



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA
National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 1 p.m.
Peter's Steakhouse
203 2nd St, Isleton, CA 95641

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the NHA Advisory Committee regarding items not on the agenda
4. Approval of December 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes ([page 3](#))
5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts ([page 7](#))
6. Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan – Blake Roberts and Kira O'Donnell ([page 9](#))
7. NPS Annual Program Report – Blake Roberts ([page 11](#))
8. Delta Heritage Forum Analysis – Blake Roberts ([page 13](#))
9. Discover the Delta - Margit Aramburu
10. Member Announcements and Adjourn

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Committee meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. The Committee welcomes and encourages

participation in its meetings. The Committee limits testimony to not more than three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Chair.

Questions, Comments, and Requests

If you have any questions or have a request for reasonable modification or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Protection Commission at dpc@delta.ca.gov or (916) 375-4800.

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on February 25, 2025, will be shared with Committee members prior to the meeting to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) those verbally requesting to make comments after notice offered by Chair during meeting.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Members

Chair Bruce Blodgett | Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson | Diane Burgis, Commission Chair
| **Michael Campbell | Colin Coffey | Lisa Craig | Dwayne Eubanks | Morris Lum | Carol Jensen | Don Nottoli | David Stuart | Oscar Villegas**, Commissioner | **Dan Whaley | Stuart Walthall | Katie Wiley**

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: **Amanda Blosser** California State Parks | **Chris Lim** Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | **Karen Buhr**, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy | **Jeff Henderson**, Delta Stewardship Council | **Mike Moran**, East Bay Regional Park District | **Trevor Rice**, National Park Service | **John Takekawa**, Suisun Resource Conservation District. Other public agency representatives may also participate as ex-officio members.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

Paulette Henum | Douglas Hsia | Janet Lake | Gia Moreno

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Friday, December 6, 2024, 10 a.m.
Clarksburg Schoolhouse
36397 North Center Street (parking on River Road side)
Clarksburg, CA 95612

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair

Bruce Blodgett, NHAAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Life Scout and Eagle Scout Candidate Boden Dixon, from Clarksburg Troop 83, led meeting participants in a flag salute.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present with members Chair Bruce Blodgett, Diane Burgis, Morris Lum, Don Nottoli, Oscar Villegas, Mike Campbell, Colin Coffey, Dwayne Eubanks, David Stuart, Katie Wiley, Stuart Walthall, and alternates Paulette Hennem, Janet Lake, and Douglas Hsia. Ex-officio members present were Chris Lim and Amanda Blosser.

Guests present were Mike Moran, Karen Buhr, Jeff Henderson, Jack Johnson, Bob Lake, Chris Davis, Eric Chiu, and Steve Herringer.

DPC staff present were Blake Roberts, Holly Heyser, Debra Waltman, and Heather McClure.

Member Carol Jensen arrived at 10:17 a.m. during Item 5.

3. Public Comment– An opportunity for members of the public to address the NHA Advisory Committee regarding items not on the agenda

There were no comments from members of the public.

4. Approval of October 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Member Walthall motioned to approve the October 31, 2024, meeting minutes. Member Burgis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission

Roberts gave an update on the Management Plan which is still under review by the National Park Service and Department of the Interior. After consulting with two tribes in

November, the National Park Service will provide its recommendation to the Secretary. He also reported that he will be going to Washington, D.C. in February as part of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas meeting which will allow opportunities to talk to members and staff as well as the Park Service. He touched on the December 4 deadline for the Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan RFPs. Four proposals were received and are currently under review with the Department of General Services. Additionally, there are plans to interview candidates for a limited-term Public Information Officer position for the NHA later this month, with the potential for it to become permanent.

6. Establish 2025 Meeting Calendar – Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair

Member Nottoli motioned to approve the 2025 Meeting Calendar. Member Villegas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. NHA Passport Program – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission

Roberts presented the details of the upcoming Passport Program beginning with what the stamping stations look like and showing examples of other NHA's stamps. This started a discussion of possible ideas for our own stamp design and locations where we plan to have the stations. Initial outreach is focused on sites that are open at least four days per week. To participate, sites must be within NHA boundaries, connect to NHA themes or serve as visitor centers, be publicly accessible, and offer the passport stamp at no charge. The Commission will support partners by providing training, stampers, ink, and promotional materials, while partners will make stamp displays easily available to visitors. Staff have identified 22 potential passport locations, including libraries, historic sites, and visitor centers.

He expects the program to launch in 2025. Leading up to the launch, the Commission will finalize agreements with partners, create a dedicated webpage with an interactive map, purchase supplies, and provide training and educational materials. Additionally, an NHA brochure will be distributed at passport stations to enhance visitor engagement.

8. Match Funding discussion – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission

Roberts gave a comprehensive background on match funding, thoroughly covering the requirements as well as the benefits. He explained that the Commission, as the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA, received \$157,500 from the National Park Service for Federal Fiscal Year 2024, with an expected increase once the Secretary of the Interior approves the Management Plan. The final amount will depend on the Congressional appropriation for the Heritage Partnership Program in

Federal Fiscal Year 2025, though Congress has yet to pass the budget, which runs from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

Roberts then explained that as a condition of receiving federal funds per the John Dingell Act of 2019, the Commission must provide a one-to-one match through cash or in-kind contributions from non-federal sources. Roberts provided an overview of match funding, detailing legislative and National Park Service requirements and the role of NHA partners. He explained that match funding supports long-term sustainability beyond federal funding and ensures all stakeholders remain invested in the NHA. He also outlined key requirements, including proper documentation, sourcing of contributions, and alignment with Commission policies and federal regulations, while providing further details on the rules governing cash and in-kind matches.

9. Summary of Delta Heritage Forum – Blake Roberts and Holly Heyser, Delta Protection Commission

Roberts and Heyser gave an overview of the success of the 2024 Delta Heritage Forum, held in November at the Antioch Historical Museum. The all-day event had over 80 people in attendance and included breakfast, lunch, snacks throughout the day, and a happy hour at the end. The main events were storytellers and panel discussions on topics relating to the Delta or the NHA, such as arts and culture, youth involvement with heritage, and building effective partnerships. All comments received were positive and the event location received good reviews as well, with the topic on partnerships receiving the most feedback of all. Heyser commented that people seemed deeply engaged, a good indicator being that most attendees stayed until the end. A full analysis of the feedback will be presented at the next meeting.

10. Introduction to the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Welcome to the Delta Video – Mike Campbell

Campbell and Stephen Herringer presented on the restoration of the Clarksburg Schoolhouse, a project that began 11 years ago. Abandoned for 50 years, the schoolhouse was originally located about half a mile from its current site. It was moved and elevated above the floodplain due to the area's decertified levees. The restoration, driven entirely by volunteer efforts, is designed to last at least another 100 years. Campbell attributed the project's success to contributors such as Oscar Villegas and David Stuart, significant funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, and the many hours dedicated by the schoolhouse board, on which both Campbell and Herringer serve. Will Middleton, the schoolhouse board president, was introduced as he walked in to join the meeting during the presentation. Campbell highlighted that the schoolhouse serves as a nonprofit welcome center for the Delta region now that renovations are complete. Campbell ended with a video highlighting the history and

unique characteristics of the historic towns along the Sacramento River in the Delta, including Clarksburg, where the schoolhouse is located.

11. Member Announcements and Adjourn

Several upcoming events through January were announced, including the Antioch Historical Society's 50th anniversary, which will feature a year-long celebration of its founding beginning next month.

Chair Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

February 26, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on NHA Activities

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Receive Update on NHA Activities

Type of Action: Receive

NHA Management Plan

National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III approved the Management Plan on January 16. As a result of the approval, funding for the NHA is expected to increase pending Congressional appropriation for the Heritage Partnership Program, the funding source for National Heritage Areas. The Commission will consider approval of the final plan at their March 20 meeting.

Tribal Outreach

Staff are conducting outreach to tribes regarding implementation of the Management Plan, including formation of the Tribal Advisory Council.

Partnership Program

Staff are communicating with potential partners about adopting a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU defines guidelines and benefits that generally apply to partnerships and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through appendices. At its March 20 meeting, the Commission will be considering both approval of MOUs negotiated to date and delegating responsibility for approval for future MOUs to the Executive Director.

Reorganization and Set Up of Advisory Bodies

Staff are setting up advisory task groups based on preferences provided by NHA Advisory Committee members. Tribal outreach includes discussion about forming the Tribal Advisory Council identified in the Management Plan.

Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

The Commission selected Honey Agency, Inc. as consultant for the Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan, which focuses on the NHA. The plan scope of work will be discussed at the NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

Passport Program

The Passport to Your National Parks program is a voluntary program in which most National Park Service units and NHAs participate. Staff are working with potential partners on securing passport cancellation locations through a partnership memorandum of understanding (MOU). Prior to program launch, staff will prepare a new webpage with an interactive map, a short training and training materials about the NHA, and a trifold NHA brochure.

Delta Leadership Program

The 2025 Delta Leadership Program, a joint effort of the Commission and Delta Leadership Foundation, kicked off in January with 19 participants. The group will gather for daylong seminars on the Delta's ecology, economy, heritage, and regulatory framework. Seminars will also hone participants' leadership skills and serve as workshops for team projects that will be presented to the Commission at their May 15 meeting.

Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier Newsletters

Commission staff released the January/February Delta Heritage Courier on January 9 and have included heritage-related material for the biweekly Delta Happenings newsletter. The deadline for material for the March/April Courier is February 28, with a scheduled release date of March 6.

Staffing Augmentation

Kira O'Donnell, part-time Information Officer for the NHA, started on January 23. Staff are taking steps to add two positions for the NHA, which would make the information officer permanent.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)

Commission Chair Diane Burgis, Bruce Blodgett, and Blake Roberts attended the Annual ANHA meeting in Washington, DC, the week of February 3 and met with Representatives Ami Bera, John Garamendi, Adam Gray, Josh Harder, Doris Matsui, and Jimmy Panetta, and staff for Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff and Representatives Mark DeSaulnier and Mike Thompson.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

February 26, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 6: Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts and Kira O'Donnell, Information Officer

Recommended Action: Receive Presentation on Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

Scope of Work

Type of Action: Receive

Background

In February, the Commission selected Honey Agency, Inc. to prepare a Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA). The scope of work for the plan consists of:

- Project kick-off meeting – Including a tour of the NHA.
- Public outreach – Including up to six NHA Advisory Committee and/or advisory task group meetings, and up to three public workshops.
- Market research – Possibly including interviews, focus groups, surveys, and review of demographic data about potential target audiences for the Delta NHA.
- Identification of primary and secondary target audiences
- Assessment of existing brand
- Brand toolkit – Including a revised logo, colors, tagline, and typography and marketing and branding materials (e.g., small icons, interpretive signs, photography style, brochures, one-pagers, or rack cards, social media assets, slide deck, email templates, and advertisements).
- Draft and Final Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan – Including
 - Revised and updated key strategic imperatives, potential promotional campaigns, and key performance indicators from the 2017 *Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year Marketing Plan*.
 - Design guidelines for branding materials.

- Brand rollout strategy, including prioritized actions, timeline, and goals.
- Strategies for management of the NHA's web and social media identity and presence.
- A media toolkit for partners.
- Communication and marketing strategies for various audiences, including visitors, NHA partners, and residents.

Current Status and Future Considerations

Commission staff anticipate scheduling a kickoff meeting in late February or March.

As part of the process for preparing the Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan, Honey will be examining past documents, including the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Brand Standards* (2015) and *Delta Tourism Awareness 5-Year Marketing Plan* (2017) (available at deltaconservancy.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/5-Year-Marketing-Plan_12-12-19.pdf), and considering four potential sources of confusion in NHA branding:

- Three different Commission brands: NHA, the Great California Delta Trail, and VisitCADelta.
- Boundary differences between the NHA and the Legal Delta.
- Different names for the region or parts of the region: California Delta, Carquinez Strait, Delta, Great California Delta, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA, and Suisun Marsh.
- Lack of public recognition of the Delta as a distinct region.

The NHA Advisory Committee will be asked to provide feedback on these matters during the planning process.

Recommended Action

Receive presentation on Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan scope of work.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

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AGENDA ITEM 7: National Park Service Annual Program Report

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Receive Presentation on National Park Service Annual Program Report

Type of Action: Receive

Background

In January of every year, National Heritage Areas submit an annual program report to National Park Service's (NPS) National Heritage Areas (NHA) Program Office. The report consists of two parts.

Part I, Funding Report

The NHA Program Office uses this report for preparing the annual NPS Budget Justification and responses to directives from Congress. The report includes questions regarding:

- Paid full-time equivalent staff
- Federal funding through the Heritage Partnership Program and non-federal match
- Organizational sustainability plans
- Accomplishments
- Challenges
- Unfunded project and program needs

Part II, Progress Report

The NHA Program Office and regional program offices use this report to track NHA progress on management plan implementation. The progress measures capture information about the diverse NHA activities and approaches to these activities (process measures), direct products or services offered (output measures), and the results of the products or services (outcome measures). The report provides information about:

- NHA goals
- Financial assistance and capacity building
- Historic preservation and other community enhancement projects

- Collections: Documentation and conservation projects
- Land, water, and environmental conservation projects
- Recreation development projects
- Education and interpretation programs
- Outreach and marketing
- Community engagement
- An example of a successful project or program

Current Status

In January 2025, the Delta Protection Commission submitted an annual report for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024). The report focused on the completion of the management plan and early management plan implementation such as the Delta Leadership Program, new NHA Advisory Committee, and Commission communications (i.e., Delta Happenings, Delta Heritage Courier, website).

Recommended Action

Receive presentation on National Park Service Annual Program Report.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

February 26, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8: Analysis of 2024 Delta Heritage Forum Participation and Evaluations

Prepared by: Holly Heyser, Information Officer, and Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Discuss Delta Heritage Forum Analysis

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

The Delta Heritage Forum is a free, full-day event that celebrates Delta stories, nurtures collaboration, and inspires new thinking and initiatives in the Delta heritage community. The 2024 Delta Heritage Forum was held on Friday, November 15, at the Antioch Historical Museum, with more than 80 participants. The schedule is attached for reference.

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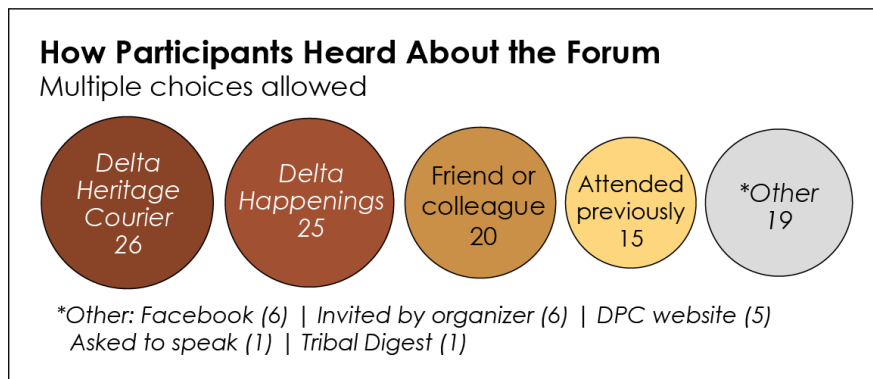
Analysis

Preliminary analysis of post-event evaluations, shared with the Committee in December, showed overwhelmingly positive feedback: 100% said they came away from the day with at least one idea or bit of inspiration that would be useful for them going forward – our benchmark for success. This more detailed analysis will help fine-tune planning for future Forums.

A note: Where open-ended comments are shared in this document, typos were corrected and partial names were completed, but otherwise content was not changed.

Participants

How Participants Heard about the Forum



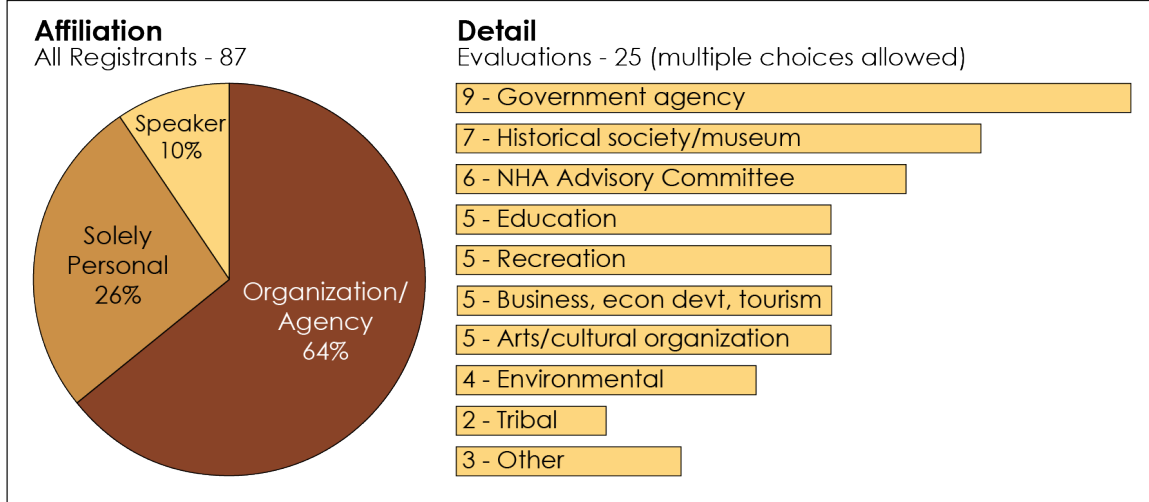
Source: Registration data

The Delta Protection Commission’s two newsletters, *Delta Heritage Courier* and *Delta Happenings*, and word of mouth were the most effective means of reaching potential participants. About one-third of participants heard about the Forum from multiple sources.

Social media was not very effective. Two participants cited *only* Facebook as their information source, and *none* learned about it on Instagram, LinkedIn, X, or Threads.

It’s worth noting that signups were *not* a problem; we had to close registration early because the event hit capacity. And while there were some no-shows the day of the event, as is to be expected, there were as many, if not more, unregistered participants who showed up on the day of the event.

Affiliation



Registration and evaluation data show the primary audience is people involved in government agencies or non-governmental organizations, with government agencies most identified.

However, the percentage attending for solely personal reasons – 26% – is substantial. This is both a sign of strong interest in Delta heritage in the general public and a reminder that Forums should continue to provide content that is interesting and informative to all.

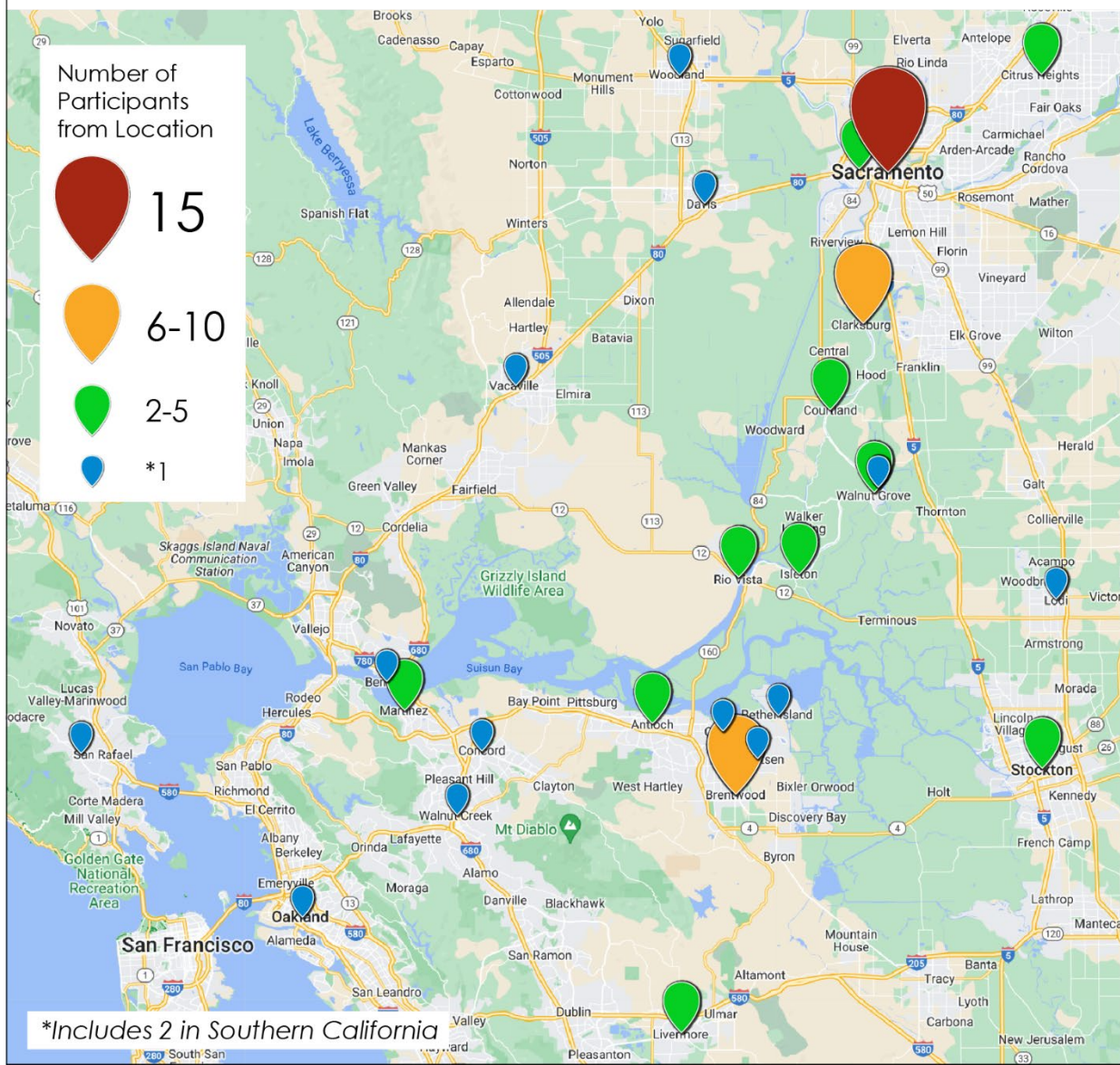
Where Participants Live or Work

The Forum drew participants from the Delta and beyond. *Half* of the people who came for solely personal reasons came from outside the Delta. This serves as a reminder that Californians’ connections to the Delta are not constrained by its boundaries, something noted by one participant in her evaluation: “This conference mainly reinforced to me that the Delta region is a part of Sacramento and Sacramento is a part of the Delta region. The constricts of county lines are simply those that have been applied by government – nature, animals and water don't recognize county lines, and we need to be more inclusive of the entire region (from) Sacramento to SF.”

At minimum, this means we should not hesitate to promote the Forum well beyond the NHA’s boundaries.

(Next page: map of participant work or home locations.)

Location of Participant Organization/Agency or Residence



Source: Registration data

Participant location did not appear to be a substantial obstacle to attendance. In post-event evaluations, only one participant described the venue as “hard to get to,” and all 25 signaled broad willingness to travel to a variety of locations for next year’s Forum:

Willing to Travel to...	... Location
92%	North Delta
92%	Central Delta
84%	West Sacramento
84%	Sacramento
80%	East Contra Costa County
76%	Carquinez Strait
76%	Stockton

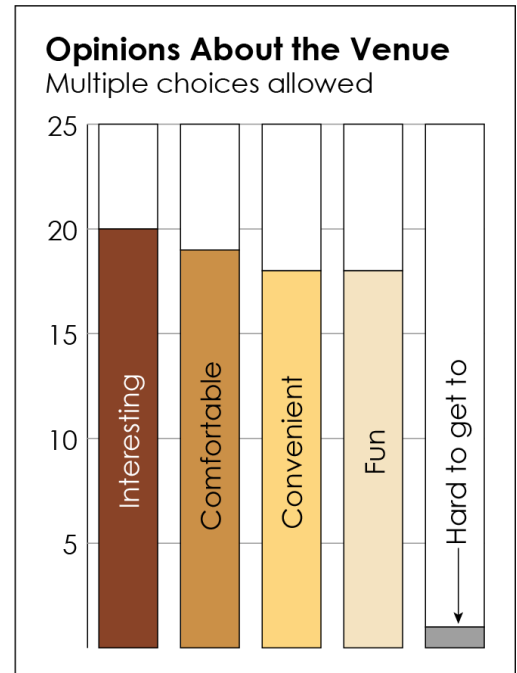
Source: Post-event evaluations

Event Location

The Antioch Historical Society Museum was an unequivocal hit with participants. When asked for suggestions for future locations, several indicated something similar to the museum would be appreciated.

Their suggestions were:

- Los Medanos College
- I loved all the interesting things to look at at the museum so something similar would be great. Maybe someplace where we could also have a walking tour like Big Break?
- One of the legacy towns.
- I REALLY liked this location. Great job!
- Museums, Universities, houses
- Park site
- No, just wanted to say I appreciated that this location was very accessible by train (Amtrak)!

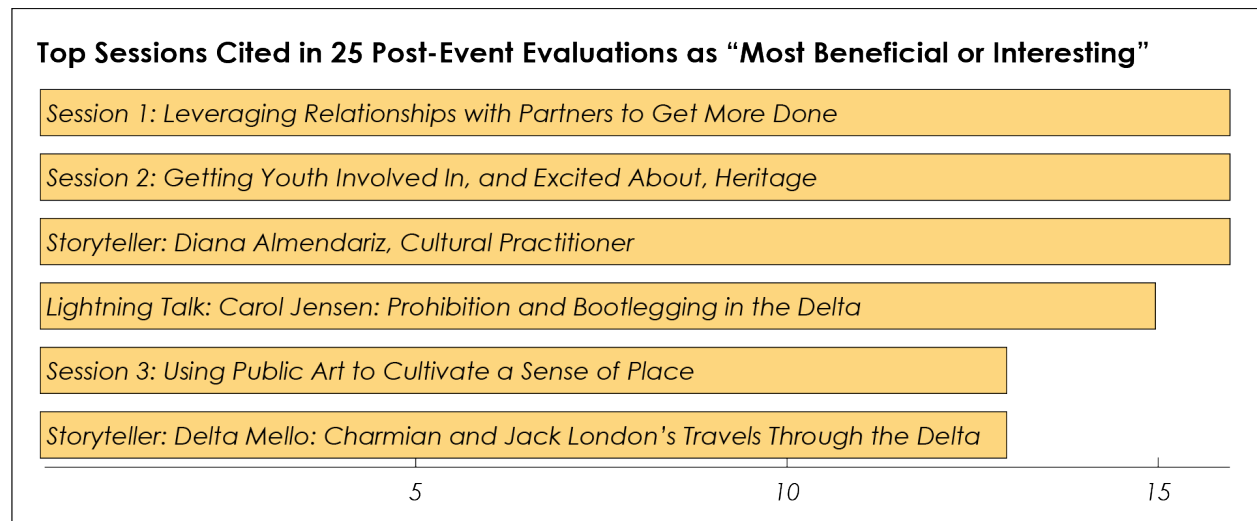


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Sessions

Summary

This Forum featured three types of sessions: panel discussions designed to be useful to heritage professionals, short single-speaker “lightning talks” proposed by speakers, and – new for this Forum – short storytelling sessions. Six of the 10 sessions were cited by at least half of evaluators as “most beneficial or interesting” (they were allowed to choose multiple favorites), and these sessions included all three types.



When asked to say more about their favorite sessions, themes emerged:



Open-ended comments on post-event evaluation: Tell us more - what did you like most about your favorite sessions/speakers?

The work being done to gather and share knowledge about the first people to inhabit our Delta region is of highest importance. I really appreciate learning more about them.

I was the Cultural Practitioner and learning about and knowing new programs, I hope to bring my hands on style of work for the Delta people.

- 1- Information I can use personally and professionally.
- 2- Serious interest in topics.
- 3- I saw painted utility boxes in my community and thought of Heritage Forum.
- 4- I referred to [storyteller] Diana [Almendariz]'s thoughts about her ancestors "living at the Confluence" for a blog I wrote after the Forum for the River District describing the mindfulness experience and brief cultural history while visiting the trails at and approaching the Confluence.

I thought that [panelist] Rina Dimare's talk was great it reinforces the importance of an active board.

I love the diversity of topics among the speakers and how engaged the audience members were. You can tell a lot of thought and planning went into this event. Thank you for providing this opportunity!

My favorite session was the history behind Prohibition and bootlegging in the Delta.

[Lightning talker] Bob Benedetti is our intellectual leader!!!

I liked them all, but I particularly liked Carol [Jensen]'s lightning talk. It came at the end and it was a little pocket history lesson that that was engaging and fun. History presentation needs more of that!

[Storyteller] Bruce Towne did an excellent job of telling his sandhill cranes story and his descriptions of scenes were vivid and beautiful.

Both of the panelists for the youth involvement talk were engaging and they each made some good points.

It was interesting and informative to hear about Diana [Almendariz]'s cultural and ecological work in the Delta.

I loved hearing about the public art in Rio Vista because I've always seen it, but didn't know the background behind it. Learning about it makes me appreciate it more.

Carol [Jensen] was very enthusiastic, and her topic was fun!

All session speakers were passionate and full of useful information. I enjoyed and profited from all sessions. Unfortunately, we had later engagements that prohibited us staying for the lightning talks.

All sessions were good. I really appreciated the youth, public art and leveraging relationships.

History talks generally

I would have liked more information on partnerships with the Native American community.

[Storyteller] Dan Hanel

Great atmosphere. Good idea to hold meeting in museum.

Passion about topic from each of the storytellers. Benefitted most from the partnerships panel. That could be a whole Forum in itself.

Even the ones I didn't check were interesting and useful. Troubled by historic inaccuracies even though I liked invigorating style when presented.

I liked the storytelling portions, especially Diana Almendariz and the reading of Charmian London's journals. Wyatt [Moore] with EBRPD [East Bay Regional Park District] was super inspiring (and such a good speaker!). His enthusiasm and encouragement to be creative in how to do things within a government agency especially inspired me. I also really liked the talk about fine arts in the Delta, and Prohibition.

Great ideas shared.

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Key Takeaways

Summary

As previously noted, all 25 participants who completed post-event evaluations reported that they came away from the event “with at least one idea or bit of inspiration that will be useful to you going forward.”

Common themes in participants’ takeaways included partnerships (both the need for them, and the presence of potential partners at the event), concrete ideas to implement, ways to connect with youth, the importance of storytelling, ways to incorporate art, and the need for more tribal connection and knowledge.

Open-ended comments on post-event evaluations: What was an important takeaway that you will implement in your own work? Please list up to three.

Connections with others that are with arts commissions or similar organizations in their respective cities.

A) Interpretive programs need to be caring or in care of animals because we are running out of space for our native animals. B) restoration of sites. Absolutely important to put the food AND SHELTER for animals back.

The focus on history and the diversity of people and activities in the Delta. A remarkable story surpassing so many other places.

Met new potential partners and learned new practices

Meeting students and community members where they are. Be dynamic.

Re-engage local elected officials and state and federal entities. Invite them on a tour and let them see core of what your destination is all about. Their staffers are a great tool to open their doors.

The history, the Delta was a much different place than it is now, just understanding how we got to where we are at. It is important to address because not everyone knows the history of where they live.

[Lightning talker] Bob Benedetti and his remarks that pertain to the entire Delta as place.

This conference mainly reinforced to me that the Delta region is a part of Sacramento and Sacramento is a part of the Delta region. The constricts of county

lines are simply those that have been applied by government – nature, animals and water don't recognize county lines, and we need to be more inclusive of the entire region for Sacramento to SF.

I loved hearing from EBRPD [East Bay Regional Park District] on youth engagement and interpretation strategies, and we hope to use some of what they discussed in our own parks. We were also inspired by the arts panel, and will be exploring art opportunities at our Delta parks. We were also greatly appreciative of [storyteller] Diana Almendariz sharing her experience and history in the area with us, and want to ensure we support local tribes from the Delta area, who are not gone but still with us and have a lot to share.

I learned that the organizations, people, and agencies that are involved in the Heritage Area are accessible and easy to connect with. The folks I met were friendly and interested in preserving the Delta, which was encouraging and great to know for our work in the parks in the area.

Importance of an effective board. Importance of storytelling. Tips on reaching out to youth.

1. I enjoyed learning the history about the Chinese resorting to tunnels in Antioch, Jack London sailing through the Delta on the Roamer, and the Prohibition traffic on the rivers. 2. The advice on how to use board members' expertise and connections was helpful. 3. I found the information on the tourism industry interesting as well.

Several great ideas for engaging the public. Marketing ideas for expanding the reach of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse. Engaging storytelling aspects of our outreach to schools.

1. Social marketing - need to be current, TikTok, YouTube, etc. 2. Communication and sharing resources. 3. Great things the Delta has to offer. All presentations were inspiring.

Interpretation topics for East Bay Parks.

I'll bring up in the next staff meeting the "Art in the Park" program and how our site can host it. Updating our social media posts. Connecting with the DH attendees to coordinate events.

The importance of using social media. The value of networking.

I found the reading from Charmian London very inspirational. Great conversations over lunch and breakout sessions. I was impressed by the Ranchos Project in Contra Costa.

Connecting local government with tourism, cultural heritage and arts organizations. Incorporating Jr. Rangers program into local parks. Incorporating public arts into our parks.

1. Involve kids at Museum with a Jr. Historian program and Museum activity booklet, 2. Create bingo style scavenger hunt with photos, 3. Look into TikTok for Museum; at least get YouTube channel for videos, 4. The two gentlemen from RioVision - Messrs. Suhr and Quan - inspired me to keep working on Museum Chinese history display.

The importance of different types of entities partnering. Specially, for example, government agencies can partner with NGOS who often have more flexibility and can do things that government cannot do. I was inspired to go read the novels written about/set in the Delta! My work focuses a lot on environmental matters (and people's relationship with the Delta's environment, and how environmental hazards impact people). It was nice to learn more about the Delta's cultural heritage. The speaker Wyatt [Moore] really inspired me especially - for example, as he said, never underestimate the impact of a single moment, which could change someone's life. It can take one "aha" moment to alter someone's life and spark an interest in something.

Importance of relationships, Aligning purpose and mission with partners, Resource of [storyteller] Diana [Almendariz] with Tribal background.

Water solutions, Manufacturing integration of technologies, Hydrogen, Water reclamation, Water generation

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Suggestions for Future Topics

Summary

- **Advocacy training**
- **Ag history and inventions**
- **Changing ecology**
- **Continue involving Delta Leadership Program alumni**
- **Dave Stuart**
- **Delta ethnic groups**
- **Disaster preparedness for heritage sites**
- **First People - knowledge, working with tribes**
- **Fishing industry**
- **Flood stories**
- **Grant-writing workshop**
- **Involve more academics**
- **Marketing/communications strategies**
- **NHA progress**
- **Small-group/breakout discussions**
- **Specific examples of successful projects and how they got funded**

Open-ended comments

More about the first people. Also more about how the NHA is being developed, how do individuals and organizations participate, NHA priorities, possible funding opportunities for delta communities.

It was a nice size group, so maybe small group discussions. Kind of like breakout rooms.

I would like to hear stories about the different ethnic groups - starting with the Native Americans and where they worked in the Delta and what kind of crops. And stories about inventions for ag operations. Flood stories would be interesting. And how the ecology has changed from the indigenous fish and wildlife to the what we have now.

Not today- will think of others. Enjoyed engaging youth and life writing workshops for adults. I am actively engaged in both activities and audiences as naturalist and educator and for community engagement.

I felt rushed in my presentation so that we could make up time. Longer breaks between sessions and for eating would help alleviate timing issues.

I like the history, more of that. Would also like to hear more about working with the tribes and any current important Delta news.

Get a PhD in history from Cal Berkeley involved. We need some academic types in this mix, too.

Keep incorporating Delta leadership participants into the program. Would have loved to see screenshots of the YouTube with Howard the Printer.

Maybe something about the fishing and the industry, regulations, environmental impacts, etc.

I missed Dave Stuart. I had hoped for more attendees from the three universities in the area.

Yes, specific examples of successful projects and how they were funded. Facilitated grant writing workshop. Advocacy training - how to work with elected officials. Marketing and communication strategies. Disaster preparedness for heritage sites.

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Other Feedback

Summary

Several people mentioned feeling rushed either in their presentations or their ability to ask questions (in a separate yes/no question, one in five said there was not enough time for speaker/audience interaction). The scavenger hunt went over well. The food and drink were appreciated for both quality and healthy options.

Open-ended comments

Thank you!

Very interested in being involved with events and committees. Will review list of opportunities and respond directly to Blake

longer breaks for networking.

Yes, there was plenty of time to network in between speaking sessions because folks stayed and were available. The coffee and non-sugar canned drinks and healthy snacks were good also.

I noticed that toward the end to keep with time not everyone had a chance to ask more questions, maybe incorporating some extra time for Q/A.

Put a name tag and institution on everyone to make life easier to connect.

Holly and her team did an amazing job putting this together. It was organized, interesting, engaging and fun. I know the kind of effort needed for this type of event and she did an absolutely wonderful job!

I greatly enjoyed the scavenger hunt as a way to engage with the location, learn more from the museum, and engage with other participants who I might not have met otherwise. I do feel like more luxurious time at the end to network would have been an added plus. I know this is hard after a long day and on a Friday--however, I think there was a general sense that clean up needed to happen and folks should get on their way, and some extra time to meet new people and talk shop would have been great.

The scavenger hunt was challenging, but an awesome way to spend the breaks. I'm glad I had the opportunity to visit and learn about the Antioch Historical Museum. It is an impressive museum and was a great spot to have the meeting. The meeting was informative, fun, and overall well planned.

More time for Q and A and discussion with the speakers. I am interested in the specifics of how [panelist] Yoshio Taylor's work was selected for Isleton. Congrats on an excellent Forum! They keep getting better and better.

I enjoyed myself. Thank you for putting on an informative Forum.

Thanks for your hard work and passionate efforts!! Great Forum.

Thank you for inviting the NPS [National Park Service]. It was great and I really loved being among other historians.

With wine, even!

Thank you for a very interesting, fun, well-run event!

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Next Steps

Staff will soon begin planning future Delta Heritage Forum(s). The Committee's feedback is welcome. Questions to consider:

- Are we using the right benchmark for success – for every participant to come away with useful information or inspiration?
- Is there more information you wish we had collected in the registration and evaluation forms than what you see presented here?
- Should we do a series of more focused half-day events with more time for networking and socializing?
- Would training and workshops work within the Forum format, or would these be better as separate events?
- Did we adequately balance Forum content for the diverse interests of the audience?

Recommended Action

Discuss the analysis and how to apply takeaways to future events.

Posting on social media today? Please tag @DeltaProtectionCommission (@CA_DPC on X) and use #DeltaHeritageForum.

Participating in the scavenger hunt? Please note that Sports Legends (downstairs) will be open *only* during the lunch break.

Graffiti table: Leave a signature, a clever heritage pun, or a memorable quote from the day at the graffiti table, which will be available starting at lunch.

Delta Heritage Forum Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Doors open/Networking/Breakfast	
9 a.m.	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Burgis, Chair, Delta Protection Commission • Blake Roberts, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area
9:15 a.m.	Excerpt from Beneath the Tangled Vines	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storyteller: Dan Hanel, Author 	
9:25 a.m.	<p>Leveraging Relationships with Partners to Get More Done: Many Delta organizations struggle to fulfill their missions due to limited help and budget. Learn from different types of organizations about how partnerships can effectively pool resources and skills to achieve mutual goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leigh Ann Davis, Contra Costa County Historical Society (moderator) • Rina Dimare, Clarksburg Winery Collective • Sean McCauley, Harvest Time Brentwood • Terry Selk, Visit Yolo 	
10:25 a.m.	Snack/museum browsing/bathroom break	
10:40 a.m.	Sandhill Cranes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storyteller: Bruce Towne, Writer 	
10:50 a.m.	<p>Getting Youth Involved In, and Excited About, Heritage: Youth who love heritage develop a strong sense of identity, engage their families and friends in their passion, and make it a career or lifelong hobby. Parks professionals will examine how heritage programs can connect with youth and motivate them to learn more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice LLano, Delta Leadership Program Alumna (moderator) • Wyatt Moore, Big Break Regional Shoreline • Wendy Solis, John Muir National Historic Site 	

11:35 a.m.	Lunch - food, free socializing, scavenger hunt, graffiti table – old-fashioned, local rootbeer courtesy of River City
12:35 p.m.	Storyteller Diana Almendariz , Cultural Practitioner of Maidu/Wintun, Hupa/Yurok Traditions, Heritage and Experiences
1 p.m.	Short bathroom break
1:05 p.m.	<p>Using Public Art to Cultivate a Sense of Place: Public art transforms places and people by promoting active spaces, stimulating our imaginations, and contributing to a shared cultural heritage. Artists and arts supporters will discuss the role of public art and what to consider when developing a program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neema Hekmat, Benicia Arts and Culture Commission (moderator) • Tom Surh, RioVision • Anna Szabados, City of Brentwood • Yoshio Taylor, Artist
2:05 p.m.	Snack/museum browsing/bathroom break
2:20 p.m.	Scavenger Hunt Answers Due!
2:20 p.m.	<p>Charmian and Jack London’s Travels Through the Delta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storyteller: Delta Mello, Sacramento History Museum
2:30 p.m.	<p>Lightning Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leigh Ann Davis: County Rancho Project • Bob Benedetti: Introducing Fine Arts of the Delta • Carol Jensen: Prohibition and Bootlegging in the Delta
3:15 p.m.	<p>Scavenger Hunt Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly Heyser, Delta Protection Commission
3:20 p.m.	Happy Hour – wine courtesy of the Clarksburg Winery Collective
4:20 p.m.	Delta Heritage Forum Concludes