

A wonderful exhibition connecting art, artists, and donors through selected works from our permanent collection



**MUSEO**  
ITALO AMERICANO

**NEWS  
LETTER**

JANUARY • MARCH 2026

# Legàmi

Indica una connessione, un vincolo o una relazione tra due o più entità, che siano persone, cose o idee.

# Bonds

*Indicates a connection, a bond, or a relationship between two or more entities, whether they are people, things, or ideas.*

*Mancini*

Preserving Our Italian Heritage & Culture

**MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO**  
2 Marina Blvd.  
Fort Mason Center, Building C  
San Francisco, CA 94123

**HOURS** Tue. – Sat. 12 – 4 | Sun. 10 – 2  
info@sfmuseo.org | 415.673.2200  
**FOLLOW US** on social media  
& www.sfmuseo.org

**MUSEO FUTURE HOME**  
940 Battery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
By appointment: 11 – 2 Wed. – Fri.

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Info: **Danielle Glynn**  
danielle@sfmuseo.org

Dear Members,

As I reflect on the many wonderful events at the Museo this past year, I find myself even more excited about the future of the Museo Italo Americano. 2025 has been a year filled with meaningful moments, rich cultural exchange, and strong community connection.

One of my favorite highlights was our *Regional Sunday Series*, which explored different regions of Italy. Hearing directly from guest speakers who grew up in those regions brought to life the incredible diversity of Italian culture—from food and traditions to climate and daily life. These programs were made even more special by the opportunity to enjoy local wines and regional treats. I was particularly moved by the presentation from the Vice Consul of the Italian Consulate, who shared personal reflections on growing up in Puglia.

Throughout the year, we were also fortunate to host a range of well-received exhibitions and programs, including the celebration of San Francisco artists and the meaningful addition of A.P. Giannini's desk, a powerful reminder of Italian American leadership and legacy, to our historical archive. These moments reinforce why the Museo's work matters so deeply.

We would like to thank Barbro and Bernard Osher for their continuous support of the Museo and especially for underwriting our successful Viva Verdi! opera symposium.

While these exhibitions and events were taking place, important work was also happening behind the scenes. The Museo staff and leadership have been focused on building a sustainable future—one that will allow the Museo to move into its new permanent home at 940 Battery Street. The transformation of this historic warehouse into the Museo's Future Home is now underway.

The new, expanded Museo will allow us to create a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of Italian immigration to California and the United States, while also providing space to display more of our extensive Permanent Collection. The new home will include a teaching kitchen for culinary demonstrations and cultural programming, larger and more flexible event spaces, and facilities that can host member programs, exhibitions, and private rentals. These additions will significantly expand the Museo's ability to serve the community and ensure long-term sustainability.

We are planning for this vision to become a reality in **2027**.

Thanks to funds already raised, our contractor, Singular Builders, has begun essential early work addressing deferred maintenance, installing new sprinkler systems, and upgrading fire protection. Our architects, Mark Cavagnero & Associates, are finalizing permits and working closely with the contractor to identify cost efficiencies and accelerate the construction timeline. We anticipate full construction to begin in 2026. To avoid delays and maintain momentum, we are now focused on raising the remaining funds needed to complete the project.

Your continued support—through membership, event attendance, and advocacy—remains one of the Museo's greatest strengths. Your engagement demonstrates the vitality of our community and helps us inspire additional philanthropic support. Should you wish to further support the Museo through a financial contribution, donations of any amount are deeply appreciated and outlined in this message.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for your commitment to preserving and celebrating our shared heritage.

Grazie di cuore,

*David P. Cincotta*  
President, Board of Directors  
Museo Italo Americano

## Grazie Donors!

The list on this page includes donations received from **September 1 to November 30, 2025** and excludes donations made to the Capital Campaign. Our sincere apologies if any names were inadvertently omitted.

Michael & Linda Antonini, Stephen Barbieri, Lynn Befera & Stephen Gold, Beverley & Ron Borelli, Elena Brittain, Mark & Judy Brittain, Andrew & Miriam Canepa, Julie Dickson, Donna & Rick Matcovich, Rose Filippo, Chris Garvey & Paul Roggero, Antonella Goldsborough, Deanna Gumina, Ginny Hanger, Nick La Rocca, Paulette Long, Yolanda Machi, Gerald Martin, Virginia Miraglia & Steven Rosen, Eileen Mougeot, Nola Pardi Proll, Leslie Proll, Angela Rando, Anthony Rando, Mark Schiavenza, Ryan Snyder, Carol Stafford, Stephen Tedesco & Pamela Tibbits, Chris Timossi, Dennis Wyss, David Yeske & Elissa Buie.

## Legàmi / Bonds

Our latest exhibition **Legàmi / Bonds** continues to celebrate the ties that bind artists, donors, and community through selected works from our permanent collection, showcasing the following artists:

- Oronzo Abbatecola
- Astrid
- James Bacchi
- Elio Benvenuto
- Remo Bramanti
- Elena Civoli Brittain
- Beniamino Bufano
- Paolo Buggiani
- Adriano Castelli
- Margaret Ann Clemente
- Alberto Cristini
- Giampietro Cudin
- Rinaldo Cuneo
- Alfredo D'Annunzio
- Giorgio De Chirico
- Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- Frances Galli
- Stanley Galli
- John Grillo
- Renato Guttuso
- Rico Lebrun
- Marietta Patricia Leis
- Tony Ligamari
- Paulette Perone Long
- Luigi Lucioni
- Peter Macchiarini
- John Mancini
- Tom Marioni
- Carol Massa
- Tina Modotti
- Carlo Nangeroni
- Angela Sepe Novara
- Joe Oddo
- Gottardo Piazzoni
- Arnaldo Pomodoro
- Giò Pomodoro
- Nola Pardi Proll
- Sam Provenzano
- Italo Scanga
- Peter Scaturro
- Gino Severini
- Angelo Sottosanti
- Plinio Tammaro
- Mireille Piazzoni Wood



↑ Alberto Cristini, *Acrobata*, 2001. Bronze on marble base. Gift of the artist.

## Tribute to Susan Filippo



↑ Susan (right) with Museo Executive Director Sandra Bagnatori and Board member Jackie Svevo at the Pasta Contest in 2023.

For nearly twenty years, **Susan Filippo** was a constant and invaluable presence at the Museo Italo Americano. She was the ever-reliable problem solver, peacemaker, and welcoming face of the Museo. Calm under pressure and unflappable even in the most hectic moments, Susan handled every challenge with grace and good humor.

Throughout her tenure, Susan wore countless hats — often all at once. She kept the books, paid the bills, ran the gift shop, wrote grants, maintained membership records, installed exhibitions, answered phones, and greeted every visitor with a warm smile. No task was ever too big or too small: she might spend one moment balancing the budget and the next painting a wall or crafting jewelry to sell in the shop.

For many members and visitors, Susan was the Museo — the first voice on the phone, the friendly face at the door, and the steady hand ensuring that everything ran smoothly behind the scenes. Her dedication, skill, and quiet efficiency touched every aspect of daily life at the Museo.

Susan retired last October, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism, kindness, and commitment that will not be easily matched. Her presence will be deeply missed, and her contributions long remembered with gratitude and affection.



↑ Susan celebrating the 2025 Gala costume contest with the rest of the staff (from the left: Bianca, Alice, Tessa, Susan) and board member Mark Schiavenza. Photo Credit: David Viviani.

# Capital Campaign Update

Momentum continues to build, and thanks to the generosity, encouragement, and enthusiasm of our community, we are moving steadily toward **creating a cultural hub** that will celebrate Italian and Italian American heritage for generations to come.

Over the past several months, the committee has been working closely with **architects** and **contractors** to shape the vision for the new Museo further. From **flexible gallery spaces** to **immersive historical exhibits**, an **intimate theater**, **community gathering**, and **event space**, we are laying the groundwork for a welcoming home that reflects the richness of our shared heritage.

In the coming months, we'll unveil more details about the layout, historical exhibitions, and event spaces—including the beloved **Sunday Table** area and new interactive experiences that bring immigration stories to life. Please keep an eye on our website and newsletters for these upcoming announcements.

As we enter the next phase of **ETERNA**, we invite you to play a **meaningful role in shaping the Museo's future**. Whether by making a gift, attending an event, sharing the campaign with friends, or connecting us with others who share a passion for Italian culture, your involvement is essential.

Grazie di cuore for being part of this journey.  
*The Museo Capital Campaign Committee*



Have questions or want to learn more?

Reach out to **Danielle Glynn** at [danielle@sfmuseo.org](mailto:danielle@sfmuseo.org) or check here: [sfmuseo.org/eterna](https://sfmuseo.org/eterna)

## Regional Sunday Series

Our Regional Sunday Series continued to be a great success throughout 2025, with full houses at every event. We began the year by exploring the indescribable beauty of **Sardinian handwoven textiles**. We then traveled to **Puglia** through a presentation of its iconic places, traditions, food, wine, and hidden gems from Bari to Salento. Next, we embarked on a journey through the rich landscapes and traditions of **Abruzzo and Molise**, followed by an engaging exploration of **Marche** and the multiethnic character of **Trentino–Alto Adige**. As we approached the end of the year, we discovered the fascinating history and culture of **Calabria**.

These captivating lectures were made possible thanks to an incredible group of speakers. Grazie to **Franco Cirelli**, **Davide Corriero**, **Luca Dorigatti**, **Maria Fassio Pignati**, **Audrey Fielding**, **Kelly Manjula Koza**, and **Roberta Lamanda**, who made this possible.

We look forward to continuing the series next year, beginning in **January** with **Valle d'Aosta**.



↑ Our speakers, Audrey Fielding and Davide Corriero, getting ready for their insightful presentation on Puglia.

↓ From left to right: Franco Cirelli presenting Calabria (*Photo Credit: David Viviani.*), food and wine tasting during the Trentino–Alto Adige presentation, table with items from Marche.

