

LITTLE ISLAND BIG IDEAS

TREASURE ISLAND MUSEUM **FREE** LECTURE SERIES

**April through
September
2019** | **80th Anniversary Year
of the Golden Gate
International Exposition**



SATURDAY | APRIL 27 | 10:30 am

Always Ready

Coast Guard History on Yerba Buena Island

Semper Paratus, "always ready." For more than a century, the United States Coast Guard has helped shape Bay Area history by protecting American safety and security throughout California's waters. Coast Guard operations from Crescent City to Monterey are managed from Yerba Buena Island, and touch every piece of the region's maritime environment – Alcatraz Island, ferry boat transits, the Cosco-Busan oil spill, rescues-at-sea, drug interdiction, and the import and export of materials along the entire coast. Discover the Coast Guard's origins in the Bay Area and the history and heritage of each of its predecessor agencies, from the building of the Yerba Buena Lighthouse in 1875 to the absorption of the Lighthouse Service by the Coast Guard in 1939. And get the inside scoop on the modern story of the agency, from its WWII and current maritime operations to its preservation of historic sites on Yerba Buena and throughout the Bay Area. *Speaker: Petty Officer Cree Townsend, USCG.*

SATURDAY | MAY 25 | 10:30 am

Growing Treasure Island From Geology to Horticulture

Ever wonder what man-made Treasure Island was planted on, geologically speaking? Curious about the horticultural wonders planted on the island for the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939? Learn about the complex geology and construction factors that shaped Treasure Island's creation, including how its perimeter was built in 1937 using boulders extracted from the tunnel that was being bored through Yerba Buena Island during construction of the Bay Bridge, and how

the island's soil is today being reinforced with fill from the Caldecott Tunnel's fourth bore. Then turn to the gorgeous plantings on the "finished" island in preparation for the exposition, such as the legions of palm trees that lined the streets and the fabled explosion of floral designs throughout the many fair courts, created by contractors like the California Nursery Company. *Speaker: Dr. Joyce Blueford, Geologist and Board President, Math/Science Nucleus, a partner in the California Nursery Historical Park.*

SATURDAY | JUNE 29 | 10:30 am

Arts Visionary

Dr. Grace McCann Morley

In 1940, Dr. Grace McCann Morley, the first director of SFMOMA, curated a wildly popular exhibition titled "South and Central American Art" at the Golden Gate International Exposition. Morley's work ultimately inspired her to establish one of the earliest and most inclusive collections of contemporary Latin American art in the U.S. at SFMOMA. Morley's taste in Latin American art, and modern Andean art in particular, was often questioned and even ridiculed by her East Coast colleagues. This lecture will examine Morley's identity as a queer woman museum director working on the West Coast as a potential foundation for her difference in taste and pioneering vision of modern art representing diversity. *Speaker: Prof. Berit Potter, Humboldt State University.*

**Find more details and updates at
treasureislandmuseum.org/lectures.**

The "Little Island, Big Ideas" lecture series is presented with support from the Treasure Island Development Authority and funding from the Historic Preservation Fund of the City of San Francisco, Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

LITTLE ISLAND | BIG IDEAS

A FREE LECTURE SERIES ON THE PAST, PRESENT,
AND FUTURE OF TREASURE ISLAND

Free parking. Access via Bay Bridge or Muni 25 bus.

SATURDAY | JULY 27 | 10:30 am Treasure Island: Build It and They Will Come Organized Labor at the GGIE

From the first scoops of Bay mud to the final coat of paint applied to the buildings of the Golden Gate International Exposition, organized labor was there. In honor of San Francisco's LaborFest, author Harvey Smith will discuss the contributions of organized labor to the creation of Treasure Island and the construction of the courts and palaces of the exposition, where Labor Day was honored in both 1939 and 1940 with special ceremonies. *Speaker: Harvey Smith, Project Advisor with the Living New Deal and author of Berkeley and the New Deal (Arcadia Press, 2014).*

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 28 | 10:30 am Forgotten Fairs Art Deco Fairs of the 20's and 30's

While the expositions of 1939 brought the era of great fairs to a close, the 1930s was a decade of major fairs held throughout the world. Photographer and Art Deco expert Randy Juster will discuss a number of these little-known events, their themes and architecture, and the surprising sophistication of the fairs' promoters. *Speaker: Randy Juster.*



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