



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Threading Histories: Curating Asian Pacific American Experiences at the Smithsonian and Why Filipino American Stories Matter With Dr. Theodore S. Gonzalves

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – Join the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation on Sunday, March 9th at 2pm for a special presentation by Dr. Theodore S. Gonzalves.

Objects tell stories—of movement and migration, of struggle and survival, of innovation and identity.

Drawing from Smithsonian Asian Pacific American History, Art, and Culture in 101 Objects, this talk examines the deep and multifaceted histories of Filipino Americans through select artifacts that embody their lived experiences. From the labor camps of the early 20th century to the cultural interventions of the present, these objects serve as historical touchstones, revealing how Filipino Americans have shaped and been shaped by the American narrative. In dialogue with SBTHP's *Manongs on the Central Coast* exhibit currently on display at Casa de la Guerra (15 E. De la Guerra Street), this presentation considers the power of material culture in preserving memory, challenging erasure, and reimagining belonging.

Theodore S. Gonzalves is a scholar of comparative cultural studies and a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. A former interim director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, he has taught in the U.S., Spain, and the Philippines. An accomplished musician and former president of the Association for Asian American Studies, Theo currently serves on the board of the American Council of Learned Societies.

The lecture will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2025 @ 2:00pm at the Alhecama Theatre (215A Canon Perdido Street). Free for SBTHP members, \$5 suggested donation for nonmembers. No RSVP required. Seating is first-come, first-serve. Free event parking in lot behind Panino (834 Santa Barbara St.)

Reception and free admission to SBTHP's *Manongs on the Central Coast* at Casa de la Guerra will follow the lecture (from 3:00-4:00pm). Questions? Email Kevin McGarry - kevin@sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093.

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ABOUT THE SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) stewards the past and present of the Presidio Neighborhood and inspires preservation advocacy throughout the County in order to create a more vibrant community. SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara's 18th century birthplace, under an agreement with California State Parks. In addition to portions of the Spanish fort, El Presidio SHP includes the Alhecama Theatre (1925) and the campus of the Santa Barbara School of the Arts, and Jimmy's Oriental Gardens (1947) the last visible connection to Santa Barbara's Chinatown. The organization also operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820's adobe home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra, and the Santa Inés Mission Mills near Solvang, CA. SBTHP produces dozens of community and school programs throughout the year to provide access to these special historic places. SBTHP is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; learn more at sbthp.org.