



Maturango Museum

President's Status Update

What We Are

"Museums are full of old things and have old people in them"

Quote from 9 year old visitor



Who We Are

- Staff and Employees
 - CEO – Debbie Benson
 - Archeology Curation – Barbara Bane
 - History Curation – Elaine Wiley
 - Natural History Curation – Sherry Brubaker
 - Education Coordinator – Nora Nuckles
 - Gift Shop Manager – Maureen Goff
 - Gallery Coordinator – Andrea Pelch
 - Financial – Heidi Farmer, Leslie Layfield
- Board of Trustees
 - President – Robert (Bob) McGowan
 - Vice President – Patty Wharton
 - Secretary – Diane Foucher
 - Treasurer – Jann Philpott
 - Dan Burnett, Peggy Chun, Dorie Cornell, Howard McCauley, Alisha Mondragon
- Countless Volunteers, Artisans, Contributors and Members

Why Are We Here Tonight?

This Event is to Thank You!

- Every Member and Donor Contributes to the Operation of the Museum in Some Way
 - Everyone in this Room Has Contributed Significantly
- **Some of the Ways You Have Contributed (Part #1)**
 - Operations
 - 3 or 4-Yearly Mailouts
 - 1 per Quarter
 - 1 Matching Fund Drive (Spring)
 - Dinner Auction (Fall)
 - Memorial Bricks



This Event is to Thank You!

- **Some of the Ways You Have Contributed (Part #2)**
 - Ad Hoc Request for Special Projects
 - Fencing, Security Cameras, Interior of Curation Building
 - Special Gifts for Special Purposes
 - Glider Display, Solar Field, Gallery Sponsorship (Permanent & Invitational Artists Exhibits), Special Events
 - Endowment Fund
 - Long Term Investments
 - Securing the museum's future
 - Estate Bequests
 - Remembering Your Loved Ones
- None of the Following Projects Would be Possible without YOU, Our Distinguished Benefactors



What's Happening at the Museum?



Growth and Change Continue!

Thanks to our Generous Donors
&
Amazing Volunteers





Solar Energy – Renewable Energy Education

Thanks to the generous donation made by Bea and Lloyd Smith,
our solar plant is generating electricity.



Non-Conditioned Curation Storage Building

This building has had many bumps on its way to completion but its exterior is now finished. Volunteers will begin work on the inside starting in late 2025



Historical Artifacts Returned After Long Term Display at Fairgrounds



Decorative Security Fencing is Complete

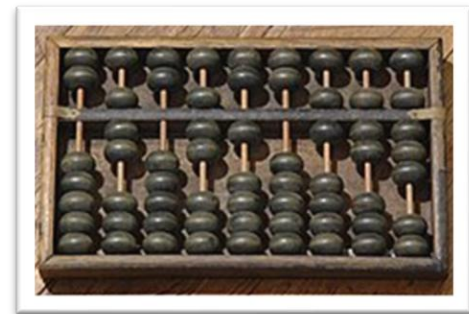
Other Recent Displays Updates and Changes

- New Paleontology Exhibit (Complete)
- Renewable Energy Exhibit (Complete)
 - Local Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Hydroelectric
- Updated Geology Exhibit (Complete)
- Updated Archeology Exhibit (In Construction)
 - New Items to Display
 - Conform to New Federal NAGPRA Regulations



Business Systems Currently Being Upgraded

- **Legacy Systems have Grown Ad Hoc Over Time**
 - Implementing Digital Files to Reduce Paper Files & Manual Entry
- Conversion of Legacy Financial System to QuickBooks Online (Complete)
- New Membership Database System (pre-implementation phase)
 - Replace Obsolete Stand-Alone FileMaker Pro
 - Tie Electronically into the Financial System
 - Little Green Light Software
- Electronic Interface from Point of Sale to Financial System (Planning phase)



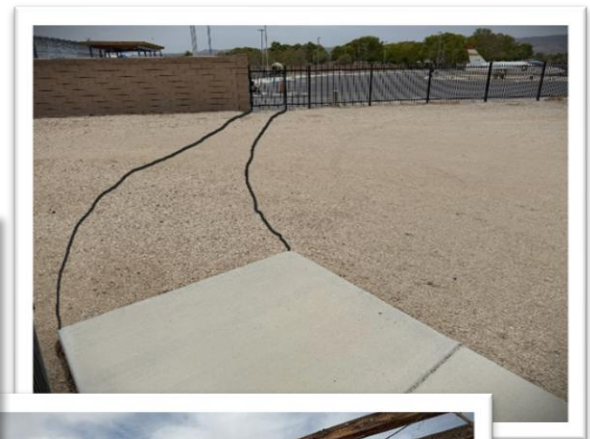
Near-Term Projects

- Upgrade of Gallery and Store Lighting (Underway)
- Curation Storage Facility (late Fall 2025)
 - Interior Walls
 - Electrical Outlets
 - Security Cameras & Data Network
- Installation of Memorial Pavers (Winter 2025/2026)
- New Butterfly Garden (In cooperation with Garden Club)



Medium-Term Projects 2026/27/28

- Updated Children's Discovery Area (Grant Request in Works)
- Rebuild Natural History Display
- Complete Sidewalk to China Lake Museum Next Door
- Develop Water Tank and Well Display





Tank and large equipment
relocation thanks to a generous
donation from the Rosser Corp.



**A Recent Donation of a Historic Ridgecrest Water Tank, Tower,
and well-drilling rig will eventually make a display about the
History of water in the Valley**

Other Priority Items

- Trips and Outings
 - No Petroglyph Tours on the Horizon
 - Committed to Educational Trips Around the Area
 - “Maturango style” field trips
 - Tecopa Mines, Date Ranch, Eastern Death Valley (Spring 2025)
 - Kern Plateau (Summer 2025)
 - Devil’s Punch Bowl Trip
 - October 18, 2025
 - Manzanar
 - October 24, 2025
 - Cerro Gordo
 - TBD
- Outdoor Children’s Music Exploration Area
 - In Collaboration with Other Service Organizations
- **Continued and Expanded Collaboration with China Lake Museum and Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert**



Continue to Do What We Do Best

- Preserve, Display and Educate about the History of the Upper Mojave Desert
 - Curation of Historical Artifacts – 1 of 2 Accredited Arch Curation Facilities in Calif
- Docent Programs for Children and Schools
 - **79 Tours/Programs Reaching over 3050 Individuals in 2024**
- Wildflower Exhibit
- Artist Presentations and Open Studio Tours
- Special Rotating Displays and Exhibits
- Children's Hour
- Solstice/Equinox, Star Gazing, Eclipse Events
- Free Second Saturday Family Fun Day
- Association & Reciprocal Agreements with Other Museums
- Work with Local Clubs & Service Organizations
 - Tortoise, Garden, Astronomy, China Lake Mtn Rescue, Etc.



Thank You for Your Continued Generosity

- The Board of Trustees Wishes to Thank You, Our Most Loyal Contributors, for Making the Maturango Museum Such a Special Place. Now and into the Future.



Questions?

Comments, Suggestions



CEO's Email: Debbie@maturango.org

President's Email: Trustee@maturango.org

Further Information: www.maturango.org

BACKUP SLIDES

"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)



501(c)3 organization, founded 1962

Serving the Community

- One of our primary means of engagement with our community is through our docent program.
 - Provide programs at local schools, senior centers and visitors.
 - Provide programs at the Museum for schools, Scouts and various tour groups.
- Even with a greater use of technology, a hands-on environment sparks interest.
 - Natural specimens
 - Live reptiles
 - Actual and replica artifacts
 - Our Education and Art programs work with the local schools to ensure that the lesson plans meet the current criteria.

Serving the Entire Community

Last year the Docent League delivered 48 programs and tours in the Museum and 31 as outreach. This resulted in the docents reaching at least 3050 individuals in the community. The docents donated about 2000 hours in 2023.



We are grateful for the continued support shown to the Docent League from individuals and community organizations through their generous donations.

Cooperative

- We work with Sierra Sands Unified School District, Immanuel Christian, Saint Ann's, area Charter Schools and Home School families.
 - We are working with Community Action Partnership of Kern for children and families.
- Education partnership agreement with NAWCWD
- Our facility is used by many local organizations
 - Audubon Society, Astronomical Society, Tortoise Club, China Lake Mountain Rescue Training and the Native Plant Society.
- Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (with Ridgecrest BLM)
 - On hold due to storm damage and school constraints.

Curation

- Archaeology – many avocational collections
 - One of only 2 accredited archaeology curation locations in CA
 - Archaeological curation for BLM
 - MOU with BLM California and with Ridgecrest Field Office
 - Storage meets 36CFR79 standards
- History Curation
 - Collections largely acquired by donations and bequests
- Natural History Curation
 - Exhibits fully permitted by California DFW and USFWS
- Interns have worked in all areas of curation. Currently, we have a curation Assistant in Archaeology to work on a specific collection.
 - Volunteers working in Historical and Natural History Curation