

Annual Report 2023

FRIENDS OF NEVADA STATE MUSEUM LAS VEGAS



Friends, members, and supporters:

2023 was a year of positive change for the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. The biggest positive was the rebuilding of the staff to numbers approaching the pre-pandemic period. For the first time in several years, curator openings were filled; the maintenance and exhibitions staff was increased; and support positions were filled. Nothing makes the Friends happier than a full staff focused on improving museum activities and actively engaging with the public.

While the museum staff was being rebuilt, the Friends maintained fundraising and support activities, reaching new highs in a number of areas:

- Total funds raised \$46,819
- Two major grants were received - \$20,000 from the county and \$10,000 from the Lanie Albrecht Foundation.
- The Friends made major donations to the museum: manuscript scanner (2022 campaign); two large historical paintings that had hung in the museum prior to 2011; and an 1840's Rio Grande historical blanket for the Spanish Trail Exhibition.
- The Friends financially supported the Liberate exhibition, including the gala opening event.

Our major challenge remains to increase Friends membership and to attract younger members for new leadership positions.

Throughout the year, the Friends mission remained constant: Encourage, foster, and assist Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas programs and activities by volunteering, fundraising, and promoting community interest in the museum.

The museum staff is actively developing new long term goals for the future, including new exhibitions, community involvement activities, and new artifact requirements. As these evolve, the Friends specific goals will also change to support the museum's strategic direction.

During 2024, the Friends fundraising efforts will be focused on:

- Maintain and expand relationships with the OAG staff and the Lanie Albrecht Foundation in order to meet their objectives and obtain future grants.
- Work to obtain 1-2 new grants
- Hold the autumn auction, maintaining relationships with all current donors. Establish a stronger corporate commitment to the auction.
- Manage one major campaign during the summer to raise funds for a major artifact purchase for the museum.
- Hold three paint events at Pinot's Palette.
- Continue efforts with members for dues payment and participation in meeting events.



Annual Snapshot 2023



Fundraising Events

- Three Pinot's Palette painting events
- 32Club autumn event
- 32Club appreciation "Night at the Museum"
- Nick Saines' book sale
- Summer campaign to purchase the Rio Grande blanket (\$9750)
- Eleven member meetings/raffles with guest speakers
- Fall online silent auction (over 40 business donors (\$3,600))
- Four book fairs with Barnes & Noble (\$2,600+)
- County grant to support "Museums in a Box" and "Discovery Saturdays" (\$20,000)
- Private grant (Lanie Albrecht Foundation) to benefit education activities (\$10,000)

Grant Activities

- Awarded a \$20,000 grant by Clark County for “Museum in a Box” and “Discovery Saturday” activities.
- Provided “Museum in a Box” visits for over 15,000 students from 73 different schools.
- Hosted over 2,800 participants in “Discovery Saturdays.”
- Donated \$1,200 to provide museum giveaways for students attending field trips (bookmarks, pencils). More than 5,300 students attended, with 80% attending in the October to December period as field trips returned to full activity.
- Awarded a second \$10,000 grant by the Lanie Albrecht Foundation for education activities.
- Established an annual fund of \$1,500 for museum staff development/training.
- Provided over \$3,000 in supplies to the education department.



Annual Snapshot 2023

General Activities

- Red Rock Canyon bus tour for members
- Purchased and donated display artifacts to the museum: 2 historical paintings; 1840's Rio Grande blanket
- Developed our summer auction to focus on experiences in the Las Vegas area. Developed contacts and relationships with about 40 companies/museums. The auction was smaller, more focused, and more successful.
- Donated over \$1,100 to various museum areas to cover the costs of basic items outside of their budget (archive folders, maintenance supplies, etc.).
- Provided funding for the Liberace exhibit and for the exhibition grand opening reception.
- Mounted a continuously running TV on the wall next to the announcement board to improve communications to all visitors.
- Published 5 newsletters.
- Supplied funding and covered monthly costs to upgrade the museum's external communication platform.
- Supported the fall new Clark County School District teacher orientation session.
- Supported the store with new display stands and supplies to be sold.





Eleven Member Meetings with Speakers

- Red Rock Canyon NCA (Emily Ryan/Janis Kadlec – Interpretive Programming SNC)
- The Artistry of Pete Menefee – Karen Feder (President of Entertainment Enterprises)
- Gardens and projects in the Springs Preserve – Dan Secinaro (Preserve horticulture specialist)
- Transcontinental Railroads: affects and consequences - Christopher McMahon (Director Boulder City Railroad Museum)
- Discovery Trail Rides of Nevada - Samantha Szesciorka (Marketing, Nevada Museums)
- Evidence for Glaciation in the Spring Mountains – Nick Saines (Geologist/Friends member)
- Reptiles of the Desert – Lauren MacLeod (Urban Wildlife Coordinator, NDOW)
- New Ice Age Fossil Center – Dawn Reynoso (Park Interpreter)
- Nevada’s Mineral Industry and Abandoned Mines – Garrett Wake (Division of Minerals)
- Spanish Trail exhibition preview – Josef Diaz (curator)
- Hollis Gillespie and Jordan Cana reviewed museum and educational projects and successes

2023 by the Numbers

Museum-in-a-Box Shipments to and from Schools

163

Students Participating in Museum-in-a-Box Program

18,000+

298

Donors

48

Members

22

Events

\$46,819+

Money Raised

39.0 ● Fundraising Events
\$18,253

51.2 ● Grants
\$23,994

9.8 ● Members Meeting/Dues
\$4,572

Total Revenue
\$46,819



Programs
\$23,979 ● 50.8

Grants
\$17,438 ● 36.9

Administrative
\$5,792 ● 12.3

Total Expenses
\$47,209



Outlook for 2024

Outlook for 2024

The year 2023 saw continued growth and contribution by the Friends to the museum

- Artifact purchases and contributions (Rio Grande blanket).
- Exhibition support (Liberace exhibition and opening reception).
- Education programs (Day of the Dead activities).
- Operational supplies (store display stands and archival folders).
- Museum in a Box and Discovery Saturdays.

These activities required \$40,000+ in expenses. This could not have been achieved without the support of all Friends members and donors. The board thanks you for your support in all these endeavors. We continue to be pleased and gratified by your support for all the activities the board has chosen to pursue.

A real positive for 2023 (and a continuation of 2022) has been the rebuilding of the museum staff to pre-pandemic levels. The board has been impressed with the staff additions and is pleased with their openness to working with the Friends. The board believes the staff is poised to do great things in the future to improve the museum's offerings and outreach.





Your Board of Directors has established the following objectives for 2024:

1. Continue to support and grow the “Museums in a Box” to be a premier educational tool for Clark County School District.
2. Support the education staff in making the “Discovery Saturday” activities and events an outstanding experience for young people so that it is a strong draw for increasing museum attendance,
3. Continue to seek and obtain grants to support Friends activities.
4. Work with museum staff to increase and improve communications with the public.
5. Work with museum staff in establishing a process for attracting more attendance from local community citizens.
6. Develop and increase corporate sponsorship of the Autumn Auction
7. Continue to work closely with the 32Club as a primary fund-raising avenue for 2024.
8. Work diligently to identify potential officers for the 2025/2026 time period, as the current officers’ terms expire at the end of 2024.

The Board looks forward to working with the museum staff to help achieve its objectives and to become a favored visit destination for Las Vegas residents.