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South Laguna
CA 92652-7639



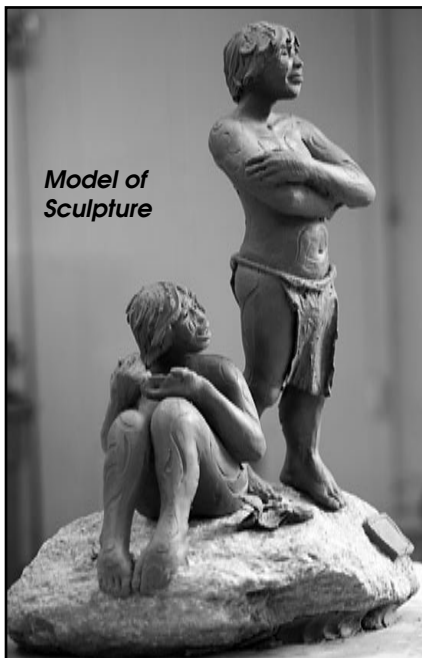
Bulletin

Spring 2010

STAMP

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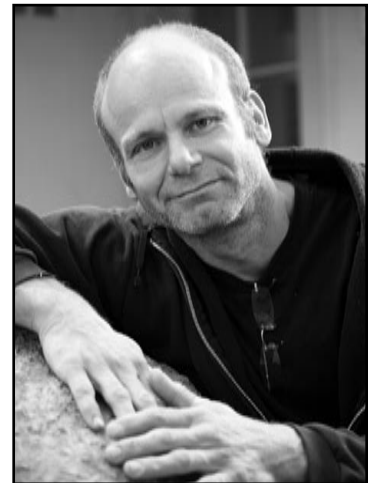


Jorge Fernandez: South Laguna Artist Creates for Local Streetscape

By Barbara Bowie

On March 2 the City Council approved installing a sculpture at the new South Laguna parking lot at Sea Cove and Coast Highway. Entitled "In the Beginning," the representation of the earliest known inhabitants of our coast was created by South Laguna artist, Jorge Fernandez. At the February SLCA annual meeting, Jorge presented the clay model of the sculpture to enthusiastic applause.

Following up on the Coast Highway streetscape project, SLCA was involved in this art selection process to assure that this finishing touch would complement the recently completed landscape, rockwork, and paving improvements. Starting in August 2009,



(Continued on page 4) Artist Jorge Fernandez

Growing Roots and More — A Children's Garden

By Carly Day Andrews

Recently, in an attempt to be a diligent gardener, I removed all of the plants from our raised bed in the Community Garden so that we could properly amend the soil. My friend Leila Goldstein and I uprooted hundreds of carrots, radishes, and onions; we filled bags with lettuce, and shelled peas, taking pleasure in our harvest. When Alani, my two-year-old, saw the garden the next day, she asked me where all of her plants were and began to cry. Her obvious attachment to, and sympathy for, the beings that we had raised from seed was so striking. At that moment I realized what being a part of the South Laguna Community Garden has meant to us, especially at a time when our life has been in flux. It literally let us put down some roots.

Because I spend most of *(Continued on page 3)*





Ideas!

Can the Coast Highway in South Laguna Be 'Complete'?

By Les Miklosy of the Complete Streets Task Force and Lisa Marks

Hardly anyone feels safe riding a bike or walking on the Coast Highway. Motorized metal roars past in tons as we prayerfully occupy non-existent bike lanes or the space between two disconnected stretches of sidewalk. Do it at night? Surreal. We often choose our cars even for short trips and sacrifice the exercise and pleasure of walking or biking. What happens to people who don't drive — those too young, too old, disabled, don't have the money, or don't want a car?



Shoulder disappears at Aliso Pedestrian Bridge

Specific problems on the Coast Highway include discontinuous sidewalks, obstructions in sidewalks, irregular access for disabled and no bikeways. Sidewalks appear and disappear while pedestrians must walk along the sides of the highway in the shoulders. If cars are parked in the shoulder, the pedestrian is forced very close to fast-moving traffic. There is a noteworthy danger point for bikers and walkers where the shoulder of the Coast Highway terminates at the support column of the Aliso Pedestrian Bridge (see photo). The single biggest danger may be the speed of automobile travel.

Complete Streets is a new term that describes an old way of using public space — providing equal rights for all users. A complete street is designed to be safe for pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. The actions required to make a street "complete" vary depending on many factors. Ingredients may include sidewalks, bike lanes, special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible transit stops, frequent crossing opportunities, median islands, traffic calming devices and more.

The Complete Streets Task Force of Laguna Beach consists of residents appointed by Laguna Beach City Council to research and make recommendations for improving our mobility. State and Federal legislation now mandates a more balanced use of public street space. If South Laguna

residents and the City are interested, a qualified transportation planning firm could analyze issues and solutions.

There are many possible interventions for the Coast Highway in South Laguna. Reduce the legal speed limit, as slower cars are less dangerous and slower drivers are more able to adjust to pedestrians, bicyclists, the opening of car doors, etc. Traffic calming is a class of techniques which involves the redesign of streets in all sorts of ways — curves, bulb-outs, medians, street trees, lighting fixtures, painted stripes — to slow the motorized vehicles. The landscaped islands we have near 3rd Avenue are good examples.

Other interventions include improving alternate routes paralleling the highway such as the Monterey St./Virginia Way connection. Reallocate the use of space to support a variety of types of mobility. Most segments of the highway have seven lanes for cars and the equivalent of one lane or less devoted to other forms; Use some of this space to complete sidewalks along Coast Highway; the City has already finished a feasibility study.

For walkers and bikers to negotiate the highway at the Aliso Pedestrian Bridge, possibilities include making a pedestrian tunnel under the bridge on the inland side, or reducing the number of lanes devoted to cars.



Balanced Mobility

The aim of this article is not to propose anything specific but to raise awareness and hope that South Laguna residents might be able to travel safely to other parts of Laguna using multiple means of transport, and to raise the interest of citizens to work toward solutions. There is a worldwide movement to accommodate multiple forms of mobility; there are state and federal mandates insisting that we do so; there is professional expertise to help us; and there is a City-appointed task force to guide us. Please contact Lisa Marks at 499-1231 if you are interested in working on this issue. ☀

DUES, DUES, DUES

It may be time to renew your SLCA membership. Check the date on your mailing label. That's the date your membership expires. Please clip the coupon on the back page and mail it with your check in the enclosed envelope to SLCA, P. O. Box 9668, South Laguna, CA 92652-9639.

Extra contributions are always welcome. ☀



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Rihn



Laguna Terrace Mobile Home Park

There are plans for subdividing the Laguna Terrace Mobile Home Park so that the residents have an opportunity to purchase the land on which their homes stand. Most of the residents want this option. "What's the problem?" you ask. Back in 1995, the City approved the

park owner's plan to make lot-line adjustments to separate the mobile home park from the rest of his hillside property. These were not straightforward because they moved the boundary of the mobile home park into the area zoned Open Space. Apparently then the Park owner did extensive unpermitted grading, including filling in a stream with loss of endangered plants and rare habitat. The City does not have jurisdiction to issue Coastal Development Permits in this area so their approval of the "Lot Line Adjustment" has been called into question. Ultimately, the Coastal Commission will decide this increasingly complex issue.

The pricing of the subdivided parcels and how to deal with the aging infrastructure of the mobile home park are also concerns. The next step was to have been a comprehensive review by the Coastal Commission; however, the park owner has withdrawn the previous plans and, I am told, submitted new plans. In any event, I plan for our Civic Association to be advocating for the benefit of the residents. It is also my hope is that the degraded open spaces will be restored. ☀

Update on Marine Reserve Process

By Mike Beanan

California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioners have been reviewing proposals for the marine reserve system as mandated by the Marine Life Protection Act. At their April 7th meeting in Monterey, the Commission advanced for environmental review a proposal called "the Integrated Preferred Alternative" (IPA) — which calls for a marine reserve in Laguna from Abalone Point to Table Rock — and other proposals, some of which include a citywide marine reserve for Laguna. DFG staff proposed variations to the IPA in order to address the status of South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA)'s sewage treatment outfall pipe at Aliso Beach and boundary and enforcement issues. Some staff suggestions would make Laguna's reserve smaller.

SLCA is strongly opposed to shortening the reserve as it would then fail to meet scientific guidelines, thus reducing the likelihood of successful restoration of marine habitats, and in turn weakening the network system of reserves along California's south coast. Some of the shorter

versions would leave the southern part of South Laguna out of the reserve. SLCA will continue to push for a citywide reserve, recently endorsed again by our City Council. Fish and Game Commissioners consider this again in August. Thanks to the many of you for writing letters of support and attending distant MLPA hearings. For updates, please contact mike@southlaguna.org (499-6367). ☀

Children's Garden, continued from page 1

my time with my daughter, I tend to perceive things more as she would. To her the garden is a virtual wonderland. Imagine flowers taller than you in colors that are almost too bright to be from the natural world, and your surprise when you discover that broccoli comes from a towering plant that turns drops of water that fall upon its leaves into diamonds! And what about the fairies (read hummingbirds and sphinx moths), and the most beautiful cat that comes around just so you can pet it? (A local stray.) In fact, when passers-by wander into the borders of the garden, you can see that they too are put under a kind of a spell.

And the garden is the best kind of classroom.

When my friend Johanna Borella and I approached the founders of the garden with the idea of creating a place for children, they were generous and receptive, offering up the last of the unused space for the kids. Volunteers built two more small boxes for planting and playing, and the Children's Garden was born. Now California poppies, cosmos, and a mini tangerine tree fill the border, and flowers and herbs grow wildly in the raised beds. The creation of this beautiful garden tells the children that they are an important part of our community and that they too belong here.

My hope is that the Children's Garden will begin to attract more local kids, and their parents. Residents are welcome to join the Community Garden as Friends or Members, without renting a plot. The community growing space is a place where everyone can plant, care for the plants and pick. Members and Friends will also be invited to special events and talks held at the garden.

On May 8 we had a member's potluck, and children painted a plywood mural. On May 16 we increased the children's growing space by planting a garden box offered by David Mason. Rebecca Barber, co-owner of Studio Arts Gallery, also volunteered to help us create a kid-friendly miniature garden in one of the boxes that would capture the imagination of little ones and bring the minutia of the plant world into focus.

If you would like to support or participate in the Children's Garden or the Community Garden in general, become a Member or a Friend. Go to SouthLaguna.Org/garden/, fill out the membership form, and send to the SLCA address. We are accepting donations of gardening supplies, children's and adult gardening tools, and money. Please contact Carly Andrews at carlydayart@yahoo.com or Ann Christoph at Ann@AC-LA.com. ☀



Jorge Fernandez, continued from page 1

Boardmember Ann Christoph and Laguna Beach resident Jackie Gallagher were instrumental in conveying to the Commission the ideas that SLCA suggested: a marine theme, something unique to South Laguna, and including San Onofre breccia stone that makes up our ocean cliffs and that is used in the planters and medians along Coast Highway.

The Arts Commission opened the project to local artists and three submitted their visions. In March 2010, the Commission unanimously approved the Fernandez-designed artwork. A self-taught sculptor in bronze, Jorge has exhibited at the Festival of Arts for the past three years. In his native Chile, Jorge worked for a business that did fine woodworking projects, but eventually decided to spend time traveling and earning money for clay masks he made. An admirer of the Italian sculptor Medardo Rosso, he began experimenting with bronze casting. He lived for a while in Matamoros, Mexico, found his way to San Francisco, and eventually settled here in South Laguna.

Jorge's vision for the South Laguna project would commemorate the early inhabitants of the area, an idea that grew from reading reports of the 1939 archaeological excavations of the remains at Goff Island and Treasure Island. In his artistic vision, Jorge wanted to create representative figures of people who came to this area from some "other place" and, seeing the beauty of the coastline, stopped to admire the scenery and perhaps decided to settle. This he feels will link them to current inhabitants and in doing so, make an artistic statement about the effect of natural beauty on the human spirit. The sculpture represents an aboriginal couple pausing to contemplate the view, and deciding, "Yes, this is the place."

Jorge plans to place the bronze figures as perched on a large stone. His friend, fellow artist and South Laguna neighbor Joe Jenkins, provided the perfect foundation for the figures: a very large and heavy San Onofre breccia boulder. Other large breccia rocks will be added as seats adjacent to the artwork. >

Casting in bronze is a lengthy endeavor, and Jorge will be working at his home studio here in South Laguna to prepare the full-size figures that will be cast at a foundry. Jorge will be working through the summer, and the sculpture will be installed sometime in the fall. Jorge welcomes neighbors and residents who pass by his studio at 31547 Eagle Rock Way to drop in and take a look at the "work in progress." It is quite impressive — a thought-provoking enhancement residents of South Laguna can appreciate as part of the ongoing improvements to the coastal streetscape. ☀

Kelp Fest Celebrates Underwater Forest



Nancy Caruso, Jinger Wallace, Michael Beanan and Erik Wong at the Kelp Fest

The Kelp Fest at Main Beach on April 24th was a joyful celebration of our ocean habitats — a community carnival with story tellers, children, drumming and dancing. SLCA gave \$500 to help fund the festival. South Laguna is the "Little Big Sur of Southern California" with critical coastal habitats such as giant kelp. We are fortunate to have Nancy Caruso, a biologist committed to reforesting our kelp beds, whose energy and vision fueled this first annual Kelp Fest. Preserving and reforesting kelp beds helps all the species that live in and depend on the kelp forest such as the state fish, the Garibaldi. ☀

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- Individual \$15
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- Supporting \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Contribution for historical research \$ _____
- Friend of the South Laguna Community Garden \$100

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