Xaîrɛte! Salvete! Welcome back to San Francisco, the Bay Area and California.

There is no evidence that storm-tossed Trojans or wandering Phoenicians ever visited the San Francisco Bay, but Sir Francis Drake did give this region the Latin name *Nova Albion*. Drake’s designation survives only on the odd antique map and in Russian at that. California derives its present name from an Amazon queen, the heroine of a sixteenth-century Spanish romance, and it is no doubt appropriate that the future home of America’s "dream factory" should be named for a fictional character. State Librarian Emeritus Kevin Starr considers John Charles Frémont the first American immigrant to California to identify with its Mediterranean aspects. Frémont, the first Republican presidential candidate, named the entrance to San Francisco Bay *Chrysopylae* "on the same principle that the harbor at Byzantium was called *Chrysoceras*." While they may have lacked Frémont’s classical education, the cry of his Gold Rush contemporaries has been immortalized in Greek and remains the state motto: Εὕρηκα!

About these early American immigrants to California Peter Holliday, author of the forthcoming *American Arcadia: California and the Classical Tradition*, writes:

Until the late nineteenth century, classical antiquity was second only to Christianity as a force in modeling America’s national identity, and Californians shared the tendency to using these two models to shape their world. The 49ers who sought their fortunes in the Gold Rush styled themselves Argonauts after Jason’s legendary cohort, modern-day seekers of gold (who more often than not found themselves fleeced). The men who attended California’s Constitutional Convention in 1849 were also products of an American culture permeated by classicism. The goddess Minerva dominates the foreground of the state seal they adopted, introduced as an
allegory for the extraordinary political circumstances of California's admission to the Union (immediate statehood without the gestation period of being a territory). Starting with the arrival of the first Yankee settlers, but gaining momentum with increasing immigration following the Civil War, California's landscape and climate have been promoted as an American Mediterranean. In addition to the evocative Spanish place names invented and conferred by Anglo developers, there also arose a Eureka, a Pomona, and even an Arcadia. Although it may take new forms, a cohort of Californians continues to fashion their sense of place and self through the metaphor of classical antiquity.

The following are some suggestions for connecting with San Francisco's Mediterranean and classical roots during your stay:

**Places of Historical Interest**

Native Americans tended to avoid the peninsula that would become San Francisco, but in 1776 Spanish missionaries and soldiers entered the area. Two sites date from the time of their settlements, Mission Dolores (16th St. and Dolores) and The Presidio (in the northwest corner of the City). Old Mission Dolores [http://missiondolores.org/old-mission/visitor.html](http://missiondolores.org/old-mission/visitor.html) contains the Spanish era church and its graveyard as well as a small museum. If you visit, you will be within walking distance of the currently hip Mission District, the "Valencia Corridor" (Valencia from Dubose St. to 26th St.), and the Castro Street neighborhood. The Presidio, the first urban national park [http://www.nps.gov/prsf/planyourvisit/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/prsf/planyourvisit/index.htm), holds but a few traces of Spanish days. More fully preserved is Fort Point, built in 1853 by the Americans and now situated under the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Architecture**

In addition to its Victorian "painted ladies" and two bridges, San Francisco contains a number of classically influenced buildings. Within walking distance of the Hilton are the Greek Revival Old Mint (corner of Fifth St. and Mission) and The Bank of California (400 California St.), with its six huge Corinthian columns. City Hall (Van Ness Ave. between Grove and McAllister) boasts a magnificent dome and is one of America's finest examples of the Beaux Arts style. The remains of the Sutro Baths [http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/cliff-house-sutro-baths.htm](http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/cliff-house-sutro-baths.htm), once housing the world's largest indoor swimming pool, are still visible near Ocean Beach (at the end of Geary Blvd.). Bernard R. Maybeck's classical fancy the Palace of Fine Arts in the Marina District was described in detail by Mary-Kay Gamel in *Amphora*: [https://classicalstudies.org/sites/default/files/documents/amphora2.2.pdf](https://classicalstudies.org/sites/default/files/documents/amphora2.2.pdf). Not too far from the Hilton and influenced more by Hollywood than the classics are the Ben-Hur Apartments (400 Hyde St. at Ellis), distinguished by a chariot *bas-relief*. 
Murals

Mural painting, a connection to frescoes of Italy and Roman Hispania, was brought to San Francisco by the Mexican muralista Diego Rivera among others. The Mission District, particularly Balmy Alley, is the prime neighborhood for mural viewing. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center http://www.precitaeyes.org/ organizes guided tours and publishes guides. Three WPA murals open for viewing may be found at Coit Tower atop Telegraph Hill http://sfrecpark.org/destination/telegraph-hill-pioneer-park/coit-tower/, Rincon Annex (101-199 Mission St.) http://www.sfmuralarts.com/neighborhood/south-of-market/rincon-center/20.html, and Beach Chalet (on the Great Highway) http://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/beach-chalet/. In addition to its frescoes, Beach Chalet contains a brewery and ocean view restaurant.

Ancient Luxury: Roman Silver Treasure (CLOSES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10)

The California Palace of the Legion of Honor (in Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. and Clement) http://legionofhonor.famsf.org/ houses a small collection of ancient art (Egyptian, Greek, and Roman) as well as a major collection of Rodin in a stunning location overlooking the Pacific. Our annual meeting coincides with the final days of the current special exhibition, Ancient Luxury and the Roman Silver Treasure from Berthouville.


Panama-Pacific International Exhibition (CLOSES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10)

Something of the civic pride of the early San Franciscans, who contemplated building a replica of the Parthenon on the summit of Telegraph Hill is currently on exhibition at the de Young Museum http://deyoung.famsf.org/jewel-city. The curators have reunited for the first time some of the 11,000 works of art that were on display at the 1915
Panama-Pacific International Exhibition (PPIE). Berkeley professor Perham Wilhelm Nahl created the prize-winning poster to commemorate “the 13th Labor of Hercules.”

Gray Brechin, UC geographer and author of Imperial San Francisco, writes:

The classically derived art and architecture of the PPIE visually proclaimed for the fair’s eighteen million visitors the intention of San Francisco’s leaders to claim the Pacific Basin as their own mare nostrum. The annexation of the Hawaiian islands and acquisition of the Philippines and Guam in 1898 as prizes of the Spanish-American War were to the city’s aspiring leaders portents of the city’s imperial destiny in the Pacific. In December 1898, Phoebe Hearst offered to pay for an international competition “for plans by which the city of San Francisco may be laid out, altered, and improved on artistic and scientific lines as Napoleon through Baron Haussmann laid out Paris.” The San Francisco Call headlined that the plan “Would Build a City to Rival Rome of Old.” Although Hearst did not follow through on her offer, it inspired Mayor James D. Phelan to commission Daniel Burnham of Chicago to produce just such a design. Fresh copies of the plan awaited distribution when the 1906 earthquake toppled City Hall on top of them.

Little of Burnham’s plan was realized in the rush to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 cataclysm, but the exposition nine years later embodied, on a square-mile site next to the Golden Gate, much of what the city hoped to become. The architecture and ornament of the PPIE were redolent of themes of military conquest and racial hierarchy. Half a century earlier, the famous verse “Westward the course of empire takes its way” from Bishop George Berkeley’s poem had inspired the naming of the university town on the east side of San Francisco Bay. Perhaps not coincidentally, Bernard Maybeck terminated the east-west axis of the fair with the PPIE’s most striking building. A colossal garden folly meant to evoke the overgrown ruins of 18th century capriccios and Piranesi etchings Maybeck’s brooding Palace of Fine Arts proved so popular that Phoebe Hearst and her son, publisher William Randolph Hearst, launched a successful campaign to save it, and it alone survived the demolition of the brief city that once contained it. Debuting in the opening year of the Great War, it stood as a monumental but subtle warning of where the course of imperial hubris inevitably leads.
The catalogue (now available at a substantial discount) for the *Jewel City* exhibition contains the essay, “The Classical Ideal in the New Athens” by Renée Dreyfus, curator in charge of ancient art and interpretation at the Fine Art Museums of San Francisco.

**What to Wear**

San Francisco temperatures in January tend to hover in the low 50s F. 2016 is expected to be an *El Niño* year. Be prepared for a downpour or two during your stay.

**Orientation**

The Hilton is located close to Union Square, site of rallies for the Union cause in the 1860s [http://www.visitunionsquaresf.com/](http://www.visitunionsquaresf.com/). Visitor Information Centers [http://www.sanfrancisco.travel/visitor-information-center](http://www.sanfrancisco.travel/visitor-information-center) are located on the lower level of Macy’s Union Square and at 900 Market Street (at Powell). Market Street divides the city on a diagonal and San Franciscans commonly refer to an address as “north” or “south of Market.”

**Getting Around**

The Bay Area is served by a patchwork of transit agencies. The most useful to visitors in central San Francisco are Muni—the Municipal Railway, with bus, streetcar, and cable car service within San Francisco proper, and BART—Bay Area Rapid Transit, with rail service to part of San Francisco, many suburban locations, and the airports.

Muni’s core service is the Metro, with streetcars running under Market Street in the center of the city. Buses provide service to within a few blocks of every location in the city, though service is not always rapid. Basic fare is $2.25 exact change only, except cable cars which are $7.00. In the Metro stations, one must buy a ticket from a machine before entering the turnstiles. Note that Muni Metro and BART share stations but are separate systems with separate ticketing. Muni also offers 1-, 3-, and 7-day passes at the visitor information centers and many Walgreens stores. These are a good deal if you intend to use transit a lot, especially if you want to ride a cable car. More information at [http://sfmta.com](http://sfmta.com).

BART runs to Oakland, Berkeley, and to both San Francisco and Oakland airports. Fares vary with distance traveled. Again, tickets must be purchased from a machine before entering the turnstiles. More information at [http://bart.gov](http://bart.gov).

Area-wide transit schedules, trip planners, and information on all systems including ferries and bicycle rentals can be found at [http://511.org](http://511.org) or by calling 511.

The best way to get around San Francisco, however, is on foot.
Local Guides

*The San Francisco Chronicle’s* Sunday Datebook (known universally as "the pink pages") contains the most up-to-date listings of museum events, concerts, and movies.

*SF Weekly* [http://www.sfweekly.com/](http://www.sfweekly.com/) is available for free all over town and contains extensive listings of the latest events including the club scene and restaurant reviews.

Another free weekly, *The Bay Area Reporter* (B.A.R.) [http://www.ebar.com/](http://www.ebar.com/) serves the LGBT community and also offers cultural and night life information of general interest.

Museums Near the Hotel

The Asian Art Museum, housed in what had been the Beaux-Arts style old Main Library [http://www.asianart.org/](http://www.asianart.org/), is in walking distance of the Hilton. The collection is world class and changes frequently. The current exhibition is *Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists*.

San Francisco Art Institute (800 Chestnut St., between Levenworth and Jones) features Diego Rivera’s mural, "The Making of a Fresco" [http://www.sfai.edu/about-sfai/diego-rivera-mural](http://www.sfai.edu/about-sfai/diego-rivera-mural), student work, and other exhibits from time to time. The Cafe on the roof deck offers spectacular views of the city and reasonably priced eats.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (701 Mission St.) [http://www.ybca.org/](http://www.ybca.org/) is a multidisciplinary center for contemporary art. The current exhibitions include *Office Space* and *Golden Prospects*.

The Contemporary Jewish Museum (737 Mission St.) [http://www.thecjm.org/#](http://www.thecjm.org/#) is currently presenting *Chasing Justice* exhibiting the work of three artists.


Museum Worth the Trip

The Oakland Museum of California (1000 Oak St., Oakland) [http://museumca.org/](http://museumca.org/) is an interdisciplinary museum dedicated to the art, history, and natural science of California. OMCA is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station.
For the Entire Family

Exploratorium (Pier 15, Embarcadero at Green St.) http://www.exploratorium.edu/ describes itself as a “museum of science, art, and human perception” and is filled with interactive exhibitions for all ages.

California Academy of Science (in Golden Gate Park) http://www.calacademy.org/ houses a planetarium, museum of natural history, rain forest recreation, and aquarium.

Children’s Creativity Museum (221 Fourth St.) http://creativity.org/ offers hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Take a spin back in time on the hand-carved wooden carousel.

Aquarium of the Bay (Embarcadero and Beach) http://www.aquariumofthebay.org/ seeks to protect, restore and inspire conservation of San Francisco Bay and its watershed. No need to worry about the high-minded mission statement since the sharks are scary and the river otters adorable. After your visit at the Aquarium, walk over to Pier 39 http://www.pier39.com/home/attractions/on-the-pier/sea-lions/ for a look at San Francisco’s resident pinnipeds. Scoma’s http://www.scomas.com/ and Alioto’s http://aliotos.com/ are your best choices for a meal at Fisherman’s Wharf.

Best Views of The City

Linger and enjoy Tank Hill Park (top of Belgrave Ave). The easiest way to reach this vantage point is to take a taxi, or the N-Judah MUNI street car to Stanyan St., walk up to the top of Stanyan, then turn left for a great panoramic view, perhaps the best in the city. San Francisco classicists Luis Losada and Kathleen Morgan recommend this excursion.

Local arrangements co-chair John Klopacz recommends his neighborhood’s Bernal Hill Park (top of Bernal Heights) for a buena vista from which on a clear day you can see San Jose and across the Bay. “The Hill” is the last patch of native grasses and plants within the city limits. With luck, the California poppies will be blooming and a falcon or hawk will hover overhead. If you visit at dawn, you may catch a glimpse of Bernal Hill's elusive coyote. Best to hail a cab or other car service for this adventure.

Self-Guided Walking Tours

Marina Green to the Golden Gate Bridge, along the Bay front: You will pass the St. Francis Yacht Club and Crissy Field, as well as views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin Headlands going out, Alcatraz and across the Bay to the Berkeley Campanile returning.
Embarcadero, from the Ferry Building to China Basin (Pac Bell Park): Start with the fancy food shops in the Ferry Building (a farmer's market is outdoors on Saturday AM), proceed past the Oldenberg "Cupid's Bow" sculpture and the various little bronze sea creatures. Signs along the way give historical information on important events in labor history. Go under the Bay Bridge, past the yacht club (good pier to walk out over the Bay), and on to McCovey Cove where baseball memorabilia abound.

Down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza, across from the Ferry Building: A great way to get the feel of downtown San Francisco in all its variety. End with coffee in the Plaza or cross to the Ferry Building for chowder at Hog Island Oyster Co. or for a loaf of Acme Bread sourdough.

Civic Center: Your walk will include City Hall (interesting architecture, including a display on the building of its great dome), where weddings may be in progress. The Civic Center complex includes the Asian Art Museum (Larkin St. at Fulton) and the Main Library (Grove St. between Larkin and Hyde), which houses a fine rare book collection. San Franciscans are justly proud of the fact that the UN Charter was signed in the War Memorial Opera House (201 Van Ness Ave. at Grove). Across Grove Street from the Opera House is Davies Symphony Hall. The gift shop sells the orchestra’s Grammy winning CDs among other souvenirs.

**Theatre, Athletic Events and Music**

Both the American Conservatory Theatre and Berkeley Rep are dark during our annual meeting.

Local college basketball teams are playing away games. If you were hoping to see Steph Curry in action, you will need to catch a train for Sacramento.


At the SF Jazz Center (201 Franklin St.) resident artistic director Eric Harland performs with guest artists [https://www.sfjazz.org/events/2015-16/0107/eric-harland](https://www.sfjazz.org/events/2015-16/0107/eric-harland) from January 6 through 10.

Check the “pink pages” and other local entertainment guides for music and theatre at smaller venues.
Dining near the Hilton

Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks and Coffee (Inexpensive to Moderate)

Il Caffe Rulli (in Union Square Park) [http://www.rulli.com/home](http://www.rulli.com/home) serves the best pastries this side of Milano along with excellent panini and has a view of the skating rink.


Tout Sweet (3rd Floor of Macy’s Union Square) [http://www.toutsweetsf.com/](http://www.toutsweetsf.com/) for sandwiches and award-winning pastries.

Dottie’s True Blue Cafe (28 Sixth St. at Stevenson) [https://www.facebook.com/dottiestrueblue](https://www.facebook.com/dottiestrueblue) for an all-American breakfast.

Montesacro (510 Stevenson at Sixth St.) bakes traditional Roman pinsa [http://www.montesacrosf.com/pinsa](http://www.montesacrosf.com/pinsa).

Cafe de la Presse (352 Grant St. at Bush) [http://cafedelapresse.com/](http://cafedelapresse.com/) for that Gallic je ne sais quoi.

Cafe Claude (7 Claude Lane off Bush) [http://cafeclaude.com/](http://cafeclaude.com/) serves the best Croque Monsieur in town.

Crocker Galleria (50 Post St.) houses a number of cafés, delis and restaurants. Treat yourself to one of Mission District local, Elvia Buendia’s sweet or savory cupcakes [http://www.lalunacupcakes.com/about/](http://www.lalunacupcakes.com/about/).

Macy’s Union Square Cellar [http://www.visitmacysusa.com/visitor-center/san-francisco/dining](http://www.visitmacysusa.com/visitor-center/san-francisco/dining) and the Westfield Center (865 Market St. at Fifth) [https://www.westfield.com/sanfrancisco/stores/all-stores/fooddrink](https://www.westfield.com/sanfrancisco/stores/all-stores/fooddrink) offer a variety of dining and “grazing” options.

For a taste of techie San Francisco head over to The Market in the Twitter Building (1355 Market St. at Tenth) [http://www.visitthemarket.com/](http://www.visitthemarket.com/). Azalina’s comes highly recommended [http://www.azalinas.com/](http://www.azalinas.com/). And to think twitter was not yet a thing when we last met in San Francisco.

For Elegant Dining (Very Expensive)

Farallon (450 Post St. between Mason and Powell) [http://www.farallonrestaurant.com/](http://www.farallonrestaurant.com/). This elegant seafood restaurant is set in the swimming pool of a former gentlemen's club. The original trompe l'oeil underwater scenes have been left intact. Book ahead.

Campton Place (340 Stockton St. at Sutter) http://www.camptonplacesf.com/info. Chef Sri’s sophisticated style of Cal-Indian cuisine has just received a second Michelin star.

**Classic San Francisco Grills (Moderate to Expensive)**

Tadich Grill (240 California St. between Battery and Front). The same family has run this restaurant for over one hundred years. Treat yourself to a bit of San Francisco history http://www.tadichgrill.com/history.php.

Sam’s Grill and Seafood Restaurant (374 Bush St. at Belden Place) has been serving fresh oysters since 1867 http://www.samsgrillsf.com/.

John’s Grill (63 Ellis St.) http://johnsgrill.com/ was a setting in Dashiell Hammett’s *The Maltese Falcon*.

Hayes Street Grill (320 Hayes St. at Franklin) http://www.hayesstreetgrill.com/, opened in 1979, is the new kid on the block, but still a good place to eat before a Civic Center performance. Booking ahead a must for pre-show dining.

**Belden Lane (Moderate to Expensive)**

For a choice of cuisine walk over to Belden Place, a pedestrian alley once the home of the first French settlers http://www.belden-place.com/view/restaurants/.

**Lunch and Dinner (Moderate)**

David's Deli (474 Geary Blvd. between Taylor and Mason). Classic Jewish deli.

Scala's Bistro (432 Powell St., next to the Sir Francis Drake Hotel) http://www.scalasbistro.com/. White tablecloth atmosphere at moderate prices, if you order carefully. Book ahead.


The Irish Bank Bar (10 Mark Lane off of Bush) http://www.theirishbank.com/ Good pub meals and beer selection.

54 Mint (16 Mint Plaza) [http://www.54mint.com/] for sophisticated Italian regional cooking and an extensive Italian wine list.

Umbria (198 2nd St. at Howard) [http://www.umbriasf.com/] for the cuisine of the region and attentive, friendly service.

**Lunch and Dinner (Inexpensive)**

Sabra Grill (415 Grant Ave. near Bush) [http://adka.org/sabagrill/]. Israeli/Kosher. Closed on Friday evenings and Saturdays.


Naan 'n' Curry (336 O'Farrell St. between Post and Mason) [http://naancurrysf.weebly.com/]. Open very late.

Shalimar (532 Jones St. between O'Farrell and Geary) [http://www.shalimarsf.com/]. A Pakistani and Indian feast for under $10.

Café Zitouna (1202 Sutter St. at Polk) [http://www.sfcafezitouna.com/]. Delicious and authentic Tunisian food. Halal and no alcoholic beverages served.

**Open 24 Hours**

Cafe Mason (320 Mason St.) [http://m.mainstreethub.com/cafemason].

Lori's Diner (336 Mason St.) [http://lorisdiner.com/].

Pine Crest Restaurant (401 Geary Blvd. at Mason) [http://lorisdiner.com/].

**When You Are Multi-tasking**

We regret that Joey's Espresso, Ice Cream, Wash & Dry and Internet Café has closed since our 2004 annual meeting. If you find yourself in need of a clean change and an espresso, try Brain Wash [http://www.brainwash.com/].
For America’s Best Burrito

La Taqueria (2889 Mission at 25th St.) [http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/americas-best-burrito/]. Take BART to 24th St. and walk a block south. In the heart of The Mission, you will encounter a true cross section of San Franciscans.

And for a more sophisticated take on the cuisine of Mexico and Alta California try Californios (3115 22nd St. near S. Van Ness) [http://www.californiossf.com/] or Cala (149 Fell St. between Van Ness and Franklin) [http://www.calarestaurant.com/]. Book now for Cala as *The San Francisco Chronicle* has just named it “best new restaurant of 2015.”

Dim Sum around Town

Yank Sing (49 Stevenson St. between 1st and 2nd) [http://www.yanksing.com/home.php]. While feasting here, take the opportunity to see the Rincon Annex murals.

City View (662 Commercial St.) [http://cityviewdimsum.com/]. In the heart of San Francisco’s historic Chinatown.

Ton Kiang (5821 Geary Blvd. between 22nd and 23rd Aves.) [http://tonkiang.net/]. Well worth the carfare for a trip to the Outer Richmond neighborhood.

Bookshops

Sad to say, several of the independent and special interest bookshops mentioned in the 2004 guide have closed as has Border’s Books in Union Square. Here are the survivors we suggest you visit when you have exhausted the possibilities in the Exhibition Room:

Alexander Book Co. (50 Second St.) [http://www.alexanderbook.com/].

City Lights (261 Columbus) [http://citylights.com/], the legendary home to the Beats in North Beach. Seize the chance to sip espresso in one of poets’ old haunts or follow their path through the neighborhood [http://www.frugalfun.com/followthebeat.shtml].

The Booksmith (1644 Haight St.) [http://www.booksmith.com/] in Haight Ashbury.


Shopping

Should you need or wish to shop during your stay, we suggest you explore the Main Streets of some of San Francisco’s urban villages:

Hayes Street (between Franklin St. and Laguna) or Valencia Street (between Duboce St. and 26th) for quirky shops, trendy restaurants, and hip watering holes.

The Mission’s 24th Street (between Mission and Potrero) is the business and cultural heart of a neighborhood very much in transition as tech newcomers and long-time Latino residents struggle to live side by side. Some of the old grit and charm remain. You can still find tortillas hecho a mano http://www.lapalmasf.com/ along with artisanal donuts http://www.dynamodonut.com/. Be sure to walk along Balmy Alley.

Shop for antiques and elegant clothing on upper Fillmore St. (between Bush and Broadway) or Sacramento St. (between Cherry and Divisadero).

The Richmond’s Clement Street (between Arguello St. and Park Presidio) is lined with an assortment of pan-Asian restaurants and shops including Green Apple Books.

And there is always Union Square with its many shops and department stores just a short walk from the Hilton.

Oakland and Berkeley

San Francisco’s sibling cities across the Bay are reached easily on BART. We have not included a full list of attractions, but here are a few links to begin planning your trip:

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/visitors/

We hope Gray Brechin’s words will motivate you to visit the classically influenced University of California campus:

Inspired by the ordered grandeur of the 1893 Chicago world’s fair, mining heiress Phoebe Apperson Hearst in 1896 offered to pay for an international competition to enhance the beauty of the University of California at Berkeley so that it would “rebound to the glory of the State whose culture and civilization are to be nursed and developed” there. Inspired and organized by Beaux-Arts graduate and U.C. instructor Bernard Maybeck, the Hearst Competition jurists chose French architect Emile Bénard’s grandiose vision of a miniature Paris at the foot of the Berkeley hills facing San Francisco and the Golden Gate. Just the prospect of the of the Hearst plan inspired many to liken the campus to an “acropolis of learning” and earned Berkeley the sobriquet of “Athens of the West.” The University Regents hired New York architect and Beaux-Arts graduate John Galen Howard to realize Bénard’s plan but with the consistent backing of Phoebe Hearst and Greek scholar and U.C. President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, Howard quickly made it his own. His orderly concoction of classically-inspired buildings resembles a permanent world’s fair and to this day constitutes the core of the Berkeley campus. Howard oriented his buildings around a primary axis aimed at the Golden Gate.
http://www.viamagazine.com/destinations/best-way-to-see-berkeley

http://www.viamagazine.com/attractions/uc-berkeleys-campanile

http://local.thecityofoakland.com/oakland-attractions.html


Boom Times and Homelessness

Local arrangements co-chair John Klopacz wrote the following in the 2004 guide and regrets to say they remain as true today:

Visitors and residents alike have noticed the persistent and some would say increased visibility of homeless people on San Francisco's streets. Politicians have risen and fallen on this issue. Civic and religious organizations attempt to fill in the gaps for those who have fallen through the social safety net. The Hilton is located on the edge of the Tenderloin neighborhood, and as a result you will likely encounter homeless persons. You are at little or no risk to your personal safety. When in this neighborhood, I have found that a smile or greeting is met with the same. I am aware that good people differ on the issue of giving of their spare change. Should you wish to help out in a more intentional way, Glide Memorial Church http://glide.org/home, the Gubbio Project http://thegubbioproject.org/, and the Faithful Fools http://www.faithfulfools.org/#, all of which provide services to and accompany the homeless, will gladly accept your contributions.

We realize this may not be a typical, comprehensive guide, but is rather a compilation of things we would do and places we would show to friends in town for a visit. We hope it will make your annual meeting experience a bit less complicated and your stay in our city memorable.

John Klopacz and John Wonder, Local Arrangements Co-chairs, with special thanks to Luis Losada and Kathleen Morgan for the self-guided tours, and to Seth Chabay, Peter Holliday, Gray Brechin, David Leitao, and Catherine Teitz for their contributions.