



Las Vegas **Natural**  
**History**  
Museum



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

**PREPARED BY**

KATE PORTER, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAURIE THOMAS, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOLLY DEVORE, GRANTS MANAGER

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the uncertainty of 2020, Joe Tumminia generously extended his term as Chairman to help shepherd the Museum into the unknown. With a bright outlook as this three year commitment concluded, Stephanie Stallworth (Member at Large) was unanimously elected as the new Chairman, beginning her term in December 2021.

Chairman Stephanie Stallworth, Cox Communications

Secretary Marcel T. Bloomer, Bank of America Commercial Banking

Treasurer Robert Bulmer, Bank of Nevada

Immediate Past Chairman Joe Tumminia, Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

Member at Large Donald T. Polednak, Esq., Sylvester & Polednak Ltd.

Jim Donofrio, Trident Construction Corporation

Bruce Ford, City National Bank

Mallory Gott, G+A An Experiential Design Firm

Jared Hall, Intellikid Systems

Bill Houghton, Horizon Print Solutions

Susan Houston

Ashraf (Alex) Khalaf, Kalifano

Carol Levins

Kristen Routh-Silberman, Corcoran Global Living

Rick Sellers, Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects

Michael Sullivan, The Ferraro Group

Eric D. Walther, Esq.



Pictured Left to Right: Bill Houghton; Kate Porter; Robert Bulmer; Susan Houston; Eric Walther, Esq.; Don Polednak, Esq.; Jared Hall; Carol Levins; Marilyn Gillespie; Ashraf (Alex) Khalaf; Laurie Thomas; Jim Donofrio; Stephanie Stallworth; and Joe Tumminia

# WHERE WE ARE NOW

## New Executive Leadership

Las Vegas Natural History Museum Founder and Executive Director Marilyn Gillespie announced her retirement, effective July 30, 2021. Ms. Gillespie was one of Southern Nevada's longest-serving museum directors and had been at the helm of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum for 32 years.

Upon Ms. Gillespie's retirement, the Museum embraced a co-leadership model with Laurie Thomas, Operations Director, and Kate Porter, Development and Communications Director, handling respective Co-Executive Director roles.

"It has been my honor to lead this organization and help grow the Las Vegas Natural History Museum to where it is today," said Ms. Gillespie. "I look forward to seeing the innovation and growth that Laurie and Kate will bring as they step into this new co-leadership model that many nonprofit cultural institutions are embracing."

A resident of Las Vegas since 1988, Ms. Gillespie played a key role in lobbying the city of Las Vegas for a facility to house a new natural history museum for the community. After starting with no public funds, collections, or financial assets, the Museum is now a Smithsonian Affiliate, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and a vital educational resource that encompasses a working paleontology lab, a state and federal collections repository for paleontological and archaeological materials, a meteorite repository for the International Meteoritics and Planetary Science Society, and galleries with content ranging from Ancient Egypt and dinosaurs to marine life.



Pictured: Ms. Gillespie 1991 (left) and 2021 (right)

# MISSION

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum strives to inspire, through educational exhibits and programs, a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world, the sciences, and ourselves.

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY

In July 10, the Las Vegas Natural History Museum kicked-off a series of celebrations to mark the organization's 30th Anniversary. July began with a family-friendly anniversary party featuring ancient Egyptian-themed science demonstrations, activities, crafts, and critters – plus free ice cream sandwiches!

The celebration continued later that month when the Museum team welcomed the local professional community 'Vegas Chamber: Business After Hours.' Then, in honor of the 30th Anniversary, the annual Dinosaur Ball returned to the Museum featuring an unforgettable 'Moonlight Safari.'

Since the Museum's doors opened in 1991, millions of guests have experienced dozens of exhibits, educational community outreach initiatives, and digital learning opportunities.



## SUMMER EXHIBITION "THE PHAROAH'S TOMB"

During Summer 2021, guests were invited to grab a flashlight and explore the world of Ancient Egypt through an interactive maze made possible in part by the Engelstad Foundation Special Exhibition Series.



# RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS

The Museum is a state and federal collections repository for paleontological and archaeological materials. These important materials are preserved, stored, researched, and often exhibited. Visitors are invited to view this work in the Richard A. Ditton Learning Lab at the Museum.

## CULTURAL COLLECTIONS & FEDERAL REPOSITORY

In 2021, we accepted a generous **donation from the Nevada State Museum**, including cranial and post-cranial elements from horses (*Equus caballus*) and cows (*Bos taurus*). These specimens will be utilized to create an osteological comparative collection that will **assist researchers in identifying animal remains**.

Additionally, we accepted a donation of cultural items from the Singleton family which includes **Navajo carvings** in the form of Katsinam. In the Federal Repository, we accepted **archaeological material from Cave Spring** (26ES1566) and the Pinyon Premise Project (26LN1520).

-Laura Benedict, Cultural History Collections Manager and Federal Repository Manager



## NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

LVNHM accepted several significant contributions to our natural history collection in 2021. Now on display is the **skeleton of a cave bear** that lived during the Pleistocene, also known as the “Ice Age.” Donated by Ashraf (Alex) Khalaf of Kalifano, this fossil shows the cave bear standing on its hind legs and is nearly nine feet tall.

The Museum also accepted **fifty mineralogical specimens and gemological equipment** from renowned gemologist Cos Altobelli. Mineral specimens include albite, rhodochrosite, and laumontite. These specimens helped expand our geology collection - a goal of our 2018-2021 Collections Plan.

Additionally, we were pleased to received **57 exotic and domestic taxidermy mounts** from Pete Carollo that will add animals such as a leopard, mule deer, Rocky Mountain goat, a female African lion, etc. to our exhibits.

-Michele Jones, Natural History Collections Manager

LVNHM team worked on several research projects and engaged with hundreds of museum visitors in 2021. Our two primary lab-based research projects were:

1. **Analysis of bison and pronghorn antelope bones** we excavated in 2020 at the Gordon Bison Butchering Site in Carson City, NV, and
2. **Preparation and analysis of mammoth bones** and associated mollusk shells we excavated at the Fairbanks Spring Mammoth Site in Amargosa Valley, NV.

A research paper on the Carson City bison project has been submitted to the peer-reviewed, paleontological journal PALAIOS, written by: Lab Manager, Dr. Steve Rowland; Natural History Collections Manager, Michele Jones; Volunteer and PhD student at UNLV, Eric Chameroy; and other colleagues. That paper will be published in 2022.

We were finally **able to obtain a radiocarbon date** for the Fairbanks Spring Mammoth Site using tiny snail shells separated and identified by lab volunteers with the aid of a new microscope (purchased through a generous grant from the MGM Corporation). The **mammoth's age is just under 21,000 years**, which dates it to the Last Glacial Maximum in the Pleistocene Ice Age, a time when Earth was the coldest it had been for the preceding 100,000 years. Rowland and Dr. Lauren Parry have submitted a paper for publication on the Fairbanks Spring Mammoth Site.

We were also busy doing field work in 2021. Under permit from Bureau of Land Management, Rowland and Chameroy **collected multiple samples of fossil tracks** from the Miocene-age (~15 m.y. old) Horse Spring Formation, north of Lake Mead. These include tracks of camels, canids (dog family), felids (cat family), and birds. Rowland and Chameroy also worked on a **fossil trackway project in the Grand Canyon**, studying tracks of 300-million-year-old amphibians. Chameroy has also been working on creating 3D images of mammoth teeth in the LVNHM collection for use in an online teaching module.

#### **These projects resulted in five presentations at professional meetings in 2021:**

1. Rowland and Chameroy presented a poster on the Carson City bison project at the Geological Society of America meeting in Portland, OR, and
2. (2) also at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Las Vegas;
3. Chameroy and Rowland presented results of the Horse Spring Formation trackway study at the GSA meeting in Portland;
4. Volunteer, Dash Chrisman, spent the summer in the lab, studying a collection of Native American projectile points and other lithic tools from Las Vegas Valley, and he presented the results of his study at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference; his study will eventually result in a new exhibit in the Museum; and
5. Volunteer, Dyann Mones, has been studying a collection of Native American pottery sherds that were donated to the Museum; she presented the results of her study at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference.

# DONORS

The Museum relies upon the continued financial support of generous community donors. The following individuals, corporations and foundations made contributions to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum in 2021.

## \$5,000 & ABOVE

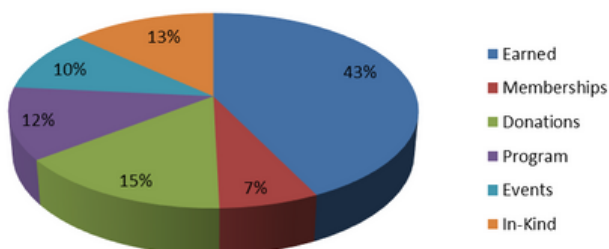
Bank of America  
 Boyd Foundation  
 Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck  
 LLP  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Jon Cobain  
 Adam Corrigan  
 Cox Communications  
 Richard Ditton  
 Findlay Management Group Inc.  
 Carol Levins  
 Lincoln Dynamic Foundation  
 MGM Resorts International  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Holzhauer  
 NV Energy Charitable Foundation  
 Susan Houston  
 Sylvester & Polednak, Ltd.  
 U.S. Small Business Administration  
 Clark County School District  
 Protectors of Tule Springs  
 Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.  
  
 In Kind:  
 Kalifano, LLC  
 Nevada Division of Minerals  
 Trident Construction  
 City of Las Vegas  
 Cox Communications  
 Tag Team Productions  
  
 Collection Donation:  
 Peter Carollo

## THANK YOU AGAIN

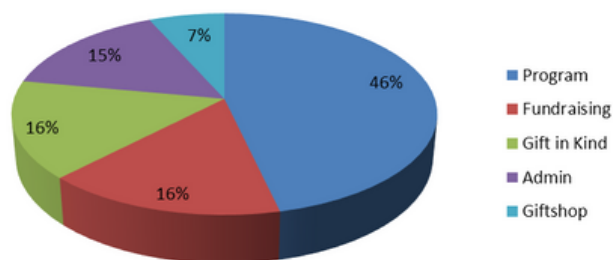
Arcata Associates  
 Cosmo Altobelli  
 Colleen Bailey  
 Bank of Nevada  
 Marcel Bloomer  
 BMW Las Vegas  
 Boyd Foundation  
 Peggy Bruhns  
 Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto  
 Architects  
 Tim Cashman  
 City National Bank  
 City of Las Vegas  
 Dermody Properties  
 Foundation  
 Richard Ditton & Debra  
 Delaney  
 James Donofrio  
 DragonRidge Golf Club  
 Elite Golf Management  
 Engelstad Foundation  
 English Garden Florist  
 Estate of Edith Carlson  
 G and A Experiential Design  
 Firm  
 Joyce Gargan  
 Marilyn Gillespie Davis  
 Oscar & Carolyn Goodman  
 James & Melissa Holzhauer  
 Horizon Print Solutions  
 KJK Trust  
 Harold Larson  
 Las Vegas Lights FC  
 Las Vegas Sands  
 Lincoln Dynamic Foundation  
 Mark & Carolyn Guidry  
 Foundation  
 McCormick Barstow LLP  
 Mesquite Club  
 MGM Resorts Corp.  
 Employee Giving Program  
 Michael E. Minden  
 National Endowment for  
 the Arts  
 National Endowment for  
 the Humanities  
 Nevada Division of Minerals  
 Nevada Arts Council  
 Nevada Humanities  
 Nevada Mining Association  
 Nevada Security Test Site  
 Nevada State Bank  
 New Market Advisors  
 Samuel Newton, Jr.  
 NV Energy Foundation  
 Cathi Poer Sverdieck  
 Kristen Routh-Silberman  
 Scavenger Hunts by Let's  
 Roam  
 Evan Sofer & Dori Sher  
 Speedway Children's  
 Charities-Las Vegas  
 Spi Entertainment  
 Square Panda  
 Synergy Sotheby's  
 International Realty  
 The Crab Broker  
 The Pass Casino  
 Walmart Foundation  
 Eric Walther

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue



Expenditures



Revenues

Operational	
Admissions	368,728.99
Interest Income	576.63
Giftshop	103,786.48
Birthday Parties	12,290.00
Small Fund-Raisers	4,059.14
Other (facility rentals, etc.)	<u>2,268.66</u>
Subtotal	491,709.90

Fundraising & Public Memberships

Donations-Non Specific	42,334.00
Memberships-Family	59,461.00
Memberships-Partnerships	15,000.00
Memberships-FOM	4,000.00
Bricks-Fundraiser	500.00
Special Events	112,293.35
Donations-Gift in Kind	<u>151,089.24</u>
Subtotal	384,677.59

Restricted Revenue (Program)

Endowment Interest	15,000.00
Exhibit Donations	0.00
Collections & Research	40825.75
Animal Care Donation	21,568.42
Education Program	49,985.54
Curation Income	8,100.00
PPP Loan Funds Distribution	105,547.27
Science Festival Reimbursement	24,000.00
Traveling Exhibit	<u>0.00</u>
Subtotal	265,026.98

TOTAL REVENUE 1,141,414.47

Expenditures

Wages	502,787.58
Payroll Taxes	42,105.30
Accounting	8,000.00
Advertising	5,006.27
Auto	183.00
Cost of Goods-Giftshop	40,007.72
Misc. and Administrative	16,671.61
Dues and Memberships	12,990.99
Insurance	46,177.21
Janitorial	9,440.00
Office Supplies	8,273.32
Postage and Shipping	901.00
Outside Services	8,900.00
Repairs and Maintenance	5,387.70
Telephone	5,161.82
Utilities	5,425.75
Gift-in-Kind Expenditures	151,089.24
Fundraising Expenses	30,255.06

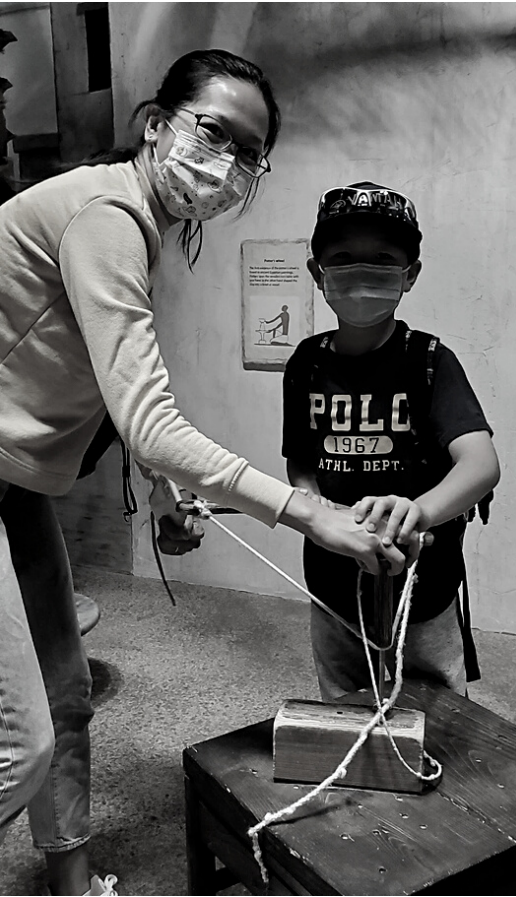
Program and Exhibit Expenses

Animal Care	33,623.78
Exhibit Expenses	4,934.61
Collections & Research	14,351.99
Education Program	2,876.89
Traveling Exhibit	<u>9,448.99</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 963,999.83

Change in net assets 177,414.64





Las Vegas Natural  
History  
Museum

