

## **ZOOM PRESENTATION**

**October 9, 2020, 7:30pm**

### **Fossils in the Los Angeles Basin: An embarrassment of riches**



***Speaker: Karin Rice, Preparator, Rancho La Brea***

As a Preparator at Project 23, Karin is responsible for excavating fossils, training volunteers and students and sharing her expertise with the public. She is a geologist by training with industry experience in environmental and engineering geology, and paleontological resource mitigation. She has always been drawn to natural history and fossils. Since 2005 she has worked as a paleontological monitor on construction sites, later as a fossil Preparator at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and today as a Preparator at Project 23.

Apart from the world famous La Brea Tar Pits, the Los Angeles area is probably not thought of as a region rich in fossils. When most of us think about fossil expeditions we picture field crews in remote badlands in Montana, South Dakota, or Wyoming, or even in Mongolia, digging up dinosaur bones and building plaster and burlap jackets around the fossils to collect them. Most people who live in the LA basin have little idea how many remains of ancient organisms exist under foot. There are so many fossils in the rocks around the greater LA area that they are frequently encountered during local construction projects. Fortunately, CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, has a provision to mitigate damage and to protect and preserve fossils found in California. The geology of the LA basin has preserved rich and diverse flora and fauna from Cretaceous plants and vertebrates (even dinosaur bits!) to Miocene marine mammals to Pleistocene Ice Age megafauna and countless marine invertebrates, all in localities within a few hours of downtown LA.