



FAM14

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

SPRING 2025

This spring we are busy planning our most important event of the year, the annual Aeronautical Society Gala. This event brings together our biggest supporters and serves as the primary fund-raising event of the year.

I am pleased to announce that on November 6th we will be honoring Ms. Angela Gittens with the SFAS Achievement in Aviation Award. Angela was recently inducted into the prestigious Aviation Hall of Fame, and has won numerous other aviation awards for her efforts on behalf of our industry. Angela started her career at SFO in the early 1980's and then served as CEO at both the Atlanta and Miami Airports before beginning a 12-year stint as the Director General of Airports Council International (ACI World).

In other exciting news, I am thrilled to share SFAS' warm welcome to Ms. Jennifer McCabe as the new SFO Museum Director. Most recently Jennifer served as Director and Chief

Curator of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. She has quickly acted to provide key leadership for the Airport's unique Museum program. As you are aware, the Society's mission is to support the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum by advancing the knowledge and appreciation of aviation history. The Society does this by raising funds for acquisitions that are donated to the collection, and we're looking forward to working closely with Jennifer.

This is shaping up to be another productive year for the Society. On behalf of all of the Board, we hope to see you at our upcoming Annual Gala on November 6, 2025 and other events such as Movie Night on June 10, 2025.

Thank you for your continued support of the Aviation Museum!

John L. Martin
President, SFAS

PAN AM FILM COLLECTION

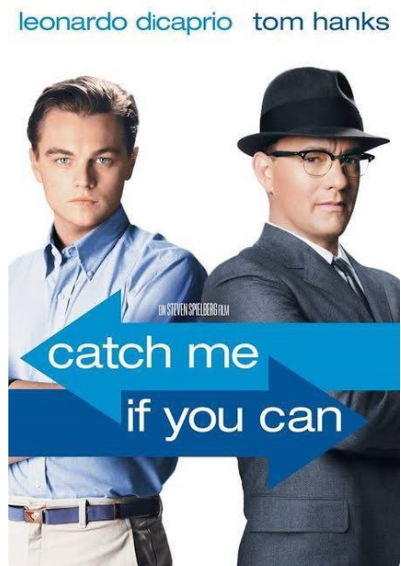
The Pan Am historical film archives will be an amazing addition to the Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum, which will further raise the stature of the Airport's Aviation Museum program. The San Francisco Aeronautical Society is working in partnership with the Pan Am Historical Foundation to fund the digitization of over 1,000 hours of films in this collection. The Airport Museum will then bring these films into the Museum collection. This is the single biggest initiative that has been undertaken by the San Francisco Aeronautical Society in our 30-year history.

The Aeronautical Society has thus far committed \$130,000 to support digitizing the films. We will continue to make this the primary focus of our fundraising efforts over the next few years.

The Airport Museum is planning a second small video gallery, in addition to the video gallery located pre-security in the International Terminal. The two video galleries will provide a venue for showing Pan Am historical films in addition to other films under the Airport Museum programs.

MOVIE NIGHT AT SFO: "CATCH ME IF YOU CAN"

Come join us at the San Francisco International Airport in the Aviation Museum and Library on June 10, 2025, at 6PM to watch a special screening of the 2002 comedy classic *Catch Me If You Can* starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Free tickets can be obtained by completing the online reservation form at <https://sfaero.org/movie-night-at-sfo-catch-me-if-you-can/>



WELCOME FROM THE NEW SFO MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to share that I joined the SFO Museum team as Director and Chief Curator in November 2024. I bring to this role a deep commitment to curatorial excellence, museum leadership, and public engagement, and I'm honored to advance the Museum's mission of enriching the travel experience at San Francisco International Airport through exhibitions, collections, and cultural programming.

Prior to this role, I served as Director and Chief Curator of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, where for over eight years I led award-winning initiatives that earned consecutive "Best Museum" honors from the Phoenix New Times. My earlier work includes teaching roles at Arizona State University and, locally, leadership roles at the former Museum of Craft and Folk Art and New Langton Arts—positions that allowed me to develop meaningful exhibitions and community-based initiatives.

While I don't come from an aviation background, I've always carried a personal connection to flight. I took my first trip as an unaccompanied minor at age five to visit my favorite aunt, and I've never forgotten the magic and sense of possibility that came with that journey. That spirit of wonder is something I now aim to cultivate through the work we do at SFO Museum.

As for what's happening in the Museum's aviation program: our team continues to present a wide range of exhibitions from the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum.

- **VX Forever**, a retrospective of Virgin America, is currently on

view in the front galleries and will be followed this fall by highlights from the Edward Chavez model collection.

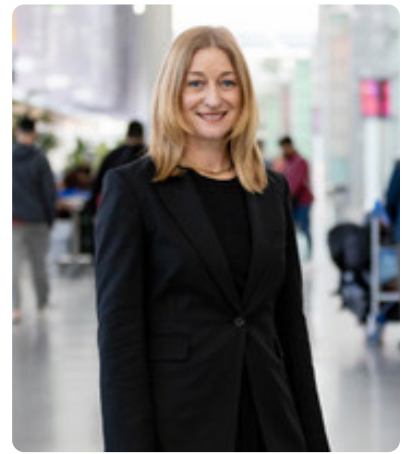
- **Airline Poster Artists** continues to spotlight the museum's rich holdings of airline posters, alongside documents and photographs from the Harold Bixby Collection.
- A new presentation of rare aviation photographs from the **1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition** is on view in Terminal 1.
- In Terminal 2, the **Sky Terrace** offers a sweeping introduction to the history of SFO for all visitors.

You can also explore much more from our collections online at collection.sfomuseum.org.

I look forward to connecting with the Society and welcoming you to the SFO Museum soon.

With appreciation,

Jennifer McCabe, Director and Chief Curator
SFO Museum



NEARLY 100 UNIFORM PIECES DONATED

In 2024, the San Francisco Aeronautical Society purchased almost 100 pieces from the TWA Museum, including complete and iconic uniform ensembles such as the Braniff International's Pucci-designed uniforms from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, as well as the Halston-designed uniforms from the late 1970s. Also included are other airline uniform pieces from TWA, Eastern Air Lines, Deutsche Lufthansa, and the 1980s relaunch of the Braniff brand, Braniff Inc.

The acquisition was donated to the San Francisco Airport Commission Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum and represents the ultimate of uniform design from the 1950s through the 1970s.

At the time of the donation, the acting Director of Museum Affairs, Alisa Eagleston-Cieslewicz, said that they were delighted to add these uniforms to the permanent collection. Once catalogued, the items will be included in the SFO Museum online collection for public viewing, and they will surely be a part of future exhibits.

Thanks to the contributions of the Society members and supporters SFAS continues to acquire significant pieces, which enhance the Museum and archive collections, and help to preserve aviation history.



Pucci I "Air Strip" Passenger Service Uniform, c. 1965



Pucci IV Hostess Uniforms, c. 1971



SFAS GALA 2024 – A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

A large crowd gathered at the Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum to celebrate the 2024 Achievement in Aviation Award recipient, Sara Nelson, and raise funds for the Society. The SFAS President John Martin gave a welcome speech highlighting the World Wings International Members in attendance, the recent acquisition and donation of historic flight attendant uniforms to the SFO Museum, and the Pan Am film collection! Samuel Scott, the Curator of Collections, Aviation at SFO Museum, gave a moving speech celebrating flight attendants as often the “unsung heroes” of the aviation industry. His words resonated with many, highlighting the crucial yet often overlooked contributions of those who ensure our safety and comfort in the skies.

It was then time to honor Sara Nelson, known for her passionate advocacy and unwavering commitment to workers’ rights. She became a pivotal figure in steering the aviation industry toward a more equitable future. Her career, which began as a flight attendant, has blossomed into a beacon of hope for many in the aviation sector. Sara Nelson is a name that resonates powerfully within the aviation industry. With a



career marked by tireless advocacy and trailblazing initiatives, she has become a beacon for flight attendants worldwide.

The fun continued with a savory dinner, and a lively fund-raiser auction with enticing prizes. Attendees bid on sought-after experiences such as a round of golf for four at the prestigious Olympic Club, round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines, JetBlue, Alaska and Hawaiian airlines, and a Napa Valley Wine Country adventure.

SFAS would like to express its gratitude to all the generous sponsors and donors who made the evening such a memorable one. The Society also invites all who share its mission to help preserve the history of aviation through educational programs and acquisition of artifacts to become members and get involved. Be sure to visit our website www.sfaero.org for the latest news, information, activities, and to donate. Together, let’s continue to honor the past while celebrating the achievements of today.



SAVE THE DATE

This year's SFAS Gala and Fundraiser will be held on **November 6, 2025** with a theme of going global as the Airport celebrates the 25th anniversary of the opening of the International Terminal, its iconic architecture, and the commemoration of SFO as the "Gateway to the Pacific." We are also thrilled to present the 2025 SFAS Achievement in Aviation Award to Angela Gittens, who successfully led top global airports, and continues to drive the aviation industry forward through her work with International and National organizations. We hope you will join us for this wonderful evening and opportunity to support the Society's important work in celebration of aviation history. Please visit www.sfaero.org for more information.



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FAM14 is the abbreviation for the world's first transoceanic Foreign Air Mail route, which originated in San Francisco and linked the East and West by air. The **FAM14** masthead photograph, on page one, was taken by Clyde Sunderland and shows the Pan American Airways' *China Clipper* over the city of San Francisco on November 22, 1935, departing on the first trans-Pacific commercial flight to Manila, Courtesy of Pacific Aerial Surveys.

The San Francisco Airport Commission
Aviation Library and Louis A. Turpen Aviation
Museum is located at San Francisco

International Airport, International Terminal, Pre-Security, Level 3. It is open daily from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, closed holidays and for private events. The telephone number is (650) 821-9900. For additional information and to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact the SFO Museum at (650) 821-6700, or email curator@flysfo.com or visit www.sfoairport.org.

SFO MUSEUM

CONTACT! For Society general inquiries about membership, donations and other programs please visit our website or contact us at:

SAN FRANCISCO AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

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SAVE THE DATE
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY GALA
Thu, Nov 6, 2025
For further information,
please contact:
wingslowevents.com

SAN FRANCISCO
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