

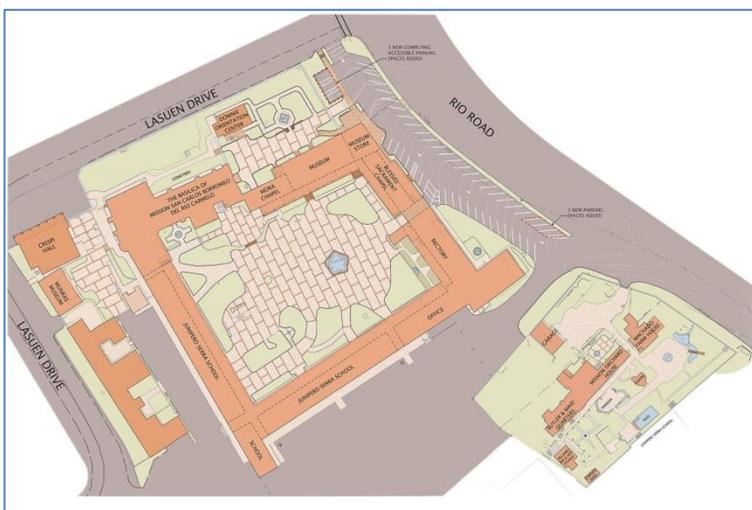
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Carmel Mission Foundation Awarded \$500,000 Challenge Grant

Next Preservation Phase Begins

Carmel, California – August 7, 2014 – The Carmel Mission Foundation announced today that it has been awarded a \$500,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor. Donations to the Foundation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$500,000. Vic Grabrian, President & CEO of the Foundation said, “With new donations now counting double, we are able to accelerate efforts to preserve the remainder of the Carmel Mission complex. We are very grateful to this most generous donor.”

This important grant has come at a very opportune time. The Foundation has just announced that new plans for the remaining preservation work on the Mission’s historic structures are nearing completion. Following the \$5.5 million Basilica restoration last year, the Foundation began a comprehensive new study of the remaining historic structures in the Carmel Mission complex. Included are five museums, California’s First Library, and the Orchard House, California’s oldest continuously occupied residence, built c. 1774. This next phase will encompass



Carmel Mission Complex

Courtesy of Franks Brenkwitz & Associates and Architectural Resources Group

seismic retrofits and infrastructure upgrades on historic structures, courtyard restorations, visitor traffic flow, accessibility improvements, and enhancements to the museum experience.

“We are pleased to report that the same preservation team and general contractor, Blach Construction, that did such an outstanding job on the Basilica restoration, have now been re-assembled for this next phase,” said Grabrian. Currently, the project is being analyzed to determine optimum preservation work sequencing, while minimizing Mission disruptions. According to Grabrian, the project will be about twice the size and complexity of the Basilica restoration. Additional discovery and pre-construction work now needs to be completed, including design drawings and permitting.

Grabrian went on to say, “Once the permits have been obtained and depending on funding, we may be able to begin construction work within one year. We are now seeking donations to match the \$500,000 challenge grant. With the successful Basilica project under our belt, we are also hoping that a few generous donors or businesses, with confidence in our team, will step forward and sponsor a segment of the remaining Mission preservation work, such as one of the historic structures or museums, or perhaps a courtyard.”

“As an antiquity on this new land, a quaint specimen of missionary architecture, and a memorial of good deeds, it had a triple claim to preservation from all thinking people...” – Robert Louis Stevenson, shortly after visiting the Carmel Mission in 1879.

About the Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its purpose is to fund the restoration and preservation of the historical properties and artifacts of the Carmel Mission in perpetuity.

About the Carmel Mission

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Río Carmelo) was founded in 1771 by Junípero Serra and served as the Headquarters for the California Mission System, ultimately numbering 21 missions and forming the foundation for what was to become the State of California. It is the repository of generations of culture, tradition and history, as well as a major tourist attraction and a primary economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula. It is also a National Historic Landmark.



The recently restored Carmel Mission Basilica

Contact:

Sam Gesumaria

Carmel Mission Foundation

(831) 624-3261

info@carmelmissionfoundation.org