

BALLONA DISCOVERY PARK PARTNERS

Levin & Associates Architects

Architect Brenda A. Levin, FAIA, is known for revitalizing Los Angeles' urban, historic and cultural form. For 30 years her architecture and urban design firm has pioneered the preservation and re-definition of important historic landmarks including Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles City Hall, Wiltern Theater, Bradbury, Oviatt, Fine Arts buildings and Grand Central Market. The AIA/Los Angeles selected Ms. Levin to receive the 2010 Gold Medal, which is the highest honor it can bestow on an individual. Visit <http://www.levinarch.com/> for more information.



A partner in the founding of Ballona Discovery Park, LMU is located on the bluff overlooking the Ballona Wetlands. LMU is a comprehensive university offering 56 major programs, 38 master's degrees and a doctoral degree in education from four colleges, two schools and Loyola Law School. Founded in 1911, LMU is ranked third in "Best Regional Universities West" by U.S. News & World Report. LMU is one of the largest Catholic institutions of higher education on the West Coast with nearly 5,800 undergraduate students and more than 3,000 graduate and law students. For more LMU news and events, visit <http://www.lmu.edu/news/>.



Playa Capital Company, LLC is the master developer of the Playa Vista community. Today, more than 6,500 people live at Playa Vista, the first mixed-use community to be built in West Los Angeles in the last 50 years. With 70 percent of its original 1,086-acre land area designated as parks and open space, Playa Vista has been hailed as a model urban development, including recognition as a recipient of the prestigious Ahwahnee Award. Situated between Marina del Rey and Westchester, just about a mile from the beach, Playa Vista is adding critically needed housing on Los Angeles' Westside. This balanced community includes a mix of residential, commercial and retail space, all located within walking distance of at least one of over 17 parks. Playa Vista is also within easy reach of Santa Monica, Venice, Century City and LAX. Visit <http://www.playavista.com/> for more information.

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Sussman/Prejza & Company, Inc.

Sussman/Prejza's focus is the development of distinctive and successful visual communications programs for the built environment, ranging in scope and complexity. As the recognized trailblazer in this discipline, S/P's expertise can be seen in civic, cultural, corporate, sports, institutional, entertainment and retail projects around the globe. Established in 1968, S/P works with its clients to develop memorable identities and branding, based upon research and graphic archeology. Abstract stories are woven into the visual product, creating a sense of place and memories that users retain and remember.

S/P's work has pushed the boundaries of environmental graphic design to meld cohesively with architecture, civic planning, and landscape design. With award-winning work that has been described as "urban poetry", S/P is composed of a multi-generational and multi-cultural staff of graphic designers, architects, interior designers and conceptualists. They are the keystone to S/P's success; creating multi-layered programs from the printed page to the built environment. S/P's work continues to expand the boundaries of graphic design and its seamless integration with architecture and public space. Visit <http://www.sussmanprejza.com/> for more information.



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

Founded in 1978 by Ruth Lansford and a handful of environmental activists, Friends of Ballona Wetlands (FBW) was formed to save the last remnants of the once-massive Ballona Wetlands ecosystem in western Los Angeles County. The Friends worked tirelessly for the next decade to push for restored tidal flow, a contiguous constructed freshwater marsh to clean urban runoff, and launched a full-scale education and restoration program (including uprooting invasive plant species by hand and restoring nine acres of dunes habitat) that has brought 70,000 volunteers to the wetlands since 1994.

Located in Playa del Rey, Friends of Ballona Wetlands' Los Angeles County-based education and restoration programs, collectively called "Explore Ballona" provide hands-on educational experiences to an ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse population of 7,000 residents each year at Ballona's salt marsh, dunes and freshwater marsh, and in various community settings. "Explore Ballona" offers education, restoration and service learning opportunities to Pre-K-12, college, community, and corporate groups, changing community members from uninformed residents to active stewards of the county's last remaining viable coastal wetland and watershed. Our next milestone, planned and executed with our partners, Loyola Marymount University and Playa Capital, is a 1.7-acre open-air science and cultural exhibit called Ballona Discovery Park. The Watershed Walk exhibit, and accompanying programs currently in development by the Friends and Loyola Marymount University, will begin new adventures for people and students of all ages wanting to "Experience Ballona", starting at the trailhead of the Ballona Wetlands in the community of Playa Vista and continuing into the adjacent Riparian Corridor and nearby Freshwater Marsh. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ballonafriends.org>