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USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation Series

The **USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation Series** is a series of cancellations and pictorial postmarks issued by the United States Postal Service for special events in the San Francisco Bay Area beginning in 1996, and expanding to the Northern Pacific Coast in 2019.

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History

The first USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellations was issued on May 29, 1996 ^[1] in partnership with Dan DiMiglio, the USPS Manager of the Pacific Area, Corporate relations, at a special ceremony unveiling the Breast cancer research stamp in Contra Costa County. 60 Representatives from non-profit organizations and coalitions were present in a special presentation with live music and government officials. This first USPS Building Bridges Special Cancellation was not unusual. It had been a pattern of Postmasters, as early as the World's Columbian Exposition 1893, for Postmasters to officiate over a special postal station located in an event that the Postmaster deemed important for the city he or she represented.^[2]

In 1996, two additional USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation Series were issued and Contra Costa County recognized the series in a Resolution declaring October 1996 "Building Bridges of Peace Month".^[3] A Building Bridges postal Station was set up at the Health and Safety Fair Expo^[4] and another at a live concert at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the

USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation Series

Status	Active
Genre	Postal cancellation events
Country	United States
Inaugurated	May 29, 1996
Founders	Karen Earle Lile Dan DiMiglio Layton Hansen
Most recent	April 28, 2019
Organized by	<u>United States Postal Service</u> Building Bridges
Website	<u>www</u> <u>.buildingbridgesnonprofit.org</u> (<u>http://www.buildingbridgesnonprofit.org</u>)

Arts.^[5] The Mayor of Walnut Creek, Gwen Regalia, was sworn in as Postmaster for the day at the Contra Costa Newspapers Health and Safety Expo at Countrywood Plaza.^[6] The Board of Supervisors for the Mount Diablo Unified School District passed a resolution declaring Oct 1996 as "Building Bridges of Peace Month" and children from the elementary schools drew art on the theme and created a "Wall of Life" across public spaces and bank lobbies.^[7]

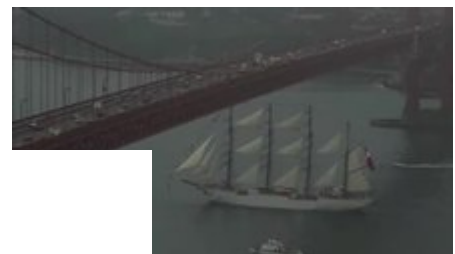
The Valley Yellow Pages devoted 50 pages and a front cover of its Contra Costa County Central Yellow Pages book to a Building Bridges Recognition Series,^[8] recognizing the executive directors of over 50 different non-profit organizations^[9] and government agencies in the county with the symbol and a description of the non-profit organizations program.^[10]

The Building Bridges symbol was designed by Karen Earle Lile and Kendall Ross Bean. It was first used in a video broadcast produced by Lile for the City of Oakland's KTOP TV, a Government-access television station as a promotional piece for a one time festival proclaimed the "21 Days of Light" by Elihu Harris in a Mayor's Proclamation.^{[11][12]} in the City of Oakland from Jan 2-22, 1994. Over the years, other postmasters collaborated with the independent Art Director and Designer, Lile, to create additional postal cancellations with the Building Bridges symbol and name on postal stations on land and on the water.

On-the-Water Cancellations and Postal Stations

The first on-the-water theme of the USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation series was conducted on land, at the Berkeley Yacht Club, by the Berkeley Postmaster and Leonora Clark, the Commodore (rank) of the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Organization, a retired United States Postal Service Postmaster, paired with the new release of the Global surface temperatures Forever Stamp.^[13]

For the 100th Anniversary of the Opening Day on the San Francisco Bay in 2017, there were two Building Bridges postal stations: one in San Francisco and one in Oakland. On April 23, 2017, the San Francisco Station and the Postmaster were on the *Californian* of Hornblower Cruises, but the majority of the hand stamps were done at the dock of Pier 1 1/2 and for the 30 days after at the local post office. The Oakland Building Bridges Postal Station was done on the dock of Jack London Square where the ceremony was held, but the Oakland Postmaster Daryl Trujillo was aboard the *Lady Washington*. The Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association (PICYA) helped commemorate the event, bringing 100 vessels consisting of yachts, power boats, ships and a fire boat.. The open and close of the celebration featured a Tall Ship Cannon Battle between the *Lady Washington* and the *Hawaiian Chieftain*.^{[14][15][16]}



Cannon Battle at Pier 39 between Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain tall ships marks USPS Celebrating the 30th Birthday of the Lady Washington Tall Ship

Two years later, on April 21, 2019, the cancellation took place two days after a cannon battle on Pier 39 at Sports Byline USA broadcast studio. The actual Postmaster Ceremony with San Francisco Postmaster Abraham Cooper was broadcast on the network's 10 platforms including 200 US satellite radio stations and the 500 radio stations of the American Forces Network to 168 countries.^[17] It was broadcast to 82 million people in 168 Countries and on the American Forces

Network by Sports Byline USA.^{[18][19]}

The Eureka cancellation was the first time the series moved up the Pacific Coast.^[20]

The *Lady Washington* and *Hawaiian Chieftain* had planned a battle sail in Eureka as part of the celebration,^[21] but the *Lady Washington* was delayed due to weather conditions on the coast and so the *Hawaiian Chieftain* ship itself became the Building Bridges Postal Station for the ceremony with Eureka's Mayor Susan Seaman receiving the first inked cancellation.^{[20][22]}

Music History Cancellations and Postal Stations

Fantasy Studios closed its doors September 15, 2018,^{[23][24]} as part of a trend of studio closings happening over a period of years.^[25] News of the closing of Fantasy Studios went global and recording artists who had recorded there were in mourning at its loss on radio, TV^[26] and in the newspapers.^[27]

Lile, upon finishing the last music recording^[28] at Fantasy Studios for a special KCSM (FM) Jazz^[29] Benefit album featuring Kendall Ross Bean and 60 musicians, including Grammy Award Winners, designed a new theme of the USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation, recognizing the all the recordings that had been preserved over the years in the city of Berkeley, California, and then later in the City of San Francisco. The Berkeley Cancellation had a typo and read 70 years, instead of 80 years. The oldest recording found to date in Berkeley was in 1938.^[30]

80th Year of Music Recording in Berkeley, California

USPS Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation: Recognizing 70 years of Music Recording in Berkeley two months after Fantasy Studios closed.^{[31][32]}

Plans of a Cal Alumni Marching Band and audience as part of the celebrations were cancelled due to fires in the area.,^[33] but, the ceremony happened as planned inside the Main Berkeley Post Office and was recorded on film.

80th Year of Music Recording in San Francisco

A Building Bridges Music Recording History Postal Station was established at SF Jazz for 4 hours where the public and collectors purchased specially-designed souvenir envelopes with the newly issued Gregory Hines stamp and a special pictorial postmark applied. San Francisco Postmaster Abraham Cooper gave a speech at the beginning of the concert, which was broadcast live simultaneously on the internet. Cooper then hand cancelled the Hines stamp and pictorial postmark for presentation to SFJAZZ.^[34]

The concert and ceremony was live-streamed.^[35] The event was part of Black History Month. Members of the audience received the cache with the stamp and postmark as a gift from SFJAZZ Center^[34]

The ceremony recognized San Francisco's abundant music recording history and abundance of

talent back to 1938, when ethnomusicologist Sidney Robertson Cowell first recorded the folk songs of immigrants living in San Francisco.^[34] Her recordings are now part of the Library of Congress collection.

Illustration and format

What each cancellation has in common is the Building Bridges symbol, a black hand clasping a white hand over the water, forming a bridge with a rainbow above. The rectangle to the right of the Building Bridges symbol names the event and later in the series began to feature pictorial postmark elements. Unique Building Bridges Postal Stations are set up for each cancellation for a period of 2–4 hours, some on land and some on water. Every cancellation ceremony in the series has special events as part of a celebration.

Hand cancelling^[36] a stamp on the water is a challenge because it requires stillness of the surface being stamped so the postal worker can ink the hand stamp and place it on the envelope without smearing.^[37]

List of major events

List of major events that involved a Building Bridges Special Postal Cancellation

Date	Event	Location	Stamps / Cancellation slogan	Credits and notes	Refs
May 29, 1996	Building Bridges of Peace Awards and Breast Cancer Awareness Stamp Unveiling	Walnut Creek Main Post Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: <u>Breast Cancer Awareness Stamp</u> ▪ Slogan: Building Bridges of Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Layton Hansen ▪ Speakers: USPS Corporate Area Manager: Dan DiMiglio, Karen E. Lile, Peggy Marshburn ▪ Performers: Kendall Ross Bean, Lissa Werson, California Theater Arts ▪ Over 50 representatives of Contra Costa County non-profits ▪ Building Bridges of Peace Awards presented by CCC Breast Cancer Partnership 	[1]
October 11, 1996	Kendall Ross Bean Concerts for Kids	Hoffman Theater (Dean Leshner Regional Center of the Arts), Walnut Creek, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slogan: Building Bridges of Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Layton Hansen ▪ Speakers: Karen E. Lile ▪ Performers: Kendall Ross Bean ▪ Contra Costa County Proclamation of Building Bridges of Peace Month 	[5]
October 26, 1996	Contra Costa Newspapers Health and Safety Fair Expo	Countrywood Shopping Plaza, Walnut Creek, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slogan: Building Bridges of Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster of the Day: Gwen Regalia (mayor of Walnut Creek) ▪ Performers: California Theater Arts ▪ Contra Costa County Proclamation of Building Bridges of Peace Month 	[38][39]

<p>April 23, 2017</p>	<p>100th PICYA Opening Day on the San Francisco Bay</p>	<p>Pier 3, <u>San Francisco Bay</u>, <u>San Francisco</u>; <u>Jack London Square</u>, <u>Oakland</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: Global: Sea Surface Temperatures Forever ▪ Cancellation: Cruising the Century 100th Opening Day on the Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmasters: Abraham Cooper (San Francisco); Daryl Trujillo (Oakland) ▪ A Cannon Battle between the <u>Lady Washington</u> and <u>Hawaiian Chieftain</u> ▪ Boat parade 	<p>[40]</p>
<p>November 17, 2018</p>	<p>80th Year Music Recording History in Berkeley Celebration</p>	<p><u>USPS</u>, <u>Berkeley, CA</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: Celebrate Forever ▪ Cancellation: 70th Year of Music Recorded in Berkeley (typo in cancellation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Candace Champion-Forbes ▪ Music Recording History Illustration: Aneka K. Bean ▪ Performer: Sweetfoot representing Ashkenaz Community Center. ▪ Speaker: Mayor of Berkeley, Candace Champion-Forbes ▪ An original 78 record was played with "Oh Happy Day" recorded in Berkeley in 1969. The Cal Alumni Marching Band was set to perform outside the Post Office but celebrations were cancelled because of Fires creating poor air quality. Event was filmed. 	<p>[31]</p>
<p>February 23, 2019</p>	<p>Black History Month: SF Jazz Center Family Matinee Concert</p>	<p><u>SFJAZZ Center</u>, <u>San Francisco, CA</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: Gregory Hines Forever ▪ Cancellation: 80th Year of Music Recording History in San Francisco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Abraham Cooper ▪ Music Recording History Illustration: Aneka K. Bean ▪ Speaker: Postmaster Abraham Cooper ▪ Performers: <u>Linda Tillery & The Cultural Heritage Choir</u> 	<p>[41]</p>

<p>April 19, 2019, April 21, 2019</p>	<p>30th Birthday of <i>Lady Washington</i> Journey from Pier 39 to Aberdeen</p>	<p>Sports Byline USA, <u>Pier 39</u>, San Francisco, CA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: Celebrate Forever ▪ Cancellation: Celebrating 30 years of learning, sailing and discovering (1989–2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Abraham Cooper ▪ Illustration: Grays Harbor Historical Seaport ▪ Speakers: Karen Lile, Rick Tittle, Abraham Cooper, Winston Bumpus ▪ Tall Ship Cannon Battle between <i>Hawaiian Chieftain</i> and <i>Lady Washington</i> on April 19 on the water off <u>Pier 39</u>. ▪ Cancellation ceremony on April 21 at Sports Byline USA, broadcast on Sports Byline radio network 	<p>[42][43]</p>
<p>April 29, 2019</p>	<p>30th Birthday of <i>Lady Washington</i> Journey from Pier 39 to Aberdeen</p>	<p><i>Hawaiian Chieftain</i> Tall Ship, <u>Eureka</u>, CA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stamp: Celebrate Forever ▪ Cancellation: Building Bridges: Celebrating 30 years of learning, sailing and discovering (1989–2019) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postmaster: Heather McTigue ▪ Illustration: Grays Harbor Historical Seaport ▪ Speakers: Susan Seaman (mayor) ▪ Sail on <i>Hawaiian Chieftain</i> with cannon shots 	<p>[42][43][20]</p>

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