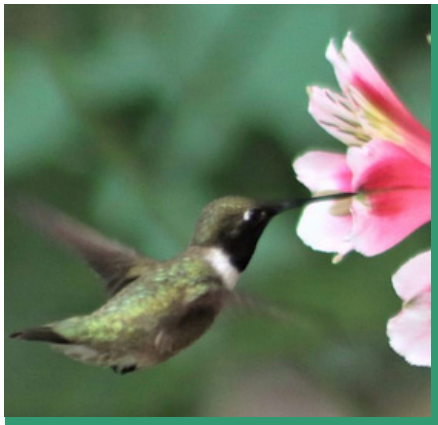
Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Port of Long Beach, this was the first exhibition developed following Rancho's DEIA values. In the past, the narrative had primarily focused on the site's landowners, whereas this exhibition focused on the complex idea of home by contrasting the oral histories of Mexican and Mexican American tenants who lived at Rancho Los Cerritos between 1890-1930, with five stories of Mexicans and Mexican Americans living across California today. In a first-time partnership with Long Beach Transit, visitors were provided free bus transportation from the Michelle Obama Library in North Long Beach. These efforts resulted in the best attended exhibit opening in RLC history, with over 400 visitors.

Education

RLC connects the community to its local history through a wide array of education and community programs designed to engage and benefit people from all walks of life, available at low to no cost. In 2022, the Rancho hosted approximately 8,652 in-person visitors.

Tours of Historic Home and Gardens

Guests are welcome to tour the historic grounds virtually or in person through engaging docent-led or self-guided tours.

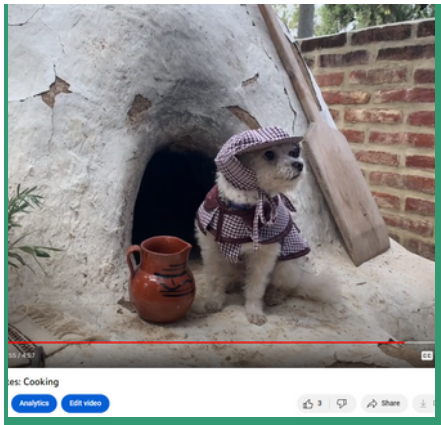


Birding Opportunities

On the second Thursday of each month, RLC opens early for birders to enjoy a guided walk with the Horticulturist and other naturalists to observe birds.

Storytime and Storytime Bilingüe

These free programs for children promote literacy, ignite imagination and inspire creativity.



Online Content

Virtual visits increased dramatically since the pandemic, reaching over 100,000 visitors on the website and social media platforms.

Summer Camp

This fun, educational and immersive experience for elementary through middle school-aged children teaches the history of the Rancho and its surrounding region.

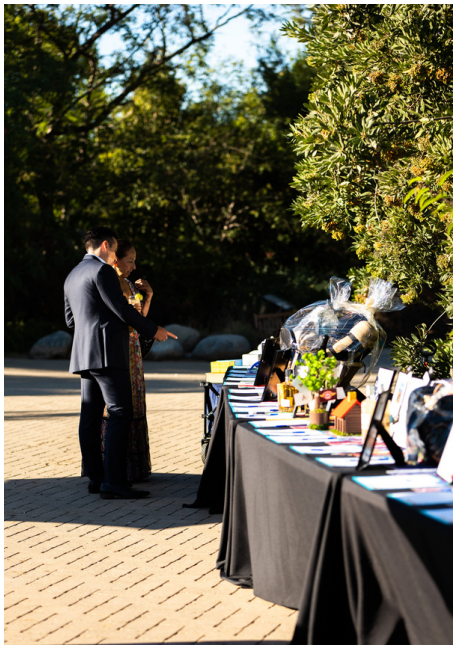
Holiday Tours

Within a beautifully decorated candlelit adobe, costumed guides share holiday traditions of the many people who have called RLC home over the decades.

Gala

On September 24th, 350 guests gathered in the Rancho's historic backyard for the "Rancho Los Cerritos 2022 Gala: Sharing Stories of Home." Incorporating the exhibition theme, the evening celebrated the largest fundraising event to date. During this memorable evening, RLC honored Gloria Cordero, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Arts Council for Long Beach, while also recognizing participants of the exhibition and descendants of the Rancho tenants.

In addition to introducing a new audience to the beauty of the Rancho, the evening allowed us to welcome esteemed donors, partners and community members while highlighting the importance and understanding of our shared mission.



Make Your Own Memories

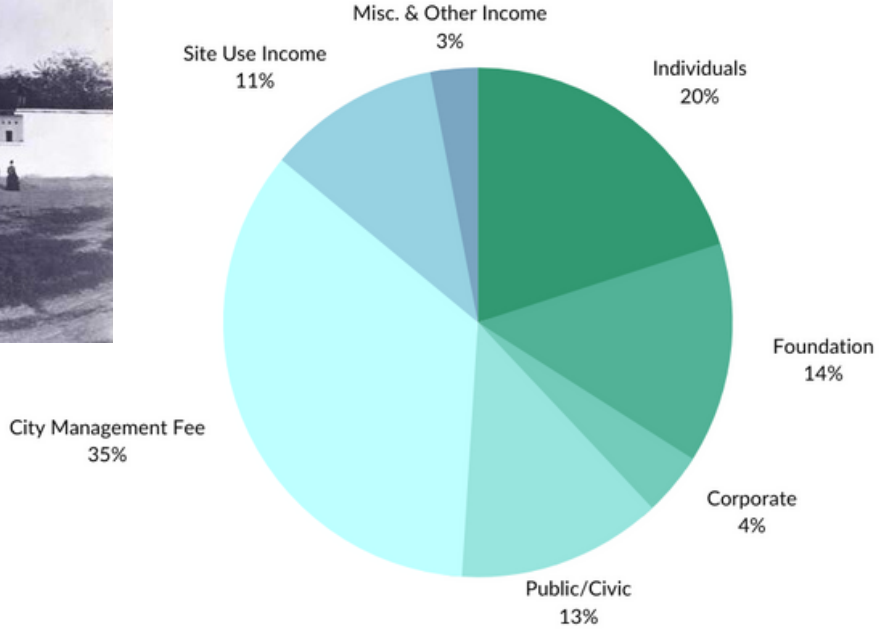
For information on hosting a special event at the Rancho for yourself or your organization, please visit our website or contact our Events Team at Events@RanchoLosCerritos.org.

Stewardship

Financial Overview

Thanks in large part to you, our generous family of supporters, Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation experienced a successful fundraising year in 2022, so much so that the original budget of $1,176,000 was amended midyear to $1,227,500. Year-end income far surpassed expenses, ending on a very positive note.

2022 OPERATIONS FUNDING BY CATEGORY AND PERCENTAGES



With your support, remarkable things continue to happen at Rancho Los Cerritos! We look to you our generous benefactors, to help us continue our important work and ensure this Long Beach treasure remains a Southern California beacon for generations to come. Because the Rancho is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, your gift is tax deductible. To donate now please use the QR Code or visit our website and click the “support us” tab.

We also accept gifts of stock, can help you include RLC in your estate plans, and welcome event sponsorships. To discuss any of these options, please contact Renée Salvador, Development Director, at ReneeS@RanchoLosCerritos.org or 562-206-2048.

2022 Gratitude

Thank you to our generous donors.

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in reporting. Please accept our sincere apologies for any inadvertent omission or error. We ask you to contact the Development Office with any corrections at: SueK@RanchoLosCerritos.org.

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

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