

MATURANGO MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





“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: New Electronic Sign

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Vice President's Observations 2022
Robert McGowan – Board Vice President

With the new year in full swing, we see the signs of spring appearing all around us. It's wonderful to see our desert come alive with new growth and the beauty of new wildflowers. With the most recent rains, the hopes for a spectacular wildflower season seem almost assured. During my hiking and exploring around the desert over the last few months, I've had the pleasure of seeing the creosote bushes greening up and a wide variety of grasses and annuals beginning to carpet the desert with fresh new growth.

2022 has seen the completion or updates to several museum projects. Perhaps you've seen our new electronic sign, had the opportunity to enjoy the museum gardens or updated displays? Perhaps you've attended one of our recent field trips? Some recent improvements are not plainly visible such as new LED lighting in the gift shop, to save on energy costs; or the new Point of Sale systems installed in our store, giving us a more secure configuration. Other improvements are of the electronic variety such as our new webpage and new online storefront. All of these things are available in part due to the loving dedication of our volunteers, generous donors, and hard-working staff.

The last several years have brought many challenges to the Museum and our executive director and her staff continue to meet them head-on. Covid 19 cut deeply into our revenue streams and made it a challenge to continue many of our popular programs. General inflation continues to raise costs and cut deeply into the budget. Many of us had hoped that construction of the new curation building would be well underway by now but progress has been slow and we continue to work with the building contractor to get construction moving forward again.

Progress and change continue to happen each day because to grow and change is a requirement for survival. As we move into 2023, the museum board, staff, and volunteers are planning for a successful future. We are always looking for new ways to keep the museum relevant and vibrant. We welcome your ideas and participation as we move forward into the future. The Maturango Museum is truly a gift to our community and is a gift from the community as well.

Just as the desert wildflowers grow and bloom in the spring, the Maturango Museum continues to grow and bloom too. We are thankful to be part of such a vibrant community and welcome you to join us in making the museum even better for future generations to come.

Robert McGowan

Vice President, Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Statement
2022 Annual Meeting
Jann Philpott

We have made it through another year and the Museum is still open to the public. We are very appreciative of the staff and volunteers who have put in many hours of their time to accomplish this feat. And to the community we serve, we give our thanks to each and everyone of you, supporting us with donations and time. It certainly takes a village.

Changes to the on-line processes over the last couple of years has also been very successful. Now you can make purchases, buy tickets for events, and make donations electronically in the comfort of your home or office.

We had a net loss before depreciation of \$90,864. Part of the loss came from the fluctuation of the stock market of \$109,000. I think we all felt the losses but also seeing our money gain a bit over the last few months. We have come up with several ways to decrease costs for our utilities, make repairs to our older equipment and reduce our daily costs. We did slightly modify our hours to decrease costs.

The Board takes it very seriously that we always make good choices. We know we are accountable to the membership and want to make sure we spend your money wisely. We ask that you continue your financial support and consider us when you do any estate planning throughout the year and thank you all for your gracious support.

Maturango Museum
Statement of Financial Position
in dollars

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand	44,636	38,663	5,973
Savings	265,753	400,249	(134,496)
Investments	324,681	376,527	(51,846)
Total Cash and in Banks	<u>635,070</u>	<u>815,439</u>	<u>(180,369)</u>
Receivables	3,115	515	2,599
Inventory	67,326	62,922	4,404
Prepaid Expenses	13,969	18,501	(4,532)
Total Other Current Assets	<u>84,410</u>	<u>81,939</u>	<u>2,471</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>719,480</u>	<u>897,377</u>	<u>(177,897)</u>
Fixed Assets			
Building	1,195,723	1,195,723	-
Building Improvements	358,190	295,690	62,499
Equipment and Displays	404,239	416,911	(12,671)
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,020,422)	(994,856)	(25,566)
Total	<u>937,731</u>	<u>913,468</u>	<u>24,262</u>
Work In Process	45,000	45,000	-
Total Net Fixed Assets	<u>982,731</u>	<u>958,468</u>	<u>24,261</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,702,211</u>	<u>1,855,846</u>	<u>(153,636)</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	12,143	16,420	(4,277)
Payroll	13,659	12,369	1,290
Sales Taxes	1,641	1,479	162
Other Liabilities	5,706	4,888	819
Deferred Revenue	-	9,835	(9,835)
Total Current Liabilities	<u>33,150</u>	<u>44,991</u>	<u>(11,841)</u>
Equity			
Unrestricted	1,083,352	1,139,353	(56,001)
Temp Restricted - Building	183,876	211,509	(27,633)
Temp Restricted - Other	72,351	79,115	(6,764)
Endowment	329,481	380,877	(51,396)
Total Equity	<u>1,669,060</u>	<u>1,810,855</u>	<u>(141,794)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,702,210</u>	<u>1,855,846</u>	<u>(153,636)</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>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
Income			
Store Sales	124,387	96,501	27,886
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(58,283)</u>	<u>(45,255)</u>	<u>(13,028)</u>
Store Sales NET	66,104	51,246	14,858
Gallery Sales	22,586	24,933	(2,348)
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(16,668)</u>	<u>(13,068)</u>	<u>(3,600)</u>
Gallery Sales NET	5,918	11,866	(5,948)
Fundraising	66,953	44,293	22,660
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(10,412)</u>	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>(9,320)</u>
Fundraising NET	56,541	43,201	13,340
Events	11,235	1,570	9,665
Less: Cost of Sales	<u>(6,388)</u>	<u>(1,013)</u>	<u>(5,374)</u>
Events NET	4,847	557	4,291
Admissions	11,222	6,173	5,049
Contributions	48,592	79,854	(31,263)
Memberships	36,340	36,105	235
Other Income	(20,328)	212,620	(232,948)
In Kind Donations	<u>258</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>106</u>
Total Income	<u>209,493</u>	<u>441,774</u>	<u>(232,281)</u>
Expenses			
Advertising & Promotion	17,806	12,747	5,059
Merchant Fees	8,464	6,156	2,307
Facilities	38,100	31,845	6,254
Insurance	8,409	7,734	676
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	5,595	5,018	576
Payroll Expenses	181,393	149,390	32,003
Professional Services	9,682	9,582	100
Rent	3,067	3,148	(81)
Supplies & Equipment	18,743	24,328	(5,585)
Travel	4,424	1,959	2,465
Other Expenses	<u>4,676</u>	<u>3,408</u>	<u>1,268</u>
Total Expense	<u>300,357</u>	<u>255,315</u>	<u>45,042</u>
Net Operating Income	(90,864)	186,459	(277,323)
Depreciation	<u>(50,930)</u>	<u>(54,678)</u>	<u>3,749</u>
Total Net Income	<u>(141,794)</u>	<u>131,781</u>	<u>(273,574)</u>

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

Maturango Museum 2022 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	124,387				124,387
Less: Cost of Sales	(58,283)				(58,283)
Gallery Sales	22,586				22,586
Less: Cost of Sales	(16,668)				(16,668)
Fundraising	40,293	18,730	7,580	350	66,953
Less: Cost of Sales	(10,412)				(10,412)
Events	11,235				11,235
Less: Cost of Sales	(6,388)				(6,388)
Admissions	11,222				11,222
Contributions	34,242	5,895	8,355	100	48,592
Memberships	36,340				36,340
Other Income	12,432	19,086		(51,846)	(20,328)
In Kind Donations	258				258
Total Income	<u>201,244</u>	<u>43,711</u>	<u>15,935</u>	<u>(51,396)</u>	<u>209,493</u>
Expenses					
Advertising & Promotion	17,806				17,806
Merchant Fees	8,464				8,464
Facilities	37,174	465	460		38,100
Insurance	8,409				8,409
Newsletter-Printing & Postage	5,595				5,595
Payroll Expenses	181,168		225		181,393
Professional Services	9,082		600		9,682
Rent (Storage)	3,067				3,067
Supplies & Equipment	10,548		8,195		18,743
Travel	4,424				4,424
Other Expenses	4,419		257		4,676
Total Expense	<u>290,155</u>	<u>465</u>	<u>9,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,357</u>
Total Operating Profit / (Loss)	(88,912)	43,246	6,198	(51,396)	(90,864)
Depreciation	(50,930)				(50,930)
Assets released from Restrictions	83,841	(70,879)	(12,962)	-	-
Total Net Income	<u>(56,001)</u>	<u>(27,633)</u>	<u>(6,764)</u>	<u>(51,396)</u>	<u>(141,794)</u>

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

Director's Report 2022
Deborah Benson, Director

Reading through the monthly reports for 2022 allowed me the chance to relive our progression through the year from restrictions to allowances in our activities at the Museum. This was our first full year of being open since the mandated closings for Covid-19 and the concerns for the Public Health. On reading our monthly reports I could reflect on how much the last few years had impacted us all as individuals and the Museum itself. We had, in the past, become used to ordering and receiving most items we wanted and there wasn't much conversation about supply chain situations and inability to order certain items. Now it is a common enough conversation and it often slows down seemingly unrelated deliveries. We all face the same situations be it personally or as a local non-profit. By the end of 2022 many of the situations have resolved themselves but we have also had to look for new resources and adapt. We watch our utilities more closely and began to plan more trips and events for the Museum.

We all worked together with our vender for our new electronic sign, Encore Images, and were pleased to have it installed in September. This was exciting after losing our old sign to a traffic accident in June of 2021. Our volunteers were invaluable with clean-up, digging trenches and working with our electrical contractor, Electrified Solutions Electric, to do the necessary work and connection to our panel. The volunteers made it all happen and we all benefit from their time and effort. The work by the Garden Committee near the sign makes it look quite nice and will only improve. Near the end of the year our insurance completely funded the new sign other than our deductible. We are grateful for the support that made this all possible.

The August flood situations in Death Valley had a real impact on our visitors and our ability to send visitors safely into that area. There were many closures and there are still areas impacted. Park personnel held Zoom meetings to keep us updated and they continue to send out information that has made it easier to lead people through Death Valley safely. For quite some time visitors could not access the Park from our side. These were catastrophic floods and will take time to rebuild some areas.

The Museum has been as active as we can be with some of the situations of nature and man through 2022. Our activities with the community and our visitors are getting closer to what we viewed as normal at one time, but there are still things we look forward to doing in the future. We were glad to have some of our signature events and our Fundraising Dinner Auction and to participate in the Petroglyph Festival. The return of the Children's Hour in person made us all pleased to see. We were getting back in the swing of rentals and began to organize concerts for 2023. It's an optimistic feeling.

We are so grateful for the time and energies put into the Museum by our staff and volunteers. Everything that we are is a result of the efforts made by each person.

I am wishing you all Health and Kindness in this coming year.

Archeology Curator Report 2022

Collections

We received no new collections in 2022. Like last year, we used this void to catch up on cataloging backlogged collections from the last several years as well as repackaging fragile items in the collections with new, more durable packaging. Curation Tech Jacque Ahlin continues to work on these projects part-time.

The BLM PCT collection (approximately 25 boxes), contracted by CA State BLM to come to Maturango for curation, remained in limbo while the BLM and CSU Bakersfield continue to dispute the ownership of the collection and turnover to the federal government from the CSU facility.

After polling a number of our sister institutions throughout California, I raised the curation rates per cubic foot (equals one box) in September to more accurately reflect prevailing rates elsewhere.

Cataloging status

Unchanged since last year's report due to the above inactivity, the archeological collection includes over 160,000 curated artifacts in 232 accessioned collections; fourteen of those collections have not yet been delivered by the contractor. The museum assigns accession numbers several years before collections are actually delivered by contractors and cataloged by the museum. This is due to the long lag time – years - between archeological project start time and final artifact analysis/reporting. Very large or staged projects may take many years to fully analyze and complete for final curation.

A small number of artifacts remaining from a previously deaccessioned Kern River collection was discovered during inventory and repatriated to the Tubatalabal Tribe in 2022.

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 made no forward progress in 2022 on Maturango collections due for repatriation: (Hunter Canyon, Ayers Rock, and Last Chance Canyon. BLM is the lead agency for these actions and the museum is limited by law for outreach to Tribes in cases where collections came from federal lands. I will continue to push for forward action on these matters with the BLM. As mentioned above, with permission of the USFS, Maturango repatriated one privately donated collection containing possible NAGPRA artifacts to the Tubatalabal Tribe of the Kern River Valley. The museum is tightening review and acceptance parameters for future privately donated collections so that we don't run afoul of federal/state archeological laws.

Interns

With no collections coming in, we requested no interns from Cerro Coso College this year.

Fieldwork

I did a monitoring trip with BLM Archeologist Amy Girado and USFS Archeologist Tim Kelly to the Panamint wickiup site, CA-INY-3055, in the fall. Condition is unchanged since my monitoring trip last year, a good sign.



Maturango members enjoy Kern County Museum field trip (Bane photo 2022).

Museum Outreach/Field Trips

I conducted three paying field trips for Maturango members and community participants: Hanning Flat (Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation) at Lake Isabella, Kern County Museum in Bakersfield, and Rocky Hill Archeological Preserve in Exeter. Total participation for these trips was over 55 people.

Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA
Archeological Curator

History Curator By Elaine Wiley

Curation paperwork

Volunteers Dorie Cornell, Renee Lesniak, Deanna Stewart and I worked on documenting and preserving over a thousand negatives from the Joe Fox collection donated in 2000. These negatives date from 1952 to 1963 and were the personal collection of Joe Fox who took many photos of the early days of Ridgecrest. Each negative was examined, a description was entered into a spreadsheet and the negative was placed into a protective sheet. This project was started in November 2021.

Requested research

In 2022, nine requests were made for information regarding local and regional history. Each request involves checking the history database for the requested information and looking for the specific items of interest in history curation. Information requested ranged from mining information, photographs, Ridgecrest agriculture, ranches and growth to specific people such as Sylvia Winslow and Emma Lou Davis.

Donations

10 collections were donated to the museum. The items received include mining and agriculture items, professional photographs by Ron Rigge of petroglyphs and the Mojave Desert, a sextant, information and photographs regarding the local area.

Publications

The Maturango Museum published its 31st publication titled, "What's Bloomin' in Them Thar Hills? – A photo study of the Rademacher Hills".

In-House printing and mounting of photographs

The museum purchased an Epson SureColor P900 printer in December 2021. With this printer, the museum can print up to 17" in width and any length – within reason. Most of the photographs for the exhibits, *Valley Night Skies* (29 photos) and *Wildlife in my Backyard* (42 photos), were printed in-house. Most of the prints that customers ordered from these exhibits were printed in-house as well as posters for the Maturango Museum displays at the Welcome Center and the Ridgecrest Branch Library. With the help of Nick Panzer and Peter Wiley, we mounted the exhibit photographs onto foamboard.

Additional Activities

In addition to the History Curator duties, I set up a wildflower display at the Ridgecrest Branch Library for the month of May and gave a wildflower presentation at the library. Along with Nora Nuckles and Debbie Benson, we organized a December Solstice event at the Maturango Museum bringing in approximately 100 people to the museum.

Annual Report 2022 Natural History By Sherry Brubaker

The big thing that happened this past year was the return of some critters that were sent to the taxidermist pre-Covid. A Pelican, coot, Cedar Waxwing, some roadrunners and some docent items sent for repair have returned. There are some other goodies but they will come later. Of course, the pelican was the big deal.



Work began on getting the Discovery Area accessible again. The boxes are now gone, they will be replaced with colorful totes.

The Earthquake display was finally taken down and replaced with Tracks. A display went in on Florescence. Big thank you to Ace at Minerals Unlimited for getting us a UV light of the right kind to show off our florescent rocks.

Work moves ahead to replace the removed local plants and animals display. The paleo display will hopefully be replaced by the end of 2023.

A used display case was donated and repaired by our volunteers. This provides another safe place to display our specimens and artifacts.

Annual Board Report 2022

Maureen Poole-Goff Store Manager/Buyer

As the new year began, so did ideas of what new things could be done for the store. The major idea I had was new bookshelves. I'd had the idea for a while but the shelves I wanted were around a thousand dollars each. As luck would have it, Thursday volunteer, Sue Hueber heard of my request and decided to donate some money to get the store some shelves. Peter Wiley and Larry Sawyer were more than happy to go to work on plans. They were able to build two sets of shelves for half the price of store-bought.

The next item on the to-do list was to move the phone to the new cash wrap area. It was still over on the jewelry cases. This time it was Peter and Bob Westbrook who had been looking at the wiring and next thing you know, the phone is over in the wrap area. They also were able to hardwire the internet for the point-of-sale registers. There was also a point where we realized our voicemail was no longer working. It turns out the system we were using was no longer supported. We were set up with a new voicemail program and it's working great.

Masks were still an issue for the first few months. By April we decided to not require masks indoors. We did keep a basket of masks by the entrance for those who wanted one. Also, around that time we realized that the current 10 am-4 pm hours were no longer working. People were starting to arrive as we were closing. The time change was as good a time as any to go back to the 10 am – 5 pm hours.

Dave Kurdeka and Addie Reyes worked on getting the webstore up to par. We had a meeting or two, the three of us, so we'd all be on the same page. Dave is the go-between with Addie, Kory, and me. Dave came in a few times to get photos of merchandise to put on the site. Addie learned how to add items and part numbers. There were some difficulties in getting the pictures to look clear, but Addie figured it out.

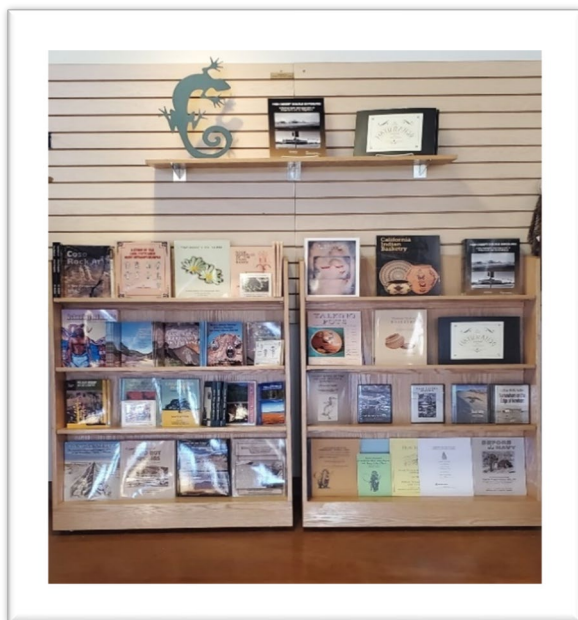
During the summer, Fawn Martinez offered two art classes for kids aged 5 – 12. The first one was on the artist Piet Mondrian and the second one was on the artist Kandinsky. Both classes were a huge success. I also held an art class. Mine was on How to Make a Junk Journal. I asked the docents for their help, and it turned into a two-hour tutorial. We all had loads of fun working on the journals. It really helped to do that because when I had a room full of kids, I had a vague idea of what I was supposed to do. The kids were great, and I might consider doing another class.

This year the trade shows were held independently of each other. In other years, the ASD and the Las Vegas Market were held concurrently. That made it very easy to get to both shows. I would then hit the Las Vegas Souvenir and Resort Show by itself at the end of summer. This year, however, none were running concurrently. Every three to four weeks, starting in June, there was a trade show; lots of running back and forth to Vegas. But there's nothing like being able to talk to vendors, discover new merchandise, and hand-pick jewelry.

Merchandise was shipping better this year. There were still some vendors that were having issues but by and large things were getting back to pre-covid conditions. A victim of covid apparently was Nostalgic Glass. They shipped our order in June and more than a quarter of the glasses were broken. It took a few emails from me to get credit, but it eventually came through. However, after that, we never heard from them again. I had another vendor get in touch with me to see if I had heard from the company because he had not. The glasses I purchased from them are super popular. I searched for another source and all I could find was 4imprint. They were able to get the kind of glass I wanted for a much better cost. The drawback being they are retail, not wholesale. I am continuing to search for a source.

New computers arrived in the middle of November. It was an all-day installation. Peter Wiley had set up the old workstations in the wrap area so they were close to the new ones. I spent the next four hours with the phone on my ear so if Doug from Big Hairy Dog needed me to press a button, I was there. Over the next few days, we found out some things needed to be tweaked. It actually went on for the next month or two. Big Hairy Dog is very helpful so any time I called they were able to fix the issue in a timely manner.

Grownup Shopping night was the last event of the year for the store. I had the idea a few months prior to do something fun that would bring people in to shop. There were door prizes, alcoholic beverages, and a charcuterie board in addition to most of the store being on sale. People arrived right on time and enjoyed themselves. We ended up doing \$2300 for the whole day. I'd like to do it again next year.



New shelves



Docents helping with junk journals

Annual Report For 2022, Education Coordinator

Submitted by Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The Docent League of the Maturango Museum made great strides to recover after the shut down due to the pandemic. We were still reluctant to return to classrooms but did a few programs at the schools in the fall. Most of our presentations were given at the Museum where we also hosted several tours. Karen and John Usko brought the Breakfast Burritos' donkeys to the Museum twice this year. Many docents helped with the Wildflower Exhibit. We offered Free Saturday activities all but one month in 2022! The Children's Hour docents and I decided we would offer Children's Hour live in the Museum but would limit the number of people by having parents register in advance. This has worked well and allows the docents to prepare enough craft materials for all participants. The room is less crowded and allows for better movement in the room for the little ones and the adults. Docents reported about 800 volunteer hours but many did not always submit the monthly volunteer forms. I estimate that docents donated nearly 2000 hours in 2022. This year we need to be more diligent about reporting volunteer time.

In 2022 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 Dezelle continued as coordinators for the docent art programs. Cathy Heseman taught the art programs at Trona Elementary. Cam and Carol helped her gather the art materials needed. Paula and Mike Herr resigned as our Beth Armigida Planetarium coordinators and presenters, but they had prepared it for being "mothballed." Mike will provide training in 2023 and continue to give support to those who volunteer to operate the planetarium. Docents held meetings for most months in 2022 but attendance was often limited. Debbie Hillis joined the Docent League this summer and Tina Rockdale joined this fall.

In 2022 the docents presented about 75 programs; this includes our free Saturday presentations that do require about 6 hours of volunteer time for each of the docents involved. It also includes 3 Children's Hour presentations that require several hours of preparation by Charlotte and 4-6 other docents. In addition, Cathy Heseman taught the 6 basic art element classes to all the students at Trona Elementary School; that is approximately 700 students all year. The docents presented programs to approximately 4350 people. (including all the Trona children in 6 different art programs). We did several tours for school classes in April and May. We offered a special program on local mining for E Clampus Vitus members. Barbara Bane talked about local mining and they viewed Sandy Rogers' video on the Salt Mine Tram.

In June I worked with Maureen Goff to plan a 4-day class on Junk Journals. We had 8 students for 4 days for 2 hours a day. They made wonderful, creative journals! Five or six docents helped

in the preparation of materials and assisted the students. Maureen was a wonderful teacher! Fawn Martinez taught two art classes this summer covering the artists Kandinsky and Mondrian.

In November we supported the Petroglyph Festival by presenting a few of the docent hands-on petroglyph education materials on a table by the north dirt parking lot. Don Crouse and Bob Parker marked off an area for atlatl practice throwing. Many people tried their luck at throwing a dart using the atlatl. Don Crouse had set up targets to try to hit. I also arranged for Mike Thomas, the flint-napper, to set up in the Museum.

Unfortunately, again in 2022, 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. I frequently have Cindy and sometimes Susan Prazak help me keep the docent room table cleared and the craft activities stored on top of the rolling shelves. We have many of us using supplies so sometimes all the materials end up on top of our table. My goal for 2023 is to have the docents who do art and Children's Hour sort through materials, eliminate some and confine them to a smaller space.

I see that in last year's annual report, Sherry Brubaker and I discussed the acquisition of a jackrabbit, roadrunner, kit fox, a new coyote, rabbit and kit fox pelts, a coot, blue heron, nighthawk, bluebird and spotted towhee. I believe the antelope ground squirrel is already being prepared. I am aware of receiving the kit fox and the pelts although they are still in the curation facility. The new roadrunners are mounted such that the docents cannot use them so we need to trade with Sherry Brubaker for her two roadrunners. When our taxidermist visited she agreed to repair some of the docent "damaged" birds for free. I need to check with Sherry to see if we got them all back. We did receive a beautiful dragonfly and a replica of a Mojave rattlesnake. 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? I need to spend time with Julie Stephens and Sherry Brubaker to understand this.

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. 2022 was a more productive year than 2021. The docents and I are glad that we are returning to "life" and look forward to a very busy 2023 with programs for the young children, students and community members.

Art Gallery 2022 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. The museum's revenue from gallery and OST sales for 2021 was \$5,600. The commission that the museum receives is 40% for gallery sales and 15% of studio sales during the Open Studio Tour.

Full year sponsors for 2022 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!

Benny Alba's exhibit "Dusk and Blue Horizons" In the Coso Room Jan 13 through mid-April. The show was a variety of large-scale oil paintings depicting "weather" as seen from the driver's seat of a traveling car.



ARTifacts 2022 April 9 – June 19.

Our museum curators chose 3 objects from the Museum's collection; our museum members then artistically interpreted one item that was (randomly chosen for them) and made an "art object".



One of the artifacts was Walt Bickel's cap with medals.

Jerry Bradley's "4 Metal Last Chance Canyon" collage.

Joy Gonzalez: "A Sense of Light" In the Coso Room July 1 - August 26.

An exceptional exhibit of watercolors and pastels.



Open Studio Tour 2022

Artists' Gallery Exhibit Sep 2 – Oct 31

The Open Studio Tour is a wonderful way to meet many of our local artists and see the amazing array of talent that we have in our community. The exhibit was in the Coso Room with examples of artwork from each of the 23 participating artists.

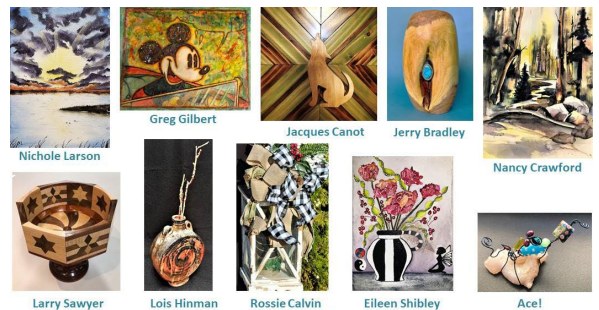
Tour Weekend Saturday October 22 & Sunday 23

23 artists and craftspeople in Ridgecrest and Inyokern opened their studios, or set up their displays in different venues so visitors could meet the artists, see their studios and purchase artwork.

What a fine weekend. Total sales were \$12,000! Pretty gosh darn good for 2 days in Ridgecrest and Inyokern.

Retrospective Exhibit of Open Studio Tours

We enjoyed a look back at some of the fabulous artwork and posters and booklets from the past 18 years of the Open Studio Tour. In the Argus Gallery (the walk-through space going in to the Coso Room) concurrent with the OST Artists' Gallery Exhibit.



Open Studio Tour
October 22 & 23
2022
Maturango Museum
 100 E. Las Flores Ridgecrest CA 93555
 760-375-6900 www.maturango.org
Artists' Gallery Exhibit
Sep 2 – Oct 31
Coso Room Maturango Museum



Quilt Exhibit – "Desert Wonderland"

November 5 – December 31, 2022

Opening Reception – Sunday, November 20, 3 – 5pm.

The Hi Desert Quilt Guild members range in age from 6 years to 96+ years; they are artists as well as quilters, beginners as well as accomplished quilters.

Annual Report for 2022, Petroglyph Tours

By Linda Saholt

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and rebuilding on Base following the 7-5-19 earthquake, no petroglyph tours went out through the Maturango Museum in 2022. Tours were stopped in March, 2020 by the Navy and have not so far resumed.

As of January 12, 2023, there has been no word from the Navy as to when tours might resume.

As an overview, in 2018, approximately 5% of tour visitors were members. Out-of-town visitors accounted for approximately 90% of those taking tours.

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!

Volunteer Hours 2022

Docents	800
Museum Gift Shop	2141
Galleries	210
Field Trips	49
Petroglyph	08
Fundraising	201
Curatorial & Library	220
Administrative	132
Board	198
Publications & Filming	142
Technology Support	194
Web Site & Internet	169
Lectures & Concerts	38
Other	96
Wildflower Show Prep	144
China Lake Astronomy	362
Tortoise Club Tortoise care	268
Building & Facilities	1871
Grounds and upkeep	<u>898</u>
TOTAL	<u>8,141</u>

Memberships and Visitor Information

By Linda Saholt

Membership Statistics

521 Current memberships
 412 Individual or Family
 17 Business
 83 Lifetime
 9 Complimentary

426 are local and 95 are out of the area

Visitor Statistics and Museum Programs

Item	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	DEC- JAN
ADMISSIONS	424	633	824	1066	824	755	665	637	653	779	1038	895	9193
MEETINGS/RECEPTIONS													
Art Show Receptions							40		40	30	20		130
Board Meetings													
Zoom/in-person	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	11	120
Lectures													
Audubon Society	23		25		25		27	29			25		154
Astronomy CLAS	11	15	12	5	8	8	12	20	13	10	13	12	139
CTTP		9								8	5	7	29
Native Plant Society									70				70
Docent Meetings										23		15	38
Gallery Meetings					4					3			7
CL Search and Rescue					150	117							267
MISCELLANEOUS													
Churches	120	128	164	70	89	55							626
Field Trip/Escort Classes													
Children's Hour									18	21	25	25	89
Petroglyph Tours													
Tours/Field Trips			28	25		30					45		128
Docent Programs			79	260		85	192			75		127	818
Concerts													
Season Events/Solstice/Equinox												105	105
Misc. Meetings			20	46									66
Tortoise Club		6		12					15	20	8	9	70
Special Events				60					63				123
Annual Meeting				42									42
Wildflower Exhibit				203									203
Fundraisers- Misc					84								84
Dinner/ Auction										103			103
Special Museum Events				32	50				45			24	151
School Events								40					40
TOTAL	588	801	1162	1831	1244	1060	946	736	927	1082	1188	1230	12795

Dinner Auction 2022



2022 Concert Series Report

Submitted by Debbie Benson

The Museum Concert Series was on hold for 2022. The restrictions on events indoors made for a slow start on planning concerts. I did work with the High Desert Music Teachers Association to plan a possible concert in the early part of 2023. We support what they do and hope for success in our planned event in January.

We began conversations with Carmen of the Folias Duo about a hopeful concert in May of 2023. We are excited to plan for this event!

2022 Wildflower Exhibit Summary

By Elaine M. Wiley



After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the Maturango Museum once again hosted the Wildflower Exhibit. The Wildflower Exhibit Committee, consisting of Judy Breitenstein, Sherry Brubaker, Charlotte Goodson, Bev Hill, Bob and Tiana McGowan, Nora Nuckles and Elaine Wiley had their first meeting in January with the thought that we will go forward with the Wildflower Exhibit but with flexibility to alter or even cancel the exhibit if needed. We hoped for the best and kept informed on the current health guidelines and status of Covid-19 cases. This exhibit takes many volunteers who work inside the building bottling specimens, identifying the plants, arranging and watering the plants. The committee was most concerned about these volunteers to make sure they were safe and comfortable as they volunteered. We chose to have the two speakers, Glenn Harris and Maria Jesus give their presentations via Zoom with just a small group in the Coso Room. As the date for the exhibit approached, Covid-19 cases went down and restrictions loosened. Friday April 1 was the first day of the exhibit and also the first day that the museum dropped the recommendation for mask wearing. Most visitors wore masks during the Wildflower Exhibit and all were very considerate of others. Wearing a mask while in the Coso Room with all the flowers probably was beneficial for those with allergies!

The second concern for a good Wildflower Exhibit was the lack of rain. Each storm in 2022 that included a rain forecast for Ridgecrest petered out and all we got was a few sprinkles and wind. The canyons in the Sierra may have fared better. The last good rain we had was 1.5 inches during the last week in December 2021. We did have some rain in the mountains the last week of March which made collecting wildflowers in the mountain canyons easier with the moist soil. Even with only 1.5 inches of rain 3 months earlier, amazingly, the wildflowers showed up in abundance. The wildflowers were not as showy as in 2019 or 2020, but they were out there producing flowers and seeds. We did see areas of a pale-yellow color from the desert dandelions, the bright yellow glow from goldfields, and bright areas of yellow and orange from coreopsis and California poppies. More importantly, a wide variety of plants grew and bloomed this year dispersing seeds for future years. The number of plant families are 39 and the number of species represented this year is 209.

The weather was good for collecting – sunny but cool with a slight breeze. The collectors brought in a wide variety of wildflowers with desert dandelion, common phacelia and pincushion collected in most areas. In some places, the early spring wildflowers such as yellow throats were still around and looking fresh. Overall, this year was a very good year with excellent flowers collected for the Wildflower Exhibit.

One of the committee's preps for a possible lack of wildflowers was to have information on the ethnobotany of a plant. This included a short write-up about the use of the plant along with a fresh and/or dried specimen of the plant. We originally thought we would place these information areas intermingled with the wildflowers but we needed the room for the wildflowers so the ethnobotany plants went into the Argus Room. Also, in the Argus Room were lovely paintings of wildflowers created by artists from the Desert Artist League. The ethnobotany displays, the artists' paintings, along with the wildflower photographs covering the Argus Room walls created a colorful and informative entrance to the Wildflower Exhibit.

As with any non-profit, exhibits like the Wildflower Exhibit could not be possible without the dedication of the many volunteers who helped set up, collect, bottle, identify, and water the flowers. We had approximately 50 volunteers who made this event a success. This event wouldn't happen if not for the volunteer's enthusiasm and hard work. They made the process fun and enjoyable.

We are also greatly indebted to the three botanists who travel from the California Botanic Garden in Claremont to identify the plants. Obviously, we cannot label what the plant is if not for the botanists. A special thank you to Joy England, Dr. Naomi Fraga, and Mare Nazaire. Naomi has been traveling to Ridgecrest to identify plants since 2008. This was Joy's 4th year and Mare's second year. The museum also recognizes Kathy LaShure for her many years of financial support toward the Wildflower Exhibit which she organized for years before moving from the area.



Some of the many volunteers who helped with the Wildflower Exhibit

Argus Room Exhibits

During the year, four different exhibits hung on the walls of the Argus Room. The first exhibit by Mark Pahuta titled, *Out of the Past*, was a continuation from 2021. Mark, with an interest in historic photographs, chose unique historic Ridgecrest photos of locations and buildings such as the old Ridgecrest Theater (1951) which was located where the current Burger King is now. Many of the photographs on display are also in Mark Pahuta's and Liz Babcock's book, *High Desert Double Exposures*.



Out of the Past Exhibit

Photos of wildflowers replaced the *Out of the Past* exhibit in preparation for the annual Wildflower Exhibit held the first week of April. In September, The *Open Studio Tour Retrospective* graced the walls of the Argus Room during the annual *Open Studio Tours* exhibit held in the Coso Room. This exhibit ran from September to November and displayed artwork from past and present *Open Studio Tour* participants.

Following the *Open Studio Tour Retrospective*, came photos of wildlife by Michael Walsten. This exhibit, titled, *Wildlife in my Backyard* features the many animals that visit Michael's yard. The animals are attracted to the birdfeeders, the trees and flowers as well as a habitat of branches and twigs. These exceptionally sharp and rich photographs – of 21 different species – are still on display. Information regarding each species adds insight to these critters.



California Quail by Michael Walsten

Sylvia Winslow Gallery

Rademacher Hills Wildlife Exhibit

Nick Panzer, museum supporter and volunteer along with Elaine Wiley created an educational exhibit titled, "Rademacher Hills Wildlife". This photo exhibit spotlighted animals including mammals, reptiles, birds and insects that can be seen in the Rademacher Hills. This exhibit showcased 41 different species plus a short write-up about each species. The animals were photographed by Gary Burgner, John Burmeister, Hugh Helmick, Bruce Heydlauff, BJ Holden, West Katzenstein, Dave Kurdeka and Nick Panzer. This exhibit was installed in 2020 and due to Covid-19 stayed in place until May 2022.



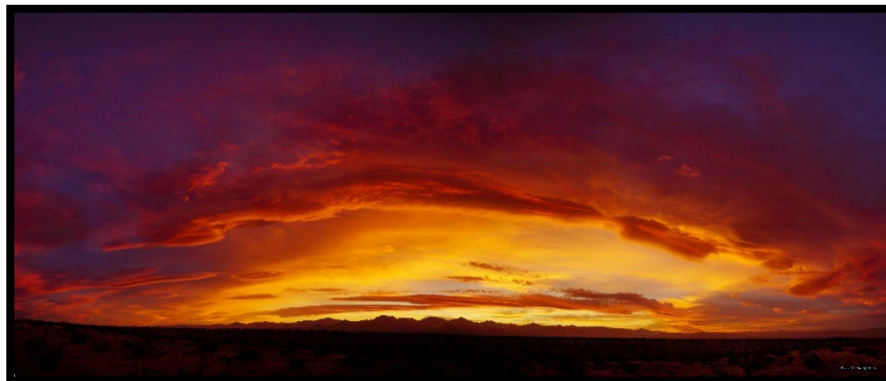
Raven by Hugh Helmick



Tortoise and burrowing owl by BJ Holden

Valley Night Skies Exhibit

There's nothing more moving and uplifting than photos of bright and colorful sunsets and sunrises. The Sylvia Winslow Gallery showcased these beautiful photographs taken by Bruce Heydlauff in the exhibit titled "Valley Night Skies, Twilight to Twilight". Starting with sunsets, the exhibit moves into nighttime shots of the moon and comets then on to sunrises. Adding a whimsical touch, Skip Gorman donated 9 metal silhouettes of nighttime animals. Nick Panzer was the mastermind, volunteer and financier for this exhibit. This exhibit runs through mid-April, 2023.



Facility Annual Report 2022

The Facilities Committee

The new sign was finally installed along China Lake Blvd. In preparation for this new sign, volunteers were recruited to move the large dry washer, cut down a tree and remove the stump. In order to reduce the cost of the sign, volunteers also dug the trench for the electrical conduit. Once the sign was up and operational, further tree trimming was required to allow it to be fully visible by approaching traffic. Also, the old signs' steel posts were cut off.

During the time the museum was shut down due to covid, the store was reorganized to better facilitate customer flow. The one part of the move that did not get resolved was the phone system and hardwired network access at the new register location. Early in 2022, volunteers ran new wires from the main phone punch down block and network switch in the storage room to the register location. This allowed more reliable network access as well as the placement of the phone near the register.

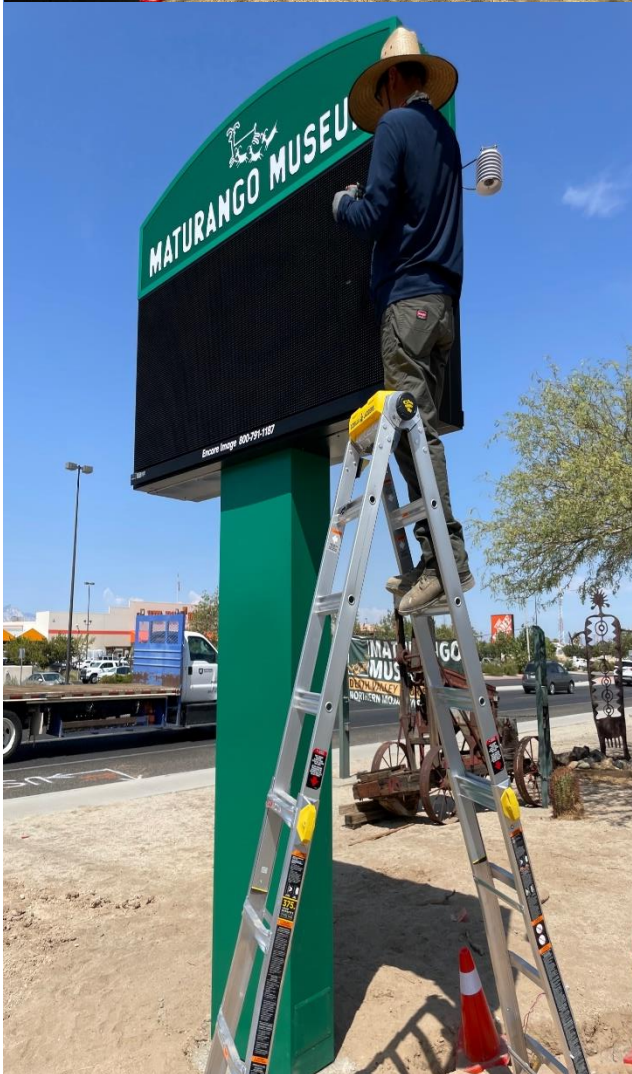
In order to upgrade the point of sales software used in the museum store, the computer systems first needed to be upgraded and new software installed. The new systems were setup and connected to the network after which all the files on the current systems were migrated onto the new computers.

The drip irrigation systems in the garden required significant repair during this past year. Many volunteers over multiple day showed up to contribute their time. Much of the original drip manifolds required replacement and new tubing was installed. The watering system in the area near the flag pole, which was originally install as a part of Chandler McCauley's eagle scout project, was completely replaced. While Chandler McCauley was unavailable to help with this effort, his father and grandfather came out to participate in the work.

Two new bookcases for displaying books for sale in the store were constructed. The design matched the existing cases currently in use and provided much needed display area.

Volunteers completed a number of normal maintenance tasks during the year including replacing HVAC filters, repairing and replacing lighting fixtures throughout the museum. Solar powered motion sensor flood lights were installed on the east and south side of the annex. The current HVAC systems on the Annex are very old and very inefficient. We asked for and received cost estimates for replacing the HVAC systems on the Annex with ductless mini split HVAC systems from Michael's Certified Air. Measurements of the energy usage from the existing systems was conducted. Using these measurements and the rated performance of the proposed systems, a return on investment (ROI) estimate was performed.

The Electronic Sign and the Gift Shop Computer Exchange



2022 Gardens and Grounds Submitted by Bev Hill

2022 was a busy and productive year. The highlight for 2022 was the planting of approximately twenty native plants throughout the garden. During the last two years it had been very difficult to purchase native plants due to difficulties with availability but we were finally able to acquire a variety of plants from the California Native Plant Society and the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District. Planting occurred in September and October so we are looking forward to watching these new native species grow and develop during the coming warmer months.

In addition to the planting of the new native plants we were given a very large, trimmed Agave by a local Landscape company that had removed it from the garden of a client. To replant this huge Agave took five people, lots of digging, a tractor and a truck. Adding interest and variety is a major goal of the garden committee and we are lucky to have an amazing group of people willing to put in the time and effort to attain that goal.

During the year there were eight organized clean up days attended by museum and Navy volunteers. There were also a number of small group activities to work on tree removal in the area of the new sign and to add to and maintain the irrigation system. These work days totaled 210 volunteer hours. There were also a number of museum members who worked individually on garden projects with a total of approximately 250 hours.

I would like to thank the museum members and the Navy volunteers who have donated their time and energy to maintain and improve our unique and beautiful native garden. We are especially grateful for the Navy men and women from VX-9 and VX-31 whose help has been invaluable.

In some Native languages the term for plants translates to "those who take care of us."

Robin Wall Kimmerer

The work we do...





Website Report 2022
By Dave Kurdeka

Following is a brief summary of the museum's website:

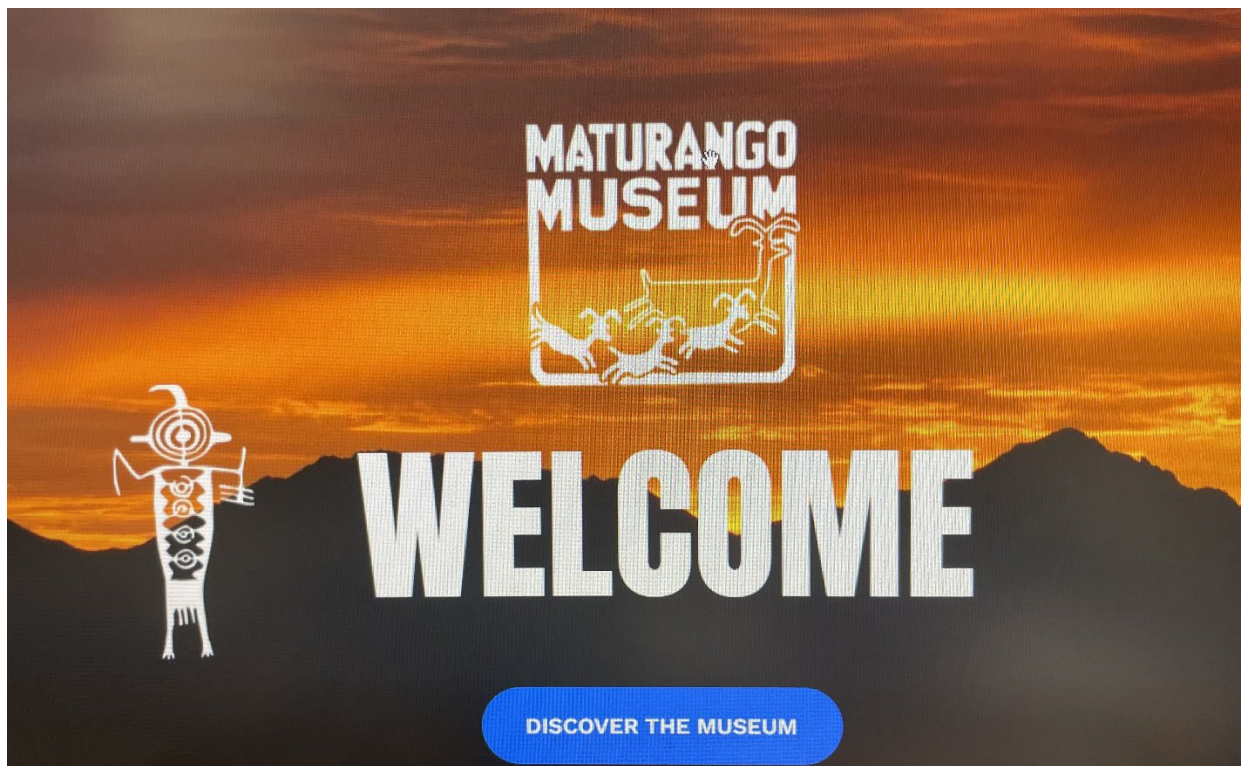
A complete review of the website was done to bring it up to date. Updates were made to date sensitive information and improvements made to the site's appearance and functionality.

The Events calendar was revised to feature a photo or graphic for each event, the intent being to better attract the viewers attention. Tickets can now be purchased directly from the calendar page; if the viewer goes to the online store for that purpose he/she will be redirected to the calendar.

A new arrangement for making donations to the museum was created that is more visible and flexible than the previous one.

A totally new version of on-line store was created that is more attractive and simpler to use than before. It has been checked out and is ready to be turned on as soon as the merchandise inventory is updated, an unenviable task the museum stores staff is now undertaking.

A Cerro Coso web design student was hired to be webmaster. He is quickly coming up to speed and, by all indications, will do a good job .



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Nona and Harold Turner
Ray and Jane VanAken
Ronald and Nancy Vetter
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This is a work in progress! Many thanks to everyone for your support through the years! We literally can't do this without you!
Best,
Debbie

