



A SITE RICH WITH BEACH STORIES

ROOM FOR INTERPRETATION

The interpretive vision for the Beach House is built on three major interpretive themes identified by historian Janet Fireman: Three Remarkable Individuals, A Beach Like No Other, and A Public Place Henceforth. The interpretive experience will connect visitors with the past while encouraging them to make and share stories of their own. The history of the Beach House and Santa Monica State Beach will be conveyed with a light touch, offering an enchanting continuum connecting the past, present and future. Some interpretive elements have been built in to the site – the Beach Walk marks the 1929 mean high tide line and a white line across the site highlights the location of the original bulkhead. An outline of the original mansion is painted on the Center Lot behind the Event House. A master plan for additional interpretive elements has been developed by Second Story, and will be implemented over time.

LIVING HISTORY

The Santa Monica Conservancy has developed a docent program specific to the Beach House. Highly skilled, knowledgeable and entertaining volunteer docents will be on site throughout the summer to regale guests with the colorful history of the Beach House site and Santa Monica State Beach.

BEACH STORIES

In 2008, the City of Santa Monica was awarded a grant from the federal Preserve America program for the Beach Stories project – an inventory of the rich history associated with Santa Monica State Beach and a cultural mapping project. Content culled from Beach Stories will be housed at the Beach House and be integrated with the interpretive program.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

The Beach House is the ideal place for small cultural gatherings such as readings, small musical performances, lectures, and film screenings. Free and informal events will take place throughout the summer. The Beach House will also showcase 36 by 27 Stories of Santa Monica Beach, a juried photo exhibit in the Event House from April through September. The breadth of work conveys the unique sense of place associated with Santa Monica State Beach – a location that holds a special spot in the collective consciousness surrounding modern beach culture.

For more information on the interpretive plan or cultural programs, contact Jessica Cusick, Cultural Affairs Manager for the City of Santa Monica at 310-458-8350.

For more information on the Santa Monica Conservancy, visit them online at <http://www.santamonicaconservancy.org>.

