

The Women's Museum of California was founded as the Women's History Reclamation Project in 1983 by Mary Maschal. Originally an archival project, Maschal worked diligently to collect and preserve artifacts that demonstrated the history and experiences of women, especially here in San Diego and California. She shared her knowledge through speaking engagements and, in 1995, she opened her home to the public where she curated her vast collection to growing audiences. The community's enthusiastic response to her exhibit open house exhibits demonstrated the need in San Diego for a museum dedicated to women and their stories.

In 2012, the newly christened Women's Museum of California moved to the Arts District Liberty Station where it thrives today. The WMC maintains Mary's legacy and passion for preserving women's history by educating people about women's experiences and contributions through an active calendar of originally curated exhibits, educational programs, and community events.

COME JOIN US!



The Women's Museum of California is funded by donations, grants and memberships, and through the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors.

Cover photo: Women's Suffrage picket parade in Washington, D.C., 1917. Courtesy of Library of Congress. Photo colorization by Sanna Dullaway



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Springboard to Suffrage

WOMEN WHO FOUGHT for the

19th AMENDMENT



TO WHOM DO WE OWE OUR RIGHT to VOTE?

Today, the right to vote is something that American women often take for granted. Yet, generations of courageous women struggled over the course of decades to bring about a constitutional amendment granting woman that right. From its first stirrings before the Civil War to its final victory in 1920, suffrage was the largest reform movement in American history. The fight was led by impassioned leaders such as Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and carried out by millions of women. They made speeches, signed petitions, marched in parades, dropped leaflets from airplanes, and argued over and over again that women, like men, deserve full citizenship and have an inalienable right to participate in the democratic process. Here are just a few of the women who came before and helped win the right to cast your ballot today.

CELEBRATING the
19th
AMENDMENT



ALICE PAUL
After ratification of the 19th Amendment, Alice Paul presented the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923 in Seneca Falls, New York, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention. Almost 100 years later, the ERA still awaits ratification.

WOMEN of WILL, WOMEN of COURAGE

Hard as it may be to believe today, the idea of women participating in the affairs of the nation was once a truly radical one. In later years, when the decision was made to adopt more militant tactics in the push for suffrage than unsuccessful lobbying and lecturing, suffragists needed real courage to press the fight.

Susan B. Anthony was arrested and jailed after attempting to vote in 1872. When women took to the streets in the thousands on the eve of World War I, they were attacked by mobs and hundreds were injured. In 1917, white-garbed "Sentinels of Liberty" picketed the White House and 500 women were arrested. Picketers were jailed for the crime of "obstructing sidewalk traffic" and hunger strikes were countered by feedings with tubes forced down the throats of resistant women.

Ultimately, public outrage led to a change in political attitudes. President Woodrow Wilson, formerly an opponent, was converted to the cause during the Great War and urged support: "We have made partners of the women in this war. . . . Shall we admit then only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?"

The 19th Amendment, giving women full voting rights, was finally adopted by Congress on June 4, 1919. Fourteen months later, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment (by a single vote) and it became law.



CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ
(1849-1934)

Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first woman attorney in California ran for the gubernatorial seat in 1930 at age 81. Foltz wrote the Woman Lawyer's Bill and the Women's Vote Amendment in 1911 which passed and granted women the right to vote in California.

"They called me the lady lawyer. A dainty soubriquet that enabled me to maintain a dainty manner as I browbeat my way through the marshes of ignorance and prejudice."

MARIA de LOPEZ
(1881-1977)

Maria de Lopez, a Los Angeles suffragist, educator, and clubwoman, lectured, campaigned, and translated at rallies in Southern California, where suffragists distributed tens of thousands of pamphlets in Spanish to ensure the movement's message reached the Latino community. Gaining the vote offered Latinas a say in civil and labor laws that directly affected their communities. She worked closely with Clara Foltz in the Los Angeles based "Votes for Women Club" that Foltz had created.

Dr. CHARLOTTE BAKER
(1855-1937)

Dr. Charlotte Baker, the first woman doctor in San Diego, delivered more than 1,000 babies without losing the life of the mother. As president of the San Diego Equal Suffrage Association in 1911, she and her cadre of suffragists urged men throughout the county to vote for women's right to vote, an initiative on the California ballot. After the proposition won, California became the sixth state to grant women the right to vote.



AIN'T I A WOMAN?

The intense and principled women who would become the leaders of the effort to win the vote were first abolitionists.

SOJOURNER TRUTH (1797-1883)

A former slave who became one of the most powerful voices of the women's suffrage and abolitionist movements, successfully ran away from her slave owner with her infant daughter after the passage of the New York Anti-Slavery Law of 1827. She became a preacher and compelling speaker. Truth was one of the first black women to challenge a white man in court, and win. She stood up to desegregation by riding in streetcars designated for whites. She delivered her famous "Ain't I A Woman?" speech at in 1851 at the Women's Rights Convention, Akron, Ohio, speaking of the need for full inclusion of all women.

LUCRETIA COFFIN MOTT (1793-1880)

A Quaker abolitionist, women's rights activist, pacifist, and social reformer, Mott was a powerful orator who dedicated her life to speaking out against racial and gender injustice. Inspired by a father who encouraged his daughters to be useful and a mother who was active in business affairs, she played a vital role in organizing the 1848 Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, which launched the woman suffrage movement in America.

"Any great change must expect opposition because it shakes the very foundation of privilege."

— Lucretia Coffin Mott



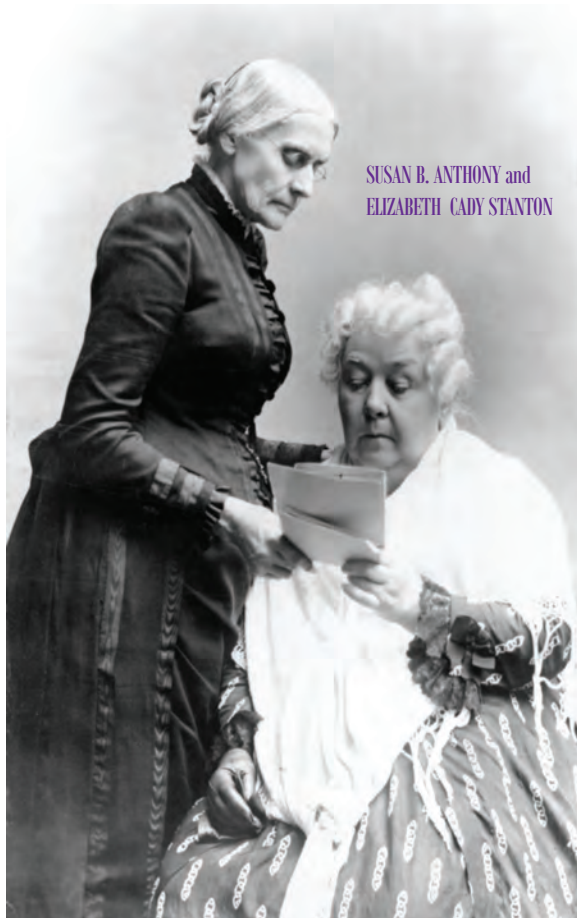
"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"

—Sojourner Truth



For fifty years, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, abolitionist, temperance advocate, and author, was at the forefront of the fight for women's equality and voting rights. When even the idealistic cause of abolition denied participation to women, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton vowed to start their own crusade.

Their small newspaper announcement of a meeting called for a gathering in Seneca Falls, New York, and the agenda set on July 19, 1848, would be one that preoccupied activist women for the next seven decades: the idea of freedom and voting rights for all.



SUSAN B. ANTHONY and
ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

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**The best
protection any
woman
can have ...
is courage.**

— Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
from her 1898 autobiography
Eighty Years and More

THAT ALL MEN and WOMEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

Even while raising seven children, Stanton was a dedicated campaigner. Stanton's *Declaration of Sentiments*, delivered in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention argued for equal rights that included women's right to vote, divorce, gain custody of their children, keep their wages and inheritance, attend college, and work as a doctor, attorney, or minister. The Declaration won approval from attendees and launched the beginning of the suffrage movement.

In 1851, Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, an advocate of temperance, abolition, and equal pay and the two began a 50-year collaboration that shaped the women's movement through speeches and widely circulated articles and books. Anthony's organization and campaigning abilities proved a perfect complement to Stanton's eloquence.



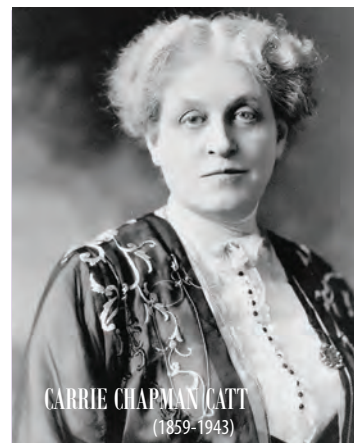
IDA WELLS-BARNETT
(1862-1931)

Investigative journalist, women's rights activist, and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells-Barnett's role in the suffrage movement was inextricably linked to her lifelong crusade against racism, violence and discrimination towards African Americans. Her views were both pragmatic and political. She saw enfranchisement as a way for black women to become politically involved in their communities and to use their votes to elect African Americans, regardless of gender, to influential political offices. At the 1913 Woman's Suffrage Procession white suffragists refused to let her march with the Illinois delegation and was instead told women of color were to march at the back. Wells refused to be intimidated and marched at the front of the line, appearing on the cover of *Chicago Tribune*.

Lydia Flood Jackson's parents were some of the earliest African Americans to settle in California. Suffragist, business woman, and clubwoman, Jackson worked both on the national and California suffrage campaigns. She traveled throughout Latin America and the West Indies giving speeches promoting democracy and women's rights. Jackson also urged women to question white male supremacy and demand suffrage, encouraging women to challenge gender stereotypes that limited them from achieving their full potential.



LYDIA FLOOD JACKSON
(1862-1963)



CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT
(1859-1943)

Carrie Chapman Catt took her first step as a political activist in 1886 when she joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. She soon served as a delegate to the newly formed National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). A dynamic speaker and tenacious organizer, by 1900, Catt succeeded the 80-year-old activist Susan B. Anthony as its president. She took the fight for women's rights to the world stage, organizing the International Woman's Suffrage Association in 1902. Her relentless campaigning won Woodrow Wilson's respect and support, and ultimately led to passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Months before ratification, Catt founded the League of Women Voters, to give American women guidance in using their new franchise.