



CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Carmel Mission Basilica Restoration Wins 2015 Governor's Award

Carmel, California – October 13, 2015 – The Carmel Mission Foundation announced today that the \$5.5 million seismic stabilization and restoration of the 220-year-old Carmel Mission's Basilica has received the prestigious Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2015. The Basilica restoration project was recognized as an exceptional example of historic preservation efforts on behalf of California's cultural heritage.

This award was the second major award that the Basilica restoration has garnered. Late last year, the Basilica project received a 2014 Project-of-the-Year Regional Award from the construction industry. "The quality of the Basilica preservation work has now been recognized by both the private and public sectors. We would like to thank our preservation team including principal architect Franks Brenkwitz & Associates, preservation architect Architectural Resources Group, structural engineer Donald Urfer & Associates, general contractor Blach Construction, and project manager Brian Kelly. The Foundation's grateful appreciation also goes out to all of our wonderful donors for without them, none of this would have been possible," said Vic Grabrian, the Foundation's President & CEO.



The restored Carmel Mission Basilica

The Governor's Historic Preservation awards have been presented annually since 1986 under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation and California State Parks to projects, individuals, and organizations whose contributions demonstrate significant achievements in preserving the heritage of California. The history of California is embodied in buildings, structures, sites, and objects that provide tangible links to the people and events that shaped California's growth and development.

Mission Restoration Continues

Having completed the Basilica restoration, the Foundation is now engaged in a \$20+ million effort designed to save and preserve the balance of the Mission's historic structures and courtyards for the next 75–100 years. The excitement over Pope Francis' recent visit to the U.S. and canonization of Junípero Serra has focused international attention on the historic importance of the Carmel Mission, the place where Saint Junípero Serra is interred and the first headquarters of the California mission system where he served as Padre-Presidente. The number of visitors from around the world has more than doubled since Pope Francis announced his intentions to canonize Junípero Serra earlier this year, increasing the need to expedite life safety and restoration work.

This work includes seismic stabilization and infrastructure upgrades for remaining historic structures on the Mission's 22-acre campus, including five museums, California's first library, and the Orchard House, California's oldest adobe residence. "We are ready to proceed with the same team that successfully completed the award-winning Basilica restoration. Planning for this phase has been underway for the past two years. Unanimous approvals have been obtained from the City of Carmel's Historic Resources Board and the City's Planning Commission. Construction work will begin in early 2016, depending on how quickly the Foundation can complete the challenge of raising the first \$10 million and the impact of the El Niño forecasted for this winter," said Grabrian.

During the past 200+ years there have been two major restorations of the Carmel Mission, each led by a prominent donor. The first came following the abandonment of the Mission's church in the 1830s and roof collapse in 1852 when Jane Stanford, cofounder of Stanford University, led the effort to put on a new roof in the 1880s. Later, when Harry Downie was restoring the Mission complex in the mid-twentieth century, Bing Crosby and his golf tournament stepped up with a major donation. It is our hope that special donors who care about the Mission will soon come forth to enable us to complete the Mission's third major restoration, saving this historic treasure for the benefit of future generations.



Basilica after roof collapse in 1852

About the Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its purpose is to restore and preserve in perpetuity the architectural integrity of the historical physical structures, art, and artifacts of the Carmel Mission; to support artistic and historical exhibits; and to promote an understanding of the historical importance of the California mission system.

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo) was founded in 1771 by Saint Junípero Serra. A National and State Historic Landmark and significant part of California's heritage, the Mission is the repository of generations of culture, tradition and history, as well as the second largest tourist attraction and a primary economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula.

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