

# THE NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FOUNDATION

Annual Report

July 2021 - June 2022

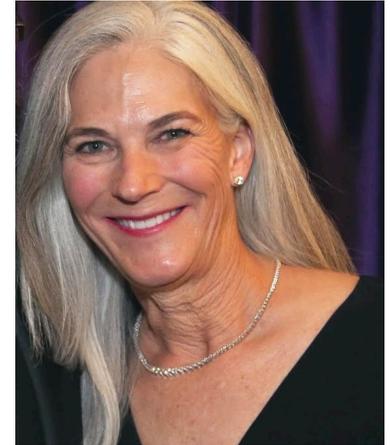


## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Celebrate 2021

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History Foundation is celebrating a stellar year of success. The Foundation Board of Directors, led by Chair Kristina Nguyen, and the Foundation's outstanding staff, contributed to a truly successful fiscal year and many accomplishments!

Ninety donors supported the Annual Fund, raising more than \$21,000 for the Foundation!

As the Foundation's Executive Director, I am thankful to my team, our members, donors and sponsors for their support of our mission of advancing the educational, scientific and cultural programs of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science.



Abigail Eaton,  
Executive Director

## FROM THE NMMNH FOUNDATION CHAIR

It has been quite a year for the Foundation, marked by the reopening of the Museum to visitors and the ability to be back together in person for programs and events. We learned a lot during the first year of the pandemic and we were committed during this past year to keep building on those lessons. We are so fortunate to have such a committed group of board members, an incredibly talented and hardworking staff, a deeply generous community of donors, and the wonderful team at the Museum.

The reopening of the Museum gave us new opportunities to engage with members, from the new exit through NatureWorks, the reopening of the Verus Research DynaTheater,

and the thrill of hosting Chocolate Fantasy in the Museum. At the same time, online innovations that came out of necessity during the pandemic, like the SteamTrek online field trips and fundraising through online auctions, have proven to be worth keeping, and have expanded our outreach across the entire state of New Mexico and across the country.



Kristina Nguyen  
2021 Foundation Chair

It has been a real pleasure to serve as the Foundation Chair this year. I am so grateful for the ongoing support and commitment from the community. The Foundation is in a wonderful position to continue and grow its support for the museum as we move forward and I know great things are ahead.

## MEMBERSHIP

The membership program has continued to welcome new members daily. Members were excited to take advantage of their benefits during the run of the Dogs: A Science Tail exhibit and are looking forward to the opening of **Chocolate: The Exhibition** opening in June. Our membership program stands today at 6,339 members in 1,910 households.

# 30TH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE FANTASY



The 30th Annual Chocolate Fantasy, A Night in the Museum, Presented by KPMG held at the Museum welcomed 400 sponsors and guests.

Thirteen of New Mexico's most prestigious Chocolatiers competed for Best of Show in the Chocolate Sculpture competition, with "Grand Theft Artifact (The Stakes are High)" by Kris Mills and Jen Meyers taking the blue.

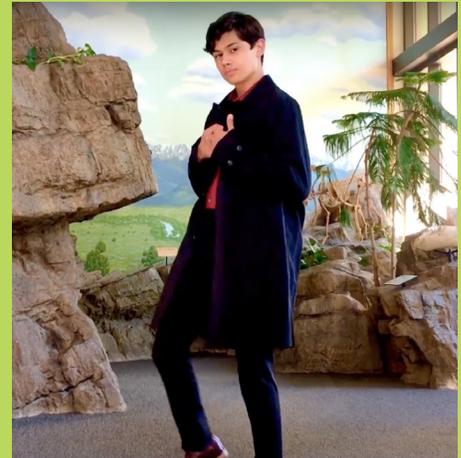
The entire Museum was the stage and guests enjoyed champagne, dining, dancing, and a live auction and online auction. More than \$155,000 was raised in support of the Foundation.



# CRETACEOUS COUTURE

The 9th Annual Cretaceous Couture Fashion Show, November 9, 2021 Presented by WaFd Bank and Co-Chaired by Christina Gopal and Janet Cook, featured fashions from Dillard's Winrock. Models representing our community of supporters, from toddlers to seniors, participated

in a "virtual" runway show, filmed entirely in the Museum! Not only were fashions showcased, but also all the exhibit halls and NatureWorks. An online auction attracted bidders from around the country and more than \$20,000 was raised in support of the Foundation's fundraising efforts.



Models Jade Vargas, Sonora Udell, and Julian Gopal during the 9th Annual Cretaceous Couture Fashion Show at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science

# STEAM TREK

The Foundation continued partnership with MacGillivray Freeman and Giant Screen Films, bringing STEAM Trek Virtual Field Trips to students throughout New Mexico.

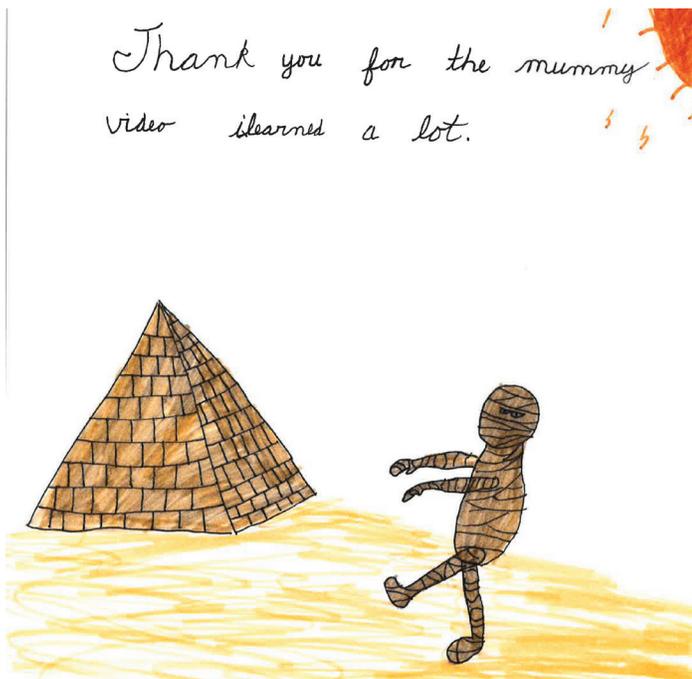
STEAM Trek allows teachers to virtually show films, normally shown in the Verus Research DynaTheater, in their classrooms across the state. Through this program students from remote areas of New Mexico have the opportunity to see these educational films regardless of their travel distance to Albuquerque.

The program uses the power of film to inspire, and educational activities that explore STEAM and cultural topics for every grade level making it easy for educators to provide a complete, well-rounded lesson plan for their students.

\$35,000 was raised from generous donors in support of this program, allowing the opportunity for 350 classrooms and over 10,500 students across New Mexico to participate at no cost to the schools, students or teachers. This program has received national attention and the Foundation looks forward to seeing it grow in the years ahead.



Thank you for letting us join the virtual field trip. We watched A Gigantic Adventure! Dinosaurs Alive! It was very fun to watch. We learned new information about dinosaurs. We live in New Mexico and it was awesome to hear those facts.



## NATUREWORKS

NatureWorks Museum Store realized profits exceeding those garnered during the DaVinci Exhibit months, surpassing the budgeted goal by more than \$146,000!

NatureWorks Museum Store continues to provide a quality shopping experience to all visitors, promising exceptional customer service and merchandise, featuring locally handmade items to creative and educational toys and products for the entire family.



NatureWorks staff members Lindsay Wikselaar, Dylan Neri, and Ian Hutchinson.  
Not pictured: Cecelia Torres and Ian Salazar

## VERUS RESEARCH DYNATHEATER

We were excited to once again have Verus Research as our presenting sponsor in the DynaTheater. This support has enabled us to upgrade equipment to better show amazing films on the giant screen in 3D.

The Verus Research DynaTheater reopened in July 2021, bringing back *Hidden Pacific*, a Giant Screen Films production, and sharing the Pacific Ocean’s most beautiful islands and marine national monuments with our audiences.

*Into America’s Wild*, a MacGillivray Freeman Film, premiered in September 2021, bringing the excitement of scenic byways, ancient homelands, secret gems, and hidden trails of America to the giant screen.

In December 2021 *Dinosaurs of Antarctica* by Giant Screen Films debuted after a long hold during the pandemic. Children can’t get enough of the lost prehistoric world of Gondwana!

And just in time for summer, *Sea Lions: Life by a Whisker*, a K2 Studios film engaged audiences with a look at the world of a rare Australian Sea Lion pup and her adventures.



## MUSEUM REPORT

### Gary Romero, Interim Executive Director

The Museum reopened to the public in 2022, and attendance has steadily increased each month. Museum scientists have returned to the field and are continuing to share research all over the world.

Volunteers were active even during the shutdown and completed a monumental task of reviewing over 900 scientific research papers to find where and how museum specimens have been cited. This data will help Museum staff and paleontologists from across the globe understand NMMNH specimens better.

Volunteers have returned to the Museum and training is now offered in person, online, hybrid, and on-demand through an online learning management system.

The Museum held two online webinars during the pandemic to update the public on the progress of the Mars Perseverance Rover and Ingenuity.

Guests from across New Mexico were able to enjoy temporary exhibits via virtual tours of “What’s the Buzz? Why Honeybees Matter” and “Dogs: A Science Tail.”

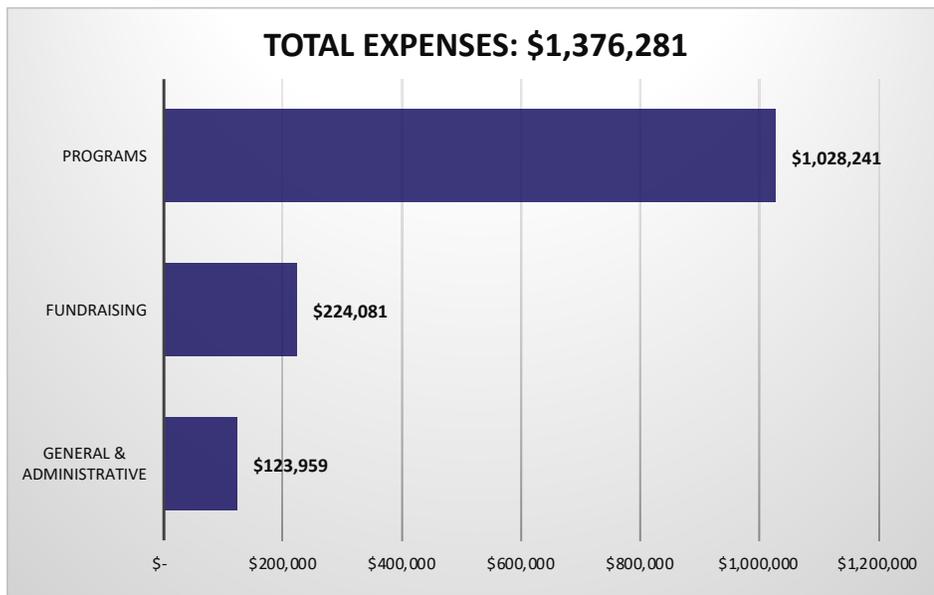
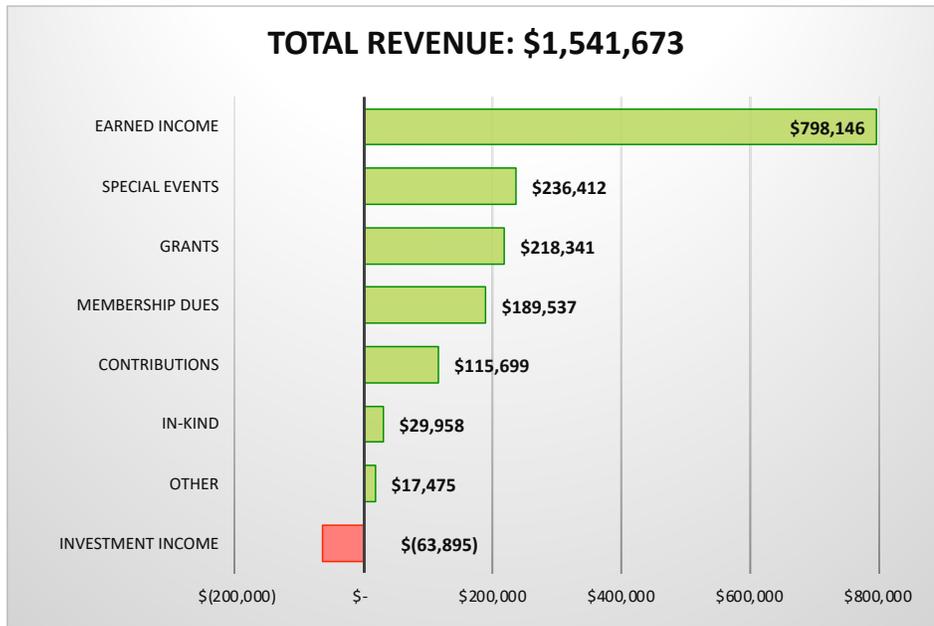
The Museum brought back sensory friendly nights called “Relaxed Nights” for guests who prefer to have reduced capacity and sound.

Throughout the shutdown, the Museum worked on increasing online presence and now has the ability to bring talks, presentations, and our collections to the public in a hybrid capacity.

**WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU**  
 Thank you to our sponsors and many individual donors!



# FINANCIALS



Fossil of a new sea scorpion species, *Hibbertopterus lamsdelli*, recently found in New Mexico.

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