Our Mission
Patrons of the Prado is committed to raising funds to benefit ten arts, science and cultural centers on the Prado in Balboa Park, and for programs that provide educational access for San Diego school children to the world-class treasures of Balboa Park, inspiring cultural fluency for future generations.

One Enchanted Evening
Once a year on a moonlit evening in July, magic and revelry come out to play at the Patrons of the Prado MASTERPIECE Gala—one of San Diego’s premier philanthropic celebrations.

With each dazzling MASTERPIECE Gala, our passionate all-volunteer members put on an unforgettable evening that supports the cultural and educational missions of our 10 Beneficiaries—a prized collection of some of San Diego’s most cherished museums and institutions.

This year we ask you to please join us as we uncover a world of art, beauty and culture.

Our Legacy
- In 20+ years, our all-volunteer team has raised over $3.53 million for our beneficiaries.
- **Unrestricted Funding Impact Examples:** New flooring at the Mingei; specialized harnesses enabling student cast members to fly across the Junior Theatre stage in “Mary Poppins”; science and engineering programs at Fleet Science Center inspiring female careers in science; educational outreach programs at the San Diego Museum of Art.
- Since the inception of Bucks4Buses in 2011, Patrons has raised $481,250 to transport over 134,000 children, many from Title 1 schools, to educational experiences in Balboa Park.
- In the 2016/2017 school year over 35,000 students participated in the Bucks4Buses program.
Our Beneficiaries
Your generous support helps valuable museums and institutions on the Prado in Balboa Park to fulfill their missions each year.

Mingei International Museum
Established in 1978, Mingei International Museum focuses on objects of use that arise from daily life in cultures around the world. It serves to demonstrate beauty in the unexpected and pure expressions of human creativity.

Museum of Photographic Art
MOPA aims to inspire, educate and engage the broadest possible audience through the presentation, collection and preservation of photography, film and video.

The Old Globe
The Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country’s leading professional regional theatres. It’s been a flagship arts institution for over 80 years, producing a year-round season of classic, contemporary and new works on its three Balboa Park stages.

Fleet Science Center
The Fleet connects people of all ages to the possibilities and power of science for creating a better future. Explore more than 100 interactive exhibits and marvel at an IMAX film adventure showing the wonders of the planet and beyond.

San Diego History Center
Engaging, family-friendly exhibitions tell remarkable stories of our region – past, present and future. It offers public programs, special events and the region’s largest collection of historical materials containing 45 million documents and 2.5 million images.

Bucks4Buses
provides transportation and educational access for San Diego school children to experience the rich cultural landscape of Balboa Park. These special Grants are aimed at the underserved student population, particularly Title I schools. Imagine—many of these children have never been to Balboa Park. From experience, we truly believe that a single visit to the Park can change a child’s life.

Patrons of the Prado prioritizes inspiration, education and support in our fundraising. These core concepts empower many vital programs for the cultural institutions that we serve, in turn, keeping their missions in motion.

With the MASTERPIECE Gala as our signature fundraiser, Patrons of the Prado generates significant support through two Grant categories. Each year the Gala funds both Unrestricted Major Grants as well as Bucks4Buses Grants.

• Unrestricted Major Grants—These Grants allow our Beneficiaries the flexibility to maximize funding by directly addressing their strongest needs. Typically, Grants are given to a portion of our 10 designated Beneficiary organizations in rotation, year after year. Examples of the many ways our Beneficiaries utilize such funding are listed on the back cover.

• Bucks4Buses—This innovative program is our signature education initiative. It brings thousands of children to the Park to experience hands-on programming and creative learning adventures designed by our Beneficiary educational departments.