



### *From the CEO*

The business of philanthropy is, in essence, the investment business, but with a slightly different return. Instead of a dollars-and-cents bottom line,

Koret's best investments grow into community resources that flourish for generations.

Many generations ago, the pioneers who designed and built Golden Gate Park shared this commitment to the future. Devoting decades to negotiating, planning, and constructing the Park, these visionaries successfully converted 1,000 acres of sand dunes into the thriving urban oasis we know today.

Since then, some 15 million annual visitors — Bay Area residents, American travelers, and international tourists alike — have delighted in the Park's rich tapestry of historic sites, natural scenery, and world-class museums. But over time, its assets have naturally aged and deteriorated.

In this issue of the *Catalyst*, you will learn how Koret has contributed to the revitalization of San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Park, investing more than \$10 million in projects and programs that contribute to its vibrancy, accessibility, and community outreach. The new Koret Children's Quarter, the future California Academy of Sciences, the redesigned de Young Museum, and the restored Music Concourse with a new underground parking garage each offer enriching resources for park visitors.

We are pleased to reflect on our investment in the renovation and restoration of Golden Gate Park, one of San Francisco's most precious community assets and one we anticipate will flourish for generations to come.

*Jeffrey A. Farber*  
Chief Executive Officer



## *Historic American playground reopens*



Photo by William F. Wilson

*Bay Area children and their families celebrated the opening of the Koret Children's Quarter.*

*by Lauren Statman, JVS Kohn Intern*

Some 120 years after its debut, America's first public playground reopened to a crowd of eager children and families this summer. Named the Koret Children's Quarter in recognition of the foundation's funding partnership with the city, the new, eco-friendly playground, the Sharon Art Studio, and a vintage Herschell-Spillman carousel occupy the southeast quadrant of Golden Gate Park.

*Continued on next page*

## *Historic American playground reopens with a San Francisco theme*



*Children and families were pleased with the new Children's Quarter, which offers climbing structures customized for every age.*

Inspired by the varied natural landscape of San Francisco, the new playground features a tree house village, a sandy streambed, and climbing wave walls — all designed to reflect how the City by the Bay extends from green hills to coastline to sea.

In addition to offering fun climbing surfaces, many of the playground structures are interactive, engaging children in playful exploration. When children step on a button, for example, water spouts in the streambed in response, wetting sand to mold into imaginative creations. On opening day, one busy toddler offered free “ice cream” made of delicious wet sand (which most bystanders understandably declined)! Young explorers may also try their hands at archaeology as they dig sand away from a tiled wall, excavating hidden artifacts and the skeleton of a California bear.

The melding of exploration and recreation was a guiding principle in the design of the playground, according to project manager Rick Thall.

*Photo by William F. Wilson*

"The goal of the design of Koret Children's Quarter is to bring adventure and discovery back into play by creating a framework for children to use their imaginations and alter their own environment," Thall said.

Solidifying the community imprint, local art students and professionals crafted the tiling and climbable sea sculptures that populate this San Francisco safari. Mayor Gavin Newsom, on hand to cut the ribbon, expressed his joy with the "integration of the art" and play. With its ecological inspiration,



Photo by William F. Wilson

*Children play in the sandy bank of the streambed, one of many interactive play features at the Koret Children's Quarter that allow children to explore and create their environment.*



Photo by William F. Wilson

*Mayor Gavin Newsom welcomed Bay Area families to one of his favorite playgrounds.*

*"The goal of the design of Koret Children's Quarter is to bring adventure and discovery back into play."*

*-Rick Thall  
Project Manager*

interactive structures, and facilities that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Koret Children's Quarter has breathed new life into the country's first public playground.

The old playground "was designed in 1887 for the 19th century," Mayor Newsom proclaimed. "This (new playground) is designed for the 21st century."

# Natural history faces the future at the California Academy of Sciences



*Artist's rendering of the future facade of the new California Academy of Sciences, expected to open in fall 2008.*

While its fossil collection dates to the “dark ages,” the new California Academy of Sciences is a museum of the 21st century. Emphasizing conservation, environmental stewardship, and “green” architecture, the California Academy is preparing for a fall 2008 opening of its new home in Golden Gate Park.

Its new Koret-Taube Education Center will further strengthen the Academy’s commitment to scientific research and interactive education. One of the 10 largest natural museums in the world, the Academy anticipates greeting over 2 million annual guests once the new facility opens.

“This project advances our interest in bringing educational resources to a broad cross-section of constituents,” said Koret President and Taube Philanthropies Chairman Tad Taube.

The 370,000-square-foot Academy will boast modernized facilities that cater to children, families, and educators alike. The new building will feature an expanded early childhood education center for children up to age six, a new, state-of-the-art auditorium, and substantially renovated Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison Planetarium. The Koret-Taube



Photo by Donovan Rittenbach

*The California Academy of Sciences prepares to open its new facility to 2 million visitors in its first year.*

Education Center, named in recognition of contributions from the Koret Foundation in collaboration with Taube Philanthropies, will house high-tech classrooms and laboratories, as well as the Naturalist Center, which encompasses a library, a catalogue of scientific specimens, and technology resources for educators and scholars.

The new Academy is one of 10 pilot “green” building projects of the San Francisco Department of the Environment that will employ energy-efficient technologies such as wind-capture ventilation and gray water recycling, consuming approximately 50 percent less energy than a standard building.

Designed by Pritzker Prize laureate Renzo Piano of Genoa, Italy, the Academy will feature an undulating “living rooftop” covered with California native plants and glass expanses that serve as skylights. Mr. Piano’s innovative design creates more usable square footage on a smaller footprint of land and will actually return one acre to Golden Gate Park.

“The idea will be to make the building itself into an exhibit,” with its living rooftop and integrated architecture, said California Academy Executive Director Gregory Farrington.



*Artist's elevation of the future California Academy of Sciences, one of the world's 10 largest natural history museums and a Golden Gate Park gem.*

Artist's elevation courtesy California Academy of Sciences

## From constructing a building to *Constructing a Legend*, Koret sustains its support for the de Young

Since its grand reopening in 2005, the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum has dazzled diverse audiences through unique programs and world-class exhibitions.

Koret was an active supporter of the new de Young project, resulting in the new Koret Auditorium used for lectures and presentations by artists and art scholars. The Foundation also supports special exhibits and *Friday Nights at the de Young*, drawing a younger, more ethnically diverse crowd into the Bay Area arts scene.

Since reopening on October 15, 2005, the de Young Museum has hosted 2.7 million visitors and 30 special exhibitions in its 293,000-square-foot facility. Membership has increased 51 percent, with the museum now boasting 80,000 active members.

Featuring a multilevel design that incorporates art, architecture, and the natural landscape, the new de

Young occupies an 8-percent smaller footprint while offering 30 percent more program space than the old building. In addition to expansive exhibition space, the new de Young welcomes its visitors with a colorful courtyard, a sculpture garden, and a 144-foot education tower that overlooks a Bay Area panorama.

Current exhibits include *The Sculpture of Louise Nevelson: Constructing a Legend*. Running through January 13, 2008, this unique exhibition is the only Nevelson exhibit to explore her artistic journey by juxtaposing her writing with her sculpture. This multimedia presentation connects viewers with the common themes running through Nevelson's half-century of work, including Jewish migration, female identity, and modernism.

For an art experience that is unique every week, the de Young is open until 8:45 p.m. every Friday through November 23, 2007, in the *Friday Nights at the de Young* series. Offering a variety of live performance, including music, poetry, dance, and artist demonstrations, as well as films, lectures, cocktails, and food, the series reaches out especially to younger audiences, further contributing to the de Young's significant increase in annual visitors.

More than 100 years since its founding, the de Young Museum, along with the California Academy of Sciences and Koret Children's Quarter, continues to contribute to Golden Gate Park's status as one of the world's most vibrant urban oases.



Photo courtesy Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Friends enjoy a Friday Night at the de Young. Every Friday through November 23, the de Young will stay open until 8:45.



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*Reopened in 2005, the new de Young features a 144-foot education tower that overlooks a Bay Area panorama.*

# CATALYST

## Buried Treasure in Golden Gate Park(ing)

While many consider the California Academy of Sciences and the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum to be two of the most precious gems of Golden Gate Park, a third treasure lies buried underground.

Sunken beneath the park attractions, the Music Concourse Garage conceals 800 parking spaces — 30 of them ADA-compliant — and over 30 free bicycle spots, making the park's amenities accessible to everyone with wheels.

Supported with a \$1 million grant from the Koret Foundation, the Music Concourse and Garage Fund facilitated both the creation of parking and the transformation of three acres of asphalt into green space.

Additionally, the project included the renovating of the Music Concourse. Long a beloved respite for Park visitors to picnic, enjoy live music, and explore the Concourse's collection of historic trees, statues, and fountains, the Concourse was declared a national landmark in January 2007.



Photo courtesy San Francisco Parks Trust

*The Music Concourse Garage conceals traffic from Park visitors, restoring the Music Concourse as a respite from urban life.*

Given the current traffic that this area of Golden Gate Park attracts — including over 1.2 million annual de Young visitors and another 2 million California Academy of Sciences visitors anticipated in its opening year — the Music Concourse Garage helps keep cars off the park roads and people safely ambling the park facilities. The Music Concourse Garage is not just another parking garage, but a critical link in maintaining and revitalizing a national treasure.

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