



SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER WATERFRONT PARK MASTER PLAN

SAN DIEGO COUNTY / COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANUARY 28, 2001

Acknowledgements

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Diane Coombs, Citizen Coordinate for Century Three
Hal Sadler, Ruocco Foundation
Kay Kaiser, Advisor to the Ruocco Foundation
Max Schmidt, Advisor to the Ruocco Foundation
Ray Ashley, Maritime Museum Acknowledgements

The County of San Diego and the design team would also like to thank the many citizens who attended the three community workshops and provided valuable input to the preparation of the master plan.

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Introduction



The Goals of the Master Plan

Built in 1938, the CAC has long been considered the 'Jewel on the Bay', a landmark of San Diego's past, and a symbol of its civic strength and vitality. Years before its construction, city and county leaders and citizens envisioned a Civic Center for the people of the County of San Diego. This vision and subsequent architectural concepts included a magnificent building and surrounding landscape that would be a true public realm on the waterfront. The CAC building has fulfilled this ideal for over sixty years. The full potential of the CAC landscape has not been fully realized. Most of the CAC site is now used as large surface parking lots.

This Master Plan embodies the next critical step in the long process toward full realization of the vision of a landmark County Administration Center Waterfront Park. This Park will become a major attraction to residents and visitors alike, and as the keystone open space of the larger North Embarcadero Project, will encourage the revitalization of this waterfront district.

The CAC site is one of few large remaining under-utilized properties on San Diego's Waterfront. The decision to transform this land into an unparalleled waterfront park captures a priceless legacy for present and future residents of San Diego.

The park is being planned and designed to satisfy the present and future needs of neighborhood, city, and county residents, as well as visitors: it will function as both a civic and neighborhood park. The Master Plan fulfills historic ideals and the present realities of a well-established, thriving city.

Design proposals will carefully integrate historic plant materials and landscape elements. Building from this historic landscape core, the design includes a large open Civic Green, intimate Garden Rooms with distinct themes and functions, and an Upper Promenade/Civic Fountain that create a spine of passive/contemplative space running the length of the site.

The dramatic transformation of the CAC surface parking lots requires that 1000 parking spaces either be placed below-grade or relocated to the Cedar/Kettner site (owned by the County of San Diego). The master plan proposes that 500 spaces be provided below ground at the County Administration Center and 500 spaces be located at the Cedar/Kettner site, thus minimizing the impact upon park users, while retaining adequate parking in close proximity to the CAC building and waterfront amenities.