

**Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Newhall, California**

Placerita Canyon is steeped in legends of mining, oil, and Hollywood. Its trails mark the location of California's first discovery of gold, the homestead of an eccentric recluse and his family, and the birth of Hollywood western films. In a small space, how do you best tell these stories, as well as those of the canyon's natural history?



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In 2009, The Acorn Group developed the interpretive master plan for Placerita Canyon's trails, courtyard, and LEED-certified nature center building. In 2014, working closely with County and Nature Center staff, volunteers, historians, and Group Delphi, we designed new exhibits and displays featuring recordings, movie clips, artifacts, touchable models, and other media clustered in the gallery.

The new exhibits also celebrate the canyon's rich, but fragile biological diversity through stunning dioramas, interpretive panels, and interactive displays.



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The Acorn Group also developed six discovery boxes, each focused on a different subject and filled with activity cards, observation equipment, skull and talon replicas, science games, and books for family groups to explore.

