

Maturango Museum News

Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for
the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday Noon – 4pm
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” Oscar Wilde

Preparations for the Fundraising Dinner Auction on September 26 are possessing our activity calendar these days. Members have donated some adventures and artworks that are sure to please! We are gathering wonderful items that our friends and members have donated. This becomes a creative opportunity for those of us making baskets. The shopping for those little extras is interesting and all a part of the excitement. We hope you have the chance to come be a part of the evening! It should be a great time with friends. Tickets are available in the Gift Store or from the event on the website.



Sponsorships are also available!

Thank you to all of the Matching Funds Donors and those who matched the funds! We met our goal for July. It was a bright spot as we hit records in the heat of the daytime temperatures outside. You all made a difference.

It was inspirational to meet some of the new artists joining our amazing returning artists for the Open Studio Tour in October! The local artists put so much into preparing for guests to their studios. It's always exciting to take the Tour on October 24 & 25.



Please be safe in the heat and carry water with you!
Be Well

Donations for auction needed by Sunday Sep 12

- ✓ Items for gift baskets...we always put together fantastic baskets!
- ✓ Gift certificates
- ✓ Activity ideas (workshops, field trips, house rental, catered meal or dessert...)
- ✓ Items of artwork, furniture, ephemera, antiques, ...



Annual Museum Dinner / Auction

Saturday September 26

Doors open 4:30pm, Kerr-McGee

Tickets on sale NOW! Maturango.org/events

For Sponsorship Opportunities

e-mail Debbie@maturango.org

Open Studio Tour 2026 Artists' Gallery Exhibit
Opening Reception Sunday September 13, 2 – 4pm

Please join us at the Opening Reception of the gallery exhibit for the artists in the Open Studio Tour this year. This is a great opportunity to meet the artists and get a first-hand look at what items they will have for sale in their studios,

During the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25, 10 am – 4 pm each day, the artists open their studios so guests can visit and purchase artwork.

Each artist will also have a sample of their artwork displayed in the 2-month Open Studio Tour Exhibit (Sep 12 – Oct 31) at the Museum.

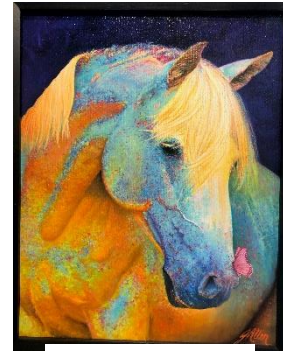
The free map and poster will be available by October 12 on the museum's website www.maturango.org and in the gift store or send an email request to gallery@maturango.org



Jacques Canot



Molly Cooley



Janice Allen

Maturango Museum Children's Hour, "Do You Wonder about Coyotes?"
Friday, September 18, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Parents and young children are welcomed once again to join in the action-packed time of stories, songs, a craft, and learning through observing artifacts from the docents' collection.

On this occasion, the theme will be "Coyotes!" in which the children will be greeted by puppet **Wiley Coyote**, "a very interesting character", as he says!

Children's Hour is a free monthly program, Sept.-May, started in 2009 by volunteer docents. The goal of each program is education about our desert environment in which the children live and our nearby mountains. During these many years, programs have introduced owls, bats, snow geese, wildflowers, bears, rocks and so much more.

Schedules for the Fall programs will be available at the September Children's Hour. For more information, please see www@maturango.org.



Free Saturday September 12: "Bones", 11am – 2pm

Free admission - Museum open 10am – 5pm

Aztec Sound Bath Experience with Musician Martin Espino Sunday, October 11, 2pm

A sound bath is a beautiful and easy way to relax, rejuvenate and refresh your mind and spirit. Arrive and relax as Martin, your host, evokes beautiful sounds from his exotic instruments. Sound baths will relax and renew, letting yourself go to that beautiful place within to clear your mind and enjoy a relaxing meditative hour. Everyone who comes will find a great group of wellness-minded people. Bring a pillow, blanket or yoga mat for stretching out, or sit comfortably in chairs around the perimeter.

Martin Espino's native heritage is Yaqui (Sonora, Mex) & Tepehuano (Durango, Mex). He is a sound worker, musician and composer with many years of performing and teaching sessions for a variety of audiences around the world. He is also a Master Instrument Maker, performing the sound bath for you on his collection of indigenous Mexican instruments. Tickets \$15 Members, \$20 non-members.

Adults only, 16 years and older.

Space is limited, so purchase early in the museum Gift Store, or call 760-375-6900 or online at:

<https://maturango.org/event/aztec-sound-bath-experience/>



Buggy for the Museum

Terry McGuire, Museum History Curator

Donations to the museum continue to help us grow. This month, I have been working to get a historic buggy moved from the Inyokern area to the museum. The donor has had the cart for a number of years and has decided to donate it to the museum. I have been out to visit with the donor a couple of times. He, however, has fallen ill recently and I am waiting to gain access to it. I am also researching the history of the

buggy and its previous owners.

The buggy is intact, though it might need some restoration.



I found a picture of the buggy in a 1909 Sears and Roebuck catalogue. The original price listed in the catalogue was \$600. I believe this was purchased in Bakersfield per information I have been gathering. It is an interesting acquisition and a wonderful addition to our collection.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles

Docents of the Maturango Museum are gearing up for a busy fall season with several program requests already submitted. Teachers requested presentations on the desert ecosystem, birds, and art. The art docents have scheduled presentations for Pierce Arts Academy. The Children's Hour docents have set the dates and themes for the fall Children's Hours. The first Children's Hour on Friday Sept. 18, will feature Coyotes as the theme. "Bones" will be the topic of our next Free Saturday on Sept. 12. We will show many of the different animal bones and skeletons including the spine of a cougar. How heavy is a big horn sheep skull? Come join us on Sept. 12, 11am – 2pm. We will include a craft related to bones.

Our last Free Saturday featured Glenn Harris sharing his large, categorized collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Glenn, a geologist, always shares wonderful information about the geology of the Indian Wells Valley and its surroundings. Visitors also painted rocks.

We welcome Carol Ann Janes and Laurel Owen as Maturango Museum Docents! We are looking forward to welcoming other potential docents at our first meeting of the year on Tuesday Sept. 1, at 10am in the Museum's Coso Room.

Recent Donations

Fundraising

PPS Manufacturing, Inc.
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Operating Fund

Andrea Atkins
Milton & Jane Burford
Cindy & Greg Cote
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Douglas Sticht
Patricia Wharton & Ken
Wetzel
Sandra Wieser

Facilities Fund

Bob & Paula Westbrook
Naomi Norris

Matching Funds

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Susan Hueber
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Richard Klabunde
Alan & Leslie Layfield
Terry McGuire
Mellon Trust
Brian Norden
Bob & Sue Parker
Gina Peter

In Memory of Larry Zabel

Kenn & Susan McCarty

New Members

Bill & Debbie Brickley
Sandra Moore
Laurel Owen
Anne Stoll

New Premium Members

Cara Lamoreux
Don & Linda Waldron

New Business Members

Ridgecrest Daily
Independent
Toyota of Ridgecrest

**Maturango Museum
of the IWV**

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Open Mon - Sat 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday noon – 4pm (except major holidays)

Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director

Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer

Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA, Archaeology Curator

Nadia Mohsen, Curation Technician

Terry McGuire, Local History Curator

Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator

Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor

Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator,
Museum Assistant

Barbara Ingle, Membership, Donations,
Museum Assistant

Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper

Heidi Farmer, Accounting

Travis Yost, Website

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Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning

Bev Hill, Gardens

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Patty Wharton – Vice-president

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Pam Smith

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Toyota of Ridgecrest

Vaughn Realty

WACOM



Upcoming and Ongoing Events

- **Open Studio Tour 2026 Artists' Gallery Exhibit**
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- **Maturango Museum Children's Hour, "Do You Wonder about Coyotes?"**
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- **Free Saturday September 12: "Bones",** craft activity 11am – 2pm
- **Annual Dinner / Auction:** Saturday September 26,
Kerr-McGee, doors open 4:30pm
- **Aztec Sound Bath Experience with Musician Martin Espino**
Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Museum CLOSED Monday Sep 7 for Labor Day

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September 2026 News



Mike Mumford
Open Studio Tour 2026