



Highlights:

- Support PAHM's lease request at the November 27th Council Meeting.
- 125th City Anniversary coming in 2019!
- Brand new Museum Friends program launched!
- Historic gates donated to the Museum.

Fall 2017 Update

“It’s important for kids to feel a sense of community. If they know where they come from, it gives them some sense of belonging... It gives them a sense of where they can go in the future.” - John Brubaker, Escondido School

PALO ALTO HISTORY MUSEUM

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Dear friends of the Palo Alto History Museum,

Fall is here, and I am amazed at how the falling leaves pile up so quickly in my small yard. Then I think of the ancient oak and huge jacaranda trees in front of the future Museum, and I am grateful that our post-war lot in Midtown is so manageable.

Like the gathering leaves, it is the many gifts, large and small, from over 600 donors that have brought us to a halfway point in the Museum campaign. We have so much to be grateful for!

Patience is a virtue for which we are truly thankful. From you, our supporters and donors, many of whom have been making gifts every year over the past decade. From the city, our contractor and architect, who are doing their best to hold their estimates in play as construction booms around the valley. From those who have stepped forward to offer advice and pro bono help. And from our board members and advisory board members, past and present, whose leadership has stayed strong.

Thank you to those of you who have made new donations to the Museum project – some of which were much larger than prior gifts. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and cheered by your commitment to bring a history museum (at last!) to Palo Alto.

We are adding new avenues of fundraising to our toolkit, including a push for grants, a new approach to corporations and businesses, more one-on-one conversations, more house parties and group presentations. And, we are launching a new Museum Friends program – an invitation to the rest of the community to join you in creating a lasting gift to our community.

You are the visionaries. Thank you.

Laura Bajuk
Interim Director, Palo Alto History Museum



Laura Bajuk

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Masterpiece and Scandal in Palo Alto: *The Story of the Arnautoff Murals*



Regarded as one of the best mural painters in the United States, Arnautoff's works can be seen at Coit Tower, the Presidio, George Washington High School and the Richmond and Pacific Grove post offices.

Fleeing the Bolshevik Revolution, Victor Arnautoff (1896–1979) immigrated to Mexico, where he studied mural painting, and became Diego Rivera's assistant in the late twenties. In 1932, Dr. Russell V. Lee commissioned him to paint frescoes surrounding the entry to the new Palo Alto Medical Clinic. It was the artist's first solo work in California.

The full-color murals depict patients receiving care from three doctors whose contributions to the medical world Dr. Lee felt were significant: pioneer pediatrician Emmett Holt, Canadian internist Sir William Osler and Boston neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing.

Physicians are contrasted with historic counterparts depicted in shades of grey: a Native American mother using a board to reshape her child's head, a shaman casting out devils and a practitioner using a hot poker to cauterize a wound.

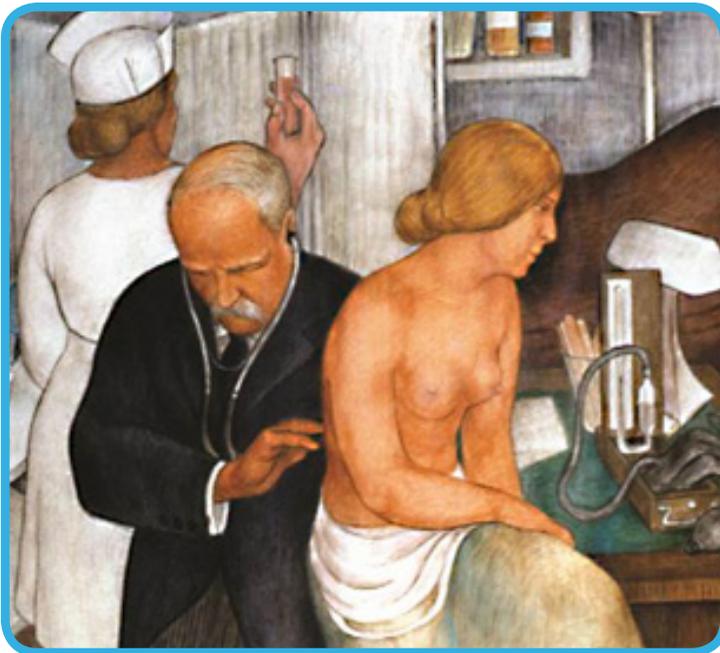
When the Roth Building opened, the murals caused a major scandal. Arnautoff chose to paint some of the patients in a state of partial undress, and the town's reaction was so intense that the controversy received news coverage all the way up in San Francisco.

Under the header, "Murals and Morals: Palo Alto's Pulse Quickens," the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "The builders, aided and abetted by the nationally known doctors who make up the staff, have gone in for art in a big way, and the startling result has set this little college town by the ears!"

**Creating a history
museum for this truly unique
community is inspiring – for us
today and for future
generations.**

**We're making progress to
bridge a \$3.7 million gap to
break ground on the building.**

Continued...



On the first Sunday after the murals were unveiled, the stream of people driving by to look caused a traffic jam along Homer Avenue. Clinic surgeon Fritz Roth threatened to have the walls whitewashed before he would move in.

The furor eventually settled down, and the art became a community fixture. When the Palo Alto Medical Foundation moved to its new campus on El Camino Real in 1999, vignettes of the original murals were reproduced as medallions on the front of the new building.

The preservation of these renowned murals and of the Roth Building itself is a job which the Palo Alto History Museum looks forward to embracing. Please consider a donation to support the restoration of these historic and irreplaceable works.



The final color panel, between the right window and far wall, demonstrates the use of an early form of x-ray, a fluoroscope; the patient is a self-portrait of the artist.

Read more about it:

- “Frescos by Victor Arnautoff.” Past Heritage. 2015. Accessed 9.17.17. www.pastheritage.org.
- “A Moral Dispute Over Murals in the Roth Building.” Palo Alto Medical Foundation. 2015. Accessed 9.17.17. <http://www.pamf.org/about/pamfhistory/moral.html>

An art deco treasure, the Roth Building’s murals by Victor Arnautoff will be restored, with community support.

Donor News:

Pitch & Cathie Johnson

Franklin P. “Pitch” and Catherine Johnson are proud of their legacy of giving in the Bay Area. They have long followed a simple philosophy with their philanthropy: giving back to the community in which Pitch grew up.

As founder of one of Silicon Valley’s first venture capital firms in 1962, Pitch has long advocated for combining the worlds of venture capital investment with traditional philanthropic practices.

He and Cathie have devoted substantial resources to a wide variety of educational, cultural and community organizations, with the hope that all Bay Area communities will enjoy the impact of new economy. Special areas of focus have included youth development and education, the arts, higher education and entrepreneurial training programs.

The Johnsons are receiving two awards for outstanding philanthropy this fall. We thank them for their leadership gifts to the Museum!



Collection Corner: Historic Wrought Iron Gates to be Donated to the Museum!



Armond King and Beth Bunnenberg are dwarfed by the wrought iron gate.

“In his 1982 memoir, Birge [Clark] waxes rhapsodically about the ironwork on the Norris house which was executed by Herman Bleibler in his Page Mill Road shop. Describing it as ‘really outstanding’ and ‘irreplaceable,’ he noted that ‘all the little curlicues have been hammered so they are splayed out. There are little spirals like the tendrils of a vine.’”
- Margaret Feuer, PASTheritage.org

Architect Birge Clark single-handedly defined the look and feel of early Palo Alto—including the historic Roth Building destined to become our history museum. His signature California style often included ironwork by Palo Alto blacksmith Herman Bleibler.

The Swiss-born Bleibler established his iron works shop in 1905 on Forest and High streets (later located on Page Mill Road). Bleibler crafted many of the ornamental ironwork and gates in the area, like that on the Norris home. His grandson, Armond King, who lives in the Los Altos home Herman built in 1913, has donated this impressive 14-foot by 7-foot wrought iron gate to the Museum collection.

Museum Friends Program

Give your community the gift of a new museum, through a gift to your friends and family!

Friend I \$100+

- Receive our full-color, printed quarterly newsletter.
- Be welcomed as a member of the Palo Alto History Museum Friends Program in the newsletter, and in our annual report.



Friend II \$250+

All of the benefits noted above, plus:

- Invitations for you and a guest to participate in one of our two-hour “Historical Photo Walks” led by a noted local professional photographer/historical specialist.
- At \$500 or above, you can choose to have a personalized brick. *(Limited Quantity)*



Advocate \$1,000+

All of the benefits noted above, plus:

- One 30-minute audio “Personal Recollections/Oral History” session/interview with a family member or friend. Includes the finished audio file and transcript.
- Priority registration to all events and programs.
- You can choose to have a personalized artist-made tile. *(Limited Quantity)*

Patron \$5,000+

All of the benefits noted above, plus:

- One 30-minute professionally-produced and edited high definition video “Personal Recollection/Oral History” session (with one or more individuals participating). Includes finished DVD and/or video file and transcript.
- Be invited to a special VIP event with leaders in the fields of history, museums and technology.
- You can choose to have a personalized park bench at the Museum/Heritage Park. *(Highly Limited Quantity)*



Innovator \$10,000+

All of the benefits noted above, plus:

- (2) Audio Oral History Sessions and (2) HD Video Oral History Sessions, with written transcripts of each.
- You and a guest will be invited to an “It Happened Here” tour of Palo Alto led by a historical specialist and ending with a private reception and dinner to follow.



Please redeem your benefits within a year after your gift. Deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Advocate for the Museum



PAHM advisory board member Gail Woolley while on council, with Mike Cobb.



A gallery in the new museum will be named for Gary Fazzino.

Photos courtesy of PAHA.

On Monday, November 27 we are appearing before **City Council** to request a one-year extension to our lease option.

- Please join us at the meeting. We will have PAHM pins for you to wear.
- Write a statement of support - why do you think Palo Alto needs a history museum?

Let us share your name as a PAHM supporter. With over 600 donors from across the community, we have much to be proud of. (If you prefer anonymity, please check off that box on the form below and mail it in for our files.)

Together we will create the best local history museum in the bay area; one that informs and inspires. It's an ambitious project, matching the community whose stories it will share. **Thank you for supporting and sharing the vision!**

Questions? Call, text or email Laura at 650.561.5090 or LauraBajuk@PaloAltoHistoryMuseum.org

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Please change my donor listing to Anonymous.

If you are giving as a gift please fill out the below information:

Name _____ Email _____

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Please Select: Friend I: \$100 Friend II: \$250 Advocate: \$1,000 Patron: \$5,000 Innovator: \$10,000

Total Amount: \$ _____

Check made payable to the Palo Alto History Museum Visa/Mastercard/Discover/Amex

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125th Anniversary is
coming in 2019!

Celebrate with us!

Thank you
to Gloria
and our
600+
donors!

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"There are so many
reasons why we **LOVE**
Palo Alto, there is
never a dull moment."

- Gloria Hom,
*History and Asian
Studies Professor*

