

A Message from the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation's CEO

Arboretum Dream: A New Arrival Experience

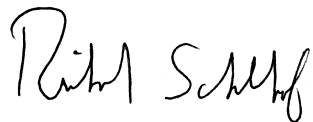
Dear Friends,

On a bright December day in 1956, a small crowd celebrated the progress of a still young Arboretum. Los Angeles spread into its valleys and the fledgling garden sought to serve a metropolis through horticulture. Like much of the California Dream, the Arboretum was a hopeful experiment that seemed too good to fail.

Today, the Arboretum has flourished beyond the dreams of its founders. Annual attendance has more than doubled in the past decade to over 600,000 this year. The pressures of the pandemic have made access to the natural world undeniably essential, and new visitors continue to discover the Arboretum every day. Looking to the future, our 127 acres of natural beauty have never been more important, or served more people.

Yet rapid growth brings ever greater responsibility to meet contemporary needs. The current entrance, designed in the mid-20th century, is insufficient in scale and function to welcome a greatly expanded community with care and comfort. Significant improvements are needed to ensure safe and fully accessible entry for school children and visitors at all levels of ability. And to meet our core education mission, we must provide visitors with the information and guidance to explore our expansive landscape and its countless opportunities for discovery.

The Visitor Plaza Project will bring the Arboretum into the 21st century and celebrate its progress as a world-class place of people, plants, and history. I thank you, our supporters, for your help in ensuring that the Arboretum will thrive for decades to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Schulhof". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Schulhof, CEO