



PHOTO BY SUMMERS CASE, CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

Restoring the Band Shell at Plaza del Mar

A PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND PARC FOUNDATION PROJECT

Established as a City park in 1899, Plaza del Mar was a favorite location for strolling and outdoor gatherings. The Plaza del Mar band shell, a designated City of Santa Barbara landmark, was constructed in 1919 to provide a venue for public concerts. Five thousand people attended the opening concert on May 4, 1919, which featured a 22-piece municipal band.

A popular venue for many decades, the Band Shell hosted concerts, dramatic performances, recitals, and speeches. Designed in the Mission Revival style by Winsor Soule, it is the only remnant of the iconic entertainment structures which once graced historic Plaza del Mar.

PROJECT NEED

Community interest in the band shell for concerts, dances, rallies, and other events has grown in recent years. Public parks, such as Plaza del Mar, became vital to community health during the pandemic. This inspired community interest in the revival of outdoor concert venues. Plaza del Mar continues to host



GLEDHILL LIBRARY, SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

community events. Still, the use of the Band Shell has declined, and the building has fallen into disrepair.

An assessment of the building condition in October 2020 revealed that the band shell needs structural repairs to the building frame, roof, and the wooden stage surface in addition to facade repairs. Electrical upgrades and restoration of the original lighting will allow a wide range of future uses. Lastly, the renovation will achieve accessibility improvements to the building and the stage.

A STAGE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Renovation of the Band Shell will revitalize Plaza del Mar for music, drama, dance, and celebratory events. As a public park, the City provides low-cost access for non-profit organizations that serve a broad cross-section of the community.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND FUNDING



The PARC Foundation

The Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation is partnered with the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department to raise the funds needed to achieve Band Shell renovation. To make a donation to this exciting project, please visit the PARC

Foundation website at parcsb.org.

Timeline

If all goes according to plan, the project will receive building permits by the spring of 2022. With construction scheduled to start in the summer of 2022, the Band Shell could be ready for a concert series as soon as this fall!

Funding

The estimated cost of construction is \$800,000. Funding secured to date includes the following:

SOURCE	AMOUNT
City of Santa Barbara	\$175,000
California State Parks	\$175,000
Santa Barbara Foundation	\$25,000
Ann Jackson Family Foundation	\$10,000
Total	\$385,000

FIND OUT MORE

Please reach out with any questions you may have about this project!

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More information is available on the City of Santa Barbara project webpage:

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/BandShell



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN UNANDER

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