

COURTHOUSE LEGACY FOUNDATION
FIVE-YEAR RESTORATION PLAN, 2013-2017

BACKGROUND

In August 2004, the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation (CLF) was incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 with the purpose of providing “preservation, conservation and education of the historic Santa Barbara Courthouse as a legacy to its community.”

In April 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into between the County of Santa Barbara and CLF. The MOU requires that CLF present to the Board of Supervisors a 5 Year Plan of conservation, restoration and education for review and approval by the Board.

Initially, CLF could not develop a Five-Year Plan because it had neither the fundraising capabilities nor a full assessment of the conditions of Courthouse property and structures. To address the assessment needs, CLF contracted with a professional firm that specialized in historic structures assessments. This firm was hired to both document the condition of the Courthouse property and prepare a comprehensive Historic Structures Report (HSR) that would be used by CLF as guidance for a Five-Year Plan. In 2009 CLF acquired funding of \$30,000 for the first phase of an HSR. That report urged CLF to replace the badly deteriorating Spirit of the Ocean Fountain.

During 2010-2011 CLF completed the high priority project at a cost of \$800,000. In addition, during 2010-2011 CLF received a contribution from the Pearl Chase Society of \$68,000 to restore the paintings on the ceiling of the Great Arch and CLF received contributions from Dr. David Bisno and Dick Schall of \$200,000 to restore the Courthouse clock.

In 2012 CLF raised \$80,000 to fund the second and final phase of the HSR which was completed in January 2013. In the HSR the mural of the Mural Room was identified as a top priority for conservation, see HSR pages 75-77.

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FIVE-YEAR PLAN

With the HSR (pages 75-77) serving as guide we have prepared the following Five-Year Plan beginning in 2013.

2013

Estimate cost, identify conservators, define scope of work, evaluate schedule of work and fundraise for the conservation and restoration of the wall mural and other elements in the Mural Room.

The total cost is estimated at \$700,000. Currently we have raised \$342,000 in money and pledges toward this project. The work is scheduled to begin in January 2015 and be completed in May 2015.

Note: Since the mural restoration will require the Mural Room to be closed to the public for five months, the CLF Board of Trustees wishes to restore additional elements in the room including ceiling beams, drapes, leather benches, windows, etc.

2014

Complete fundraising for the Mural Room restoration. Send Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to qualified conservators in Sept. 2014. CLF will review the proposals in October 2014 and select the most qualified conservators to do the restoration.

2015 - January through May

Restore the Mural Room, completion is scheduled for May 2015.

2015 - June through December

In partnership with the Docent Council develop a Collections Management Plan for artwork, fixtures and furnishings, (see HSR page 87). CLF will fundraise in advance for this project as required.

2016

In partnership with the School of Architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CLF will undertake a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Federal Government's oldest preservation program, (see HSR, page 88). This is an educational program that will completely and accurately document the entire architecture and details of the courthouse. These documents are kept in the Library of Congress as a record of architectural history and are available for scholarly research. CLF will seek funding locally, from Cal Poly and the Federal Government. Because of the educational aspect of this program new sources of funding should be available to CLF.

Note: There are only a few drawings and photos of the courthouse. In the event of a destructive fire or earthquake the HABS records would be of great value.

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2017

Prepare a plan for the restoration of the Great Arch, including removal of the white bloom (an efflorescence type discoloration) on the west facade of the Great Arch, (see page 83 HSR), clean and restore the stucco and stone of west and east facades and the interior of the Great Arch, restore the base of the fountain and eroded stone, restore the doors, windows and iron work of the Great Arch. Restore the stone steps at the Anacapa entrance, (see page 66 HSR). Identify the conservators for this work. Estimate the cost and schedule of the work. Begin fundraising for this project.

This Five Year Plan is respectfully submit to the Board of Supervisors for your review and approval.

Approved _____ Date: _____
Bill Mahan, President of the Courthouse Legacy Foundation

Approved _____ Date: _____
Salud Carbajal, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors