

## 2023 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

### **Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)**



**Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)\*** was formed in 1969 to save a single home, the 1887 Sherman-Gilbert House. This small, non-profit group of concerned citizens has since grown to become one of the larger organizations of its kind in the country. SOHO's mission is to preserve, promote, and support preservation of the architectural, cultural, and historical resources that contribute to the collective identity and character of the San Diego region.

As a leader in historic preservation advocacy in San Diego, SOHO has played a pivotal role in the preservation, protection, and restoration of dozens of historic sites and resources in the region, including among many others, the Gaslamp Quarter, South Park Historic District, Santa Ysabel Store and Hoover Barn, Marston House Museum and Gardens, Temple Beth Israel, and Hotel Del Coronado. Besides the built environment, SOHO has also played a part in preserving natural and scenic resources, including the Coronado Railroad right of way, scenic Highway 163, and Plaza de Panama, among others.

SOHO actively engages and educates the public in the work and mission of historic preservation. The campaign to establish individual neighborhood preservation organizations has led to the formation of five groups actively working to preserve their historic communities. SOHO's publishing house, Our Heritage Press, has published over two dozen architecture and history guides and several books, including the award-winning Our Heritage magazine. The bi-

monthly *Our Heritage eNews* (over 4,000 direct subscribers), Sherlock Homes Historic Homeowners Consultation Program, *Old House Resource Directory*, and Adobe University, all promote awareness of the region's history and cultural heritage and inspire the public to engage in preservation efforts. SOHO's annual People in Preservation awards—which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year—has recognized local preservation efforts by over 400 individuals, businesses, and organizations.

Now in its fifth decade, Save Our Heritage Organisation remains committed to ensuring that San Diego's collective, diverse, and rich cultural heritage remains alive and thriving, now, and in the future.

\*SOHO uses the European spelling of "organisation" in their name.