



Tomás Herrera-Mishler

CEO and President

Tomás Herrera-Mishler is the CEO and President of the Balboa Park Conservancy in San Diego, California. A Mexican-born landscape architect, Herrera-Mishler was raised in Latin America and moved to the United States as an adolescent. He holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning with a specialization in Urban Design from the University of Michigan. He worked as a landscape architect and planner for the firms of Wallace Roberts Todd and EDSA prior to moving to the nonprofit sector. He has worked as the Executive Director of the Awbury Arboretum in Philadelphia, Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, North Carolina, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Boston. Herrera-Mishler has designed projects across the US, the Caribbean, his native country Mexico, and Mallorca, Spain. Projects include the award-winning design for the Papal Altar for John Paul II's public mass in Miami, the Downtown Plan for Orlando, the Growth Management Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Region, the Revitalization Plan for the East Side of Detroit, and the Urban Vacant Land Management Strategy for Philadelphia. He is responsible for the master plan for the National Conservation Center of Costa Rica.

During his tenure as CEO and President of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Herrera-Mishler helped to secure almost \$30 million for capital improvement projects toward the implementation of the park system's visionary master plan, the *Olmsted City, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Plan for the 21st Century*. Projects include the completion of the restoration of the Humboldt Basin at Martin Luther King Jr. Park the largest historic water feature of its kind in North America; the RiverRock Gardens in Riverside Park, a restoration of an Olmsted original landscape; and many other projects throughout the system. He oversaw partnerships to provide green industry work experiences for disadvantaged individuals, recent refugees, and immigrants, building a staff of which 38 percent were minorities and achieving best-in-class landscape maintenance conditions throughout the citywide park and parkway system.

Herrera-Mishler served on the boards of the Richardson Olmsted Development Corporation, the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, and the National Association of Olmsted Parks. He is a founding board member of the Western New York Environmental Alliance. Herrera-Mishler was named Preservation Hero 2013 by the Library of American Historic Landscapes and was awarded in 2014 the Gold Leaf Award by the New York State Arborists Association, the Outstanding Citizen Award by the Cultural Society of Buffalo, and the 2015 Outstanding Leader in Landscape Architecture by the Upstate New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His wife, the Honorable Mercedes Herrera Rojas de Mishler, is an award-winning artist and former Consul of Costa Rica. They have three daughters, Elise, Olivia, and Sofia. They reside in Scripps Ranch, near San Diego, where Tomás is an avid gardener, dedicated swimmer, and enthusiastic cook.