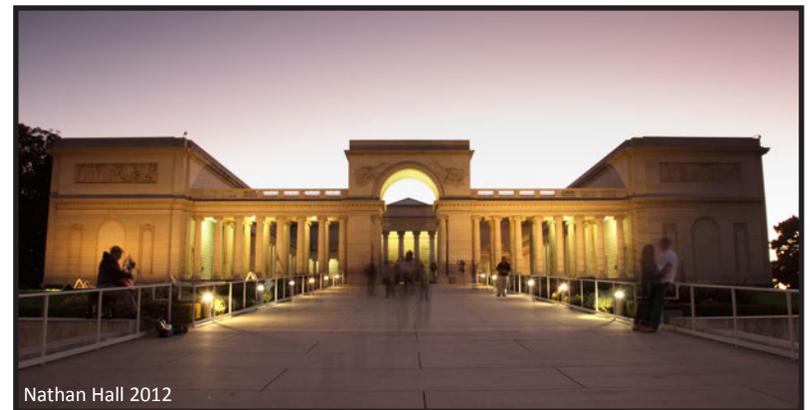


Palace of the Legion of Honor

This dramatic complex of buildings is a three-quarter scale replica of the Palais de la Legion d'Honneur in Paris. It was commissioned as a gift to the city by sugar magnates Adolph and Alma de Bretteville Spreckels in 1924 to beautify the city, honor those who fought in World War I, and provide a home for art and historical treasures that promote education and culture.

The Legion of Honor is located in Lincoln Park, an area of the city that was once part of San Francisco's Golden Gate Cemetery. In 1909, the cemetery board was ordered to exhume the burials and reinter them in cemeteries in Colma. The land was given to the Park Commission that used the land to create Lincoln Park. Hundreds of burials were unearthed during construction of the Legion of Honor in 1921 and again during expansion activities in 1993. It is clear that many remains were not exhumed as the city ordered, and more are likely still buried beneath the museum.

In 1915, the western terminus of the Lincoln Highway was dedicated in Lincoln Park at what is now the plaza and fountain in front of the Palace. Today, a replica of a Lincoln Highway marker now designates the old highway's western terminus. The Palace of the Legion of Honor is one of the premier fine arts museums in San Francisco with works covering nearly 6,000 years of human history from ancient Egyptian sculpture to the illustrations of cartoonist Robert Crumb.



Top: Aerial view of the Palace of the Legion of Honor; *Bottom:* Fountain and parking lot at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, 1930s color postcard.