



Morgan Hill Historical Society

Media Advisory: July 8, 2020

Morgan Hill Historical Society Receives Grant Awards from Santa Clara County Historic Grant Program

The Morgan Hill Historical Society today announced that it has been awarded two grants by Santa Clara County as part of the County's competitive Historic Grant Program. The program's purpose is to support projects that acknowledge and celebrate untold stories and/or underrepresented/disadvantaged communities.

In April of 2020, the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to award grants for 53 projects following a review and recommendation process conducted by the County Parks & Recreation Department and a 19-member Committee representing 11 County departments.

The Morgan Hill Historical Society was awarded \$66,000, representing 100% of their total funding request for two separate projects: "Stories from the Past," an historical documentary film series and supporting screening events; and The Unredacted History of the Early Inhabitants of South County," a traveling history showcase and supporting educational events. These grant applications received the top two overall scores from the County Grant Review Committee. Work on these projects will commence in 2020 and be completed over a three-year period. Resulting content will be archived by the Historical Society and made accessible to the public for present and future generations.

According to Kathy Sullivan, "We are truly grateful to the County Board of Supervisors, the Review Committee, and the Grant Administrator team with County Parks and Recreation. This funding is essential to our ongoing work to capture untold stories of people and events that have shaped our history, and to share these stories with residents, schools and visitors to our region. History helps us understand our present and envision our future while developing a sense of connection and belonging to the place we call home." Sullivan serves on the Morgan Hill History Society Board of Directors and was Board President during the grant application and awarding process.

According to Mike Wasserman, Santa Clara County Board Vice President, "We had a number of wonderful projects apply for the Historic Heritage Grant in District One. The Morgan Hill Historical Society's applications were the most outstanding. Their projects truly embody the spirit of untold stories. I can't wait to see their work celebrating the people who have shaped Morgan Hill, Coyote Valley, Madrone and San Martin!"

Supervisor Wasserman's District 1 includes San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy.

The grant program was announced to the public in March 2019. During April and May of 2019, technical workshops were conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department staff, accommodating 143 prospective applicants. Of the 92 applications submitted in August 2019, 68 applications were deemed complete and compliant with Program requirements by staff, and advanced to review and scoring by the Review Committee. The Review Committee provided recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, who approved fifty project awards.

About Morgan Hill Historical Society

The mission of the Morgan Hill Historical Society (MHHS) is to preserve and share the history of Morgan Hill, and its environs, to inspire a sense of community. MHHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, organization established and incorporated in 1971. The Historical Society owns, preserves, maintains operates the historic 2.5-acre campus known as Villa Mira Monte, which includes the Morgan Hill Museum (formerly Acton House, circa 1911), the Hiram Morgan Hill House (circa 1884-6), and the Centennial History Trail and Gardens (2006). Villa Mira Monte is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

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