



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**San Diego Botanic Garden Selected as a 2025 California Nonprofit of The Year by Assemblymember Tasha Boerner and the California Association of Nonprofits**

**ENCINITAS, Calif. (May 2025)** – [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) is proud to announce it has been selected as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year by local Assemblymember Tasha Boerner of the 77th Assembly District.

San Diego Botanic Garden is one of more than one hundred nonprofits that will be recognized by state senators and assemblymembers for their outstanding contributions to the communities they serve.

Serving as a hub for environmental education, scientific research, and connection to nature, the Garden welcomes thousands of visitors each year to explore its diverse plant collections and engage in interactive programs for learners of all ages. Beyond its 37-acres, SDBG leads more than 30 active conservation and research projects that address pressing ecological challenges. Through partnerships with schools and universities, tribal governments, and other community organizations, the Garden's impact extends across the region and around the globe. Whether through nature-based play, public events, or pioneering plant science, SDBG continues to be a vital, inclusive resource for discovery, inspiration, and stewardship.

"We are deeply honored to be named the 77th Assembly District Nonprofit of the Year," said Ari Novy, President and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden. "Since 1970, the Garden has been a place of beauty and education for our community. Over the years, we've made significant strides locally and internationally in advancing plant research, conservation, and habitat restoration. Whether on our grounds or out in the field, our mission remains the same: to spark curiosity and foster meaningful connections with nature for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are thankful for the ongoing support of our local leaders, and truly appreciate this recognition by Assemblymember Boerner."

"The Garden is a beautiful urban oasis with over 5,000 plant species extending 37 acres. For decades, the Garden has been a treasured space in our community—connecting people to nature, inspiring environmental stewardship, and promoting education and conservation. San Diego Botanic Garden continues to enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike, and I am so proud to celebrate the nonprofit's long-lasting impact and for preserving the natural beauty of our region and sharing the world with us," stated Assemblymember Boerner.

“We are grateful for the work of the San Diego Botanic Garden and want to extend our congratulations for this well-deserved recognition,” said Geoff Green, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), the sponsor for this initiative. “Nonprofits provide critical services, advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors, and enrich the lives of all Californians. From the childcare program to the soccer team, from the art class to the health clinic, and from the community organizer to the animal shelter, nonprofits make our communities stronger”.

“Nonprofits are not just innovators and problem-solvers, but also a major economic force within the state,” said Green. According to “Causes Count,” a 2019 [report](#) commissioned by CalNonprofits, the nonprofit sector is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest industry in the state, employing more than 1.2 million people. Each year, California nonprofits generate more than \$273 billion in revenue and bring in \$40 billion in revenue from outside of California. The unpaid labor contributed by volunteers at nonprofits is equivalent to 330,000 full-time jobs every year.

Now in its tenth year, the California Nonprofit of the Year initiative provides the opportunity for each California state legislator to recognize a nonprofit organization doing outstanding work in their district. The program culminates with a celebratory luncheon at the Capitol on California Nonprofits Day, which this year is May 21.

The program is sponsored by the CalNonprofits in partnership with the state Senate and Assembly Select Committees on the Nonprofit Sector. CalNonprofits, the leading policy voice for California’s nonprofit sector, focuses on advocacy, education, and research to build a more powerful and politically engaged nonprofit network across the state.

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### **About San Diego Botanic Garden**

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is an urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden’s 37-acres and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. As a premiere 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. Featuring four miles of trails, SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at [sdbg.org](https://sdbg.org). | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](#) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](#) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](#) | LinkedIn [@SanDiegoBotanicGarden](#) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](#)