



Safety Learning Center

# CALIFORNIA

# FIRE

# MUSEUM

Orange County Fire Historical Society

## THE WATCH DESK NEWSLETTER

May - June 2011



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See under:

Don Croucher and California Fire Museum



Are you Ready?

## The Road to Safety

Do it yourself wiring is one of the top causes of Residential fires.



A Big Thanks to OCFSA for their ongoing support of the California Fire Museum



Formerly OCFA  
Since 1913

**Orange  
County  
Fire  
Services  
Association**

# California Fire Museum Update

## By Don Croucher

The California Fire Museum (CFM) is moving ahead with our plans to locate our building at the Orange County Great Park. A possible partnership has developed with a group called the Fire Services Training Institute (FSTI), which is the training arm of the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA).

After some talks back and forth between the two organizations, it was decided that each would put together an ad hoc committee made up of board members from each group.

FSTI and CFM had our first committee meeting on June 1st to look into how we could work together to build the fire museum, safety center, library and training center at the Orange County Great Park (GPC). The GPC, Cliff Wallace Dep. CEO and Carol Minning GP Project Manager, arranged a tour of the park for FSTI and new construction projects, along with a look at the land set aside for our fire museum. After the tour, all met in the GPC conference room for a meeting with the GPC staff, who gave a GPC project overview and information on how CFM will fit into their plans. This was followed with a CFM/FSTI ad hoc committee round table discussion.

FSTI was impressed with the GP and the location set aside for the fire museum. We will now work together to iron out the details of how all this will work.

FSTI has some great ideas for their side of things, including a fire services heritage library and archives, plus classrooms and a conference room to accommodate their needs, just to name a few.

Attending this meeting were six of the FSTI board members, three CFM board members, plus our project consultant, Howard Lovering, and two of his colleagues who are part of the Master Plan team Howard has assembled. Howard was able to answer a lot of FSTI's questions as he has been through many museum master plans, including the Museum of Flight in Seattle, WA. one of the finest air museums in the country.

We at CFM are excited about this possible partnership with FSTI and see a great opportunity to build a first-class project which we both can benefit from. At present, we are communicating back and forth to work out the details which, hopefully, will lead to a working partnership agreed to by both boards.

CFM has sent FSTI a number of documents to bring them up to date on our relationship with the Great Park and where we stand on our funding campaign. Updates will follow on this site as we move forward on this partnership and project. We feel this could be something really GREAT for us and the fire service community.

For more information on FSTI see their web site at [www.cafsti.net](http://www.cafsti.net) or [www.csfa.net](http://www.csfa.net).

The Orange County Fire Services Assoc. continues to support and partner with the California Fire Museum – Safety Learning Center on this project.

# FSTI, LOGIC and CFM meet and tour the Orange County Great Park



Mike Williams FSTI, Don Croucher & Dave Hubert CFM



At Hubert's for lunch and pre meeting introductions

All photos  
by  
Barbara Hubert



Group looking over the CFM building site at the Great Park



Preview Park tour at the GP Balloon



At the Great Park ready for the tour

## CFM Master Plan Planning Team

As we move forward in our fire museum planning, our next phase will be compiling our Master Plan. No funding requests can be initiated until we have a master plan. A master plan is very detailed and requires a high level of expertise to assemble.

**Howard Lovering of Logic**, our consultant, has selected the team experts to cover all aspects necessary to compile this master plan. At present, Howard is putting together a document which will assist when we begin our seed money funding campaign. The seed money is to fund our Master Plan which can be upwards of one hundred thousand dollars. The master plan is very similar to the feasibility study with much more detail on the building plans and exhibit design. To see examples of work by each team member go to the web site listed at the end of each member's history brief.

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### **CALIFORNIA FIRE MUSEUM AND SAFETY LEARNING CENTER PLANNING & DESIGN TEAM**

The following is a brief history of the relationship of the team players selected by LOGIC for work on master plan for CFM & SLC. This group has worked together on a variety of both generally and specifically related projects. The planning team includes an architect, exhibit designer, exhibit fabricator, and Don Porth as content advisor.

#### **FORMATIONS**

We first worked with the founder of Formations, when he was design director for another large firm in Portland. He headed design and fabrication of the Museum of Flight (MOF) Red Barn early flight exhibits that many still consider some of the best ever done. When he founded Formations, he did a space exhibit for MOF.

We brought him and his firm in for the Lincoln Museum competition, which he and Bob Thompson with TVA won. Their work on that museum in Ft. Wayne, IN was excellent, difficult in that it was sharing space in a corporate headquarters. We then brought Formations and TVA into the National Steinbeck Center project and they did exceptional, award winning work in Salinas, CA. They initially helped us to prepare a "marketing schematic" concept for that proposed museum that was instrumental in promoting and funding the project. Interestingly, this concept document has images that look almost exactly like the final design and development. It is this kind of a study that I think makes a good master plan and promotion piece for funding. Formations proved they can work quickly and imaginatively with a client. In the case of Steinbeck, helping to produce a theme ("in the valley of the world") that enriched the case, and by developing exhibits that spoke from Steinbeck, with Bob Thompson, they helped us produce the small museum that the L.A. Times has called "one of the ten best cultural attractions in California."

Formations supported Don Porth in the design and production of the heritage and safety exhibits at Historic Belmont Station in Portland, OR. Logic then had the opportunity to work with Don on potential expansion planning, introducing us to this promising new safety education venture.

Formations and TVA have also worked together on other projects, in particular the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY that has won national recognition for Formations.

Formations has a long list of clients and projects of many sizes and themes.

[www.formationsinc.com](http://www.formationsinc.com)

## **TVA ARCHITECTS**

We consider Bob Thompson one of the best architects we have ever worked with. He has a national reputation for design excellence that is well known. Perhaps not as well known is his temperament for working cooperatively with a team on early planning, which we find exceptional. We first met him and his firm in the 1992 competition for the Evergreen Museum (Spruce Goose) planning competition. TVA was selected for that project and produced with Logic what we and other professionals still consider one of the finest transportation museum concepts every conceived. Though not built, TVA's work was inspiring. As mentioned above, Logic then introduced TVA (and Formations) to the Lincoln Museum and National Steinbeck Center projects, both of which were successful, though comparatively small and built on modest budgets. We have continued a professional relationship with Bob, often calling to discuss planning and design issues. In 2000, Bob and TVA joined us to prepare the master plan for the proposed LeMay Museum of vintage automobiles in Tacoma, WA. This imaginative concept of an open storage interpretive center with multiple revenue sources, dubbed the "Tower of Horsepower," garnered national attention. It still represents a viable concept that could be built dramatically and effectively in any region with a large vintage car collection.

TVA has a long list of prestigious, award-winning projects for a variety of clients in this country and abroad. Bob's museum experience is substantial and he has the ability to design structures and environments for public use and interpretation. His firm has extensive experience in energy efficient, sustainable design, leadership in LEED certification, and a knack for finding cost-effective solutions. His firm has done remodels as well as new construction. His campus work, including the award-winning Nike World Headquarters, shows his sensitiveness to incorporating uses in a community context, such as we will need to do with the California Fire Museum and Safety Learning Center (CFM&SLC) at Great Park.

He has a long list of clients and variety of projects in this country and abroad. In California, he has designed the EVO Condominium Tower in downtown Los Angeles that was featured on National Geographic Channel "Hardhats" 6-part series, and, most recently, the Nike Store in Santa Monica, which is an immersive, content driven, retail experience.

[www.tvaarchitects.com](http://www.tvaarchitects.com)

## **EDX EXHIBITS**

We have known David Edquist socially and professionally for many years. Subsequent to his organizing his own firm (EDX, Edquist Davis Exhibits) we have both retained his expertise and worked for his firm as counsel to projects. He is an excellent exhibit designer, with the ability to work with a client to extract the best stories and content for interpretation. He has extensive experience in the interpretation of natural science and cultural history in all mediums, from simple interpretation to high technology simulations. He also has taught at the university level and led professional workshops on the subjects of exhibit design in the institutional planning process.

In the exhibit concept development for the Armed Forces & Aerospace Museum in Spokane, WA, Logic had the opportunity to experience the integration of exhibit themes into institutional planning with David and EDX. He demonstrated a talent for listening to the client and museum planner, understanding, then producing general concepts to help define the museum and identify necessary uses and spaces. This is exactly the kind of content design team approach we need for the CFM & SLC to make it unique and special. On the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in New Hampshire, Logic consulted with EDX in the formulation of the storyline for the expansion of this aerospace history learning center.

David and his firm have proposed on projects with Logic and TVA, developing an understanding of our team approach.

[www.edxseattle.com](http://www.edxseattle.com)

## **DON PORTH**

Formations introduced us to Don Porth and his Historic Belmont Safety Learning Center and Fire Museum. We worked for some months with Don on a proposal for expansion of his Center. Although these expansion plans have not been implemented, our planning experience introduced us to this important new prevention concept. Our work on demographics, service area, identification of need, and priority of risk categories, sensitized us to what really is a national need. Don's tireless work over more than a decade inspired us and exposed us to the great potential for a safety learning center. We have remained in touch with Don and his work, particularly when Logic was selected to consult on the feasibility for a new fire museum at the Great Park in California. In 2010, Don was presented the national Liberty Mutual Firemark Award for Public Education and Community Service, selected as tops from 150 local award winners from around the country. With this award, his signal efforts in Portland were recognized. "Don Porth is a perfect example of how to put out fires before they start, by inspiring families to think about safety and prevention through thoughtful teachings and high-tech exhibits," said Kylie Tacheny, sales representative for Liberty Mutual's Lake Oswego office. "We commend his approach and lifetime of service and hope that our award and grant can help him reach even more Portland families in years to come."

Don Porth is a leader in safety education planning and implementation. He can provide essential content and organizational advice to our team from his study and experience.

<http://www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org>

## **LOGIC**

Logic has 20 years of consultation with new museums and expansion projects from feasibility and organization to business plans and funding. Howard and Peggy have prepared a number of feasibility analyses and devised strategic concepts for new institutions in challenging circumstances. Logic works closely and cooperatively with all the other talents required to design and build a successful institution, for projects large and small. Logic is a planning and implementation consultant, but very comfortable working with the design process in identifying uses and spaces for structures and themes and stories for interpretation.

Logic has had the opportunity to work with all members of this proposed planning and design team. In addition, we have worked on the award-winning Portland Center with Don Porth and also as team planners for the proposed California Fire Museum & Safety Learning Center at the Great Park in Orange County. In this recent consultancy, Logic had the opportunity to update national data on safety concerns and the fire museum environment, underscoring the need for the safety learning center model.

[www.asklogic.com](http://www.asklogic.com)

Howard Lovering, Logic



# New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

Effective July 1, 2011, a new law may help prevent senseless carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in the home. CO is formed from the **incomplete** burning of any flame-fueled (i.e., not electric) device including ranges, ovens, clothes dryers, furnaces, fireplaces, grills, space heaters, vehicles, and water heaters. Carbon monoxide can be dangerous – when inhaled, it passes from the lungs into the hemoglobin molecules of red blood cells. The result is that the body becomes oxygen-starved, which can lead to tissue damage and death.



Many reported cases of carbon monoxide poisoning say that while victims are aware they are not well, they become so disoriented that they are not able to save themselves by leaving the building or calling for assistance. Carbon monoxide alarms are designed to alert residents before exposure to CO causes a health hazard.

Per California Senate Bill 183, beginning July 1, 2011, **all existing single family homes** must have carbon monoxide alarms. All other types of residences (apartments, condominiums, etc.) will need carbon monoxide alarms beginning January 1, 2013. The law does not designate local fire departments as enforcing agencies.

The new requirements apply if **ANY** of the following are present within a home:

- Attached garage
- Natural gas or propane furnace and/or natural gas range and/or oven, **or**
- Gas or wood-burning fireplace

For existing homes, the CO alarms may be battery powered. At a minimum, CO alarms are required:

- Outside of each sleeping area or bedroom **and**
- On each level of the home

## Did You Know

- Carbon monoxide is a tasteless, odorless, and invisible gas.
- Low levels of CO poisoning can cause shortness of breath, mild headaches, nausea, and fainting.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States according to the American Medical Association.

## New California Building Code Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2011, the California Building Code has similar requirements for all new homes and for existing homes undergoing alterations and repairs requiring building permits. Further information about specific requirements is available as follows:

- For new homes or homes undergoing remodel, contact your local building department.
- For homes being sold or purchased, contact your real estate agent.
- For questions regarding an existing home or mobile/manufactured home, contact Shawn Huff of the State of California Housing and Community Development Department at (916) 327-2816.
- For a list of CO alarms currently approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, visit the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection website at [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php). Select 5276 (Carbon Monoxide Alarms) from the "Category" dropdown list and hit the "Search" button.



## Double Protection: Carbon Monoxide Alarms AND Smoke Alarms

In addition to carbon monoxide alarms, every home needs smoke alarm protection. The Orange County Fire Authority has introduced a new smoke alarm program that highlights the following life-saving strategies:

- **Install** smoke alarms on every level of your home, in every sleeping area, and in the hallway leading to every sleeping area. Replace smoke alarms every ten years or sooner if they don't respond properly when tested.
- **Inspect** smoke alarms by testing them once a month and replacing the batteries every six months or according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Protect** your family by developing a home escape plan. Draw a floor plan of your home showing two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Practice your plan by having home fire drills at least twice a year.



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends installing both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or using combination alarms that utilize both smoke detection technologies.

*Help Us Preserve  
Our Fire Service  
&  
History*

*Educate Our Young*

**CFM Mascot Blaze**



**California Fire Museum Newsletter**  
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**First Class**



Painting donated to Orange County Fire Historical Society / CFM now displayed in the lobby of the Orange County Fire Authority. "I Love New York" by Ruth Mayer of Laguna Beach, valued at \$30,000. It is for sale.

(If you look real close there is an angel in the clouds above the World Trade Center, painted before 9-11)