

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION DAY

IN HONOR OF KATE O. SESSIONS

November 8, 2015

**Presented By Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and
Councilmember Todd Gloria**

WHEREAS, the founding of the San Diego Floral Association can be traced back to 1907 when the local Chamber of Commerce commissioned extra help to beautify San Diego in preparation for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the preparations, the San Diego Floral Association assisted with a city-sponsored project that sought to plant new parkways throughout the City, a drastic improvement from the then sagebrush-covered areas with bare dirt; and,

WHEREAS, Kate O. Sessions, a co-founder of the San Diego Floral Association, was among the designated advisors to the city-sponsored project and, today, is largely recognized as “The Mother of Balboa Park”; and,

WHEREAS, a pioneer horticulturist, Kate O. Sessions owned and operated a nursery in San Diego for more than 50 years; and,

WHEREAS, in 1892, Kate O. Sessions leased 30 acres of land in Balboa Park (then known as “City Park”) from the City of San Diego in exchange for an agreement that required her to plant 100 trees a year in the park as well as 300 trees a year in other areas of San Diego; and,

WHEREAS, by satisfying her agreement, the Park was left with an array of cypress, pine, oak, pepper, and eucalyptus trees grown from seeds imported from around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Kate is widely credited with influencing the ambience and beauty of San Diego’s modern landscape by introducing and popularizing many of the plants, including native species, commonly found in the region; and,

WHEREAS, Kate O. Sessions brought international recognition to San Diego as the first female recipient of the prestigious Frank N. Meyer Memorial Medal, which was awarded to her in 1939 by the American Genetic Association for her outstanding contributions to horticulture and plant introduction; and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of the dedicated community service of the San Diego Floral Association and in celebration of the 158th anniversary of the birth of Kate O. Sessions, the City of San Diego wishes to thank and commend this civic group and pay homage to this extraordinary public servant that both have helped make San Diego a truly great city; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT PROCLAIMED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby declare November 8, 2015 to be “**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION DAY**” in the City of San Diego in honor of Kate O. Sessions.