



University Heights Historical Society

KEVIN WHALEY: A UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS VISIONARY

Kevin Whaley was one of the community's visionaries – he was the editor of University Heights Community Association's newsletter serving almost four years in that capacity. During that time he transformed the newsletter into a tabloid form, increasing it to eight pages, expanding coverage to include articles exploring the history of University Heights.

Kevin was also the President of the University Heights Community Development Corporation during which time he also submitted what turned out to be the winning design for the University Heights Street Sign. His design incorporated a number of whimsical and historical elements derivative of the early beginnings of the community: The cable car, Bentley's Ostrich Farm, the Mission Cliff Gardens and its cobblestone/river rock wall and pillars. Kevin sat on the design committee in selection of a contractor and actively monitored every detail with visits to Young Electric Sign Company's facility in Ontario as well as its final placement on Park Boulevard.

In his address during the street sign lightning celebration on April 3, 1997, Kevin stated that "University Heights is a community with an identity crisis. If you don't think so, just try to explain to someone where you live.....when the switch is thrown, that identity crisis will be over. Like the cable car that made its way into University Heights 110 years ago, our new cable car carries the message 'University Heights is a great destination.' A destination that has preserved its historical integrity. And like their plumed forefathers that roamed the Bentley Ostrich Farm in Mission Cliff Gardens, our new ostriches stand watch over our neighborhood reminding us that University Heights is an historic and unique San Diego community.Our new sign epitomizes the color and character of our community. I am proud to have designed the sign and moreover I am proud to live in University Heights."

Although Kevin is no longer a resident, he will long be remembered for firmly establishing once and for all that University Heights is definitely alive, well and in an ascendant position like its sign.