

**SANTA BARBARA
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**



 **FUNDACIÓN
CONSEJO ESPAÑA-EE.UU.**

DESIGNING AMERICA: SPAIN'S IMPRINT IN THE U.S.

Exhibition celebrating the legacy of Spain on view in Santa Barbara from October 20, 2016 to April 10, 2017

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The Santa Barbara Historical Museum is proud to welcome the landmark exhibition, "Designing America: Spain's Imprint in the U.S." The exhibition was created and organized by the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos.

Perfectly set amidst the beautiful Spanish architecture of Santa Barbara, the exhibition offers a view of Spain's extensive contribution to configuring the territory, landscape and cities of the U.S. It explores the historic, political and cultural events that took place throughout the five hundred years of shared history between the United States and Spain: a footprint still visible on North American soil.

According to Lynn Brittner, *Executive Director*: "We are very honored to host the exhibition. In Santa Barbara, one sees the legacy of Spain every day - in the urban landscape, the style of architecture, as well as in the names of our city streets. Santa Barbara's largest civic celebration, *Old Spanish Days*, commemorates the contributions Spain bestowed upon the community."

Designing America: Spain's Imprint in the U.S. will be on view from October 20, 2016 through April 10, 2017. Guests can visit Tuesday through Saturday from 10am until 5pm and noon until 5pm on Sunday. Admission to the exhibition is free.

Interview Opportunities:

- Juan Miguel Hernández León, *Curator*
- Manuel M^a Lejarreta Lobo, *Secretary General*, Fundación Consejo España – Estados Unidos
- Lynn Brittner, *Executive Director*, Santa Barbara Historical Museum
- Michael Redmon, *Director of Research*, Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Exhibition Overview:

From 1513, the year when Ponce de León first set foot in Florida, through to the twenty-first century, Spain has had an influential presence in the United States of America we know today. This exhibition aims to examine, under the same looking glass, the contributions Spain has made toward the construction of territories, landscapes and cities in the United States: a living legacy that is continually renewed despite the centuries that have gone by.

With some 500 years of uninterrupted control, Spain was the first European nation to settle in the territory that is known today as the United States, and the one that has stayed the longest. This influence extends to very distinct fields: from the exploration and charting on the map of the American territory to the founding of American cities. A long period of Spanish rule (1565-1821) that has left behind pivotal influences on the territory's structure and the composition of its landscape. Through today, the work of Spanish engineers and architects in the United States has kept this connection alive.

Embarking on a themed, yet non-sequential cross-sectional survey of these contributions, the exhibition is presented in blocks: *The image of America*; *Constructing the territory*; *Cities: the Spanish urban space*; and *Constructed works: architecture and engineering*. In each of these blocks, a set of more than 20 maps, images and objects is matched with parallel narrations that complement and enrich this collection. The visit is completed by *The Spanish Language: place names in the United States*, an interactive installation that helps to localize the states and cities in the US, the film, *The Spanish Frontier in North America*, and an interactive table with zoomable maps.

This exhibition takes place within the context of several key events, to be celebrated between 2013 and 2016, which reflect upon the common history between Spain and the United States. Current commemorative celebrations include the 500th anniversary of Ponce de León's arrival in Florida, the 500th anniversary of the exploration of the Pacific Ocean by Núñez de Balboa, the 300th anniversary of the birth of California's founder, Father Junípero Serra; and the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the first city in the United States: St. Augustine, Florida.

The exhibition has been organized by the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos in collaboration with the Biblioteca Nacional de España.

Santa Barbara Historical Museum is the third venue in the United States.

It has been curated by Juan Miguel Hernández León, director of the Cultural Landscape Research Group of the Technical University of Madrid. The exhibition design was carried out by Indissoluble.

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Founded in 1932, the Santa Barbara Historical Museum is committed to preserving and sharing local history. Its mission is *to be a repository, interpreter and communicator of the rich history of the Santa Barbara region. Through exhibitions, scholarship, educational programs and preservation of the region's material culture, their goal is to connect people of all backgrounds to historically important ideas, people and objects.*

The Museum's extensive holdings include paintings, furniture, saddles, decorative arts, and costumes that represent over 500 years of Chumash, Mexican, Spanish and American history. Visitors to the Museum's campus may experience history through the signature exhibition, *The Story of Santa Barbara*, the historic adobes buildings onsite and also through the Gledhill Research Library.

The Museum is located in the historic district of downtown Santa Barbara.

Fundación Consejo España – Estados Unidos

Created in 1997, the Fundación Consejo España - Estados Unidos is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the relationship between Spain and the United States through civil society. Based in Madrid (Spain) it brings together notable representatives from business, public administration, politics and cultural and academic institutions. The Fundación celebrated its annual US-Spain Forum in Santa Barbara in November, 2013.

The exhibition being shown in Santa Barbara was made possible through the collaboration of the Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the following sponsors: HP, Acciona, BBVA, BBVA Compass, Ferrovial, Fundación ACS, Iberdrola, Obra Social "la Caixa", OHL and Técnicas Reunidas.

The Chairman of the Honorary Committee of the Exhibition is H.M. King Felipe VI of Spain.