

April 16th-17th, 2026

2026 Northern California Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference

at San José State University

Hosted by Beta-Lambda Chapter

Est. 1948



Photo Credit: History San José



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Reception

Thursday, April 16th

5:00PM - 7:00PM

History Park

635 Phelan Ave.

San José, CA

Stewarded by the non-profit organization History San José, History Park is a glimpse into Santa Clara Valley's past. Original and reproduction buildings span the park's 14 acres, providing a unique home for a variety of community organizations and educational programming.

At this year's conference, we spotlight the crucial role that Public History plays in keeping our discipline vibrant and relevant. What does it mean to put history to work in the world? History San José's approach to making the past accessible and engaging while working to better the future of the community is just one answer to this question.



Reception

Join us at History Park for our official welcome, then peruse the Arbuckle Gallery in the Pacific Hotel, step back in time in the Bank of Italy, or simply enjoy refreshments and mingling beside the iconic half-size recreation of San José's light tower – which once stood over the intersection of Santa Clara and Market.

We are deeply grateful to History San José for making this evening possible, as well as for the dedicated work they do to preserve, restore, and share our local history.



History San José



Preserving Our Heritage



Welcome

San José State University's History Department and Beta-Lambda Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta offer you a warm welcome to the 2026 Northern California Regional Conference!

This year, we have nearly seventy participants representing ten institutions from across California. The research that fills today's panels spans the global and the local, the distant past as well as the recent. It is inspiring to see that the next generation of historians is keen to bring diverse scholarship to the field, forge connections, and Seek Truth.



A heartfelt thank you to all of our presenters, guests, colleagues, and volunteers. This conference is yours.



Schedule

8:00AM - 8:45AM Registration & Breakfast

8:30AM - 8:45AM *Welcome Address*

9:00AM - 10:15AM Session 1

10:30AM - 11:45AM Session 2

11:45AM - 1:45PM Luncheon

12:30PM - 1:30PM *Keynote Panel*

1:45PM - 3:00PM Session 3

3:15PM - 4:15PM Session 4

4:30PM - 5:00PM Concluding Remarks & Awards



Sessions, Times, Locations

Registration and Breakfast

Student Union 1A/B

8:00AM - 8:45AM

Welcome Address

8:30AM-8:45AM

Session 1: 9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1A: *Dilemmas of Grand Strategy: War Planning and Dissent*

Student Union 1A/B

Panel 1B: *From Advocacy to Resistance: Civil Rights Activism in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries*

Student Union 2A

Panel 1C: *Adaptation and Innovation*

Student Union 2B

Panel 1D: *The Heroic Age of the Royal Navy: Exploration and Policing the Seas*

Clark Hall 202

Panel 1E: *The Inequality of Urban Planning*

Clark Hall 204

Panel 1F: *Liberation and Rebellion: Agency and Anti-Colonial Activism*

Clark Hall 216



Sessions, Times, Locations

Session 2: 10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2A: *Exclusion and Incarceration: Challenging Racialized Legislation*

Student Union 2A

Panel 2B: *Symbols of Power: Visualizing Mass Political Movements*

Student Union 2B

Panel 2C: *Contested Hierarchies: Marginalization and the Second World War*

Clark Hall 202

Panel 2D: *Religious Reform, Revelation, and Responses to Tragedy*

Clark Hall 204

Panel 2E: *Indigenous Sovereignty and Survival in the West*

Clark Hall 216

Luncheon

Student Union 1A/B

11:45AM - 1:45PM

Keynote Panel

12:30PM - 1:30PM



Sessions, Times, Locations

Session 3: 1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3A: *Campus Politics: Multicultural Activism and Education Reform*
Student Union 2A

Panel 3B: *The Aesthetics of Identity: Art and Ethnography as Political Statement*
Student Union 2B

Panel 3C: *War, Displacement, and Diasporic Identity*
Clark Hall 202

Panel 3D: *Black Advocacy and Agency, Navigating and Protesting Discrimination*
Clark Hall 204

Panel 3E: *Indigenous Sovereignty and Survival in the West*
Clark Hall 216



Sessions, Times, Locations

Session 4: 3:00PM to 4:00PM

Panel 4A: *The Politics of Class and Gender*
Clark Hall 202

Phi Alpha Theta Advisor's Meeting
Dudley Moorhead Hall 135

Building & Energizing Your History Community
Student Union 1A/B

Doing Digital Humanities as a Historian
Student Union 2A

Exploring History Careers
Student Union 2B

A Walk Through a People's History of SJSU
Meet in front of Student Union 1A/B Check-in Table

Concluding Remarks & Awards

Student Union Theater

4:30PM - 5:00PM



Session 1

11

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1A: Dilemmas of Grand Strategy: War Planning and Dissent

Student Union 1A/B

Chair: **ALBERTO GARCIA**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

LI LI

CSU EAST BAY

Security Guarantees, Alliances, and Crisis Decision-Making (Pre-WWI vs. Present)

LEIGH DRAKE

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Kennedy's War: American Escalation in Vietnam, 1961-1963

NOAH BRUENING

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Newsletters, Governments-in-Exile, and a War Brought North: American War Resister Media in Canada During the Vietnam War, 1968-1970

ARCENIO LOPEZ VILLARREAL

CSU FRESNO

The Dirty Aftermath of the Gulf War, Previous Policies, and Our Return to Iraq, 1953-2003



Session 1

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1B: From Advocacy to Resistance: Civil Rights
Activism in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries
Student Union 2A

Chair: **GLEN GENDZEL**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

JENNIFER MOORE
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
*The Labor and Cultural Divide in the New Almaden Quicksilver
Mines*

TRENTON KALINOWSKY
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
Black Athletes and the Civil Rights Movement

ASH LANGE
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
*Moral Panics and Anti-Queer Legislation in the 20th and 21st
Century United States*

DYLAN RYU
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
From the Heart to Brain



Session 1

13

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1C: Adaptation and Innovation

Student Union 2B

Chair: **XIAOJIA HOU**

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

QUENTIN SMITH

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Esoteric Secrets of Sand and Silk: Chinese Alchemical Diaspora Across the Silk Roads

CHELSEA TRAN

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

On Late Nineteenth Century Boats and British Power

NATE SYMKOWICK

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Semiconductors Under the Rising Sun



Session 1

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1D: The Heroic Age of the Royal Navy: Exploration and Policing the Seas

Clark Hall 202

Chair: **GREG TOMLINSON**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

HARPER NGUYEN
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

The Rise and Fall of British Exploration in the Arctic during Pax Britannica

EDWIN F. MAJANO VILLALOBOS
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

Abolition by Capture: The Clementina and the Imperial Politics of "Liberation"

AIDAN WOODWICK-RICHARDS
CSU EAST BAY

Wine Imperialism of Iberia: How British Imperialism Impacted the Iberian Wine Trade



Session 1

15

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1E: The Inequality of Urban Planning

Clark Hall 204

Chair: **MICHELE BERTOLONE**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

CAITLIN PAMBID
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
The San Francisco Bay Ferrying System (1875-1958)

TSOGTBAATAR OTGONBAATAR
CSU SACRAMENTO
Tracks of Displacement

VIOLET BECERRA
CSU EAST BAY
Admonishing Automobiles: A History of Transportation and Exploitation in the City of Angels

ZACH AGNEW
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
Redlining and Lasting Inequality: Histories of Exclusion in San José's Urban Development, 1930s-1990s



Session 1

9:00AM to 10:15AM

Panel 1F: Liberation and Rebellion: Agency and Anti-Colonial Activism

Clark Hall 216

Chair: **ALLISON KATSEV**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

AYNSLEIGH WOOD
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

Entangled Freedoms: The 1947 Madagascar Revolution and the Geopolitics of Decolonization

ISABELLA LUCAS
CSU EAST BAY

Why Aren't We Free?: Puerto Rican Independence Movements of the 1960s and 70s

JEWINSO PINEYRO
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

When They Fail, We Organize

ANNA JOHNSON
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

The Louvre Heist: A Colonial Reckoning



Session 2

17

10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2A: Exclusion and Incarceration: Challenging
Racialized Legislation

Student Union 2A

Chair: **ALBERTO GARCIA**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

ISLA DUDLEY
CSU FRESNO

*Paving the Farmer's Paradise: Corruption, Planning, and Power in
Fresno, California*

ALEX LUGO
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

*Drawing the Line: Mexican American Identity and the Exclusion of
Mexican Immigrants in the UFW*

DAHIANA MARIAS-MAGAÑA
CSU FRESNO

*Harvesting Power: Female Agency in the United Farm Workers
Movement*

BEN CHU
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

*So We Are a State of Law and Order? How Nixon's Political Platform
Shaped Georgia's Rising Carceral Trends*

TEEGAN BRATTON
CSU FRESNO

No Friends of Our Nation



Session 2

10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2B: Symbols of Power: Visualizing Mass Political Movements

Student Union 2B

Chair: **MARY PICKERING**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

ALDINA CODEMO
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
Virtue and Terror: When Philosophy is Radicalized

PAIGE NGUYEN
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
Crusades of Universal Freedom: The Transformation in International Politics from the French Revolution to the European Revolutions of 1848

CORINNE KREEGER
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
American Immigration and the Holocaust

DOMINIC SCHARRER
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
The Success of Revolution: Comparing the People Power Revolution and the Trillion Peso Marches



Session 2

19

10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2C: Contested Hierarchies: Marginalization and the Second World War

Clark Hall 202

Chair: **WILL SCHULTZ**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

VANESSA DEROMA
CSU FRESNO

When Science Became Destiny: Biology and the Formation of Racial Consciousness in Nazi Germany

AIDAN RAUH
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
The Visual and Political Designs of Adolf Hitler

SAM RIOS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
The Great Patriotic War: Women's Trifles and Men's Rifles

TAYLOR BRUNER
CSU FRESNO
The Unsung Hero's of World War Two



Session 2

10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2D: Religious Reform, Revelation, and Responses
to Tragedy

Clark Hall 204

Chair: **KATHARINE OLSON**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

FRANCESCA TAPPER
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

The Bruja Endures: Tracing Brujería Across the Guatemalan Diaspora

AMY HAGLER
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

In the Name of God: Catholic Priests Fight for Peace

MAC WIENS
CSU FRESNO

People and Masses of Jonestown

SUSANNA MARTIN
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Catholic Incompatibility: Abortion Debate at Santa Clara University



Session 2

21

10:30AM to 11:45AM

Panel 2E: Ethnicity, Naturalization, and California State Politics

Clark Hall 216

Chair: **VICTOR RODRIGUEZ**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM MANESS
CSU CHICO

German-Immigration and Naturalization in Nineteenth-Century Northern California: How the Deutsch and Germanic prospered and Became White in a Nativist and Anti-Immigrant Golden State

BASIL WAINWRIGHT
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Whiteness by Design: Armenian Naturalization and the “Free White Person” Standard, 1909–1925

LESLIE DURAN HINOJOSA
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Mexican Transnational Women, Immigration Policy, and Abuse

GRAYCI CERVANTES
CSU FRESNO

A Considerate Nation Lets Them Decorate Their Barracks: Fresno Bee and the Japanese American Internee Experience 1942



Keynote Address

12:30PM to 1:30PM

Public history is now a well-established field. And yet, it is one that resists easy definition. What does it mean to do history *in public*?

In this structured discussion, local practitioners will offer insights on the opportunities and challenges that accompany public history and other related work that is focused on the past.

Panelists will draw on their experience in oral history, historic preservation, museum work, advocacy, and more as they discuss what it means to put history to work in the world. They will describe successful projects, reflect on how they adapt to challenges, and share advice for those who are interested in doing community-engaged or public-facing history.



Keynote Panel

MODERATOR



Dr. Alison Laurence

*UC Santa Cruz Lecturer,
Contingent Magazine Editor*

PANELISTS



Bill Schroh, Jr.

History San José (HSJ)



Margo McBane

*Before Silicon Valley Project,
SJSU History Professor Emerita*



Ken Yeager

*Queer Silicon Valley,
Bay Area Municipal Elections
Committee (BAYMEC)*



Ben Leech

*Preservation Action Council
San José (PAC*SJ)*



Keynote Panel



MODERATOR Dr. Alison Laurence

Dr. Alison Laurence is a cultural historian of extinction at work on a book about dinosaurs as modern American monsters. Currently, she is a lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and editor for Contingent Magazine. In August 2026, she will join the History faculty at San José State University. She holds a PhD in History and Science Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MA in Public History from the University of New Orleans.



PANELIST Bill Schroh, Jr.

Bill has been President and CEO of History San José since 2019. His professional experience includes more than three decades of working in the museum and public history field. Bill earned his B.S. in Social Studies Education from State University College at Buffalo New York, and a Certificate of Historic Preservation from Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of San José and serves on the boards of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation, the Sourisseau Academy, and the Art Deco Society of California.



PANELIST Ken Yeager

Ken Yeager has been a pioneer for LGBT rights in Santa Clara County for more than four decades. Upon his election to the San José Community College District in 1992, he became the first openly gay elected official in the County. He served six years as a San José City Councilmember and twelve years on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. He currently teaches the Local Government class at SJSU.



Keynote Panel



PANELIST Dr. Margo McBane

Dr. Margo McBane has been a public and academic historian for the past 35 years, and most recently has served as Director of the Before Silicon Valley Website since 2019. For the past 20 years, she has researched the history and conducted over 80 oral history interviews for the website with consulting partner, Suzanne Guerra. They trained SJSU history students to work on the project, teaching them public history techniques. Dr. McBane was the LA Program Officer for California Humanities (an NEH affiliate), and the Director of the Oral History Institute and Assistant Professor of Public History and Women's History at University of Texas El Paso (UTEP). She received her History Ph.D. from UCLA, majoring in U.S. Gender and Labor History, minoring in Public History.



PANELIST Ben Leech

Ben Leech is executive director of the Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*SJ), a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to preserving San José's unique and diverse architectural and cultural heritage through advocacy, education, and civic engagement. He holds a B.A. in Religion from Reed College and an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to joining PAC*SJ in 2020, Leech served as Director of Advocacy for the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia (2010-2015) and taught preservation planning and architectural history at several East Coast universities and colleges. He has authored more than three dozen historic resource reports documenting a wide variety of architectural and cultural landmarks, from 18th-century farmhouses to 19th-century social halls to 20th-century supermarkets.



Session 3

1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3A: Campus Politics: Multicultural Activism and Education Reform

Student Union 2A

Chair: **JANE NARVESON**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

CASH CARILLO
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Nomen-culture: Afrocentric Education and Cultural Conflict in East Palo Alto, 1965-75

TOMAE HERNANDEZ
CSU FRESNO

The "Reaganized University": Regional Conservatism and the Struggle for Fresno State, 1970

JACKLYN ALONZO HEREDIA
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

"SCU Missed the '60s": Multicultural Activism at Santa Clara University

SIMON HINMON
CSU EAST BAY

A Journey Through Time: My Scrapbook of Everything



Session 3

27

1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3B: The Aesthetics of Identity: Art and Ethnography
as Political Statement

Student Union 2B

Chair: **KATHERINE OLSON**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHELLE KELLY
WEST VALLEY COLLEGE

The Legend of Queen Guinevere: A Reflection of Medieval Women

JAMES TOM
CSU EAST BAY

Music of the Late Ottoman Empire

ROBIN STEVENS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

*Kingmakers and Pirates: Toward an Underlying Model of Imperial
Identities in Late Medieval and Early Modern Maritime Eurasia*

LILY BARKER
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

The Identity Split of a Bicultural Heritage Expressed Through Art



Session 3

1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3C: War, Displacement, and Diasporic Identity

Clark Hall 202

Chair: **ALLISON KATSEV**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

DEVON HAYES
CSU SACRAMENTO

Repatriation and the Contemporary Negotiation of Pontian Identity

AMEENA SHAFIYEVA
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Scars of Conflict: Effects of Forced Migration from the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

AJSELA SIVIC
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Legacies of War: Bosnian Diaspora and Identity Formation through Generations



Session 3

29

1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3D: Black Advocacy and Agency, Navigating and
Protesting Discrimination

Clark Hall 204

Chair: **KATE CHILTON**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

ANGEL PIERCE
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
Free Black Communities of the South

MARCUS KUJAWA
CSU EAST BAY
Black Media Perspectives on the Moynihan Report, 1965–1976

CRISTAIN PIRES
CSU STANISLAUS
*Mapping Manhood: Geography, Mobility, and Masculine
Affirmation in Charles Ball's Slavery in the United States*

DOUGLAS HOTZ
CSU CHICO
*The Shifting of Tunes: The Evolution of Jazz Music in Weimar
Germany*



Session 3

1:45PM to 3:00PM

Panel 3E: Indigenous Sovereignty and Survival in the West

Clark 216

Chair: **LIBRA HILDE**
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHAEL CASSIDY
CSU EAST BAY

“Render Them Friendly”: Americanization as White Supremacy in California, 1845 to 1851

CONNOR NOYES
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Scalps for Sale: Journalistic Ambivalence Concerning Indian Violence in California

LILY CHAPPELL
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Indigenous Freedom and Identity During the Civil War

AMY DAVEY
CSU SACRAMENTO

The Linnen Files: Recovering Native Voices in Progressive Era Reservation Investigations

JIMMY YOUNG
CSU EAST BAY

Consultation and Repatriation: Tribal–University Relations Under NAGPRA



Session 4

31

3:15PM to 4:15PM

Panel 4A: The Politics of Class and Gender

Clark 202

Chair: **LIBRA HILDE**

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

ALONA KOSTKA

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

"Only as Strong as its Women:" Justifying Married Women in the Workforce During the Great Depression

CHRISTINA MCMANUS

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

The Dispute of the Desert Dwellers: Federal Land in Nevada

KATIE HOPKINS

CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO

Ice, Ice, Crazy: Class Warfare, Femininity, and the Politics of Sympathy in Media



Session 4

3:15PM to 4:15PM

Phi Alpha Theta Advisor's Meeting

Dudley Moorhead Hall 135

Open to PAT advisors and their representatives only.

Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, was founded by Nels Andrew N. Cleven in 1921 at the University of Arkansas. Now encompassing more than nine hundred chapters in all fifty states, the society continues to bring together students and professors of history in pursuit of its mission: to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, teaching, publication, and the exchange of ideas among historians.

This session provides a forum for the faculty advisors of our NorCal regional chapters to look to the future of this conference and our organization.

Building & Energizing Your History Community

Student Union 1A/B

Phi Alpha Theta's mission is to bring students and professionals in the field of history together to create a strong foundation for the future of the discipline – but how do we do that?

Led by current officers of Beta-Lambda Chapter, this session opens discussion on how to create a flourishing history community on your campus.



3:15PM to 4:15PM

Doing Digital Humanities as a Historian

Student Union 2A

What is digital humanities and what can it bring to our work as historians? Digital humanities can mean using digital technology to investigate human culture and society, but it can also mean studying technology as a part of human culture.

In this session, SJSU faculty and staff will discuss digital humanities projects in the context of historical research and how new technologies are impacting the study of history.

Exploring History Careers

Student Union 2B

As students of history, where can we go next with the skills that our discipline has taught us? How can we put history to work in the world?

In this session, professionals working in diverse fields will discuss their academic backgrounds and professional experiences, showcasing the variety of paths open to students with a degree in history.



Session 4

3:15PM to 4:15PM

A Walk Through a People's History of SJSU

Meet in front of Student Union 1A/B Check-in Table

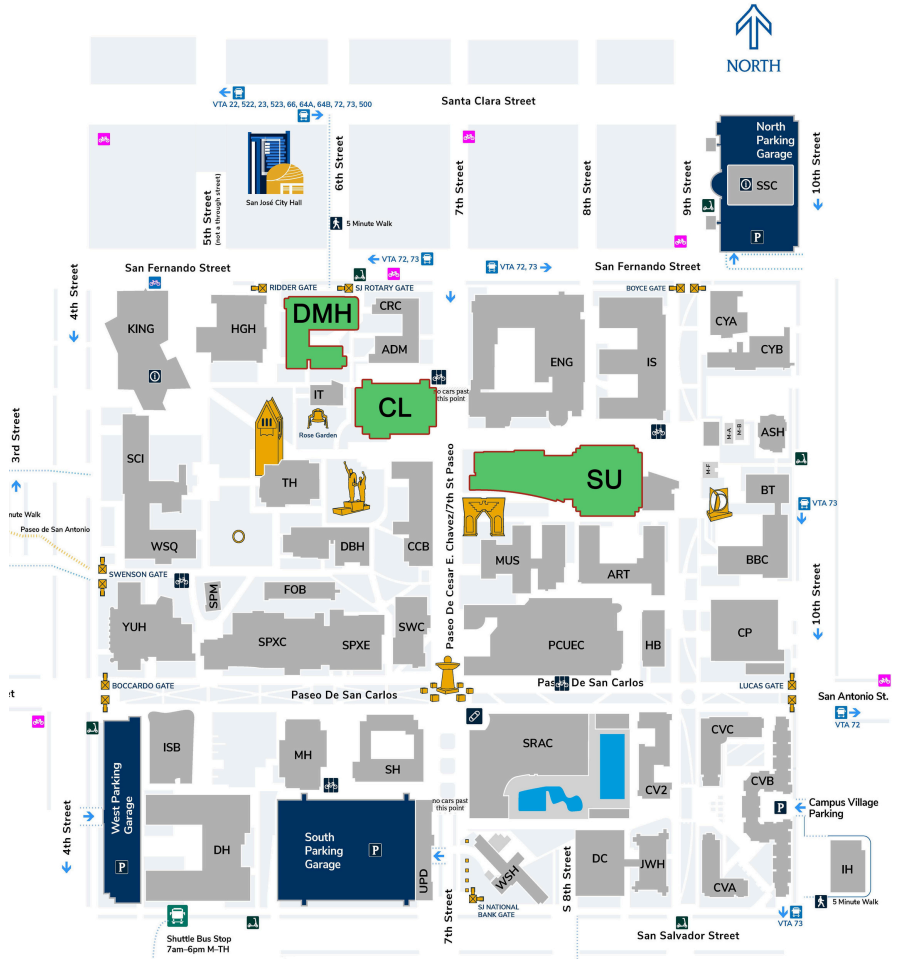
Space is limited to 20 attendees on a first come basis.

This 45-minute campus tour explores locations that commemorate the tenacity and resilience of students and their communities from San José State University's earliest days. The tour features 5 stops and involves a moderate to slow pace on flat, even pavement of just over 1 mile.

Conference
Webpage



CAMPUS MAP



Dudley Moorhead Hall = DMH

Clark Hall = CL

Student Union = SU



Seek



Truth

SJSU

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY



SJSU History Club

Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society,
Beta-Lambda Chapter



Funded By

