The Mission of Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park is to promote understanding and community amid change and diversity. We present and interpret the untold history of the Peralta rancho and the stories of the Fruitvale community today, giving voice to the many cultures that have created—and are still transforming—California. The six-acre park and historic house form an arts and educational hub for local families and youth, and regional center for historical inquiry and discovery.

Every Human Being Makes History.

The Peralta Rancho Life Field Trip Program is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the City of Oakland.

FROM 580
Take Fruitvale exit off 580 (going towards Hayward)
• Proceed in same direction as exit ramp on Harold, go about six blocks on Harold
• Right on Coolidge, go about 1/2 mile
• Left on Hyde, go one block
• Left on 34th, which ends at the park

FROM 880
Take Fruitvale exit, go up Fruitvale, about 3/4 mile on Fruitvale, crossing International Boulevard
• Right on Foothill, go one block
• Left on Coolidge, go up a few blocks. Pass Patten College on left
• Right on Hyde, go one block
• Left on 34th, which ends at the park

“Every Human Being Makes History.”

“We can’t wait to sign up for next year!”

4th Grade Teacher, The Crowden School of Berkeley

• To book a field trip, email us at fieldtrips@peraltahacienda.org or call 510-525-0712.
• Field trips run from 10am–1pm, Tuesday through Friday.
• The field trip is offered on a sliding scale from $2–6 per student, depending on needs of individual classes. Please pay the full fee if possible, so we can offer reduced fees to students who cannot pay.
• Due to the hands-on nature of the field trips, please bring 6 to 10 chaperones. These adults will take an active role, helping students with all activities. Please contact staff if this number of adults is not possible for your class; every effort will be made to provide additional adults for your field trip.

Wells Twombly, Public History Programs Director
Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park
2485 34th Avenue • Oakland, CA 94601-2618
Phone: 510.532.9142 • www.peraltahacienda.org
The Peralta Rancho Life field trip at Peralta Hacienda program builds an experiential framework for 4th grade California history curriculum, emphasizing daily life of the people on the Rancho San Antonio, both workers and landowners. History comes to life through joy, humor, hands-on activities, lively questions and dialogue on this unforgettable tour. Students link their own lives to history.

The field trip converts abstract concepts like “the California period” or “the hide and tallow trade” into personal, hands-on experiences on Peralta Hacienda’s six-acre landscape, once the headquarters of the vast Peralta cattle ranch, Rancho San Antonio.

“They had a wonderful time experiencing hands-on what it was like to live on a rancho. Now, as they read in their social studies books, they can make more personal connections to their reading, bringing the text to life.”

4th GRADE TEACHER, THORNHILL ELEMENTARY

The Californios and Native Peoples of the rancho become as real as students’ friends and family as they:
• grind fresh corn, then shape and fry corn tortillas
• rope a longhorn and feel the consistency of real tallow
• mix adobe and mold it into bricks to take home
• try on rancho clothes and dance in a fandango
• dip candles and create corn husk dolls
• play with period toys and learn rancho games
• drink cinnamon tea typical of the Californios

Feel free to come early or stay late and explore the creek, the native plant garden, and our historically themed play area.

Peralta Rancho Life links direct experiences to important information about California’s early history, covering the following State Standards:
• 4.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the physical and human geographic features that define places and regions in California.
• 4.2: Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.

Highlights:
• Students discover that there were young people on the rancho from diverse backgrounds.
• Math connections abound. Such as, how many tortillas did the rancho need each day?
• Community artists bring the past into the present, teaching traditional Hispanic arts.
• Post-visit materials help build reading comprehension and analytical writing skills.

The Peralta story spans the history of Spanish, Mexican, and Gold Rush California.
• Don Luis María Peralta left the Spanish mining colony of Sonora and walked to Alta California with his family following Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775–6. Where did your family come from?

“My favorite activity was dressing up and dancing as if we were in a Fandango.”

4th GRADE STUDENT, LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

• Luis Peralta spent many years in the army of New Spain removing Native people from their ancestral lands to work in the missions. But his greatest success was as the royal commissioner of San Jose, where he worked to bring peace and prosperity to the people. What will the history books say about you?
• After Mexican independence, Native laborers left the missions to tend the growing herds on cattle ranches granted to the Spanish-speaking settlers.

• In 1820, Luis Peralta was granted one of the few Spanish land grants in California; 44,800 acres in the East Bay.
• His four sons built up the rancho, its herds increasing to 8000 longhorns and 2000 horses, where the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont, Alameda, and parts of San Leandro stand today. Do you live on the Peralta rancho?

• The park site was the rancho headquarters. Antonio Peralta’s homes from the Spanish, Mexican and US periods once stood here. The beautifully restored 1870 house, on the National Register of Historic Places, is still standing. How old is your house?
• After the Gold Rush, the Peralta sons lost all their land.
• The Peralta name still graces streets, hospitals, and schools throughout the region. If you were going to build a park about your family, where would it be?