

MATURANGO MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





"The mission of the Maturango museum is to preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences and to promote the arts"

(Adopted by the board of Trustees, December 17, 2012)

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Front Cover: A Welcome to the Garden
The new Shade Structure with the Bell and other features.

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President's Observations 2021
Jerry Bradley – Board President

TRANSITION -- This is my fifth writing of the President's Observations for the Annual Report. That may be some sort of record, as Board members normally only serve for four years. However, because of COVID, as did many organizations, we chose to freeze the makeup of the Board for another year. Each of the past years, I selected a single theme word to summarize my observations for that year. In those years I selected AMAZING, SUPPORT, CHANGE, and RECOVERY. This year the word TRANSITION seems appropriate.

The museum has undergone several transitions this past year and will continue to make further transitions this year and into the future. We transitioned from being totally shuttered to being open with COVID safety protocols, such as masking, in place. We transitioned our antiquated web site to a modern, vibrant portal into our ever improving exhibits, store, and programs. Our dedicated Director and her wonderful staff have transitioned their daily activities to accommodate changing laws and evolving requirements. We are transitioning to sponsoring more "field trips" to help offset the ongoing loss of revenue from Petroglyph tours on base. Hopefully, these tours can resume when the base has fully recovered from the impacts of the earthquakes.

This year, we plan to transition many of our collection of large assets into a new Exhibits Building, which is currently under construction. We also will transition from our outdated (and recently destroyed) electronic sign to a brighter and more visible version to attract visitors and keep the local citizens informed about Museum activities. The Board recently voted to become Carbon Neutral as our contribution to reducing global warming and its negative impacts on our planet. This transition should also result in one or more new exhibits that demonstrate energy conservation and environmental preservation.

Perhaps the most important transition is one being voted on by you, our loyal members. You will vote for three new Board members from a slate of four highly qualified individuals to replace me and two other retiring Board members. Although I regret leaving the Board, I am confident that the remaining Board Members, along with three outstanding new members, will assure that all future Museum transitions are highly beneficial and well executed.

Treasurer's Statement
2021 Annual Meeting
Camille Anderson

Wow! Three years with major headwinds and the Museum is still here, serving the public. The resiliency of the Museum Staff, donors and the public has been stunning. In 2019, Ridgecrest had major earthquakes. In 2020, we had a major pandemic. In 2021, the pandemic continued with new variation. We have definitely been challenged in the past three years as a community and as a museum. The good news is that we are still here!! The museum is still operating!! We have used the various times that we have been shut down to do some rearranging and updating of our processes, website, exhibits—both indoor and outdoor, and the store.

As a non-profit, the money to fund our operations comes from a variety of activities, store sales, memberships and contributions. Our funding comes from the people who visit, use and enjoy the museum. 2021 was another financially challenging year. Unfortunately, we were closed to the public for the first quarter. Thankfully we were open for the remainder of the year, but we had no annual auction, nor any petroglyph tours.

As always, we had fixed expenses that had to be paid, including salaries. Last year's expenses totaled \$255,311, slightly higher than 2020. However, on the positive side, net store sales were almost doubled from 2020. Gallery sales also saw a more than double 2020 amounts. The Maturango Museum was able to receive a PPP low cost loan in the early days of the pandemic, and we were successful in turning that money into a grant. The museum was also fortunate to receive \$64,500 from the BLM for curation of the PCT collection.

Thanks to the generous donations of our members in response to our appeal letters and a few extremely generous donations, we received a total of \$123,279. We received \$20,350 from the Robert and Bernice Meade Trust; \$16,825 in donations in memory of Carol Burge and the Carol Burge trust; and \$10,000 from Frank Armogida in memory of Beth Armogida. The museum is so grateful to have received these gifts.

Our total income of \$441,924 was greater than our expenses of \$255,311 by \$131,934, although most of that was in restricted fund, earmarked for specific projects or the endowment. The museum ended the year with a net operating loss for 2021 of \$2,053.

The Maturango Museum Board of Trustees and Staff know we are accountable to our members for good stewardship of our finances. We strive to make sure that we use your money wisely. Now more than ever your support is what makes this museum possible. Please continue your financial support of the museum. Consider including the museum in any estate planning you might be doing. Think of us at tax time. Respond to our solicitations. Thank you for your ongoing support and let's all hope that next year will see some return to normalcy, and the museum open all year!

Maturango Museum
Statement of Financial Position
in dollars

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand	38,463	36,162	2,301
Savings	400,249	402,909	(2,661)
Investments	376,527	315,335	61,193
Total Cash and in Banks	<u>815,239</u>	<u>754,406</u>	<u>60,833</u>
Receivables	665	2,265	(1,600)
Inventory	62,922	50,468	12,454
Prepaid Expenses	18,505	14,262	4,243
Total Other Current Assets	<u>82,092</u>	<u>66,995</u>	<u>15,098</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>897,331</u>	<u>821,400</u>	<u>75,931</u>
Fixed Assets			
Building	1,195,723	1,195,723	-
Building Improvements	295,690	311,896	(16,206)
Equipment and Displays	416,911	418,372	(1,461)
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(994,856)	(997,778)	2,923
Total	<u>913,468</u>	<u>928,212</u>	<u>(14,744)</u>
Work In Process	45,000	-	45,000
Total Net Fixed Assets	<u>958,468</u>	<u>928,212</u>	<u>30,255</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,855,799</u></u>	<u><u>1,749,613</u></u>	<u><u>106,186</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	16,220	10,657	5,564
Payroll	12,369	10,600	1,769
Sales Taxes	1,479	615	864
Other Liabilities	4,888	4,967	(79)
PPP Loan	-	33,940	(33,940)
Deferred Revenue	9,835	9,760	75
Total Current Liabilities	<u>44,791</u>	<u>70,539</u>	<u>(25,748)</u>
Equity			
Unrestricted	1,139,506	1,112,516	26,990
Temp Restricted - Building	211,509	193,893	17,616
Temp Restricted - Other	79,115	53,980	25,136
Endowment	380,877	318,685	62,193
Total Equity	<u>1,811,008</u>	<u>1,679,074</u>	<u>131,934</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,855,799</u></u>	<u><u>1,749,613</u></u>	<u><u>106,187</u></u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

Maturango Museum
Income Statement (all funds combined)
in dollars

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
Income			
Store Sales	96,501	51,460	45,041
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(45,255)</u>	<u>(25,780)</u>	<u>(19,476)</u>
Store Sales NET	51,246	25,680	25,566
Gallery Sales	24,933	16,484	8,449
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(13,068)</u>	<u>(12,382)</u>	<u>(686)</u>
Gallery Sales NET	11,866	4,102	7,763
Fundraising	44,293	77,428	(33,135)
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>(577)</u>	<u>(515)</u>
Fundraising NET	43,201	76,851	(33,650)
Events	1,570	1,470	100
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(863)</u>	<u>(908)</u>	<u>45</u>
Events NET	707	562	145
Admissions	6,173	2,247	3,926
Contributions	79,854	197,991	(118,137)
Memberships	36,105	37,640	(1,535)
Other Income	212,620	24,843	187,777
In Kind Donations	152	660	(508)
Total Income	<u>441,924</u>	<u>370,576</u>	<u>71,348</u>
Expenses			
Advertising & Promotion	12,747	7,350	5,397
Merchant Fees	6,156	5,108	1,048
Facilities	31,845	34,828	(2,983)
Insurance	7,734	6,859	874
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	5,018	5,452	(433)
Payroll Expenses	149,386	154,873	(5,487)
Professional Services	9,582	5,727	3,855
Rent	3,148	3,013	135
Supplies & Equipment	24,328	10,534	13,793
Travel	1,959	-	1,959
Other Expenses	3,408	3,243	165
Total Expense	<u>255,311</u>	<u>236,988</u>	<u>18,324</u>
Net Operating Income	186,612	133,589	53,024
Depreciation	<u>(54,678)</u>	<u>(69,068)</u>	<u>14,389</u>
Total Net Income	<u>131,934</u>	<u>64,521</u>	<u>67,413</u>

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Maturango Museum
2021 Income Statement (by Asset Type)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Building</u>	<u>Temp Restricted - Other</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income					
Store Sales	96,501				96,501
Less: Cost of Sales	(45,255)				(45,255)
Gallery Sales	24,933				24,933
Less: Cost of Sales	(13,068)				(13,068)
Fundraising	20,313	21,480	1,500	1,000	44,293
Less: Cost of Sales	(1,092)				(1,092)
Events	1,570				1,570
Less: Cost of Sales	(863)				(863)
Admissions	6,173				6,173
Contributions	42,529	33,190	4,135		79,854
Memberships	36,105				36,105
Other Income	76,299	42,879	32,250	61,193	212,620
In Kind Donations	152				152
Total Income	<u>244,297</u>	<u>97,549</u>	<u>37,885</u>	<u>62,193</u>	<u>441,924</u>
Expenses					
Advertising & Promotion	12,747				12,747
Merchant Fees	6,156				6,156
Facilities	30,807	1,038			31,845
Insurance	7,734				7,734
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	5,018				5,018
Payroll Expenses	147,139		2,247		149,386
Professional Services	9,582				9,582
Rent (Storage)	3,148				3,148
Supplies & Equipment	18,652		5,676		24,328
Travel	1,959				1,959
Other Expenses	3,408				3,408
Total Expense	<u>246,351</u>	<u>1,038</u>	<u>7,923</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>255,311</u>
Total Operating Profit / (Loss)	<u>(2,054)</u>	<u>96,511</u>	<u>29,962</u>	<u>62,193</u>	<u>186,612</u>
Depreciation	(54,678)				(54,678)
Assets released from Restrictions	83,722	(78,895)	(4,827)	-	0
Total Net Income	<u>26,990</u>	<u>17,616</u>	<u>25,136</u>	<u>62,193</u>	<u>131,934</u>

The above data is summarized for ease of reporting. Details are available for review in the Museum offices.

Executive Director's Report 2021

Submitted by Debbie Benson



Our year began much as 2020 ended. Covid and its limitations continue to be a factor for many activities. We were still closed to the public. Some of the construction plans for displays were put on hold until the immunizations were administered. The new website was under construction and we had videos by Mark Pahuta for viewing. "Chance Encounters with Wildlife in the Rademacher Hills"

was made in conjunction with the wildlife photography show in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery, which we hoped to share with the public at some point. The Docent's children's hour video "Owl & Coyote" was available as well. These were joined by the Children's Hour video on "Reptiles" and Mark's video on artist Batty Spindler. We received the original Sylvia Winslow 1958 oil painting "Spirit of the Desert ". It was nice to welcome her home and we are grateful for the generosity. The painting now hangs over the doorway to the Sylvia Winslow Exhibit Gallery.

Each day, as we were watching to see if our tier level would change from purple to red, we stayed active on many fronts. I was on different webinars for funding and the Small Business Administration, which was very helpful as a resource for information that is important for employees and the CDC recommendations. The Associated Science and Technology Centers provided information and support for Directors of Museums and Science Centers. It made us all aware that we were all facing similar questions and processes. It was all very helpful while we worked towards the day we could open again.

On April 5, that day came. We were all working to insure we were ready and we had our processes in place for being with the public. We were all so pleased, relieved, happy and optimistic to open the doors. We continue with our masking policy and provide masks to support it. Each day that we are open it is interesting to look back and see how we all made it through as we continued to reintegrate and adapt. I was told that our electronic sign simply saying Be Well made people feel that we care for each person. We do! We were glad to transition to being open 10-3 daily and then to 10-4. We held a one-day yard sale and we were getting used to our activities including rentals at reduced capacity. In the heat of the Summer we were also open as a cooling center. This was successful before the pandemic and it was again.

In June we held meetings of many of our different connections. Some people were getting their second immunization and feeling a bit more in control. We were the location for the China Lake Search and Rescue and hoped there was still a possibility for Petroglyph Escort training. We were in discussion of the Petroglyph Festival as well. To add a time of concern and quite frankly a big mess, was when a driver went directly through our electronic sign. We were grateful for the help of our volunteers and a person from VX-31 to help clear much of the more dangerous debris. A damaged metal artwork of a shaman was repaired by a local welder. We began our work on applying for insurance and finding a company to make a new sign.

In the months of July and August we welcomed the workers from Lapham Construction. Within the garden we now have two shade structures. I am grateful to have worked with John and his team. Peter and Elaine Wiley and I basically told him what we wanted and then they made it all happen. We wanted the structures to be very nice and as long lasting as possible without excessive amounts of work and upkeep to keep them nice. Through all of the planning we kept in mind that the funds were mostly those given in memory of loved ones. We were looking for something that would be used often and expressed the pleasure and joy found in the gardens. I think it's a very good start and adds an outside venue for our members and guests. It's a fun thought that the docents will be able to have some of their programs for children in an open but somewhat protected shaded area. To those who donated in support of this idea, thank you. We are enjoying just standing in it and finding the view of the garden quite pleasant. We are gratefully pleased. Andrea very kindly ordered a bench/table to try out. Peter and Elaine Wiley put it together. It was perfect and we ordered more! I think the best complement for this endeavor is that most people don't realize the structure haven't always been there.

October brought some of the fun and worries of events with the public. We were all enjoying having the shade structures and it was fun to see the programs on 2nd Saturday being enjoyed by visitors and the Docents. Bats were a great topic for October! The Open Studio Tour was, once again, a great opportunity for the artists and the community. It was a chance for people to interact but to do it in a way that the artists are comfortable. It was, as always, a great chance to spend a weekend with artists and friends. We did participate in the Petroglyph Festival but not as a lecture location. We were more of a venue with the Gift Shop open to the public and the galleries open as well. We were glad to have Mike Thompson share his flintknapping skills with us and to have our friend J come to share his rocks and geology with us as well. With no Petroglyph Tours it was a chance for some of us to attend the Festival itself for the first time.

It is certainly no surprise that the new variant of Covid had an impact on us all as the year came to a close. We were glad that with the vaccines and boosters we were protected from it to some degree with our continued masking. I am reminded that in time we may see improvement. We are adapting to some new ways of doing some of our business and continue to work towards the

future. This is true as we prepare for our new curation building, our new electronic sign as well as adapting to our new website. We have much to be grateful for and much of that comes from the work and companionship of our volunteers who are the core of what makes us function. We appreciate every minute, every project and every plan. Every person who donates to our Museum in any manner has much to be proud of. Thank you for making it through this last year with us and we hope, for many more. Please, as always, Take Care and Be Well!



Archeology Curator Report 2021

Collections

We received no new collections in 2021, again largely due to the Covid pandemic and Delta/Omicron resurgence. Most regional archeology work, whether academic or CRM based, was halted or slowed again this year. Like last year, we used this void to catch up on cataloging backlogged collections from the last several years. Jacque Ahlin, our part-time Curation Intern, is working on a large multi-year collection, the Barren Ridge Project from Rosamond CA.

We contracted with CA BLM and Bakersfield BLM field office to curate a very large collection (35 boxes) of artifacts from a late 1970s survey and excavation of the Kern County Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), Walker Pass to Chimney Peak. When CSU Bakersfield closed their anthropology lab a few years ago, the collection needed a new home and BLM Archeologist Amy Girado guided it to Maturango, the only federally recognized museum repository in Kern County. As of this writing, we're still waiting for details to be finalized and the collection to arrive. We will need interns to help process this large task in timely fashion. Since we have ample gallery room, Maturango has agreed to be the view space for any BLM/Tribal examination of possible NAGPRA artifacts. BLM will conduct these viewings with our curatorial assistance.

Cataloging status

Unchanged since last year's report due to the above inactivity, the archeological collection currently encompasses 167,709 curated artifacts in 234 accessioned collections; twelve of those collections have not yet been delivered by the contractor. A total of 315 collections have been accessioned since 1960, with 81 of those subsequently deaccessioned. The majority of deaccessions have transferred to NAWA China Lake or the U.S. Forest Service, with a few to our docents for use in education. Eight deaccessions are missing collections dating to the early 1980s. All archeological artifacts in our facility are in archival packaging. Approximately 90 archeological artifacts are on display in exhibits.

Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

The BLM has sent out official notice of repatriation letters to Tribes for the remaining three NAGPRA collections held by Maturango for the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office (Hunter Canyon, Ayers Rock, and Last Chance Canyon). Bishop BLM has taken the lead on two of the projects with the retirement of Don Storm, Ridgecrest Archeologist; Last Chance Canyon will be handled by the BLM California Desert District Office. No requests yet from Tribes to view the collections here at Maturango, a process we will be pleased to facilitate.

Interns

With no collections coming in, we requested no interns from Cerro Coso College this year. That was just as well since Dr. Sarah King's supply of archeology students was severely curtailed by online classwork. If in-person archeology classes resume and if we receive the large BLM PCT Survey collection, we will attempt to work out internships with her in 2022.

Fieldwork

I did a monitoring trip via mule packing in April 2021 for BLM to the Panamint Range Wickiup Site (CA-INY-3035). Maturango volunteers did yearly monitoring at this site in the early 2000s. Now that Ridgecrest BLM is back in their office after a two-year hiatus, I can write up a condition assessment for the site and update the National Historic Register nomination that Sandy Rogers prepared for BLM Archeologist Russ Kaldenberg over 15 years ago. After Russ' departure to the Navy, somehow BLM never forwarded that nomination on to Washington and the Registry. The rare wickiup structure (only one I've ever seen *in situ*) deserves protection and hopefully the new BLM Archeologist will work with us to make that happen. Thanks to Mark Pahuta this past year for showing his film of the Maturango Wickiup "Expedition" of 2002, the inspiration for renewed stewardship to this historic site.



Wickiup site CA-INY-3055 (Pahuta photo 2002).

Museum Outreach/Field Trips

I conducted a petroglyph training on base for NAWS China Lake Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) employees in Sept. 2021. MWR workers are the only authorized guides at present; this trend looks likely to continue for some time. The MWR folks were attentive and appreciative of the training and subsequent field tour, but there are no experienced guides in their ranks and only 5 or 6 of the 15 employees at the training chose to complete the day with the live field tour to Little Pet Canyon.

In Nov. 2021, I organized a small Maturango “pilot” field trip to rock art caves at Wind Wolves Preserve, guided by Preserve Archeologist Jack Sprague. While the pictographs and landscape were superb, consensus of selected participants was that travel time is too lengthy and cave access too unnerving for general field trip participation by our members. I’ll be looking around our region for additional archeology field trips that might be doable for members in the future.

Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA
Archeological Curator

2021 Annual History Report
Submitted by Elaine Wiley, History Curator

Curation paperwork

For many years now, Dorie Cornell, Renee Lesniak and I worked on reorganizing the accessioned paperwork in the curation space. We completed this project in 2021 and started another project to document and preserve black and white negatives taken by Joe Fox in the mid 1950's. Joe Fox was a businessman and photographer who took many photographs of Ridgecrest and local events.

Walker Ice Wagon

In 2019, the museum received the Walker Ice Wagon from Elizabeth (Walker) Fields and Sally Walker. In the 1940s, this wagon, which sat on the bed of a truck, contained ice that was delivered from the Walker Brothers Ice Company in Ridgecrest to locations throughout the Indian Wells Valley and beyond. When the ice wagon was donated, Bertrand Enterprises graciously moved the Walker Ice Wagon to the Maturango Museum. The ice wagon needed major structural repair and a group of talented people took on this preservation project which was completed in 2021. Many thanks to Debbie Benson, Jerry Bradley, Campbell's Heating and Air Conditioning, Bev Hill, Bryan Hill, BJ Holden, Peter Lesniak, Bob McGowan, Larry Sawyer, Bob Westbrook, Elaine Wiley and Peter Wiley.

Requested research

During 2021, five people requested information regarding local and regional history. John C. Martin requested photographs and information regarding China Lake base history; Mark Pahuta requested photographs of any auto racing and local businesses; Ted Faye requested photographs and information on early miners from Death Valley and Ted Barone requested information on a 1908 Auto Race from New York to Paris. Mare Nazaire, a PhD botanist who studied the flora in the Rademacher Hills, requested information on the early mining in the Rademachers as well as early Ridgecrest history for her manuscript. This was an interesting request since Alexander Rademacher, whom the Rademacher Hills were named after, owned two mines in the Rademachers and the museum has many letters from lawyers and others who were interested in these mines. The story of who ended up with the mines is not complete since we only have letters sent to Rademacher and not any of his replies.

Donations

The museum received many interesting donations in 2021. Receiving local history items whether large or small is always exciting. At the top of the list is Sylvia Winslow's painting titled, "The Spirit of the Desert". This painting is of a young lady standing in the desert wearing a white diaphanous dress holding a horned lizard in her hand. Mark Pahuta took a photograph of the painting for Maureen Goff, the store manager, to use for gift store items.

A second local and interesting donation is a collection of mining artifacts from the Yellow Aster Mine in Randsburg. The donor, whose job it was to survey the many tunnels of the Yellow Aster Mine in the 1960s, found the items which include explosive boxes, metal tools and lanterns.

A third local and interesting donation came from the previous owner of the ghost town of Garlock. The donor purchased Garlock in 1978 from Roberta Starry who wrote a couple of books on this area and donated many photographs and documents to the museum. These items include well parts used by Grandma Slocum in the 1890s (who lived in Garlock) and a grocery wagon used in Randsburg in the 1890s.

Other historic items the museum received are old ledgers dating from 1910 to 1917 from the Inyokern Store, topo maps, and Mary Miers Cuttsinger's information. Mark Pahuta donated digitized photographs from both Roberta Starry's and Joe Fox's negatives.



Spirit of the Desert



Grocery wagon from Randsburg

The museum also received 19 sheets of 4'x8' foamboard that the museum will use for displays, exhibits and other uses from PackWrap.

Exhibits

Due to the museum's closure and lack of our typical number of visitors to the museum, the "Rademacher Hills Wildlife" exhibit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery and the "Out of the Past" exhibit in the Argus Room stayed in place through 2021.

Publications

The museum reordered two books, "The Epsom Salts Monorail" and "High Desert Double Exposures" and made more copies of the "Teresa Site" Monograph.

Kiosk

The information in the kiosk located to the east of the Gladys Merrick Garden needed to be updated. We decided on a map of the outside area to show visitors the different activities available in the garden. There's quite a bit to do outside the museum! The map marks and describes 13 items of interest such as the bell, picnic areas, the high and low desert gardens, labyrinth, human sundial, metal statues, astronomy domes, compass rose, Sheep Mound, planet walk and the tortoise enclosure. Information about what's available inside the museum as well as the museum hours, website and phone number was also posted in the kiosk space.

2021 Annual Report Natural History Sherry Brubaker Curator

Well 2021 was certainly an interesting year. I was out of commission for a couple of months during the summer, usually a quiet time so not much was missed.

The books in the library are now in a data base thanks to the help of volunteer Deanna. Some of the archaeology and anthropology books have been removed, as irrelevant, information changed, or duplicates. This is going to require checking the data base as well. This has been no small task so Deanna's help has been invaluable.

Work has begun on entering information that used to be on the flip charts in the Natural History area of the El Paso Exhibit Gallery into the computer. The plan in place is to have the charts in video format with touch screens, much like the new petroglyph display.



The critters that had come from the taxidermist last year were put on display. There is also progress being made on a new geology display for the discovery area.

Annual Gift Shop Board Report 2021 Covid-19

**Maureen Goff
Gift Shop Manager**

The year started off with a bit of uncertainty due to covid-19. It was all about colors and tiers. What color are we this week? Have the numbers gone down? What tier are we? When can we reopen? The magic date for us turned out to be April 5th.

While we were shut down for the first few months of 2021, we did a lot of online sales with curbside pickup being offered for locals. Probably the biggest seller was *High Desert Double Exposure*; the Mark Pahuta-Liz Babcock book. The Kiwanis Ridgecrest woven throw was also a great online seller. People love these throws as going away gifts.

Reconfiguring the gift store has always been something I wanted to do. So, during lockdown seemed the best time to do it. Peter and Elaine Wiley were of the greatest help in making my vision a reality. There were so many people that helped out: Bob Westbrook, Jerry Bradley, Dan Burnett, Nora Nuckles, Bev Hill, and Libby Vincent. We have the best volunteers. It couldn't have been done without them.

One of the major concerns with shifting the cashier station was the phone. There was no way it could be moved closer to the wrap desk. So far we have not had any issues with the phone being on the jewelry counter. If it rings more than three times, someone in the annex usually picks it up. It is a minor triviality in comparison to the benefit of having more floor space. When we finally opened in April, we had lots of positive feedback on the new floor plan. Many people commented that the new layout made much more sense as far as floor space was concerned.

Now that we were back in business, I had to really amp up ordering merchandise for the store. Not knowing how long we would be shut down had made it difficult to do ordering. I was playing catch-up. I had not been to a trade show since late 2019. The next show I could attend wouldn't be until the end of August 2021. Trade shows are where I buy the bulk of our jewelry and the store was very low. All the jewelry we had fit in one case. But the interesting thing was all the high-end baubles were selling. By the end of May we had no jewelry over \$150 and very little under.

Masking was an issue that came with being open. According to the California mandate, which the museum followed, masks were to be worn while indoors. There was a box of masks that were kept right inside the entrance. If a visitor did not have a mask, we would let them know there were some available. If they did not put one on, we did not push the issue. More people than not, wore masks.

Generally, when the temperatures start to rise, visitors from Germany and France start to arrive. We did not see that this year. We have certainly felt the effects from covid. What we did do in regard to the high temperatures was convert the Coso Room to a cooling center. We stocked it with coloring pages and crayons for kids and crossword puzzle books and playing cards for the older set. There were many books left over from our last yard sale; these were put out also. There was a good response from the community. Traditionally, Kerr McGee has offered a cooling center. This year they could not do it. They commended us for taking over a much needed service.

During the summer we started to get some long-term room rentals. Two different churches booked Sunday mornings. It's handy we have two rooms available to rent. China Lake Search and Rescue also booked a six-week stint but ended up cancelling due to covid concerns. They instead opted to stay home and use Zoom.

Nora and I had a training session for the new website. It was overwhelming. I'm still having difficulty finding the time to work on it. I thought I had found someone who would be able to help me out with it since she had done a terrific job on setting up the stock area for the online store. Before I could approach her about helping out with the site, she let me know she was going to stop volunteering to help out her daughter.

Las Vegas Market and ASD Market Week occur simultaneously in late fall. This would be the first time in two years I'd be attending a trade show. I was vaccinated and Nevada mandated masks for everyone indoors, vaccinated or not; I felt ok going. It was a much smaller show than in the past. I had an N95 mask and I made sure to keep my distance. I didn't get sick.

At the Las Vegas Souvenir and Resort Show, I think I purchased more jewelry in one afternoon than I have ever purchased before. I was a little worried we wouldn't have room for it. But we did. It looked great to see the cases full again.

As the merchandise started coming in, again, the covid effects could be felt. Many of the shirts I ordered were only available in certain sizes. I could only get mediums and larges. Or the colors I wanted were no longer available; or half the order was still on a cargo container somewhere. Along with the shortages came the price increases, delays and increased shipping charges. The new question I ask when I send a PO to vendors is: are there any shipping issues I should be aware of? I don't mind waiting, as long as I know I will eventually get the product. I'm currently waiting on an order from November 9th. Sunbelt Books is a book vendor that was at the Petroglyph Festival and for a pleasant change, I received the books quickly.

A beautiful custom painted-from-the-inside museum ornament came in around mid-December. We did sell some even though it was late in the season. But custom ornaments sell all year. They are a wonderful reminder of a time and place for a visitor of the museum.

The museum looked very festive for the holiday season. It had been a long time since we had been able to put up the tree and bring out the fireplace. Nick did a great job, as always, decorating the jewelry cases, the store and the galleries. Nick has also pulled double duty by becoming our custodian on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The place looks spic and span.

Probably the most exciting thing about December was Peter installing a tissue giftwrap drawer in the wrap desk. It is perfect. It's just about two inches deep and holds a stack of tissue so that when a fragile piece of merchandise is being sold, we just open the drawer and wrap the tissue around it. There's no balancing it while looking for a piece of tissue. It's been so incredibly helpful.

Maturango Museum Gift Shop



For 2021, Education Coordinator

Submitted by Nora Nuckles

2021 has not been a busy year for docents due to Covid-19 and the closure of schools and even the Museum until April. The Docent League members only reported 280 hours of volunteer time. Many of the docents failed to report the hours they gave for our Children's Hour video, making Christmas ornaments for the National Christmas Tree, creating projects for Free Second Saturdays, and running the Free Saturday activities. I have estimated that docents gave at least 1,500 hours in volunteer time this year. Cam Alden arranged for two wonderful field trips to the Trona museums. Cathy Heseman was our guide.

In 2021 the Docent League officers were: President-Bev Hill; Vice-President-Cam Alden; Secretary-Sharon Oldfield. We had no Treasurer or Computer Librarian. I have worked with Sherry Brubaker as the Animal Acquisitions Committee. The Script Committee has been inactive this year. Sue Parker has kept our docent library in order. Charlotte Goodson has done a remarkable job as our Children's Hour Chairperson. Cam Alden and Carol Dezellem continued as coordinators for the docent art programs. They have trained Cathy Heseman to teach the art programs at Trona Elementary and helped her gather materials together. Paula and Mike Herr resigned as our Planetarium coordinators and presenters. Due to Covid-19 we are very uncertain as to when we can use the Beth Armogida Planetarium since it is a small, inside space. Docents had a monthly meeting in May outside. We also met in October, November and December. In December we had a cookie exchange. We did not get back to making our video on Native Americans that would include using our hands-on items.

In 2021 the docents presented only about 15 programs; this includes our free Saturday presentations that do require about 4 hours volunteer time for each of the docents involved. In addition, Cathy Heseman taught 14 art programs at Trona Elementary to a total of 270 students. The docents presented programs to approximately 350 people. Docents made one more Children's Hour video. Mark Pahuta teamed with Charlotte Goodson, Judy Breitenstein, Susan Moore, Bob and Sue Parker, Judy Martin, Ingrid Carroll, and Susan Prazak to create a wonderful Children's Hour video on Reptiles. Making the video required many hours by all involved. Bob Parker and Dave Kurdeka presented 3 Bat programs at the Montessori Preschool. At the Museum we presented a program on Collections to a Boy Scout troop and gave presentations to the Adventist School with a group of 21 students. We held a workshop for the public to participate in making ornaments for the National Christmas Tree. Mike Thompson provided programs on flintknapping both in the summer and for the Petroglyph Festival. Our Free Second Saturday activities included hosting the Breakfast Burritos burros and providing craft activities for that. Carol Dezellem designed a delightful burro paper bag puppet for that program. In October we presented a Bat program that included 3 Bat craft activities designed by Sue Parker. We found that pre-packaging these activities in paper bags and having parts already pre-cut added to the ease of providing the craft materials for the participants. It also provided take-out and go projects if the weather was inhospitable.

In November we supported the Petroglyph Festival by presenting the docents' hands-on Native American materials in the shade structure. In December we hosted a holiday ornament decorating activity. Cam Alden enlisted a group of docents to cut holiday ornaments from the quick-dry clay for

visitors to paint at our December free Saturday activity. The new shade structure has been perfect for our docent activities.

In 2021 the docents were unable to present Petroglyph education to the sixth graders and were also unable to present the Sand Canyon program to the 4th grade students.

Cindy Klissus helped with reorganizing and labeling of craft items in the Docent room. Debbie Pio and Cindy Klissus helped me search through a ton of stuff donated to the docents. It filled a few long tables in the Panamint room. We kept what was useful for the docents. Debbie reorganized all the painting materials. Cindy and her husband, Joe, took the rest of the items for the preschool and the Boy Scouts. After the continued emphasis on crafts during the fall we now have the docent room table to clear again. After painting holiday ornaments, I had a table full of painting materials to put away again! At least we have containers labeled to know where these items should go.

Sherry Brubaker and I discussed the acquisition of new animals for the docents. We agreed that the docents wanted a jackrabbit, roadrunner, kit fox, a new coyote, kit fox and rabbit pelts, a coot, blue heron, nighthawk, bluebird and spotted towhee. I believe the antelope ground squirrel is already being prepared. When our taxidermist visited she agreed to repair some of the docent "damaged" birds for free. We did receive the horned lizard and sidewinder. I am still confused about how we are handling paying for the taxidermy for the docents. Is it from a taxidermy fund in general or from the docent accounts? Perhaps I can get an answer to that question this year.

The docents are grateful for the support shown to the Docent League. We appreciate the continued support of individuals and community organizations through generous donations. 2021 was not the productive year the docents had hoped for but they have let me know they are anxious to return to "life" and have a fun, exciting 2022 with the students and community members.

FUN WITH THE DOCENTS



BURROS
&
BATS



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



Art Gallery 2021 Annual Report

Submitted by Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

The Maturango Museum's Art Gallery Exhibits are displayed in the Coso Room. The Art Gallery Exhibits provide a synergistic role in the mission of the Maturango Museum by providing professional exhibit spaces, including an audio-visual projection system and correct lighting for visually pleasing art exhibits by local, visiting, and traveling artists to be experienced by our local community and all visitors. The gallery spaces are also used for informative workshops for children and adults, concerts, lectures, docent activities including storytelling and art programs, meeting space and curator exhibits including the Wildflower Show.

The art gallery provides funds for the specific needs of the gallery and overall for the museum from sales of art in the gallery and sponsorship by individuals and organizations. Total gallery and OST sales for 2021 were \$25,000. The commission that the museum receives is 40%, and 15% of studio sales during the Open Studio Tour.

Full year sponsors for 2021 were Judy Fair-Spaulding and Nick Panzer.

The gallery exhibits also provide incentives for memberships by providing a 10% discount for members on gallery sales during receptions and discounted fees for members to participate in various art-related activities and participation in "members' only" exhibits.

Thank You to all the people that helped me set up exhibits
and Thank You to all the people that purchased artwork!

Betty Spindler's "Retrospective"

Betty Spindler grew up in Ridgecrest after her folks moved here to work at NOTS in the 1940's. She has recently moved to Tucson to be near her family. Before she moved last November, she donated many items to the museum - Betty's sculptures are for sale and will be on display through June.



Betty made a name for herself in the art community with her still life sculptures of common everyday items; fruit and vegetables, hamburgers, cake, pizza and more. She was an active part of the Museum's Art Gallery Committee and participated in the Open Studio Tour since its beginning. Betty is the only person I know that has a piece of artwork in the Smithsonian! - Her "hotdog" caught the

attention of a curator from the Smithsonian American Art Museum at a gallery in Carmel, California.



Scan these QR Codes with your smartphone to visit the Vimeo website for Betty's interview videos. Thank You to Mark Pahuta for doing the interviews and making and posting the videos.

In this 2020 interview, Betty talks about growing up on the China Lake Navy Base, coping with dyslexia, her career as a ceramic artist and the "hotdog in the Smithsonian" story.



Vimeo.com/538953081

Short version of
Betty's interview,
Nov. 2020.



Vimeo.com/534560942

“Re – Art”

Saturday June 12 – August 31



Over the years we have received numerous beautiful and diverse items of artwork as donations. Many of these items will be for sale at the “Re-Art” show. All items very reasonably priced!

We’ll put out enough artwork to reasonably fill the Coso Room and continue to add more items as the purchased ones are taken.

Open Studio Tour 2021 Artists’ Group Exhibit Saturday Sep 4 – Sunday October 31

Open Studio Tour 2021 was the weekend of October 23 & 24. 20 artists participated.

- The map of OPEN studios was free. (No ticket sales that would possibly have to be refunded due to cancellation.)
- We advertised with the caveat that the tour may be canceled any time by either the museum management or each individual venue.

The “Opening Reception Weekend” for the OST Artists’ group exhibit was cancelled. The exhibit was still set up; it was in the Coso Room until the end of the year. We arranged for artists to bring their guests, and anyone else that requests, by appointment.

Open Studio Tour was a successful event this year. Most artists had a very good Saturday and slow Sunday. Total studio sales were \$11,375. Gallery sales were approximately \$3,400.



4-D Art Group’s “Collaborative Collection”

November 6 – December 31

Opening Reception Saturday Nov 6



The 4-D Art Group is a diverse group of artists working in a variety of media. The four “D’s” are ‘Design, Discuss, Demonstrate and Do’. Participants include two-dimensional artists (drawing, watercolor, acrylics, oils, batik, encaustic), jewelry-makers, artists in thermoformed materials, glass artists (lampworkers, slumped glass, stained glass), woodworkers and carvers, artists incorporating electronic lighting, clay artists, metal artists, and a blacksmith.

Artists usually focus on their specialty area, so we have given ourselves the challenge to create pieces of artwork that involve 2 or more people collaborating and combining distinctly different mediums into a finished item. For example, clay and metal or wood and glass. Thus, the basis for the 4-D Collaborative Art Exhibit was born.



Petroglyph Tours

Linda Saholt

During all of 2021, no petroglyph tours went out, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting safety rules against public group activities. Both the Navy and the Museum have and will continue to follow the rules scrupulously. While we handled some complaints from disappointed visitors, we also had a large following of carry-overs, all of whom were determined to wait as long as it took to get on a tour to see the world-famous Coso Petroglyphs at Little Petroglyph Canyon. At the end of 2020, I had close to 200 carry-over applications.

Both Spring and Fall 2021 tour seasons had to be cancelled, and I notified each of the applicants that they had three options: carry over to the next season, receive a full refund, or donate their tour fee to the Museum. Amazingly, the majority of the carry-overs from 2020 requested to carry over to 2021! At the end of 2021, I still had 176 carry-overs! About half had been carried over since Fall 2019!

Some of the comments I received from these people were heart-warming: “Carry over, please. We still believe our day will come.” “Carry over! I’m not giving up!” and “We are determined to see Little Petroglyph Canyon! We will do our best to be as patient as the petroglyphs, until we can be with them!”

You’ve just got to love these folks. I truly hope that Covid-19 will be declared over soon, and the Navy might give clearance for tours again. I would love to see these visitors’ faces when their long-awaited tours are finally launched!

Volunteer Activities by Linda Saholt

Volunteers make things happen at the Museum by assisting in many areas such as:

- docents who educate the citizens and children of our community
- dependable folks who keep the store open
- Wildflower Show Committee
- Gallery Committee
- Garden and building maintenance

There is no end to the volunteer accomplishments.

Often staff members volunteer talent and time beyond their job descriptions!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

<u>Volunteer Hours 2021</u>	
Docents	1780
Museum Gift Shop	2621
Gallery	76
Field Trips	169
Petroglyph	18
Fundraising	126
Curatorial & Library	407
Administrative	121
Board	185
Publications & Filming	224
Technology Support	174
Web Site & Internet	270
Lectures & Concerts	28
Other	60
Wildflower Show Prep	124
China Lake Astronomy	242
Tortoise Club Tortoise care	287
Building & Facilities	1621
Grounds and upkeep	<u>698</u>
TOTAL	<u>9,231</u>

Memberships and Visitor Information By Linda Saholt

Membership statistics

540 Current memberships
 415 Individual or Family
 20 Business
 90 Lifetime
 15 Complimentary

430 are local and 110 are out of the area

GO GREEN! Help us save on printing and postage by signing up for email delivery of the newsletter. The pictures look so much nicer in color!

To make the change, notify Andrea

Visitor statistics and Programs

MUSEUM PROGRAMS

2021	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN-DEC
ADMISSIONS		0	0	0	662	633	536	611	466	577	1153	858	5,496
MEETINGS/RECEPTIONS													
Art Show Receptions									50				50
Board Meetings Zoom	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	120
Lectures													
Audubon Society						22							22
Astronomy Club						5	4	7	7	18	8	10	59
CTTP										7	4		11
Native Plant Society													
Docent Meetings					10	9			12	10			31
Gallery Meetings						4			10		10		24
MISCELLANEOUS						132	141	72	78	100	85	89	697
Escort Classes													
Childrens hour													
Petro. Tours													
Tours/Field Trips/Buses												8	8
Docent Programs								58		50	50	60	218
Concerts/Solstice													
Misc. Meetings													
Tortoise Club			5	5	6				7	5			28
SPECIAL EVENTS													
Annual Meeting Zoom			51										51
Wildflower Show													
Fundraiser													
Dinner/Auction													
Special Museum Events								23			32	10	65
School Events													
Total	10	10	66	15	688	815	691	781	640	777	1352	1045	6,880

2021 Concert Series Report

Submitted by Debbie Benson

The Museum Concert Series was on hold for 2021. The restrictions on events indoors made it impossible to schedule any events. We were hopeful on a few occasions but swiftly realized it was just not possible to make the plans. I did work with the High Desert Music Teachers Association to plan a possible concert in the early part of 2022. The holiday spread of the omicron variant of Covid-19 quickly put any plans into the future sometime. We support what they do and hope to be able to work out an event in the future.

Elaine and Peter Wiley constructing benches for possible future outdoor events.



Building Committee 2021 Annual Report

Petroglyph Exhibit

2021 saw the completion of the new Petroglyph Exhibit located in the northeast corner of the El Paso Room. Jerry Bradley took on the task of designing and constructing the new exhibit. This exhibit consists of a curved wall covered with a photographic mural. Attached to the wall is a large curved screen and three touch screens. Jerry Bradley and Gary Arnold built the curved wall. Finding a photograph with enough resolution to cover the 195" x 112" wall proved to be a bit of a challenge. Mark Pahuta contributed a 4" x 5" slide from Little Petroglyph Canyon. This slide had enough resolution to be enlarged to fit the wall space. This slide needed to be professionally scanned to get the resolution required then the digitized image was sent to a company that prints murals. The curved wall was installed in January and the mural was installed in February. Jerry then installed a curved screen and three touch screens to complete the new exhibit. The curved screen has 360-degree images of Little Petroglyph Canyon taken by Ben Parker. The three touch screens allow the user to select and read about different topics related to petroglyphs. Information for the touch screens was collaboratively created by Barbara Bane and Jerry Bradley.



Curation Building

In the spring of 2021, the museum signed a contract with James Bell for a new curation building to be built in the northeast corner of the museum property – just to the east of the planet walk. Mr. Bell is still working on the permits, but has graded the area where the metal building will be placed. The metal building will be 40' x 60' and 19' tall at the apex. This building will be open to the public during normal museum hours and will house many of the historic items that are currently on the museum property. Some of the larger outdoor items are: the shaker table, ore wagon, dry washer, grocery wagon and New Comer wagon.



Walker Ice Wagon

The Walker Ice Wagon, donated in 2019 by Elizabeth (Walker) Fields and Sally Walker needed structural repair. A large crew of volunteers worked for two weeks to remove and repair the metal siding and metal top. New wood slats and plywood were used to repair the wooden frame and new metal strips covered the seams between the metal sides and the roof. Bryan Hill removed the dents from the roof while Larry Sawyer made a “to fit” curved piece from wood for the front support. Campbell’s Heating and Air Conditioning donated the new metal strips. The following volunteers helped with the restoration: Debbie Benson, Jerry Bradley, Bev Hill, Bryan Hill, BJ Holden, Peter Lesniak, Bob McGowan, Larry Sawyer, Bob Westbrook, Elaine Wiley and Peter Wiley.



Bryan Hill hammering out dents



Peter Wiley, Bob Westbrook & Bob McGowan repairing sides



Debbie Benson and Bev Hill supporting end

Shade Structure and benches

The new shade structure was completed in July 2021 by Lapham Construction. This project included a walkway from the museum entry sidewalk to the shade structure as well as a second smaller shade structure on the north side of the Lower Desert garden area. Four benches were added underneath the shade structure. The shade structures are a wonderful addition to the museum and are heavily used.



2021 Gardens and Grounds

Submitted by Bev Hill

The changes and improvements in the garden continued this year with the participation and hard work of our many volunteers. The main focus for 2021 was the repair and renovation of the aging irrigation system on the east side of the museum. Manifolds were repaired and new plastic tubing was installed for the existing plants. The volunteers spent numerous hours to accomplish this work. Many thanks to Bob McGowan, B J Peck, Bob Westbrook, Tom Sakai, Bob Joy, Pete Lesniak, Libby Vincent, Peter and Elaine Wiley and Bev and Bryan Hill.

Replacing older plants and planting more native species is a continuing project. It was difficult to locate and purchase new plants this year but three new specimens were located thanks to the efforts of Peter Woodman. He was able to find two Saguaro cactuses and a California Interior Live Oak. The oak was planted close to the sheep mound and the cactuses were planted in the Low Desert mound and by the Sue Byrd water feature. Hopefully native species will be easier to locate and purchase next year and the planting can continue.

In addition to the irrigation project there was general maintenance and trimming/pruning of the shrubs and trees throughout the garden. The auto accident that completely destroyed the sign on the west side of the museum also damaged two trees which were then removed. There was also major trimming and branch removal from other trees near the sign. New irrigation and plant removal on the west side will be the focus for next year.

Our member volunteers as well as our youthful, energetic Navy volunteers have worked diligently this past year to improve the grounds. I would like to thank all those individuals who have given their time and expertise so that visitors to the museum can enjoy the beauty of our unique desert garden.

New Web Site Dave Kurdeka

In August, the museum's new website was completed and brought on-line. The website has a modern user interface that is both colorful and easy to navigate. It contains many photographs that highlight the museum's activities/programs/tours, displays, and gardens. Additionally, the "Explore the Area" page provides numerous links to information about the many local natural attractions along with photographs of some of those attractions and local wildlife.

A new "Collections" page (under development) will catalog the museum's extensive archeological and cultural resources.

The museum's on-line store is still awaiting conversion to the new website format – that conversion will be completed in the near future.







MATURANGO MUSEUM

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MATURANGO MUSEUM

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