



RED BARN PRODUCTIONS UNVEILS
ENTERTAINMENT, CULINARY EXPERIENCES FOR
INAUGURAL
SAN FRANCISCO
HISTORIUM SPOTLIGHT

*All ages welcome, historical immersive event to be held at Pier 35
August 22-23, 2026*



SAN FRANCISCO, CA (4 August 2026) — The *San Francisco Historium Spotlight*, created by **Red Barn Productions**, the creators of *The Great Dickens Christmas Fair*, will boast a packed slate of entertainment including *The Bold & Great Golden Gate Revue*, a vivid and vibrant variety show celebrating the brave and bold people who built one of the world's most remarkable cities. As guests take in the sights and sounds of the time, local culinarians will offer specialty delicacies and craft beverages to enjoy among fellow adventurers of all ages. Unlike traditional historical exhibits, the *San Francisco Historium Spotlight* will surround visitors with the sights, sounds, and personalities of a rapidly growing city where merchants, miners, sailors, entrepreneurs, musicians, craftspeople, and families from around the world came together to create something entirely new. This can't-miss experience on **Pier 35**, presented in collaboration with the San Francisco Historical Society, will span over 50,000 square feet with distinct and imaginatively crafted living history environments, including onboard tours of the Call of the Sea's Matthew Turner Tall Ship. For

information and tickets (\$40/adults, \$20/children (ages 5-12), and free admission for children under 5, all fees included), the public may visit sanfranciscohistorium.com.

“The *Historium* is more than a celebration of the Gold Rush; it tells the larger story of the people whose ingenuity and determination transformed a small waterfront settlement into one of the world’s great cities. For this year’s *Historium* and beyond, we want visitors, locals, and families to step directly into this extraordinary moment in history for our state, when everyone was coming to California to find something: be it gold or something greater,” said Red Barn Productions General Manager and *San Francisco Historium Spotlight* Producer **Drew Patterson**. “We have been met with such enthusiasm from our community of working local artists and musicians. While this is our inaugural *Historium* event for only one weekend, we are already looking to the future, with plans to grow our representation and variety of performances and characters, expanding from this year’s focus on the waterfront area of 1852, to encompass what was happening in the Mission District, Chinatown, and all the other regions of the city as it came into being. We are partnering with a wide array of local organizations and invite anyone who loves San Francisco to be a part of the growth of this new event celebrating our tremendous city.”

Across two themed stages – one a lively town square and the other an outdoor shipyard – guests can experience a variety of thrilling performances from local artists including the Black Irish Band, Fiddlers Three, Greenwich Mean Time, Lucky Elias the Juggler, Killing My Lobster, Le Cancan Bijou, Period Events & Entertainment Recreation Society (P.E.E.R.S.), Plug Nickel (commonly known as Brass Farthing, an a cappella singing group), Rats in the Haggis, and Smokey Knott & The Boll Weevils. Historical characters such as Mark Twain, Mary Ellen Pleasant, Emperor Norton, Lola Montez and many more will also roam the *Historium* and offer guests of all ages a chance to interact with leading lights from the city’s storied past.

Serving up tantalizing delicacies and delectable refreshments at the *Historium* will be purveyors of fine foods including Kai’s Meat Pies, Forrest Fire BBQ, Hopmonk Tavern, Mountain Sage Coffee, and Napala’s Seafood and Chowders. Local craft beers will be provided by Standard Deviant Brewing, and fine whiskey by Redwood Empire Distillery. Food and beverages at the *Historium* are available for additional purchase.

The ***San Francisco Historium Spotlight***'s main area will bustle with the commerce and sales calls of a lively selection of artisanal vendors selling specialty wares including stoneware, hand blown glass, leather goods, period clothing, soaps, and more. Throughout the event, activities abound will excite and delight explorers of all ages including gold panning, brass rubbing, knot dollies, and guided ship tours aboard the Matthew Turner Tall Ship with Sausalito's Call of the Sea, a nonprofit organization preserving maritime traditions in the Bay Area.

Since 1970, Red Barn Productions' *The Great Dickens Christmas Fair* has presented the Bay Area's favorite annual Christmas celebration. A must-see tradition, the fair brings tens of thousands of yearly visitors to the Cow Palace in Daly City to enjoy the magic, mirth, and merriment of a Christmas in Victorian London. Covering more than 140,000 square feet of theatrically lit, fully decorated indoor space, *The Great Dickens Christmas Fair* is a fully immersive tradition offering visitors an authentic living history experience that includes gourmet food and drink, delightful entertainment, games and activities, and artisanal vendors for five weekends leading up to Christmas Day.

The ***San Francisco Historium*** will be a culturally responsive event. Red Barn Productions has made a deliberate and joyful choice to imagine San Francisco history as a world where all people are seen, centered, and belong. ***San Francisco Historium*** will honor the vibrant diversity of San Francisco and be rooted in inclusion, where the richness of every culture is celebrated. As this new tradition evolves, Red Barn looks forward to including representation of more of San Francisco's vibrant and diverse communities. Red Barn Productions practices inclusive casting and welcomes performers from all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities, to audition for any role.

BART is a supporting partner of the *San Francisco Historium Spotlight*. Attendees are invited to skip the driving and take BART, with trip planning information available at bart.gov/planner.

ABOUT RED BARN PRODUCTIONS

Red Barn Productions is a pioneer in environmental theatre and the innovator of Theatrical Living History, a performance technique developed by founders Ron and Phyllis Patterson in 1961, first realized with the original *Renaissance Faire* concept in America in 1963. Through decades of highly participatory, historically themed events, the company creates immersive experiences where

the lines between artist and audience, past and present, dissolve into something surprising, delightful, and often transformative. Named after the Red Barn Theatre at the Blackpoint Forest Renaissance Pleasure Faire site in Novato, California, Red Barn Productions produces *The Great Dickens Christmas Fair*, the *Marin Irish Festival*, and a legacy of landmark commissions including work for the Walt Disney Special Events Group, the California State Railroad Museum Foundation's *Railfair*, and Union Pacific Railroad's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The **San Francisco Historical Society** (SFHS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of San Francisco, California's history, arts, and culture through community engagement, youth programming, regular publications, and special events. The Museum of San Francisco, the SFHS' permanent home on 608 Commercial Street, is located on the site of the first Branch Mint in the West. Founded in 1988 by local historian Charles Fracchia, the SFHS has worked alongside city administration to capture the city's unique identity for nearly 40 years.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The ***San Francisco Historium Spotlight***, created by **Red Barn Productions**, the creators of *The Great Dickens Christmas Fair*, will boast a packed slate of entertainment including ***The Bold & Great Golden Gate Revue***, a vivid and vibrant variety show celebrating the brave and bold people who built one of the world's most remarkable cities. As guests take in the sights and sounds of the time, local culiniers will offer specialty delicacies and craft beverages to enjoy among fellow adventurers of all ages. Unlike traditional historical exhibits, the ***San Francisco Historium Spotlight*** will surround visitors with the sights, sounds, and personalities of a rapidly growing city where merchants, miners, sailors, entrepreneurs, musicians, craftspeople, and families from around the world came together to create something entirely new. This can't-miss experience on **Pier 35**, presented in collaboration with the San Francisco Historical Society, will span over 50,000 square feet with distinct and imaginatively crafted living history environments, including Call of the Sea's Matthew Turner Tall Ship.

WHEN: **August 22-23, 2026**

WHERE: **Pier 35, 1454 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94133**
Parking available at Pier 39 Garage (172 Beach St)
BART station (closest): Embarcadero
Accessible by Muni Embarcadero E line to The Embarcadero & Bay St.

TICKETS: \$40/adults, \$20/children (ages 5-12), free for children under 5 (all fees included).

INFO: For more information and tickets, visit sanfranciscohistorium.com

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PRESS: Contact Raymond Harris, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available:
<https://cbpr.co/press/sanfranciscohistorium>