



GARY SERBENIUK + MEREDITH MORGAN

MAKING A

SELF GUIDED TOUR

FOR THE COMPTON CALIFORNIA DOMINGUEZ RANCHO ADOBE MUSEUM

The best self-guided nature tour brochures do what the best naturalist guides do—they use interpretive *Techniques* to connect the needs of the *Audience* (tour visitors) with the meanings of the *Resource* (the tour site).

Knowledge of the RESOURCE

Interpretive Opportunity

Appropriate TECHNIQUES

Knowledge of the AUDIENCE

4 Dolores's Children's Garden
In this garden, there is a children's water table, a children's vegetable garden, and a children's native herb garden.

5 Victoria's Orchard
In the late 1800s, the Dominguez family planted a small orchard in this area. The orchard was used to grow fruit for the family and for sale to the community.

6 Susanna's Botanical Garden
Non-irrigated plants that are native to California are used in this garden. The garden is a tribute to Susanna's love of plants and her role in the development of the Rancho.

1 Maria de los Reyes-Roy Garden
This garden was established in the 1800s by the Dominguez family. It is a tribute to Maria de los Reyes-Roy, the first wife of Juan Manuel Dominguez.

2 Guadalupe's Botanical and Native Herb Garden
This garden is a tribute to Guadalupe, the second wife of Juan Manuel Dominguez. It features a variety of native plants and herbs.

3 Children's Vegetable Garden
Our children's vegetable garden is under construction. When complete, children will be able to plant, cultivate, and eat some healthy vegetables.

Children's Native Herb Garden
The final phase of the Children's garden will be a place for kids to learn how to grow native California herbs.

Children's Native Herb Garden
These native herbs are well suited to our soil, weather, and climate. They are easy to grow and are a great way to learn about the history and culture of the area.

INGUEZ RANCHO ADOBE GARDENS Self Guided Tour Entry Plaza
Welcome to the gardens. This self-guided tour is designed to help you explore the gardens at your own pace. The tour is suitable for all ages and is a great way to learn about the history and culture of the area.

About the Gardens
The gardens are a beautiful and historic site. They are a testament to the Dominguez family's love of plants and their role in the development of the Rancho. The gardens are a great place to learn about the history and culture of the area.

AUDIENCE

LOCALS
FAMILIES
KIDS

WALK-UPS

SMALL
GROUPS
TOURISTS
ADULTS

FAMILIES WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS



INSPIRE

Designed for visitors that are not part of a docent led tour. Local Families with elementary school children

Guide visitors through the landscape to discover the natural history and ecology of the Dominguez Rancho's gardens.

Answer questions that visitors may have about the what they are seeing, hearing, smelling: plants & animals.

Inspire further questions and exploration about the landscape beyond the buildings.



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FEATURES

HISTORY
VARIETY
ENVIRONMENTS

SIX GARDENS

CACTI
FOUNTAIN
CITRUS
ORCHARD

LIZARDS, INSECTS, BIRDS, VEGETATION

Historic family of regional interest, part of the early California Rancho system.

Adobe construction, and children can make adobe bricks.

Six distinct garden areas, named after the six Dominguez sisters.

Each garden started for a different purpose, each with a unique eco-system.

The site, and its gardens have changed over time, providing layers of history and stories to connect to the experiences of visiting guests.

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Dolores's Children's Garden

In this garden, there is a children's activity area, a children's vegetable garden, and a children's native herb garden.

Susanna's Botanical Garden

On Alameda Street, north of the current entrance to the Dominguez Rancho, there is another gate and a driveway lined with Magnolia, Carrotwood, and Palm trees. The landscape on either side of the driveway forms Susanna's Botanical Garden. Many of the mature trees and shrubs in this garden were brought here by Gregorio del Amo, from his nursery.

Non-native plants that thrive in southern California are well suited to the relatively cool winters, hot dry summers, and low fertility soils. In Susanna's Botanical Garden, there are many tall Mexican fan palms, Norfolk Island Palms, Podocarpus trees, a large Cedar, and Olive Trees. As became clear to Dr. Del Amo and the many southern California gardeners and landscapers that followed him, plants from all over the world do well here if you water them.

Interpretive Opportunity

Knowledge of the AUDIENCE

Appropriate TECHNIQUES



BROCHURE

Clarified landmarks and garden perimeters on a satellite view map.

Engaging, conversational style text.

Identify the blocks of text to coordinate with numbers on the map.

Include basic information about the facility.

Invite further contact with the facility.

Inspire further discovery & visits.



TECHNIQUES

MAP
LOCATE
DETAILS
PHOTOGRAPHY

WRITING
CLEAR, ENGAGING, BEAUTIFUL, DESIGN
ORIENT
ENHANCE
DESIGN
IMAGES

CONNECTING



OUTCOMES

**TO THE
GREATER
CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENT**

MEMORIES

**SIGHTS
SOUNDS
HISTORY
SENSES**

"NOT INSTRUCTION, BUT PROVOCATION."

Connect experiences to meanings.

Appeal to the senses.

Orient guests with a map.

Increase immediacy & impact of experience - listen, hear, smell, and touch.

Look not only at the gardens, but also the immediate urban setting and greater environment. There is an interesting interplay.

Possible Future Projects:

Audio Tour

Garden Brochure for Kids

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**DOMINGUEZ RANCHO
ADOBE MUSEUM**



1826