

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

These notes summarize information that was presented at the February 20, 2025 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of February 23, 2025. Board Members Steve, Katherine, Paul, Jody, Allison, Bob, Michael, and George attended.

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. WILL BE** held in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, we continue to provide information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and document those communications in our monthly meeting notes. **Our next meeting will be March 20.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve is looking for input on what changes and additions our Board and others would like to see on the NPHS website before pursuing a consultant. Email Katherine at khon@honconsultinginc.com with your ideas and input.

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting notes from the January 16, 2025 meeting have been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The financials for this meeting are for January 15 to February 18, 2025 and were sent to Board members on February 18, 2025. In this time period, three members renewed and one new member joined (thank you, Steven S., Claudia, and Steve & Deb, and welcome Sheryl!), and one renewing member gave an extra donation (thank you, Steven S.!). Revenue from memberships was \$110. Also, U.S. Bank notified us they require a \$500 minimum balance in the savings account to avoid a monthly fee of \$5. Steve transferred \$400 from the NPHS checking account to the NPHS savings account so the savings balance is now \$550. In the financial statements, the addition to the savings account is recorded as Miscellaneous Revenue of \$400, and the transfer from the checking account is recorded as Miscellaneous Expense of \$400. Other expenses in this time period are \$0.58 (the extra fee to pay the Registry of Charitable Trusts annual filing fee online), \$25 (the annual filing fee to the State of California Registry of Charitable Trusts), and \$45.34 (renewal of two domain names with GoDaddy).

The following state and federal organizational reports for the 2024 fiscal year were filed on the dates indicated below. All required filings have been completed.

- 199N State income tax report was filed online on January 2, 2025.
- State sales tax of \$14 was reported and paid to the State online on January 3, 2025.
- 990N federal income tax report was filed on the irs.gov website on January 28, 2025.
- California Registry of Charitable Trusts Registration Renewal forms were filed online on January 28, 2025.
- Statement of Information with the Secretary of State was filed online on April 20, 2024. The next Statement of Information will be due in 2026.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UPDATE ON BUNGALOW COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT

George reported on the project with University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) to establish a National Register bungalow court historic district. A contract with the consultant has not been signed yet. A concern is that National District sites are not currently eligible for a Mills Act property tax reduction in the City of San Diego. City staff are insisting that city designation and a complete historical report consistent with city requirements would still need to be prepared. One idea is to change the proposed consultant work to be conducting a historic survey of bungalow courts. George will continue to coordinate with UHHS to keep us up to date.

6. UPDATE ON THE CONGRESS OF HISTORY

The Congress of History is an overarching local non-profit organization that conducted a conference every year involving many of the individual non-profit historical organizations, like NPHS. We had an exhibition table and presented papers at several of the conferences starting with our formation in 2008. However, Covid stopped the conferences in 2020 and the Congress of History organization has struggled to re-start. The Congress of History reorganized with a new Board last year, but this year they appear to be considering closing down (sunsetting) their organization. We have not received communication clarifying what is happening, but will continue to communicate whatever we learn in our meeting notes.

7. WALKING TOUR – BURLINGAME HISTORIC DISTRICT

Steve has communicated with our possible guide who is an architect and lives near Burlingame. George and Michael are also interested in being guides again. A Saturday in July was proposed, and that was ok with George and Michael, with Bob, Allison, Claudia and Jody as well as Steve and Katherine helping. Update: **July 12 is the Saturday chosen for the Burlingame walking tour event.**

8. ~~JUNE~~ APRIL EVENT IN MORLEY FIELD

We are proposing to put up our canopy in Morley Field and offer walking tours of the park and Pauly's Addition in April instead of June, since the Burlingame tour will be in July. The Saturday chosen is **April 26**, the week after Easter.

9. SOHO ECONOMIC STUDY ON IMPACT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

George reported the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) is proposing an economic study by PlaceEconomics, a nationally renowned consulting firm, to factually document the positive effect historic preservation has on housing, climate change, and community equity and diversity. SOHO strongly believes historic neighborhoods include some of the city's most naturally occurring affordable homes and these structures are at risk from development pressures and the city's plan to overhaul their historic preservation program, including the Mills Act program. A link to where individuals can donate to help fund the study is below.

Here's the link: [Donation - PlaceEconomics](#)

10. SCANNING PROJECT

We continue our process of scanning slides and notebooks with photos and notes from the Covington Family and other sources. We have scanned the Klicka Job Record Book with more than 1,000 buildings listed from 1937 to 1941 with contractor, job address and customer. Here are some sample pages:

| 14 | | Job Record | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|------|
| | Contractor | Job Address | Customer | Started | List |
| 76 | C. A. Tracy (2) | 3953 Mission Blvd | Mr. Kiffenfeld | 3-24-37 | C |
| 77 | R. C. Gorer | 305 Fairmount and Landis | own | 3-25-37 | C |
| 78 | Dave Rubenstein | 1411 - 1st Ave | Rosenfeld | 3-29-37 | C |
| 79 | O. G. Palmer | 4747 Soria | Reades | 4-1-37 | C-1 |
| 80 | E. Bowlers | 3448 Cherokee | own | 4-2-37 | C-1 |
| 81 | E. L. Fleenor | 3643 Altadena | | 4-2-37 | C-1 |
| 82 | S. D. Lumber Co. | 3653 Wilson | Lombard | 3-26-37 | C-1 |
| 83 | M. B. Liddell | Monte Vista Ranch | Wakefield | 4-2-37 | C-1 |
| 84 | X. W. Nicholas | 4550 Cherokee | Hamer | 4-5-37 | C-1 |
| 85 | M. A. Kytte | 5051 - 67th | | 4-1-37 | C-1 |
| 86 | S. P. Heilmann | Adams + Iowa | Olsen | Dec 30 | B-1 |
| 87 | H. B. Severson | Pine Valley | Ellen | 4-7-37 | C-1 |
| 88 | O. A. Sinning and Holstrom | 3627 - 42 | Anderson | 4-9-37 | C-1 |
| 89 | S. P. Heilmann | 33rd + Boundary | Anderson | 3-19-37 | C |
| 90 | Ben Murphy | 3345 Dale | Kelly | 4-5-37 | C-1 |
| 91 | C. F. Stephens | 4575 Shirley Ann | Raehr | 4-12-37 | C-1 |
| 92 | L. J. Jackson | 36th + Mtview | | 4-15-37 | C-1 |
| 93 | W. W. Wellbott | Alabama + El Cajon | Weibel | 4-15-37 | C-1 |
| 94 | American Builders | 2138 Abbott | Clancy + Thiele | 4-19-37 | C-1 |
| 95 | Dave Rubenstein | 501 Dave Coronado | Hewitt | 4-20-37 | C-1 |
| 96 | O. G. Palmer | 5432 Sista Drive | Freeland | 4-26-37 | C-1 |
| 97 | M. E. Gustafson | 2930 El Cajon | | 4-29-37 | C-1 |
| 98 | Sinning + Holstrom | 5th + Pomona #1 | Kenneth Orlington | 4-29-37 | C-1 |
| 99 | Sinning + Holstrom | 5th + Pomona #2 | " " | 4-29-37 | C-1 |
| 100 | The Dennstedt Co | 2938 Vancouver | Singleton | 4-30-37 | C-1 |

| 34 | | Job Record | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|------|----------|
| No. | Contractor | Job Address | Customer | Started | List | salesman |
| 201 | F. Cornelison | 3677 Adams | | 10-14-37 | C | Herbert |
| 202 | Homer McElvire | 3451 Vermont | Greenbaum | 10-8-37 | C | Herbert |
| 203 | S. P. Heilmann | 1705 Grove | Ellis | 10-15-37 | C | Herbert |
| 204 | D. H. Storms | 4521 Estrella | | 10-15-37 | C | Palmer |
| 205 | C. D. Messenger | 4644 Elerrito | | 10-7-37 | C | Palmer |
| 206 | Elen D. Crawford | 4422 Middlesex Dr | | 10-15-37 | C | |
| 207 | Wm Pischman | Pine Valley | | 10-10-37 | C | |
| 208 | G. F. McDermott | 3211 Orange | by J. M. Liddell | 10-19-37 | C | Palmer |
| 209 | O. G. Palmer | 5703 Hardy Ave | Smith | 10-21-37 | C | Herbert |
| 210 | Diamond Const Co | 1195 Pacific Beach Dr | Novel Diamond | 10-21-37 | C | Herbert |
| 211 | S. P. Heilmann | 3859 - 47th | | 10-21-37 | C | Herbert |
| 212 | H. W. Dingle | 2920 Byron | Mendes | 11-1-37 | C | Herbert |
| 213 | H. W. Dingle | 1028 Rosecrans | | 11-3-37 | C | Herbert |
| 214 | Lindsay + Hettenbaugh | 4551 Long Branch | Williams | 11-3-37 | C | Herbert |
| 215 | D. H. Storms | 3736 Cherokee | | 11-5-37 | C | Palmer |
| 216 | Carl A. and J. P. Lehke | 1201 Ellsworth | Hollender | 11-10-37 | C | Herbert |
| 217 | O. G. Palmer | 4952 College | Buckman | 11-10-37 | C | Herbert |
| 218 | J. W. Hunter | 68th + Tower | Rotham | 11-10-37 | C | Palmer |
| 219 | S. E. Brewer | 4765 Montana + Euclid | Goodman | 11-15-37 | C | Palmer |
| 220 | Ida D. and J. S. Hecker | 3940 Kansas | | 11-15-37 | C | Herbert |
| 221 | J. A. Holstrom | 3660 Wightman | Quirier | 11-17-37 | C | Herbert |
| 222 | W. W. Wellbott | 5858 Estelle | SD Development Co | 11-22-37 | D | Herbert |
| 223 | The Dennstedt Co | 5134 Voltaire | v. Melcher | 11-23-37 | D | Herbert |
| 224 | Diamond Const Co | 1767 Grand | Underwood | 11-23-37 | D | Herbert |
| 225 | J. M. Liddell | 1745 Vermont + Kline | W. S. Burkholder | 12-2-37 | D | Herbert |

Allison has set up an Instagram account for NPHS, with the username northparkhistory. The link is

<https://www.instagram.com/northparkhistory/>

Follow it as we post Toyland Parade photos from the 1950s and other photos from the historical booklets and postcards we have scanned.

11. COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND ACTIVITIES

In February 2025, we responded to requests for information (and received interesting information) and participated in community activities as summarized below.

1. The Spring Westways Magazine produced by AAA included a two-page spread on North Park. See the last two pages of these notes for a scan of the article.

2. Kerstin in the Seattle area emailed us to say, "One of my dearest friends has lived at 3736 Grim Ave for almost 15 years. I am researching her house as a gift. I've found fabulous resources via San Diego's city website (old city directories online!) - the County (deeds) and Stephen Morse's census website where I was able to reverse engineer the Census using the address to find who lived there and the San Diego library's advice for house researchers. I've checked the North Park Historic Inventory - and my friend's house is on it with a nice photo from 2004. Do you know where I might find any old photos from earlier than 2004 of 3736 Grim Ave? Possibly Grim Ave photos which might just capture 3736? I did Google but didn't find anything. I live in the Seattle-area but will be back in San Diego in early May and can visit recommended places."

OWNER—My new beautiful home is now open for inspection. Very large living room and large dining room. Walls in beautiful tiffany blend. Tile drain and tile bath floor; tile mantle. East front lot 50x125 \$2000 will handle. 1½ blocks south of University. 3736 Grim. Phone HILL 3656-W.

We found the house at 3736 Grim Avenue in our North Park Historical Society building permit database, at the link below.

[Historical Building Permit Searches | North Park Historical Society](#)

We told Kerstin that the building permit for a frame cottage and garage at the Grim Avenue address was pulled by Charles Tifal (a designated Master Builder) for E.C. Land on November 17, 1922. The house is in McFadden & Buxton's North Park tract, and the value was recorded as \$4,500. We also found a few historical San Diego Union articles, including a March 12, 1923 ad announcing the new house for sale, and a charming news report from June 8, 1931 on a little girl's third birthday party. Kerstin replied, "WOW! Thanks so much for all the info and links. This is fabulous! Also, I can't believe that you discovered the former owners so quickly - as it took me a while."

Little Miss Helk Is Complimented At Merry Party

Mrs. John Ralph Helk of 3736 Grim street, entertained recently honoring her little daughter, Patsy Jane, on the occasion of her third birthday.

The children enjoyed the afternoon playing games. Delightful refreshments were served and the table decorations consisted of a cleverly home-made merry-go-round as a centerpiece and Raggedy Ann dolls for each little guest.

Those present were Patsy Jane Helk, Jean Flood, Patty Ann Little, Jim Whitacre, Junior Benton, Billie Benton, Jimmy Meis, Alden Fulkerson, Jr., Sharon Deibert, Carolyn Deibert, Eric Brunn, Albert Thompson, Jerry Jane Sheppard, David Arnold.

Others that were present, including friends and mothers of the children, were Mrs. Kenneth Flood, Mrs. A. G. Little, Mrs. P. A. Whitacre, Mrs. Chas. Benton, Mrs. Fred Meis, Mrs. Alden Fulkerson, Mrs. D. L. Deibert, Mrs. Henrick Bruun, Mrs. A. M. Thompson, Mrs. C. B. Sheppard, Mrs. Victor Wankowski, Miss Victoria Wankowski, Mrs. Leo V. Helk, Miss Clara Young, Mrs. R. C. Wilson, Mrs. Gilbert Arnold and the hostess, Mrs. John R. Helk.

3. Clark in Burlingame asked if there was ever a Princeton Street in South Park. We turned to the book, "South Park, San Diego, California" by Susan Bugbee, and found that the original names of the east-west streets were the schools Amherst, Dartmouth, and Harvard, but no Princeton. The South Park book presents a summary of the development's history, and vignettes of 160 individual houses.
4. Alex Bevil, the historian who prepared National Register nomination documentation for the North Park Water Tower, emailed to tell us Ken Kramer "wants to do an *About San Diego* piece on the tower's historical significance. He also wants to know if the tower still has a place in the community's sense of place?" We told Alex that NPHS is committed to eventually having the Local Historic Civil Engineering Landmark plaque we had made in 2015 mounted somewhere appropriate nearby, and that we think the Water Tower is too big to ever not be in our sense of place! We sent Alex 3 of 31 wonderful essays from

McKinley Elementary School 5th graders in 2011 to illustrate that point. Alex replied “I’m glad to hear that the NorthParkians still love their water tower. You gave me copies of the attached essays in 2012. They are attached to the NR [National Register] designation.” He later emailed “My interview went well. It should be broadcast this spring.” We wondered if the NPHS membership and general public would be interested in a presentation on the history of the water tower, and perhaps the Georgia Street Bridge, which are two historic landmarks in North Park. Alex prepared the documentation that got both of these important North Park icons listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Sheryl emailed us to say, “We recently moved to North Park and to San Diego and I would like to find out more about our neighborhood and hopefully more about our home, if possible. Are there particular dates or locations for tours? Thank you very much!”

We learned Sheryl’s address on Arnold Avenue and found some interesting information about past residents of her house, who included a 1945 Legion of Merit Medal and Presidential Citation awardee (see article at right). Sheryl loved learning about previous residents and subsequently joined NPHS! Katherine will tour her around the Dryden District next Wednesday morning.

TRIBUNE-SUN, San Diego 12, California, Friday, June 29, 1945

Cool Handling of Ship Under Fire Wins Medal, Citation

The Legion of Merit Medal and Presidential Citation have been awarded L. Milton M. Routzahn, 31, U.S.N., whose wife, the former Grace Whited of San Diego, and two daughters, Betty Anne and Karen Eloise, reside at 3601 Arnold ave. Routzahn was officer of the deck when the ship on which he was stationed was struck in quick succession by a dive bomber and a torpedo. “By cool, efficient and courageous” handling of his ship, he enabled it to stay in proper position in its formation and to fight off later air attacks,” his citation read. The officer now is on duty aboard a carrier in the Pacific. His parents are Mrs. L. E. Routzahn, of Washington, D. C., and G. M. Routzahn, of Alexandria, Va.



decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action Feb. 10, 1945, near Drusenheim, France, while serving with the 36th infantry division. He has been wounded twice in European battles.

The Legion of Merit Medal has been presented to Master Sgt. Lauren N. Elkin Jr., of Brawley for “exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from June 1 to Oct. 28, 1944” as mess sergeant at an Eighth air force bomber station in England. Elkin, 24, designed a portable steam table which keeps food hot for an indefinite period of time, his citation states. His father, Lauren N. Elkin, lives at 4162 Park blvd.



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12. CITY POLICIES AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD UPDATES

- As a standing item in the meeting notes, the following link on the Planning Department webpage with the city’s info about the review process and timeline is provided: [Preservation and Progress | City of San Diego Official Website](#)
- On the link to HRB agendas and meeting notes at [Historical Resources Board Agendas and Staff Reports | City of San Diego Official Website](#) Item 4 on the Agenda for the February 27, 2025 HRB meeting is summarized as follows:
PRESERVATION AND PROGRESS WORKSHOP Staff: Kelley Stanco. Preservation and Progress is a comprehensive update to the City’s Heritage Preservation Program that will streamline processes for new homes and other uses while protecting places of historic, architectural and cultural importance and encouraging their adaptive reuse. Staff will be presenting and seeking input on an outline of potential updates to the City’s Heritage Preservation Program as well as a tentative schedule for processing of the initiative. INFORMATION ITEM ONLY NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD

13. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending completion of the city's construction activities at the site. Allison is helping us figure out the construction project status. She sent information and links about the project, including the following:

The project name is **Otay 1st/2nd PPL West of Highland Avenue**. The city's Project Tracker website at: <https://cipapp.sandiego.gov/CIPDetail.aspx?ID=S12016> shows the timeline and describes the project as: "This project consists of replacing approximately 5.2 miles of deteriorated steel, cast iron and asbestos cement transmission mains for the Otay 1st and Otay 2nd pipelines located in the communities of City Heights and Greater North Park. These improvements will improve service pressure and eliminate leaks. The project will also update pedestrian curb ramps to the latest standards." Completion and close out of the project are scheduled for the second quarter of 2026. We think now is a good time to start outreach to city engineering staff.


14. PAYMENT FOR NPHS MEMBERSHIP

As a standing item in the meeting notes, we remind everyone that we have activated Venmo for people to use for membership dues. Our @ is northparkhistorical, and if a number code is requested, use 1274. We have modified the membership form to note that people can pay via Venmo, and they can find the membership form on our website at [Membership Information | North Park Historical Society \(northparkhistory.org\)](http://Membership%20Information%20|%20North%20Park%20Historical%20Society%20(northparkhistory.org))

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

All future public meetings scheduled for the **third THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:00 p.m.** in a meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL OCCUR in 2025**, and we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history. Our next meeting will be on **March 20**.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

SEE NEXT TWO PAGES FOR SCANS OF THE SPRING 2025 WESTWAYS ARTICLE
FEATURING NORTH PARK.

North Park

BY SHARAE KOLBERG

With its expanding array of coffee shops, boutiques, street art, and craft breweries (not for nothing is San Diego sometimes called the Capital of Craft Beer), the city's North Park neighborhood might have hit peak hipster haven. Located northeast of Balboa Park, the once-sleepy 'burb is home to the North Park Thursday Farmers Market, one of San Diego's largest independent bookstores, and a long-running art walk. Grab your matcha-filled Stanley tumbler and get ready to explore this happening 'hood.



1 For a latte that's also a work of art, start your day at **Lovesong Coffee**, which serves creative coffee, matcha, and "fizzle" drinks using house-made syrups and whimsical garnishes such as fresh flowers. Lovesong also has a market with healthful packaged snacks to fuel your day.

2 Beauty and wellness fans should check out the recently expanded **Shop Good**. Leah Kirpalani founded the shop after she said she overcame an illness by eliminating chemical-laden products. Customers can book treatments (such as holistic facials made with organic ingredients) and shop nontoxic skin-care and beauty lines.

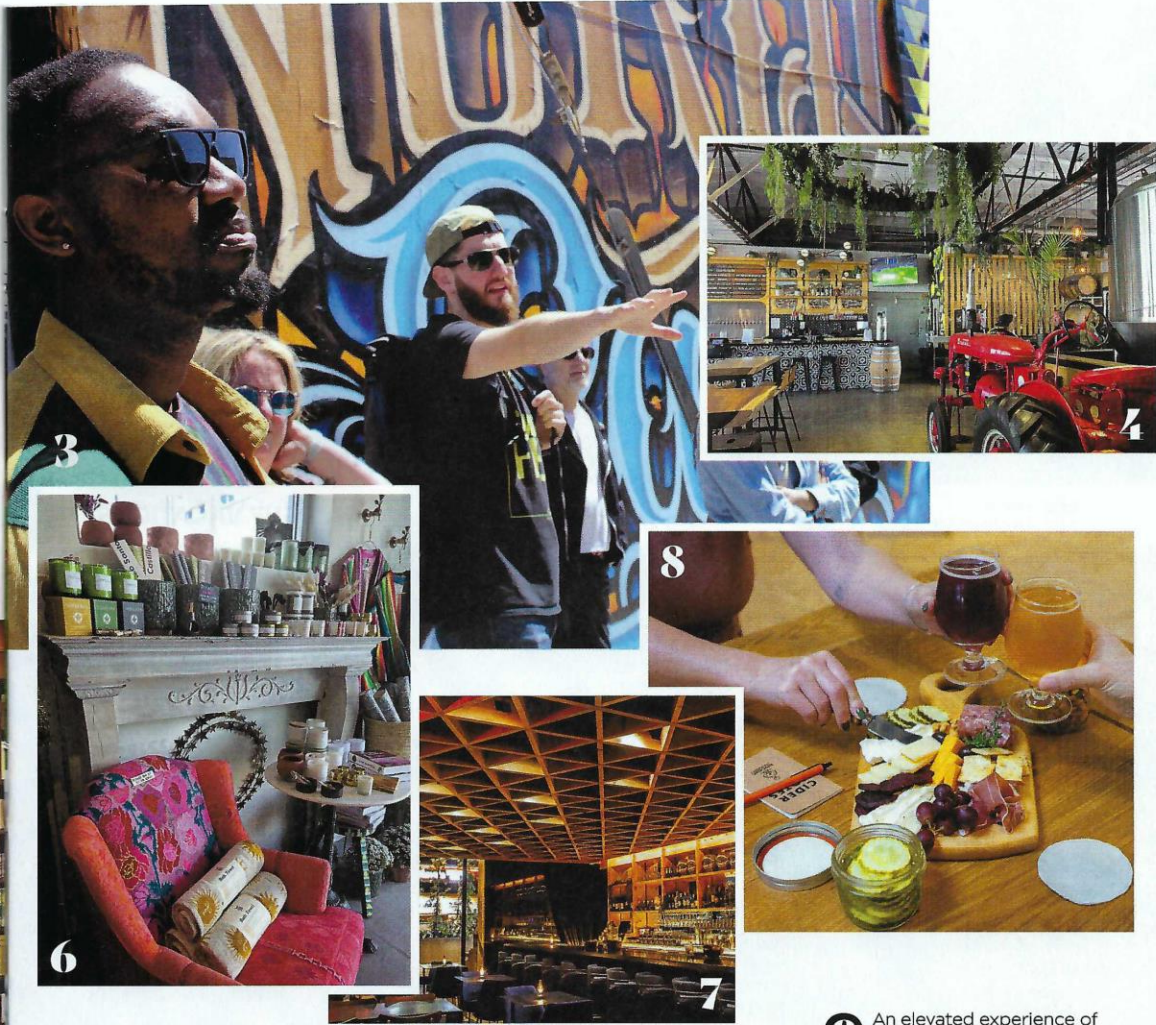
3 Learn the difference between street art and graffiti on a **San Diego Street Art Tour**. The 1½- to 2-hour walking tour (a 2-mile loop) explores thought-provoking commissioned murals that brighten parking lots, alleyways, and buildings. The tour guide will also point out different types of graffiti and decipher their meanings. \$35 per person. Meets at noon Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.



4 Grab a burger and a brew at **The Original 40 Brewing Company**, named for the 40-acre land parcel that became modern-day North Park. Try tap beers such as Juice Maze, along with the OG Burger.

5 Find antiquarian books and works by local authors at quirky **Verbatim Books**. Rustic furniture, colorful artwork, and 300 toy dinosaurs share space with a collection of 50,000-plus books.

FROM TOP: COURTESY LOVESONG COFFEE; SHARAE KOLBERG



6 Boost your mood with self-care products such as lotions, candles, and teas at **Casa Palma Dulce** (pictured), named after a rare, sweet-smelling incense. Owner Elexia de la Parra's original shop, **Artelexia**, is just across the street and carries well-curated Mexican crafts and gifts.

7 **Louisiana Purchase** (pictured) serves finger-licking-good chicken wings, Cajun fries, gator bites, and other Southern fare. *Closed Mondays.* For California tapas and wine, head about a mile east to the

recently opened **Finca** (see review on page 55). The convivial restaurant's bottle shop carries a large selection of whites, reds, and bubbles.

8 Last March, **Bivouac Ciderworks** opened its adjacent **Bivouac Adventure Lodge & General Store** (pictured), where guests can sip hard cider or a Campfire Latte in the yurt-inspired community space. The store also stocks provisions including salads and sandwiches, to-go ciders, snacks, outdoor gear and camping accessories, books, and gifts.

9 An elevated experience of bowling and billiards awaits at **The Gutter**, a game room in the **Lafayette Hotel and Club**. Roll for strikes at the two-lane bowling alley while sipping a Corner Pocket cocktail. *\$50 per lane for one hour (book at least one day in advance).*

10 End your North Park adventure with a nightcap at **Part Time Lover**. Open the door to what looks like a retro record shop and step into a world of craft cocktails, posh decor, and nostalgic vinyl tunes. Take home a rare record from the back-of-the-bar shop.

SHARAEI KOLBERG

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY; SHARAEI KOLBERG; KIMBERLY MOTOS; COURTESY LOUISIANA PURCHASE; SHARAEI KOLBERG



Free San Diego Central & Southern Area maps are available at your Auto Club branch.



Be sure to **designate a driver** if you plan to drink alcohol.

AAA.COM

SPRING 2025 WESTWAYS | 27