

The Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum and Research Library Move and Upgrade Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum 2025 - 2028+

Introduction

The Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum has the opportunity to improve its ability to provide valuable services to the city of Huntington Beach, The VHB, its members, as well as the visitors and citizens of Huntington Beach, by moving into and cohabitating in the Main Street Library and ingesting and cataloging the exhaustive 'PT Townend Research Collection'.

Mission

The mission of the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum (HBISM) and Research Library is to celebrate and preserve the rich history, culture, and art of surfing; fostering a deeper appreciation for the sport's history and its impact on worldwide culture. Through engaging exhibits, the Peter 'PT' Townend Research Collection, educational programs, and the preservation of surf heritage, we inspire future generations to connect with the ocean, honor the sport's traditions, and explore the enduring spirit of adventure that surfing embodies.

Vision

Our vision is to be a global hub for surf culture, inspiring a diverse community of surfers, enthusiasts, and visitors to explore the history, innovation, and artistry of the sport. With our move and collaboration with the Huntington Beach Main Street Library, we strive to create a dynamic learning space where past, present, and future generations come together to learn, celebrate the ocean, promote sustainability, and foster a deeper understanding of surfing as both a lifestyle and a transformative global movement.

Benefits to the city of Huntington Beach

1. A museum provides a city with many benefits, including: a sense of community and place by preserving and showcasing local history and its place in the larger history of the world, attracting tourists and boosting the economy, educating residents and visitors about the past, fostering civic engagement through community events, and providing a space for cultural exploration and dialogue; essentially acting as a vital cultural hub for the city.
2. Key benefits: Because the Surfing Museum will include significant archives and other historical documents that highlight the city's connection to surfing, it will help to reimagine the downtown library as a research facility for the history of surfing. This partnership fosters enhanced community engagement and expands the access to these resources. The cohabitation can lead to collaborative programs, shared services and enhanced learning opportunities. This type of collaboration can create a unique cultural and educational hub attracting a more diverse audience to the library. The library will be able to offer resources related to the history, culture and science of surfing in conjunction

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with the surfing museum's exhibits, artifacts and events. This combination can enrich the community by blending educational experiences, promoting the city's surf heritage and encourage learning and engagement in a shared multifunctional space.

3. **Cultural identity:** A museum helps residents understand and appreciate their city's unique past, strengthening their sense of belonging and community. Huntington Beach has a deep connection to the world through Henry Huntington's purposeful connection to beach culture.
4. **Educational value:** Museums provide educational opportunities for people of all ages, offering insights into historical events, figures, and societal changes. HBISM currently provides exhibits, resource material and programming for middle school through college aged students and groups. With space and support, we can do more.
5. **Economic impact:** By attracting tourists interested in the city's history, a museum can generate revenue for local businesses and contribute to the overall economy. HBISM has hosted tourists from as far as France, Egypt, Canada, Russia, Israel, Germany, Ukraine as well as every state in the US. HBISM will become increasingly important as a draw to bring tourists to the city leading up to and during the 2028 Olympics, regardless of where the surfing venue is hosted.
6. **Community engagement:** Museums host public events, lectures, workshops, and exhibitions; facilitating interaction and dialogue among community members. HBISM currently works with Bolsa Chica conservancy, Surfrider foundation, World Surf League (WSL), Visit Huntington Beach (VHB), and the Surf Industry Members Association (SIMA) Industry to provide a space and cultural backdrop for community events.
7. **Preservation of heritage:** A museum actively collects, preserves, and displays artifacts and documents that document the city's past, preventing important historical information from being lost. HBISM has a healthy and growing archive of artifacts and information that tie HB to the world through Beach and surf culture.
8. **Civic pride:** By showcasing achievements and significant moments in the city's history, a museum can foster a sense of pride among residents. Our sponsorship or involvement in the Guinness World Record surfboard, Surfing Sundays, California Surfing Day, and bid for the 2028 Olympic surfing venue are but a few examples.

Conclusion: By combining the diverse skills and assets of the library and museum, this proposed collaboration aims to create a dynamic cultural and educational ecosystem that enriches the lives of patrons and strengthens community connections. Through integrated collections access, collaborative programming, community outreach, and digital engagement, we envision a sustainable partnership that fosters lifelong learning, creativity, and appreciation for our shared cultural heritage.