



Do You Know the Way to San José?: A History Park Reinterpretation Program between the Lobo School of Innovation and History San José

Introduction:

“Do You Know the Way to San José?” is a partnership between History San José and the Quimby Oak Middle School’s Lobo School of Innovation. This educational initiative encourages LSI seventh graders to actively participate in the preservation and interpretation of San José’s rich history. This program invites students to research, formulate, and design interpretive projects to be displayed throughout History Park, offering visitors valuable insights into the city’s past.

Objective:

This educational initiative fosters a sense of historical appreciation and belonging amongst seventh-grade students while providing them with an opportunity to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community. They are asked to critically examine their local histories and advocate for stories that celebrate the diverse cultural, agricultural, and technological achievements and history of San José, California. By delving into the region’s diverse history, students gain historical knowledge and develop skills in research, critical thinking, and communication.

Program Structure:

1. Student Participation:
 - HSJ education staff visits LSI students to introduce them to the project and the program objectives.



- Lobo School of Innovation teachers gauge students' general interests and help them form teams so they can research various aspects of San José's history.
2. Learning Modules:
- Students visit History Park to learn what histories are already on display and to begin to see what histories might be missing. They review the interpretive panels already on display and visit several museums including the Chinese American Historical Museum, the Viet Museum, the Portuguese Historical Museum, and the exhibit inside of the Arbuckle Gallery (Pacific Hotel).
 - Student participate in a virtual learning exercise where they learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources, compile their findings, analyze the information, and build interpretations about the past and its significance.
3. Historic Research:
- Students explore San José's history, identifying significant events, prominent figures, cultural milestones, and unique stories that deserve recognition.
 - Students conduct primary and secondary research, utilizing History San José's [online catalog](#) and [online exhibits](#), among other resources.
 - They write argumentative pieces that advocate for their historical subject and its importance to the region's history.
4. Interpretive Project Design:
- Once research is complete, students transition to the design phase, where they conceptualize the visual components of the project. They consider the appropriate size and materials, ensuring a visually appealing display.
 - Students also build an audio piece to advocate for their historical subject and turn it into a YouTube video that can be watched online.
5. Review and Revision:



- Completed project designs undergo a review process ensuring historical accuracy and language clarity.
 - Teachers provide students feedback to help refine and enhance the quality of their projects.
6. Installation:
- Selected projects are fabricated and installed at strategic locations throughout San José's History Park, taking into account the historical context, park layout, and visitor flow.
 - Each project has a QR code so visitors can listen to students' arguments. The audio files provide visitors with a deeper understanding of the historical significance portrayed in the projects.
7. Public Display:
- For a specific amount of time, the projects are on display, encouraging the local community, tourists, and other students to visit History Park and explore San José's rich history.

Benefits and Outcomes:

Do You Know the Way to San José? develops students' research skills, critical thinking abilities, and historical knowledge. This educational initiative also enriches History San José's visitor experience, broadening the range of historical narratives and stories told at History Park and contributing to a more inclusive representation of San José's past. Lastly, the program fosters community pride and engagement by involving middle school students in the cultural preservation and promotion of their region's heritage.

Program Leads

Monica Pelayo Lock, PhD | Director of Education & Community Engagement | History San José

Monica Pelayo Lock oversees school programs, family activities, and public programs at History San José. She joined History San José in July 2020 and has over 15 years in public history and museum administration. She is also a trained historian and content



expert who received her Ph.D. and MA in History from the University of Southern California in 2013.

Bill Schroh, Jr. | CEO & President | History San José

Bill Schroh, Jr. joined History San José in July 2019. He has spent over 30 years working in the museum and the non-profit consulting field. Bill has worked on museum education and interpretation projects in the state of New York, New Jersey, and, California. Bill holds a degree in Social Studies Education from State University College at Buffalo New York, and a Certificate of Historic Preservation from Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

Elizabeth Thompson | Events Manager | History San José

Elizabeth Thompson joined History San José in November 2022 as the School Programs Coordinator and Education Assistant. She recently moved to San Jose from Seattle where she earned her degrees in Museum Studies and Classics. In April, she was promoted to the position of Special Events Manager.

Christopher Rivas | Site Director & 7th Grade World Arts Teacher | Lobo School of Innovation

Born and raised in San José, California, Christopher Rivas is the Site Director and 7th grade World Arts Social Studies teacher for Lobo School of Innovation at Quimby Oak Middle School. He has over 14 years of experience working with the Evergreen community and specializes in Project Based Learning. He enjoys watching his students create beautiful and meaningful work that brings pride to the community.

Kyle Trinidad | 7th Grade World Arts Teacher | Lobo School of Innovation

Kyle Trinidad is an English Language Arts teacher in his sixth year of teaching, four of which being in the Lobo School of Innovation at Quimby Oak Middle School in the Evergreen School District. He is proud to use his own crafts-based skill set in the



classroom and have the daily opportunity of guiding students through the Project-Based Learning model and helping them develop their ideas into wondrous deliverables.

Ginger Gaetan | Principal | Quimby Oaks Middle School

Ginger Gaeta has been a part of the Evergreen School District for 17 years and began her work with Project Based Learning and the New Tech Network 11 years ago. She is ecstatic to see her teachers create opportunities for students to engage in real-world partnerships and experiences that will prepare them for the ever-changing work ahead. She is looking forward to the joint collaboration with History Park San Jose and the City of San José Mayor's Office.