



By Amy Sylvestri

San Leandro Times

The City Council set aside current events and got a bit of a history lesson Monday night, as the San Leandro Historical Society talked about their efforts to preserve Casa Peralta.

Casa Peralta is located downtown at 384 West Estudillo Avenue and is a historic house and

museum, owned by the city.

The house was built in the 1820s, and remodeled in the 1920s with hand-painted tiles imported from Spain that tell the story of Don Quixote.

Casa Peralta, along with the Little Brown Church (built in 1867) that stands behind it, are open on weekends for docent-led tours, as is the San Leandro Historical Museum next door. Due to budget cuts in recent years, open hours have been reduced, but the Historical Society hopes to change that.

“Where you are sitting now, there used to be fields of cattle, there used to be Spanish fandangos,” said Cindy Simmons of the San Leandro Historical Society.

The San Leandro Historical Society commissioned a \$12,000 report on the Casa in order to compile facts about its history, but also to help facilitate applications for grant money so the Casa can be further restored and the home and museum can be open longer hours.

“Casa Peralta is an incredibly beautiful home, and along with the Little Brown Church and museum, it makes our historical park,” said Simmons. “It’s a beautiful respite in the middle of downtown San Leandro.”

Simmons said she hopes the report will help them get funding to replace the Casa Peralta fountain, restore tiles, and make further upgrades.

“It’s a treasure and a jewel in the crown of San Leandro and well worth saving for future generations,” Simmons said.

Casa Peralta is currently open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 577-3474.

CAPTION: The San Leandro Art Association holds its annual festival on the grounds of Casa Peralta in the summer. The Casa will be restored if the Historical Commission can get the money to do the job.

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