

California Historical Society Announces New Vision and Building Sale

SAN FRANCISCO, California, July 15, 2020 – The California Historical Society has announced a new, multifaceted vision to broaden its reach and strengthen its statewide impact. The organization will be listing its headquarters building on Mission Street in San Francisco to support these efforts.

In 2020, CHS will embark on a new vision to collect, share, and honor diverse stories throughout the state of California. The new direction embodies the organization’s fundamental values: statewide impact; diversity and inclusion in leadership, staffing, programming, interpretation, and services; PK-16 education and lifelong learning; relevancy to contemporary lives; sharing authority with others; effective and mutually beneficial partnerships; accessibility of CHS collections and services.

The organization will adopt five new strategies to bring services and programs to communities throughout the state of California and expand its impact from thousands to hundreds of thousands of Californians every year. These new strategies include:

- Providing technical assistance, training, and resources to hundreds of unstaffed and understaffed cultural and local history organizations throughout California
- Developing partnerships with California universities to provide invaluable learning experiences for history students
- Delivering new learning opportunities directly to Californians through schools, museums, historical societies, cultural centers, libraries, and the CHS gallery
- Increasing access to collections through the CHS Digital Library and reference services
- Increasing accessibility to resources and services through webinars, crowd-curated exhibits, and K-12 curriculum resources through the Teaching California program

The CHS Board of Trustees is fully committed to pursuing the new vision and is moving forward with actions that will make it possible including listing the headquarters building at 678 Mission Street in San Francisco on the market. Though the building has served the organization well for the past 27 years, the space is not as conducive to a less centralized organization. The funds from the building sale will seed CHS’s work in building organizational capacity and financial sustainability. CHS does not plan on moving immediately as the organization will need up to 36 months to implement a move of its collections to a new space, and intends to keep its headquarters in San Francisco or the greater Bay Area.

“The world is changing rapidly, and Californians find themselves relying more than ever on the lessons of the past to identify consequences and develop solutions. With this bold new direction, the California Historical Society will work throughout the state to share the diverse stories of California and collaborate with its citizens to create a better and more equitable future. In an era where it is often difficult to distinguish fact from fiction, it is time to do more, broaden our reach, and strengthen our impact,” said Alicia Goehring, CHS’s Executive Director and CEO.

To read more on CHS's new vision and building sale via a letter from Executive Director and CEO Alicia Goehring, and Board of Trustees Chair Tony Gonzalez, click here: (insert link)

Tell Your Story project submissions can be made using the link <https://californiahistoricalsociety.org/initiatives/tell-your-story-california-during-the-time-of-covid-19/>

The Tell Your Story online gallery can be viewed here: <https://californiahistoricalsociety.org/exhibitions/tell-your-story-california-during-the-time-of-covid-19/>

Teaching California can be accessed here: <https://www.teachingcalifornia.org/>

About the California Historical Society

Founded in 1871, the California Historical Society (CHS) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. In 1979, CHS was designated the official historical society of the State of California. Today, CHS enacts its mission with a wide range of library, exhibition, publication, education, and public outreach programs that explore the complex and continuing history of the state and represent the diversity of the California experience, past and present. Our treasured collection is brought to life through these innovative public history projects that expand and diversify our audience and broaden our public impact. Learn more at californiahistoricalsociety.org.

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