



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

OVERVIEW

In 1919, railroad magnate and developer Henry Edwards Huntington established The Huntington, and in doing so, committed to making his collections of library materials, art works, and botanical gardens available to the people of California. The mission of his institution: to advance learning in the arts and sciences and to promote the public welfare. Although privately operated, The Huntington functions solely to serve the public interest as a collections-based research and educational institution. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supported by gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies, and by a private endowment that provides about 40 percent of the annual operating budget. In the more than 90 years since The Huntington was founded, the collections have grown impressively. Today the Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens are world renowned for their breadth and depth.

The Huntington estate encompasses 207 acres and includes the Huntington Art Gallery, once the Huntingtons' residence, completed in 1911; the Library, which includes a public exhibition hall and research library complex composed of the original 1919 library and several major additions dating from 1930 to 2004; and the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art, including the original Scott Gallery built in 1984 and the Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery built in 2005. Other structures include the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery, which houses special exhibitions; The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science; and the Frances L. Brody Botanical Center, housing laboratories for teacher training and education programs.

The Huntington is one of the nation's oldest independent research institutions focused on the study of the humanities. It is also among the most active independent academic or research libraries in the country. In any given year, some 1,700 scholars use the Library, generating about 21,000 visits annually and examining an average of 1,100 rare items each day. Their work leads to best-selling books, Pulitzer Prizes, acclaimed documentary films, and many of the history and social studies textbooks that educate the nation's children.

The Library contains approximately 9 million items, far surpassing the 1 million works originally acquired by Mr. Huntington. Particular areas of strength include British and American history and literature; the history of science, medicine, and technology; and printing history. Examples include: William Shakespeare's quarto and folio editions, Benjamin Franklin's handwritten autobiography, John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and an extremely rare *Gutenberg Bible* (ca. 1450–55) on vellum.

The Botanical Gardens include more than 15,000 kinds of rare plants from all over the world. These plants are the heart of the botanical collections, which are landscaped into more than a dozen specialized gardens, including a classical Chinese Garden, called Liu Fang Yuan 流芳園, or the Garden of Flowing Fragrance; the Japanese Garden that includes a Japanese house, bonsai court, zen garden and tea garden; and a Desert Garden containing one of the world's largest cactus and succulent collections.

The Huntington's art collections are also distinguished and include one of the most comprehensive assemblages of 18th- and 19th-century European art in the nation. The Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art hold a representative collection of paintings ranging from the 1740s to the 1980s, with emphasis on the 19th century.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

The Huntington's audience includes students and teachers, scholars, and the general public.

Students and Teachers

The Huntington's education programs serve a broad audience and provide enrichment for our Members, casual visitors, adults, families, and children. More formally, Huntington educators work in close partnership with teachers, offering a number of different school programs free of charge that are held during nonpublic, morning hours and are led by highly trained docents who guide students in interactive explorations of The Huntington's collections on exhibit. All programs align with state and local curriculum standards. As many as 500 teachers a year participate in professional development activities that feature scholarly lectures and curriculum development. Approximately 50 percent of client schools come from the Los Angeles and Pasadena Unified School Districts. A recent survey indicated that more than 70 percent of the schools were federally designated "Title I" schools. More than 25,000 students visit annually to take part in these programs, which are offered free of charge.

Scholars

The Huntington is the most heavily used independent research library outside of the Library of Congress. Many of those conducting research at The Huntington are local scholars, students, and teachers. We also offer competitive fellowships (funded by separate endowments), totaling more than \$1.7 million annually. Over 200 scholars who are awarded long- and short-term fellowships come to The Huntington from more than 100 different institutions in the United States and abroad; panels of independent experts from leading universities conduct blind, peer reviews of the candidates.

Two collaborations with the University of Southern California—the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West and the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute—are among the few known collaborations between an independent research library and university that offer team-taught history courses at the graduate level, sponsor a wide variety of scholarly investigations, and offers an array of public symposia, workshops, conferences, and summer institutes.

General Public

The Huntington is the most heavily visited cultural institution in the San Gabriel Valley and the fourth most visited in all of Los Angeles County, hosting more than 800,000 visitors each year. A monthly Free Day attracts 50,000 people each year, including many who could not otherwise afford to visit.

RECENT INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

In Fiscal Year 2016, The Huntington:

- Hosted more than 800,000 visitors in the gardens, art galleries, and library exhibition hall.
- Awarded 216 annual Research Fellowships to scholars representing 120+ institutions, making The Huntington humanities fellowship program among the largest of its kind in the nation.
- Conducted both formal and informal educational programs for 25,000 children. School tour programs were made available without charge on weekday mornings, attracting participants throughout Southern California.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS COMPLETED, 2004-2016

- Concluded the \$24 million Phase II of fundraising for construction of our Chinese garden. This brings total fundraising for the project to over \$50 million and will enable us to double the size of the garden to more than 12 acres by the end of 2018. When finished, it will be one of the largest classical-style Chinese gardens outside of Asia.
- Completed a \$10 million building project to construct a new 8,600 square-foot addition to the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art. The Jonathan and Karin Fielding Wing, designed by Frederick Fisher and Partners, highlights works of 18th- and early 19th-century American art and opened October 2016.
- Raised \$70 million to construct the Steven S. Koblak Education and Visitor Center—the largest and most strategic project ever undertaken at The Huntington. Opened in April 2015, the new entrance complex features six and a half acres of gardens, 52,000 square feet of new facilities for lectures, conferences, classes, meetings, and visitor amenities, and 42,000 square feet of underground space for collections and institution storage.
- Expanded the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art in July 2014. The public display of American art was expanded to include five new galleries within the existing 16,000-square-foot Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery of American Art, which was completed in 2005 and reinstalled in 2009. These new galleries dramatically increased the space available for the exhibition of American art and related education programs.

- Added three new important features in March 2014 to The Huntington's Chinese Garden - Liu Fang Yuan 流芳園, or the Garden of Flowing Fragrance, which opened in 2008. The new elements include a rock grotto, eloquently named Lingering Clouds Peak, and two tile-roofed buildings: the boat-shaped Waveless Boat pavilion and the Clear and Transcendent pavilion, the latter of which serves as a performance space. This garden represents one of the largest Chinese cultural projects undertaken in the United States.
- Renovated and reinstalled the Library's Main Exhibition Hall in late 2013. The \$2.4 million project culminated in a new, dynamic permanent exhibition: "Remarkable Works, Remarkable Times: Highlights from the Huntington Library." Its goal: to invigorate visitors' sense of connection to history and literature and to highlight the significance and uses of the library's incomparable collections of historical materials.
- Restored the Japanese Garden in 2012. The garden's historic core including the iconic Japanese House was preserved; water features and handicap accessibility were enhanced as part of a \$6.8 million project. A newly created three-quarter-acre traditionally landscaped tea garden was developed which includes a ceremonial teahouse. This historic structure, donated by a local Buddhist Church, was restored in Kyoto by its original builders.
- Surpassed the \$244 million mark in fundraising for the *Generations to Come* fundraising campaign concluded in 2011. The Campaign sought to raise \$175 million for institution-wide strategic objectives.
- Opened the Dibner Hall of the History of Science in November 2008, featuring the permanent exhibition "Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World." It features four areas of exploration: astronomy, natural history, medicine, and light. The space displays some of science's greatest achievements, including works by Ptolemy, Copernicus, Newton, Darwin, and Einstein. Its emergence is the result of the marriage of The Huntington's history of science materials with the Burndy Library, a 67,000-volume collection of rare books and manuscripts donated in 2006.
- Completed a three-year, \$20 million comprehensive restoration of the Huntington Art Gallery in May 2008, the first major upgrade project since the house's completion in 1911. The project included the reinstallation of the European art collections.
- Opened The Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science in October 2005. This 18,000 square-foot facility adds needed space and significantly enhances The Huntington's educational outreach and botanical education program.
- Opened the Munger Research Center in September 2004 the largest single addition to the Library since Mr. Huntington's time. This 90,000-square-foot facility provided critically needed research, collection storage, preservation, and conservation space.

For additional information please visit our website at: huntington.org