

Excavating Our History Archaeology Education Program Prospectus

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The Presidio Trust



THE PRESIDIO ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER

Excavating Our History

INTRODUCTION

The Presidio Trust's mission is to preserve and enhance the Presidio as an enduring resource for the American public. The Trust is dedicated to ensuring that visitors have the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the Presidio, its place in American history, and the plants and wildlife which once thrived throughout the region. The Presidio Archaeology Center (Center) is in a unique position to help the Trust achieve its goal of providing meaningful experiences for the public. People are fascinated by archaeology and the Presidio of San Francisco is one of the most significant archaeological sites in California. Beneath the feet of every visitor to the Main Post of the Presidio, lies a precious resource whose ongoing discovery fills visitors with wonder and curiosity about the colonial beginnings of this remarkable park and world-class city.

The original fort, known as *El Presidio de San Francisco (El Presidio)*, was established at the Golden Gate by the Spanish in 1776 as the northernmost outpost of colonial New Spain. Along with Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores), this early settlement marked the beginning of the City of San Francisco. The Presidio remained in continuous use as a military post through 1994, successively under the flags of Spain, Mexico, and the United States. Before the arrival of the Europeans, the land was home to the Ohlone people who lived seasonally along the shore for more than a thousand years.

Owing to this remarkable history, the Presidio is a National Historic Landmark District and a singular national park site. Much of the Presidio's history is clearly visible in the park's landscapes, historic buildings, and even in its spectacular vistas. However, layers of history lie beneath the ground. Archaeology provides a tangible way for the public to learn about these historic cultural layers and to discover a personal connection to this place, its past, and a shared cultural heritage.

Beginning in 1994, archaeologists at the Presidio have been conducting a series of interrelated programs involving compliance, site preservation, fieldwork, collections, historical research and education and outreach. Together, these programs serve to carry out the mission of the Presidio Archaeology Center which is to further the understanding and preservation of the significant aspects of our Nation's heritage as embodied in the archaeological resources of the Presidio for the benefit of current and future generations.

Protecting and preserving archaeological sites for the benefit of future generations through compliance review, scientific investigation, and site preservation forms the basis of the archaeology program. When active excavation occurs, these undertakings are conducted under federal permits and guided by approved research designs in accordance with federal standards. Field projects have included the investigation of the last standing adobe from the Spanish era, research on US Army, Mexican, and Spanish sites, and most notably, the ongoing investigation of *El Presidio de San Francisco*. These projects not only serve the dual purposes of research and resource management, they also provide opportunities for public engagement by making the fieldwork open and accessible to the community. Also of great interest to the archaeology community and the public are the approximately three quarter million archaeological artifacts as well as associated reports, maps, field notes and other documentation that have been collected by Presidio archaeologists. A collections management program ensures the long-term preservation of the collections held in public trust, while making objects, records, and data accessible to the public. Also available to the public is historical research encompassing the study of written and oral sources related to the Presidio's historical occupation. Past research includes translation and compilation of Spanish colonial records, publication of findings in scientific journals, and a GIS database that provides a digital atlas of archaeological resources in the Presidio.

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In collaboration with the design firm SMWM, the Presidio Trust is currently planning for a new facility to house the Presidio archaeology program at the site of Building 50 (and adjacent Buildings 49, 47, and 48). The conceptual design of the future Presidio Archaeology Center will better accommodate the archaeology program's needs through improved research space, staff facilities, display areas, laboratories, a library, classrooms, and artifact storage. Its proposed location at the site of the historic *El Presidio* will better serve the public because it will enable the Center and surrounding open spaces to become an archaeological exhibit, a focus for education and discovery about San Francisco's past.

ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Beyond continued excellence in historical research, fieldwork, collections management, and site preservation, the Presidio Archaeology Center is dedicated to providing educational programming to the public. We recognize our potential to engage, educate, and excite the public about the historic and cultural resources here at the Presidio and we are committed to providing a variety of educational opportunities to a diversity of audiences.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Shaw Fund that was matched by the University of California, Berkeley, the Center is now actively fulfilling our educational outreach goal to create a compelling destination for visitors to learn about archaeology and commemorate the cornerstone of this park – *El Presidio de San Francisco*. Beyond supporting our existing educational programs, the Shaw's contribution has enabled the development and launch of a new field trip program (*Excavate History*) for elementary school students during the 2007/08 school year. It has also led to community partnerships and program development with the Presidio YMCA, San Francisco Unified School District, Mission Dolores and others. Through these relationships, the Center is positioning itself to offer broader programming to a wider audience.

Over the next five years, the Center hopes to expand our Education Program dramatically to engage diverse members of the community through a variety of opportunities that serve to connect them not only to this place and its past but also to one another and a shared cultural heritage. We aspire to create a community of:

- **Active citizens** who are students, mentors, volunteers, researchers, and lifelong learners
- **Critical thinkers** who understand that history is multi-vocal and that the world is multicultural
- **Park stewards** who will care for the Presidio's cultural and natural resources into the future

WHO DO WE SERVE?

Currently the Archaeology Education Program serves elementary school children and undergraduate and graduate students through field trips, summer courses, and internship opportunities. By expanding our educational programming, we aim to serve many more members of the community including high school students, young professionals, and lifelong learners. Our future programs will spark curiosity about the past, broaden understanding about history, and promote stewardship into the future by connecting community members to a shared cultural heritage. Through intergenerational programming, we intend to support the development of youth and foster relationships between diverse members of the community.

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Upper Elementary and Middle School Students

The Presidio Archaeology Center is determined to create meaningful and memorable educational experiences for elementary and middle school students. By providing an authentic and active learning environment, students are able to engage with history and science in a real setting through hands-on activities.

- Self-Guided Tours
- Docent Led Tours
- Field Trips (*Excavate History* and *Garbology 101*)
 - Summer Camps

High School Students

The Center plans to provide high school students with educational and mentorship opportunities that develop both their computer skills and their leadership abilities.

- After School Program (Digital Storytelling Project)
 - Summer Camps (Mentors/Facilitators)

Young Professionals

The Center hopes to attract the talent and time of young professional volunteers, especially those already working in the Presidio at organizations such as the San Francisco Film Center, The Orphanage, and Letterman Digital Arts Campus. By sharing their technical skills and creativity with the community through intergenerational heritage projects, these individuals will have both a local impact on the lives of youth and a global impact by helping to digitally share the story of the Presidio.

- After School Program (Volunteer media teachers for Digital Storytelling Project)

Undergraduate and Graduate Students

The Center aspires to be a renowned place providing educational, internship, and professional development opportunities to undergraduate students while simultaneously being a destination that graduate students choose to carry out their academic research.

- UC Berkeley Summer Session Course
 - Internships
- Fellowships (Independent research)

Lifelong Learners

The Center is committed to creating a community of active citizens and strives to involve lifelong learners in a variety of ways. Through intergenerational programs, lifelong learners can share their knowledge and experiences with younger members of the community; through professional development programs, they can fuel their own curiosity and love of learning through lectures and workshops.

- Professional Development (Workshops and Lectures)
- After School Program (Volunteer mentors for Digital Storytelling Project)
 - Docents

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HOW DO WE SERVE THEM?

Due to its compelling history, its spectacular park setting, and its location within a major metropolitan area, the Presidio is in a unique position to serve the community. By providing a variety of educational programming opportunities, the Presidio Archaeology Center hopes to engage diverse members of the community ranging from school children to senior citizens. By 2013, we hope to serve more than 2,500* school students per year. To better serve the diversity of park visitors, our programs also differ in the level of engagement they require. While some programs are intended for a day visitor with an hour to spare, others entail semester long commitments.

Self-Guided Tours

The Kids on Trails series that has been developed by the Presidio Trust is a wonderful way for both school groups and families to interact with the Presidio. The Presidio Archaeology Center has created a similar self-guide for children to uncover the history of the Mesa Room. There is the potential to create other self-guided tours (whether digital or hard copy) that focus on the work of the archaeologists here at the Presidio.

Docent Led Tours

The Presidio Trust recognizes the importance that volunteers will play in the future development of public programming and it is actively organizing and promoting volunteer opportunities. With the creation of the Anza Esplanade and the new facility for the Archaeology Center, there is the potential to offer docent led tours focusing on the cultural history of the Presidio. These tours would involve a large number of volunteer guides and would serve a huge number of park visitors. Over 30,000 school children visit nearby Mission Dolores every year and are given guided tours by trained docents. Looking ahead, the Trust may explore the possibility of creating a similar model.

Professional Development (Workshops and Lectures)

San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) applied for a Teaching American History Grant through the United States Department of Education for school years 2008-2011. If they receive this grant, the Presidio Archaeology Center will serve as a community partner and will offer professional development workshops to fourth and fifth grade teachers. These workshops will familiarize teachers with the history of the Presidio and provide ideas for integrating archaeology and site-based learning into their social studies curriculum. By reaching out to SFUSD teachers, the Presidio Archaeology Lab is positioning itself to serve an even greater number of school children in San Francisco.

Through a developing relationship with Mission Dolores, the Center is exploring the possibility of co-hosting a series of lectures and site visits at the Presidio and local missions. This lecture series would provide teachers and docents with a more in-depth experience of the park and its history. It would also involve the participation of local university professors and authors in sharing their historical research about California with the community.

Field Trips

With the interdisciplinary study of archaeology at its core, *Excavate History* is a one-day field trip targeted at fourth graders that provides students with an authentic and active learning environment. Students are encouraged to excavate the colonial history of *El Presidio de San Francisco* through hands-on activities with archaeological artifacts. Outdoor activities include experimental adobe brick making and a landscape excavation hike. Indoor activities include cataloging real archaeological artifacts and an observation/interpretation activity with replica artifacts. These activities were designed to help students uncover the forgotten voices of San Francisco and discover their own connection to the park. In contrast to the self-guided tours and docent led tours, the field trip provides students with the opportunity to engage more actively with the park's historical and archaeological resources.

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The Center also welcomes third through sixth grade students to participate in *Garbology 101*, a field trip offered in partnership with the Crissy Field Center that encourages students to contemplate the century old problem: what do societies do with their garbage? As students participate in hands-on activities in the Presidio Archaeology Lab, they learn how archaeologists uncover the past by studying artifacts. At the Crissy Field Center, students explore decomposition in miniature landfills, consider the impact of their own garbage on the environment, and discuss alternatives for reducing waste. Their experience culminates when students use recycled materials to create journals where they can reflect on their park visit.

Summer Camps and After School Programs

In partnership with the YMCA, the Presidio Archaeology Center will offer week-long summer camps to upper elementary and middle school students (Grades 4-8). These camps will be project based with experimental archaeology and artifact curation as the centerpieces. Local high school students will serve as co-facilitators/mentors. These week long camps will provide elementary students with an exciting educational experience and will provide high school students with a meaningful service experience. Among the ideas for “experimental” archaeology or anthropology are activities in colonial pottery making and design, colonial foods and food preparation, and the colonial or ethnobotanical garden at El Polin. If the camps are successful, the Center will explore either continuing this program with the YMCA, adding additional camp partners, or developing its own program.

An intergenerational after school program would bring together diverse members of the community to help chronicle the oral history of the Presidio through the new medium of digital storytelling. High school students would be partnered with an older member of the community who has a personal connection to the Presidio (Native Ohlone, Californios, American military). Meeting once a week over the course of a semester, students would learn about the history of the Presidio through the stories and photos of their adult partner. Simultaneously, students would be taught basic skills for creating short digital stories (Photoshop, iMovie, SoundEdit). Ideally, these skills workshops would be taught by young professional volunteers working in the Presidio (Letterman Center, SF Film Society, Orphanage). As a culminating project, students would select one oral history from their adult partner and create a digital story that would be hosted by the Center’s website.

University Level Academic Pursuits

Anthropology 136e: Digital Documentation and Representation of Cultural Heritage is being offered in the 2008 Summer Session and marks the third year that the University of California, Berkeley has held an accredited upper division course on the Presidio. This course will be on “New Media and Cultural Heritage” and will focus on the real world challenge of creating interpretive walks and other installations for the public that involve wireless technology, digital geomapping, and storytelling both globally and locally at the site of *El Presidio* and the de Anza trail. The course will involve the design, field trial, and documentation of these different formats of representation of cultural heritage places.

The Presidio Archaeology Center has hosted graduate, undergraduate, and high school interns for the last five years through several of our partner organizations. California Studies (CAS) 580: National Park Service Internship Program is offered through San Francisco State University. Achieve has sponsored a summer high school internship at the Center. Additional interns have worked at the Center through a partnership with Alexandria Archive Institute, including students enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, and the University of San Francisco, among others. As Center interns, students enrich their educational experience and develop their chosen career path by applying academic knowledge in a practical setting. Interns have the opportunity to work

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in a variety of Center programs, including historical research, fieldwork, collections, education and outreach.

The Center would welcome the opportunity to develop a graduate or post-doctoral fellowship program.

Partnering with a local university, the Center would provide small stipends or semester long/year long/multi-year fellowships to a limited number of qualified graduate students or post-doctoral fellows to carry out in-depth Presidio related anthropology, archaeology, or history research.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Over the next five years, the Presidio Archaeology Center hopes to expand our Education Program dramatically. The variety of programming we plan to offer will not only serve to engage diverse members of the community with the Presidio’s history, it will also serve to benefit the community by connecting people to one another and to a shared cultural heritage. Our programs are creating tomorrow’s park stewards who will care for the Presidio’s cultural and natural resources into the future. As the Presidio Trust states in its mission, this park is an enduring resource for the American public and the Center welcomes citizens of all ages and backgrounds to uncover this resource and discover their own connection to this place through our educational programs.

FY 2008

- *Excavate History*
- *Garbology 101*
- University of California, Berkeley Summer Session Course (Anthropology 136e)
 - San Francisco State University Internship Course (CAS 580)
 - Summer Camps

FY 2009

- *Excavate History*
- *Garbology 101*
- University of California, Berkeley Summer Session Course (Anthropology 136e)
 - San Francisco State University Internship Course (CAS 580)
 - Summer Camps
 - After School Program (Digital Storytelling Project)
- Professional Development (Teacher Workshops in partnership with SFUSD)
- Professional Development (Lecture Series in partnership with Bay Area Missions)
 - University Fellowships

Excavate History

FY 2009

1 class visit per week @ 25 weeks and 25 students per class = 625 students

FY 2013

4 class visits per week @ 25 weeks and 25 students per class = 2500 students

Summer Camps

FY 2009

2 sessions (summer camp) and 1 session (winter camp) @ 12 students per session = 36 students

3 high school mentors

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FY 2013

4 sessions (summer camp) and 1 session (winter camp) @ 12 students per session = 60 students
6 high school mentors

After School Program (Digital Storytelling Project)

FY 2009-2013

1 session per semester (fall, spring, summer)
12 high school students and 12 older adults per semester = 36 students and 36 adult volunteers
3-5 young professional volunteers

Professional Development (Teacher Workshops in partnership with SFUSD)

FY 2009-2011

25 teachers per year

Professional Development (Lecture Series in partnership with Bay Area Missions)

FY 2009-2011

20-30 participants

University Fellowships

FY 2009

1 graduate student

FY 2010

2 graduate students

FY 2011

3 graduate students

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

For the Presidio Archaeology Center to achieve its vision of dramatically expanding its educational programming to create a community of active citizens, critical thinkers, and park stewards, we need your support. The success of the Archaeology Education Program depends on financial contributions as well as community involvement. Before we are able to expand our programming, we must be assured that our core needs are met. These include funding for the following:

- **Staff:** *Coordinator of Education Programs, 2 part-time program facilitators*
- **Equipment and Materials:** *Classroom supplies (crayons, pencils, paper, etc.), classroom furnishings (white board, display cases), printed materials (pre-visit field trip materials, comics, field books), replica artifacts and teaching aids*
- **Financial Aid:** *Community buses to make our field trips accessible to all school children, scholarship funding to make our summer camps available to underprivileged students*
- **Community Involvement:** *Adult volunteers, high school mentors, undergraduate and graduate interns*

If these core needs are met, the Center will be positioned to increase the frequency of our existing programs and begin developing and running expanded educational programming. In partnership with SFUSD and Mission Dolores, we will hold workshops and lectures for teachers and lifelong learners. In partnership with the Presidio YMCA, we will increase the frequency of summer camps and winter camps and explore the possibility of after school programs. In collaboration with organizations at the Presidio such as the San Francisco Film Center, the Bay School, and community heritage organizations such as Los Californios, we will launch an intergenerational Digital Storytelling Project. With expanded programming comes a new set of financial contributions that are in addition to the continuation of the core funding needs. These include funding for the following:

- **Staff:** *2 additional part-time program facilitators, webmaster, volunteer coordinator*
- **Equipment and Materials:** *Experimental archaeology equipment and supplies (kiln, kitchen area, ethno botanical garden), printed materials (Self-guides, California Colonial Archaeology book for children); classroom furnishings; electronic equipment (computers, cameras, scanners, projectors, software)*
- **Financial Aid:** *Additional community buses to make our field trips accessible to all school children, additional scholarship funding to make our summer camps available to underprivileged students*
- **Community Involvement:** *Additional adult volunteers, young professional volunteers, additional high school mentors, additional undergraduate and graduate interns*

In addition to the educational programs we offer to K-12 students and lifelong learners, the Presidio Archaeology Center also aspires to be a renowned place where undergraduate and graduate students carry out their academic research. Beyond the internships that provide educational and professional development for undergraduates, in the future we would like to expand our educational programming to include a graduate or post-doctoral fellowship program. A cohort of two to three fellows would create a supportive environment serving to strengthen and propel the research of each individual graduate student.

We would welcome one new fellow each year for a three year commitment. By the third year of the fellowship program, a three person cohort would be established. This revolving cohort structure could then be maintained into the future. The in-depth research conducted by these students would not only serve the academic community, it would also provide new content for future public exhibits, lectures, and school programs.

- **Fellowships:** *Graduate students, emeritus or part-time university level faculty member liaison*