MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD
The Romance of Plants
G. Arnold Mulder, M.D.

From time to time as the President of The Arboretum Foundation, I would like to write down a few thoughts that occur to me about The Arboretum. To me, The Arboretum, and large garden spaces like it, are treasures for us to preserve, nurture and pass on. Not only are they unique in themselves, they are fast becoming even more rare. We are all seeing the press of population growth in California produce an urban sprawl unimaginined and unpredicted when the Baldwin ranch became The Arboretum. We can thank our lucky stars that we have this beautiful space.

The Arboretum has grown under a series of thoughtful and generous nurturers into a great garden. It is here for our pleasure, play, education and contemplation. We need to remember that gardens are living, evolving and expensive.

The continuous work of upkeep is the same for our great space as it is for each of us in our own yards and gardens. To do so, we must constantly weed, prune, trim, water, mulch, replant and replace, just to stay even. We have our conscientious staff and dedicated volunteers to thank for much of this. We also hope for support from those in our Los Angeles community who see the same value in The Arboretum that we do.

In addition to the value we see now, we have our dreams for the future. Some of these are to enhance a great historical resource, to become a leading educational and research facility, to maintain and improve this place of beautiful plants for families to enjoy.

Our Arboretum CEO and his team have given all of these ideas the thought they deserve, and I am confident we can make most of these dreams a reality. We have plans to rebuild some of our aging structures in graceful and imaginative ways that will add utility to our workplace, but nothing is more important to us than the uncluttered open land for us to enjoy here which we see fast disappearing around us.

My hope is to find ways to work simultaneously and cooperatively on all of our plans, whatever their time frame, so that our future can remain as bright as I feel it is now.
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