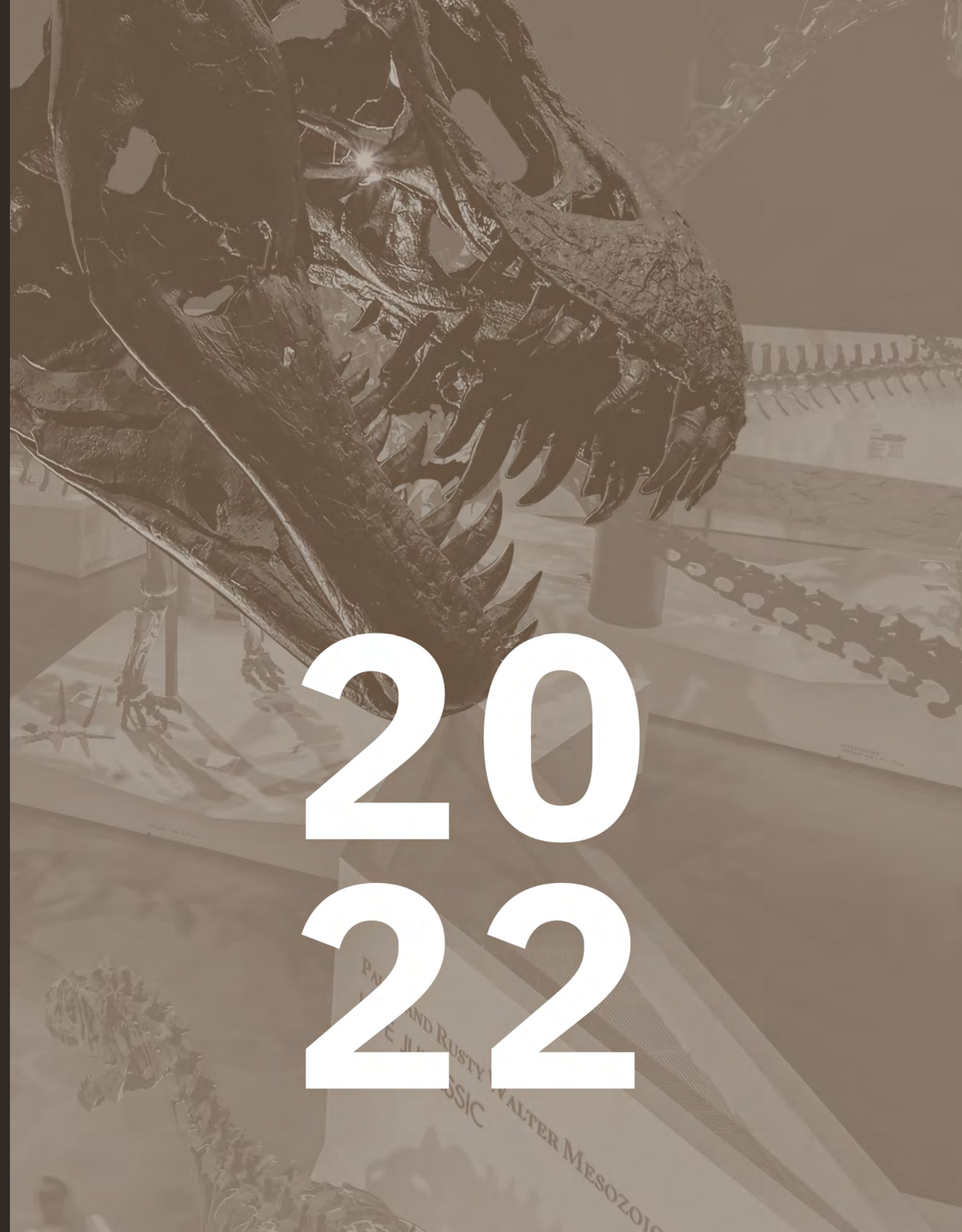




**ANNUAL
REPORT**



HOUSTON MUSEUM
of NATURAL SCIENCE



20
22

PALEOGENE AND RUSTY
THE JURASSIC
WALTER MESOZOIC



HMNS AT HERMANN PARK
5555 Hermann Park Dr.
Houston, Texas 77030
713-639-4629

HMNS AT SUGAR LAND
13016 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
281-313-2277

GEORGE OBSERVATORY
21901 FM 762 Rd.
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HMNS.ORG

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Joel A. Bartsch, *HMNS President and CEO*
 Jody Vaughan, *HMNS Guild President*

Letter from the President

“The mission of the Houston Museum of Natural Science shall be to preserve and advance the general knowledge of natural science; to enhance in individuals the knowledge of and delight in natural science and related subjects; and to maintain and promote a museum of the first class.”

In order to keep pace with this ambitious mission statement, we are continuously improving our educational programming, reimagining and updating our permanent and traveling exhibitions, and strengthening our collections to focus on the finest-quality pieces obtainable. And it is not an empty platitude when I say that we simply cannot do any of this without our community of supporters. As such, on behalf of the entire staff and board of trustees, thank you for all that you do for the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

As illustrated in the coming pages, our 2022 was a time of reflection, celebration, and preparation:

Reflecting on one of the most important milestones of HMNS, this year’s cover commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Morian Hall of Paleontology. Ultramodern, educational, and engaging in its design, the Morian Paleo Hall set a new bar not only for paleo halls worldwide, but most importantly for all HMNS exhibits. Since then, we have been steadily renovating all of our permanent halls to align with this elevated standard, incorporating the newest technology and the finest representations of artifacts and objects.

We celebrated the new McGovern Hall of the Americas in September. The reimagined hall is the result of diligent and conscientious work from our staff, as well as our critical partnership with an Indigenous Advisory Group. Their guidance

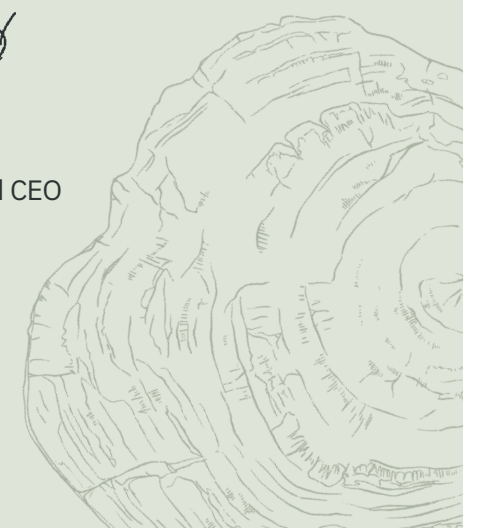
was indispensable in creating an authentic space to share the diversity, achievements, and resilience of the Native peoples of the Americas. We also opened the blockbuster exhibit, *King Tut’s Tomb Discovery Experience*, in October. *King Tut* welcomed more than 57,000 visitors in its first three months and is on track to become one of the most successful in-house exhibitions in HMNS history.

As the Museum hosts an increasing number of visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and learning preferences, we have spent much of the year preparing to become fully accessible to *all* guests. We prioritized facility upgrades; expanded the ever-growing *Sensory Friendly Events* to HMNS at Sugar Land; and created the Museum’s first custom tactile object for *King Tut*, which will serve as a blueprint in future exhibit development.

While HMNS is constantly evolving...we remain grateful for YOU. Thank you again for your past, present, and (hopefully!) future support of HMNS.



Joel A. Bartsch
 HMNS President and CEO



Year in Review



2,777
SENSORY FRIENDLY
EVENT ATTENDEES



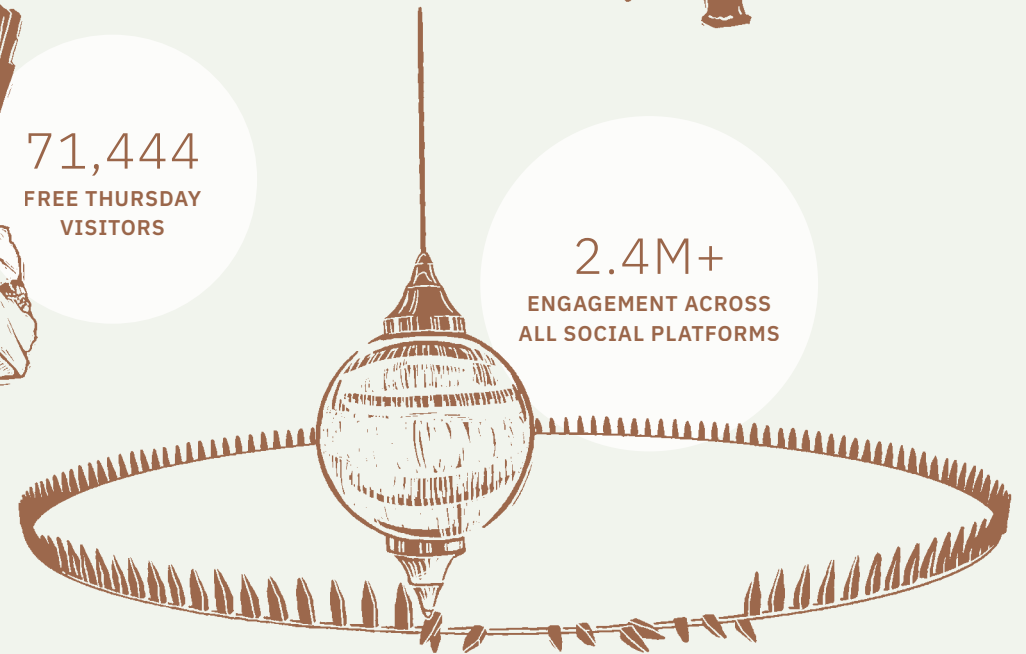
George Observatory

12,117
NEW MEMBER
HOUSEHOLDS

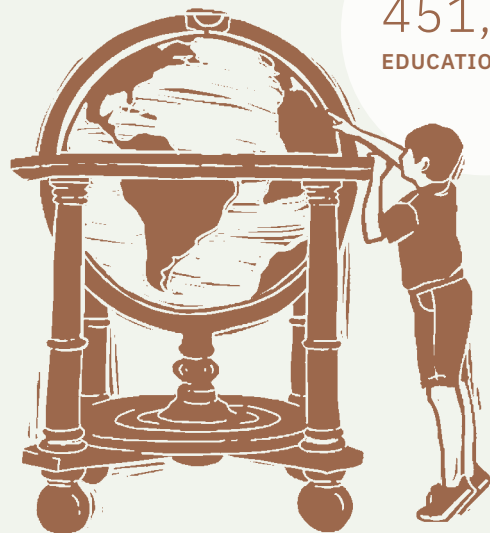


71,444
FREE THURSDAY
VISITORS

2.4M+
ENGAGEMENT ACROSS
ALL SOCIAL PLATFORMS



451,199
EDUCATION REACH



2,022
FIELD TRIPS



6,395
SUMMER CAMPERS
AND SCOUTS



594
VOLUNTEERS

including
127
MORAN
ECOTEENS

dedicating
46K+
HOURS



Education

Education programs at HMNS are designed to engage and empower students, teachers, and lifelong learners. These transformative experiences are consistently evaluated and redeveloped in conjunction with school needs, scientific discoveries, and emerging technologies. More than 450,000 people were served through our 2022 programming, marking an official return to pre-pandemic impact levels.

YOUTH EDUCATION



FIELD TRIPS

The majority of Houston’s K-12 schools resumed in-person field trips to the Museum in the spring, leading to a surge in demand in May and continuous rise through 2022. Overall, total programs booked increased by 202% from 2021. Staff were delighted to see field trips being reintegrated into curriculums, allowing them to provide students and teachers with new, enriching activities during the school year.

275K+
FIELD TRIP
VISITORS

+202%
from 2021

HISD PROGRAM

HMNS has served the largest school district in Texas for over six decades through the Houston Independent School District field trip program. This half-day museum experience provides every HISD 4th grader with a hands-on science lab, interactive Planetarium show, and guided exhibit tour. Content is developed by HISD educators in accordance with the District’s academic objectives.

Supported by Transocean

14K+
HISD PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

SUMMER CAMPS

An astounding 5,207 spots were booked for 2022 Summer Camps, setting all-time records at both Hermann Park and Sugar Land. In order to better understand program efficacy and overall parent satisfaction, staff conducted pre- and post-program surveys. Almost every respondent reported a positive science identity in their child both before and after camp. They also continually recognized the quality of camp teachers, with 90 percent likely to recommend the program to others. In addition to helping inform future programming, the surveys illustrate the positive impact that Summer Camps has on engaging science-oriented kids and fostering their love of learning.



“The daily projects and activities were age appropriate, but fun and engaging, and my son absolutely loved bringing his projects home and sharing them with our family.” –CAMP PARENT

“I’m going to try to have my parents let me come every year.”

–CAMPER, AGE 7



SCOUTS@HMNS

The Museum provided badge classes and enrichment events to 2,664 scouts in 2022, with in-person participation increasing by seven percent. New classes were added in the summer to offer troops a wider array of learning opportunities: Strategy & Exploration, Archeology, Mining in Society, and Soil & Water Conservation.

Supported by Oxy



ADULT EDUCATION



800
ATTENDEES

19
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

203
ATTENDEES

23
FALL 2022 PREVIEW

EDUCATOR EVENTS

Shell Educators' Previews offer teachers a private evening at HMNS to enjoy the latest exhibits and workshops. Museum staff are able to connect directly with community educators and provide them with additional networking and advancement opportunities. Nearly 100 percent of attendees serve students from underrepresented and/or economically disadvantaged communities.

TRAVEL: DINO DIG 2022

The HMNS travel program offers an array of enriching opportunities across the globe. In July, Education and Paleo staff partnered with the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research to host a six-day dinosaur excavation at Waugh Quarry (WY). Legendary paleontologist Peter Larsen led the expedition and BHIGR staff provided detailed guidance to participants.



DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Twice monthly, the world's leading experts are invited to HMNS to present a dynamic lecture in their field. Topics cover a variety of scientific and cultural disciplines, including archaeology, paleontology, astronomy, and conservation.

Supported by Apache Corporation



21
LECTURES &

1,748
ATTENDEES

GEMS

The *Girls Exploring Math and Science* (GEMS) event is held annually with the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council to help bridge the STEM gender gap and empower young women. Girls of all ages are invited to speak with industry professionals and participate in science demonstrations and activities. Select participants also receive the opportunity to present a science project and win a prize for their classroom, science lab, or Scout troop.

Supported by Lockheed Martin



1,859
ATTENDEES



EXPEDITION CENTER / EXXONMOBIL CAREER CHALLENGE

The HMNS Expedition Center transforms visitors into space explorers through a simulated journey to the Moon or Mars. During these team-building challenges, which are based on NASA training programs, participants must utilize their critical thinking skills to complete a successful space mission. Missions can be modified for all age groups.

The ExxonMobil Career Challenge program provides every HISD 6th grader with the opportunity to participate in an expedition. By modeling real-world STEM careers, students receive valuable exposure to the different professional pathways available in Houston.

1,025 CAREER CHALLENGE STUDENTS

133
EXPEDITION CENTER MISSIONS

Accessibility

HMNS is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all. This objective informs every initiative of the Museum—from designing exhibits and education programming to upgrading amenities and access points.



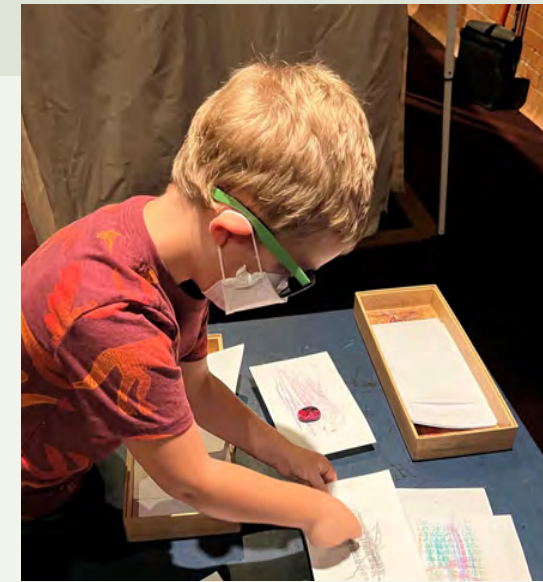
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TOUCH TOURS

Touch Tours, complimentary tactile experiences offered to blind and low-vision visitors, resumed in June following a two-year pandemic hiatus. These tours are conducted by HMNS educators who use detailed verbal descriptions and educational objects to guide attendees through exhibits. Thirty people attended the Egyptology tour in June, the largest group in the program's history.

Through the support of the National Federation of the Blind, FedEx, and the Junior League of Houston, Inc., the Museum's first-ever custom tactile object was created for *King Tut's Tomb Discovery Experience*. The full-size replica of King Tut's second sarcophagus lid features Braille labels and touch sensors that relay audio information in English and Spanish.



In August, a special Sensory Friendly Morning was held at Sugar Land for a group of immunocompromised children.

SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Sensory Friendly Events officially expanded to the Sugar Land campus in January. Exhibits were adjusted to be as sensory neutral as possible, and guests were provided exploration planners, visual vocabulary cards, and sensory backpacks. April's event at Hermann Park saw the program's second-highest attendance, with 736 guests.

Supported by the Joan and Stanford Alexander Family Fund

6

EVENTS

with

2,777

ATTENDEES

FACILITIES

Several facility upgrades were completed throughout the year. Additional seating areas and automatic doors were installed across the Museum, and a Lactation Room was created for nursing parents and caregivers. AccessHMNS, our visitor app with resources such as sensory maps and communication icons, was updated to include HMNS at Sugar Land.

1,899

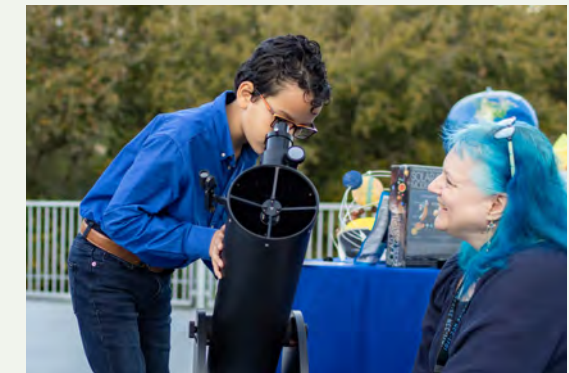
NEW APP
USERS

"My kids were jumping up and down with excitement. We felt so safe and it was absolutely incredible."

—SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENT ATTENDEE

PARTNERSHIPS

The Museum partners with a number of local organizations to support young adults in the workforce with disabilities and neurological differences. This year, staff worked with students from the Texas Workforce Commission's Paving the Pathway to Success Program to develop a Butterfly Center audio guide for the blind community. Following the program, two students were hired to work for the Museum.



We had the privilege to work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation twice in 2022—first to give Emmanuel a private telescope viewing at the George Observatory, then to create a behind-the-scenes paleontology experience for Travis at Hermann Park.

13

Collections

In 2022, a total of 252 pieces were accepted into the Museum's permanent collection.

ANTHROPOLOGY

The department focused the majority of its efforts on the McGovern Hall of the Americas renovation. Several important gifts and acquisitions were made to support the exhibit with a mix of contemporary artworks and ancient artifacts. A detailed look at the hall is found on pg. 22. In the fall, a new docent presentation and display area was added to the Hall of Ancient Egypt.



Fig. 1

¹ FEATHERED PONCHO

FEATHERS ON WOVEN COTTON GROUND CLOTH
INCA CULTURE, PERU • 200–600 A.D.

The Inca Empire created a highly advanced road system that permitted extensive trading of goods, such as birds from the Amazon basin whose feathers were used to create this poncho. Extremely arid conditions in the region preserved the textile for centuries.

Gift of William Siegal



Fig. 2

² BREASTPLATE FRAGMENT

TOUCAN PELT, BEAK, AND FEATHERS; PLANT
FIBER; SEEDS • MAINA, PERU • 1950–2000 A.D.

The Maina are an Indigenous group residing along the Marañón River in South America. This toucan was part of a larger breastplate worn by Maina shamans during healing rituals. Acculturation has resulted in the loss of traditional practices and, consequently, the creation and use of these breastplates.

Gift of Sandy Hill Markham



Fig. 3

³ AMPHORISKOS

CORE-FORMED GLASS • 19TH DYNASTY
NEW KINGDOM EGYPT • CA. 1292–1185 B.C.

Core-formed glass vessels (made by coating a form with molten glass) were luxuries created for the Egyptian royal court. This small jar is an example of some of the earliest glass known. The rich colors and lustrous surfaces imitate gemstones such as turquoise and lapis lazuli.



Fig. 4

⁴ MASK

STONE • TEOTIHUACAN CULTURE • CENTRAL
MEXICO • 250–650 A.D.

The Basin of Mexico gave rise to two prominent pre-contact civilizations: Teotihuacan and the Mexica (Aztec). Both are known for their monumental architecture, constructing some of the largest pyramids in the Americas. The use for this stone mask is still unknown, as very few of them have been discovered.

Gift of William Siegal

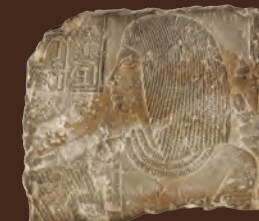


Fig. 5

⁵ RELIEF FRAGMENT

LIMESTONE • 18TH DYNASTY, REIGN OF KING
AY/HOREMHEB AB • EGYPT • 1323–1292 B.C.

This Egyptian relief fragment depicts a man wearing the elite Collar of Honor, a garment with pleated sleeves, and wig of spiral curls. An inscription at left designates him as "...true of voice." Part of a large floral bouquet at right indicates that his wife was buried by his side.

PALEONTOLOGY

The department traveled to several fossil sites around the nation for research and education projects, including an Adult Education excursion to Waugh Quarry (pg. 11) and a trip to a Jurassic bone bed in Utah. In collaboration with the Museu de Zoologia in São Paulo, Brazil, detailed scanning and analysis continues on pieces from the HMNS Green River collection, including the finest-known bat and snake specimens.

⁶ COELACANTH FOSSIL IN MATRIX

SOLNHOFEN, GERMANY

This fossil of the deep-sea dwelling Coelacanth is approximately 150 million years old. It hails from the famed Solnhofen lithographic limestone and features exquisitely preserved skull and fins. At just over 17 inches in length, it would have been a feared predator of the smaller fish and cephalopod prey in the Jurassic lagoons where it thrived.

Acquisition made possible by Paula and Rusty Walter



Fig. 6

MINERALOGY

Initial planning stages are underway for the renovation of the Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals. In the spring, major pieces from the McFerrin Fabergé collection were loaned to the Victoria and Albert Museum for the exhibition, *Fabergé in London: Romance to Revolution*. The Vaughan Family Foundation enriched the Museum's jewelry collection with a set of Russian Imperial Jewels from the reign of Catherine the Great.



Fig. 7

⁷ LADY-IN-WAITING PIN

SILVER AND GOLD BROOCH WITH DIAMONDS
IMPERIAL RUSSIA • CA. 1860

During the Russian Empire, women of the Imperial Family were served by “ladies-in-waiting,” who wore diamond pins of the Empress' or Grand Duchess' initials. This open-work brooch features the letters “MA” for empresses Maria and Alexandra Feodorovna, surmounted by the Imperial Crown and a blue moire ribbon.



Fig. 8

⁸ STAR OF THE GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER OF ST. CATHERINE

DIAMONDS AND ENAMEL • IMPERIAL RUSSIA
CA. 1780

The Order of Saint Catherine was the only award in Imperial Russia for women, established by Peter the Great to commemorate the bravery of his wife, Catherine I, during the Russian-Turkish campaign of 1711. This Star is a segment of the complete Order (which includes a ribbon and badge) and is encircled with the motto: “For Love and for the Fatherland.”



Fig. 9

⁹ LION CARVING

PAUL DREHER • SERPENTINE STONE
IDAR-OBERSTEIN, GERMANY • CA. 1935

When a journeyman wishes to advance to master craftsman, they must submit a work to their guild for evaluation. This lion was the piece that master carver Paul Dreher created for his evaluation. As explained by his grandson, Patrick: “It is not an expensive gemstone, but it is historically interesting because it is my grandfather's journeyman piece.”

Gift of Patrick Dreher

MALACOLOGY

Malacology staff collaborated with the Galveston Bay Society and Texas A&M Corpus Christi on oyster reef conservation and reconstruction methods in the Gulf Coast. Work also continues on “Eastern Seaboard: Mobilizing Millions of Mollusks,” the National Science Foundation project to geo-reference 4.5 million mollusk specimens from major collections in the U.S.



Fig. 10

¹⁰ CYPRAEA AURANTIUM (GOLDEN COWRIE)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

This shell is an outstanding example of the coveted Golden Cowrie. Although a popular collector's shell, the species can no longer be legally collected and is protected in many countries such as the Philippines.

Gift of Susan Dufour

VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

In February, Vert Zoo staff collaborated with the Social Media team on a birding trip to the Rio Grande Valley, where they spotted the first bat falcon recorded in the U.S. The Museum also hosted leading conservation biologists for the Avian Conservation and Ecology Symposium in May. Through the generosity of the Glassell Family Foundation, a restricted endowment fund has been established to support the department's ongoing work.



Fig. 11

¹¹ MOUNT OF ECOTOPISTES MIGRATORIUS (PASSENGER PIGEON)

MOUNTED CA. 1850-1890

The Vertebrate Zoology team located these passenger pigeon specimens for the special exhibition, *Transcending Audubon*. Although once the most prolific birds in North America, they were eradicated by 1900 due to widespread hunting. It is believed that their extinction led to stronger conservation laws in the 20th century.

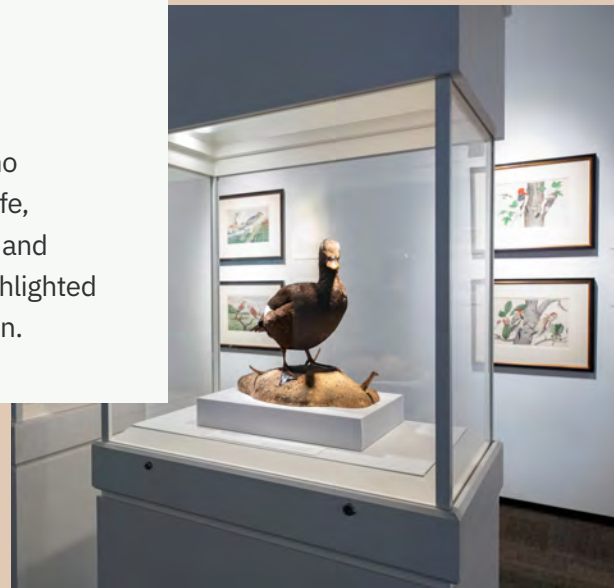
Acquired through the HMNS Volunteer Guild's annual Golden Gift award

Special Exhibitions

TRANSCENDING AUDUBON: REX BRASHER'S INSPIRATION

APRIL 29 – OCTOBER 10, 2022

Rex Brasher was one of America's great avian artists, who painted from direct observation. Over the course of his life, he completed 875 works representing all 1,200 species and subspecies of birds in North America. This exhibition highlighted 29 of the watercolor pieces from the Museum's collection.



TRAINS OVER TEXAS

NOVEMBER 18, 2022 – JANUARY 8, 2023

All aboard for this seasonal HMNS favorite! *Trains over Texas* moves through the major cities and unique landmarks of our state by O scale model trains, including oil country salt domes, prairies and wetlands, and national monuments.

Supported by Glen Rosenbaum and Union Pacific Foundation

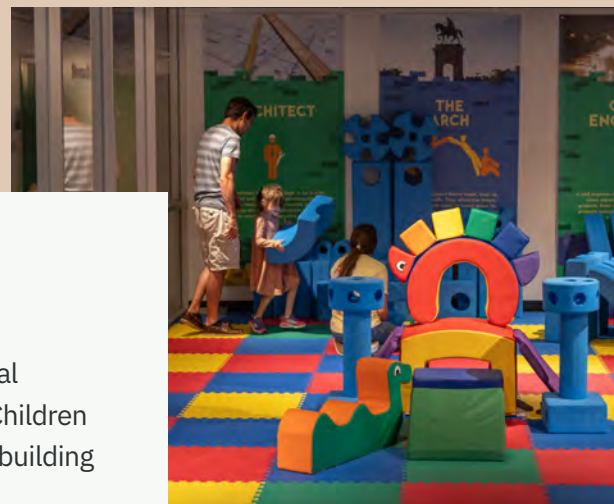


EXPEDITION EGYPT

MAY 27 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

With a focus on hands-on learning, *Expedition Egypt* challenged Sugar Land visitors to become junior archaeologists and solve the Riddle of the Sphinx. Guests delved into unique mythologies, engineered their own pyramids, and mastered the hieroglyphic alphabet.

Supported by the Fort Bend Junior Service League



BLOCK PARTY, TOO

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 – JANUARY 16, 2023

Block Party, Too returned to Sugar Land with an additional toddler zone focused on early childhood development. Children explored the worlds of architecture and construction by building their own gravity-defying masterpieces.



DREHER MASTERWORKS

JUNE 3, 2022 – MAY 29, 2023

The collection of carvings from four generations of the Dreher family are widely regarded as the world's best examples of lapidary art. These lifelike sculptures are crafted with exquisite detail from gemstones and minerals such as ruby, sapphire, garnet, topaz, and agate. Over 120 pieces were showcased in this exhibition, many of which had never been displayed publicly.



KING TUT'S TOMB: DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 28, 2022 – ONGOING

Travel back to 1922 and experience one of the most remarkable discoveries in history: King Tutankhamun's tomb. In this immersive exhibition, guests are transported to the Valley of the Kings alongside Howard Carter and engrossed in the tomb's burial chambers, golden treasures, and floor-to-ceiling hieroglyphs. Every element of *King Tut* was built to exact scale, with object reproductions and never-before-seen photos provided by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities.

Supported by Woodforest National Bank, the John P. McGovern Foundation, the Harriet and Truett Latimer Endowment Fund, and HMW Entertainment



KING TUT'S TOMB DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

CREATORS & COLLABORATORS

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
Griffith Institute
Larysa Bekka - University of Oxford
American Research Center in Egypt
Wahne Chan, Theban Mapping Project
Christian Eckmann and Katja Brosschot
RoutLab - 640Designs - Taylor Shows Services
Mendocino Woodworks - gFORCE Animation, Inc.
Tactile Images - 3DPhotoWorks
Thomas Printworks



John P. McGovern Hall of the Americas

The new John P. McGovern Hall of the Americas opened on September 24. Our longstanding exhibit was reimagined to better illustrate the diversity of Indigenous cultures and bring contemporary voices to the forefront.

Over 600 belongings are showcased throughout, with storylines covering a timespan from the Ice Age to present day. Visitors can further immerse themselves through interactive displays, animated projections, and videos highlighting modern-day Indigenous trailblazers.

Several works were commissioned especially for the space. A ceremonial Chilkat robe by Tlingit artist Lily Hope demonstrates one of the most complex and ancient weaving techniques in the world, kept alive by a small group of people. In the center of the exhibit stands an Inuksuk by Inuit artist Peter Irniq. These sacred stone monuments were traditionally used as navigational tools and are still

constructed today. Both works reiterate the hall's guiding themes: the resilience of Indigenous communities and their presence in the Americas since time immemorial.

The exhibit also brings light to issues that still threaten today's communities, including intergenerational trauma from residential school systems and the disproportionate violence committed against Indigenous women. As illustrated by the hall's curator Dr. Dirk van Tuerenhout: "It's important for people to learn the full history of these painful events, not just the history we've been accustomed to understanding."

We hope that the new Hall of the Americas will provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Native cultures and give the more than 60,000 Indigenous people that call Houston home a space that honors their history.

"This collaboration is a prime example of a new model for museums—to work together in friendship with Indigenous peoples to share the stories of our peoples, to show how we have survived against all odds, and to share the lessons of our cultures with all people. We can breathe life into our own histories, because after all, we are still here."

—BERTNEY LANGLEY, MEMBER OF THE COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

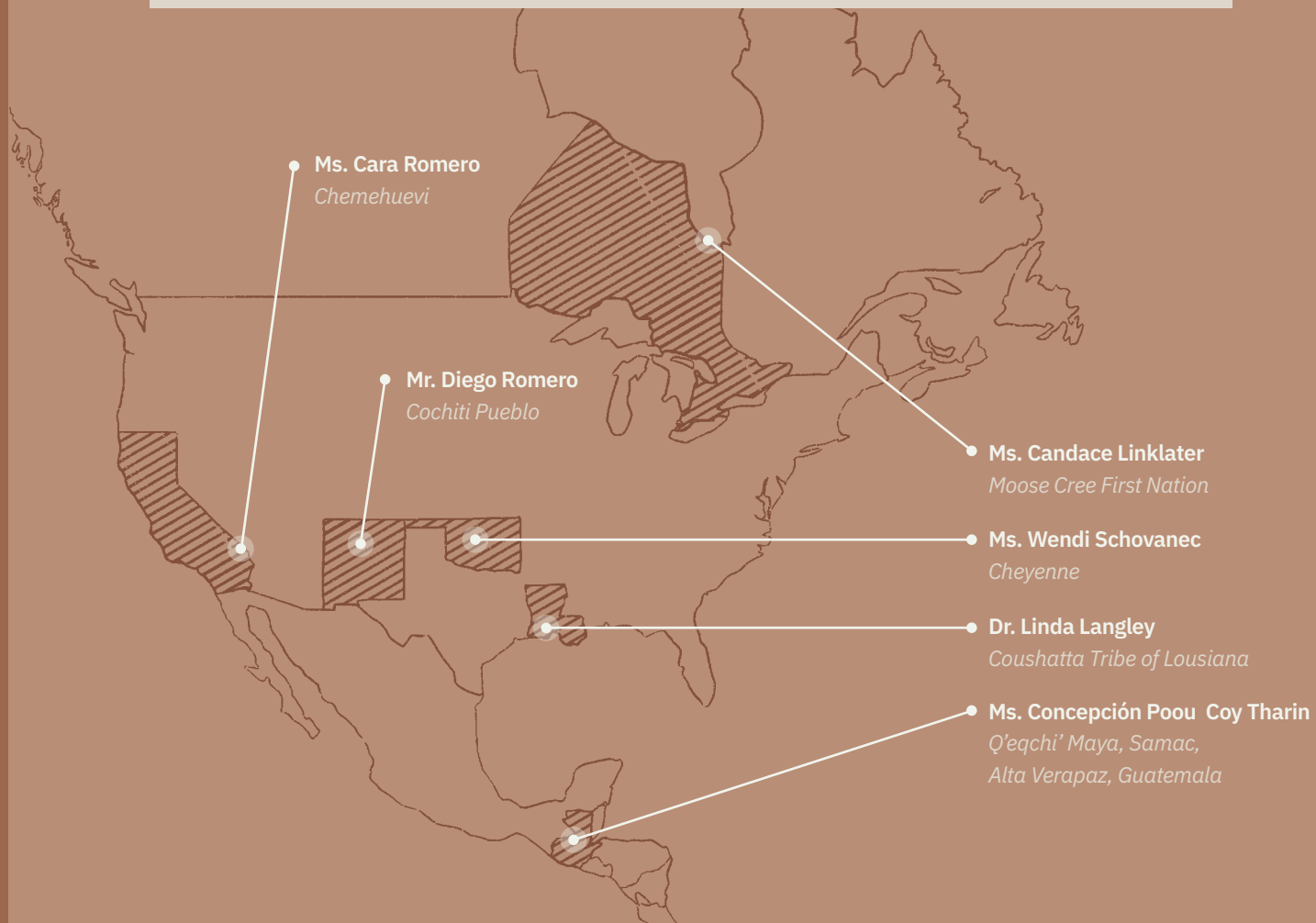


Renovated through the generosity of Kathrine McGovern / McGovern Foundation, Dan L Duncan Foundation, and David Michael Autin



INDIGENOUS ADVISORY GROUP

The McGovern Hall of the Americas was developed in close collaboration with an Indigenous Advisory Group, representing six Tribes throughout North and Central America. In addition to providing their invaluable personal stories, they reviewed the hall's content to ensure that perspectives were accurately represented. We express our sincerest gratitude to these individuals for their knowledge and collaboration.



OPENING WEEK

Several special events were held during opening week, including a blessing ceremony and performance by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, as well as a media day with the hall's artists and members of the Advisory Group. Press coverage included the *Houston Chronicle*, KHOU Channel 11, Houston Public Media Town Square, and others.



Artist Lily Hope (third from left) stands with family members and the hall's curator during the transfer ceremony of her Chilkat robe. During this ceremony, the robe is danced and infused with life. Special permission was granted from Tlingit elders to hold the ceremony at the Museum.



Artist Peter Irniq stands with the Inuksuk he created for the hall.

10 YEARS

Celebrating the Morian Hall of Paleontology

The Morian Hall of Paleontology debuted to the public in June of 2012. One decade and millions of visitors later, it remains one of the largest and most dynamic paleontology displays in the nation and a hallmark of HMNS.

The iconic exhibit is unique in its open design and dramatic elements, taking visitors on a “prehistoric safari” through life on earth. Dinosaur skeletons are arranged throughout in action poses—chasing, fighting, flying—while custom art illustrates their primeval habitats. From mega sloths to miniscule trilobites, the hall features many of the finest pieces in the Museum’s collection.

The Morian Paleo Hall continues to evolve as the Museum expands its collection and educational programs. The Paleo Prep Lab opened in 2018, allowing visitors to observe and interact with staff as they scan and prep fossils for display. The *Still Life After Death* Gallery was added to the hall in 2020 to showcase the Museum’s growing collection of exemplary pieces from the Eocene Green River Formation.

LANE

“Lane” is one of the most complete *Triceratops* specimens in existence, as well as one of the only dinosaurs ever found with patches of fossilized skin.





7K+ TOURS AND LECTURES



HOME OF THE TRILOBITES

The hall features one of the world's most comprehensive trilobite displays. These marine arthropods existed for over 250 million years and were some of the earliest-known complex life forms.



AXESTEMYS BYSSINUS

This soft-shell turtle died approximately 50 million years ago, mostly likely from a cancer still visible as lumps along its carapace. It required five employees over three months to complete the turtle's excavation, lab prep, and display.

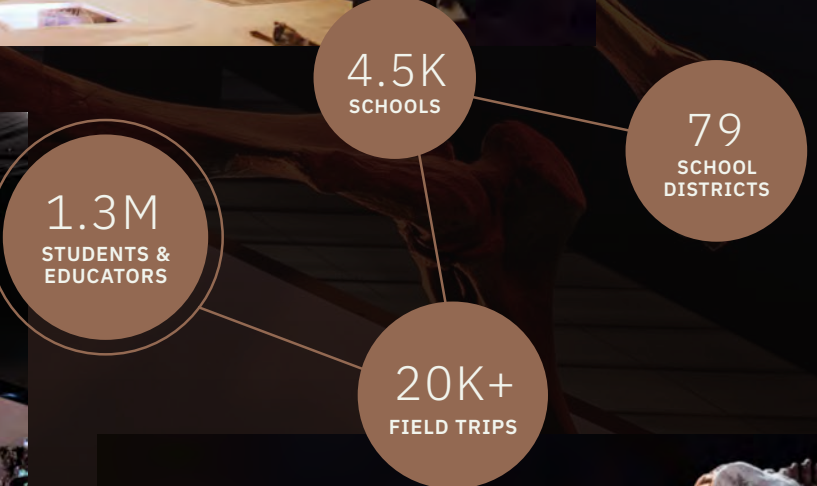


LIMNOFREGATA HASEGAWAI

This frigate bird fossil is the oldest known specimen of its kind, with impeccably preserved feathers. All living frigate birds can trace their ancestry back to the species fossilized here.

THE MARCHAND BLOCK

This Late Cretaceous bone bed was excavated from the Marchand Quarry of Wyoming. It consists of herbivorous duckbill bones and shed teeth from multiple carnivores, including *T. rex* (direct evidence that *T. rex* was at that location 66 million years ago).



WYREX

"Wyrex" is an original bone specimen found with the best-preserved hands and feet of any *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered. The rear half of Wyrex's tail is missing, likely bitten off before its death.



Venues



267,145 COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER VISITORS

COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER

The Cockrell Butterfly Center had an excellent start to the year, selling more tickets than any first quarter since 2007. Its accompanying outreach program, Bugs on Wheels, delivered 86 presentations to 16,431 people. Visitation to the Butterfly Center continued steadily until September, when it closed for renovations. Work included replacing the Conservatory glass, repaving and widening pathways, and restoring the central kapok tree.

In April, staff unveiled the new Community Science Garden, supported by the Susan Vaughan Foundation. The immersive green space is located next to the Conservatory and features detailed plant and wildlife signage, as well as wheelchair-accessible pathways. It is also the Museum's newest Citizen Science initiative—guests can upload their wildlife photos to the iNaturalist app for staff to identify and document.

The Butterfly Center is generously supported by The Cockrell Foundation and The Garden Club of Houston.



189,715 BURKE BAKER PLANETARIUM VISITORS

BURKE BAKER PLANETARIUM AND THE WORTHAM GIANT SCREEN THEATRE

Both the Burke Baker Planetarium and Wortham Giant Screen Theatre experienced attendance highs in 2022, attributed in large part to an increase in field trips and return to full-capacity operations. In order to build on this momentum and grow the Museum's evening audience base, new programming opportunities were explored.

In March, the Astronomy Department debuted *Astronomy Under the Stars*, free guided telescope viewings at the Cockrell Sundial. This program has allowed Museum staff to deliver mini educational experiences to the general public, and due to popular demand, versions for member and adult education groups were created.



97,043 WORTHAM GIANT SCREEN THEATRE VISITORS

HMNS at Sugar Land

HMNS at Sugar Land enjoyed a record summer in 2022, with exhibit halls experiencing their highest visitation since 2016 and Summer Camps welcoming the largest group of students to date.

Throughout the year, staff focused on expanding Saturday nature programming: complimentary educational activities ranging from games and crafts for children to in-depth gardening classes for adults. The new Outdoor Classroom and Pollinator Garden have been instrumental in augmenting these programs and accommodating more participants.



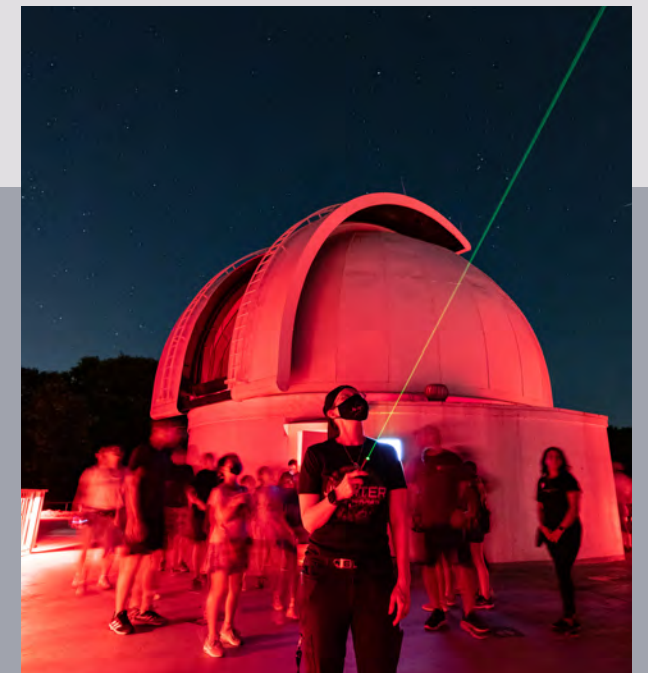
Jingle Tree 2022, presented by Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital and chaired by Stacy Dunn Borgfeldt and Pam Duggan Gray, shattered prior records with 926 guests and **\$104,409** raised for operating funds. A portion of the proceeds also provided complimentary admission for families to Sugar Land's *Sensory Friendly Events*.



In September, over 200 guests participated in Sugar Land's annual Fossil Wash Day. Children screened and prepped real Permian sediments with the HMNS Paleontology team.

George Observatory

Since reopening in 2021, the George Observatory has had remarkable success with its weekly *Saturday Stargazing* events. A special *Starry Night: VIP Experience* was created for smaller groups to meet the high demand. Over two-thirds of all *Stargazing* weekends in 2022 sold out and saw a total of 8,076 attendees.

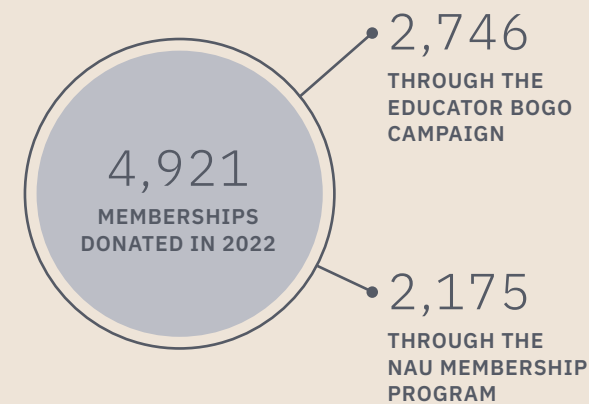
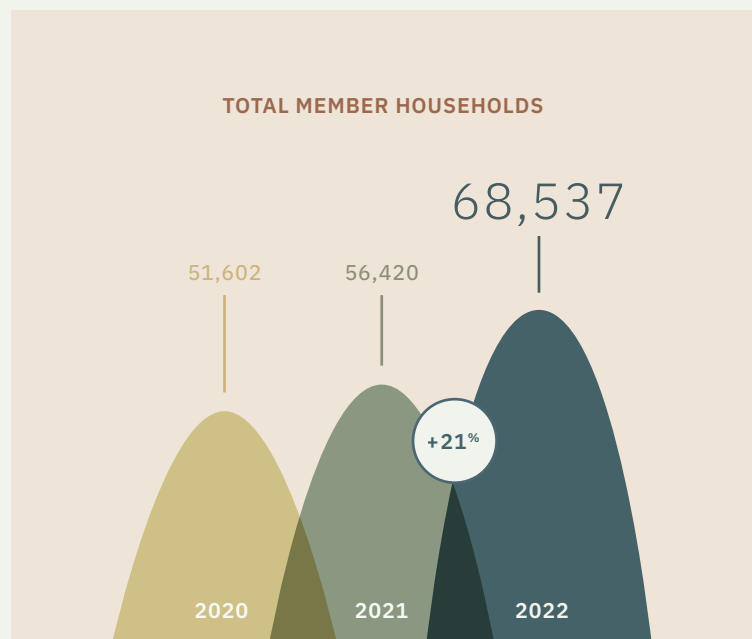




Membership

The HMNS member community grew to 68,537 households this year, marking the most significant annual growth in the Museum’s history and a 21 percent increase over 2021.

To show appreciation for ongoing member support, a variety of members-only events were held throughout the year. September's Member Appreciation Month featured special coupons, Store discounts, and exclusive access to education programming. More than 1,500 coupons to exhibits, venues, and the parking garage were redeemed. In addition, on every Monday in the summer, vouchers for the Planetarium, Giant Screen Theatre, and Butterfly Center were dropped into member accounts. Members utilized 1,373 vouchers, nearly 300 more than in 2021.



A total of 2,746 memberships were donated during the third annual Educator Buy One, Give One campaign. This special promotion donates a membership to an educator of choice for every Family-level membership purchased in September. Thanks to our Sugar Land location and growing presence in Fort Bend County, Fort Bend ISD teachers were the year’s largest recipient group.



Through the generous support of Bobbie Nau and John L. Nau, III, HMNS was able to provide 2,175 complimentary Family-level memberships to *Free Thursday* visitors in the spring. This program has allowed the Museum to connect with families that may not be able to visit outside of free hours. Of the recipients, 69 percent reside in areas with median incomes less than \$100,000 and 20 percent in areas with median incomes at or below the poverty line. These new members have been returning to the Museum three times faster than other member groups and have booked more than 18,000 additional tickets to programs, venues, and special exhibits.



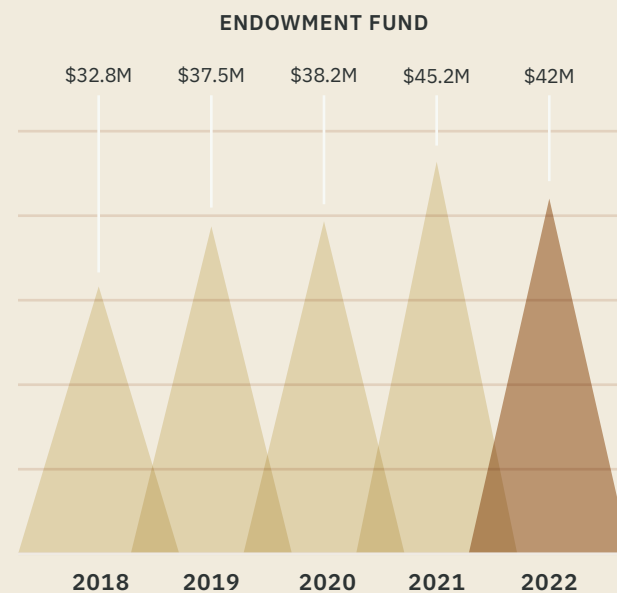
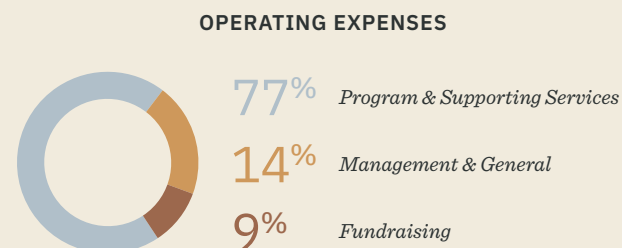
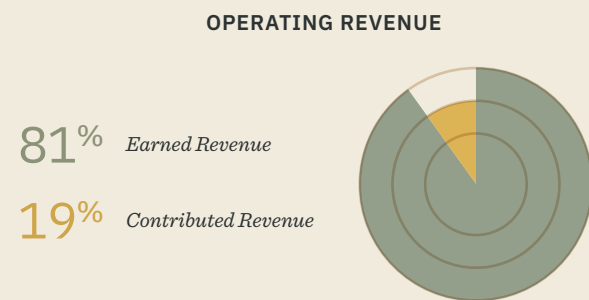
Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021

Assets	2022	2021
Cash	19,644,801	23,653,037
Prepaid expenses and other receivables	1,222,320	371,159
Inventory and other assets	6,425,965	3,132,050
Operating contributions receivable, net	27,646,532	31,117,253
Cash restricted for capital and permanent exhibits	3,115,876	4,079,114
Contributions receivable restricted for capital and permanent exhibits, net	8,459,916	12,089,477
Property, net	141,260,346	133,744,731
Contributions receivable restricted for endowments, net	331,787	-
Investments	69,424,418	77,902,426
Collections	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	277,531,961	286,089,247

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,512,089	2,703,556
Construction payable	212,357	631,574
Accrued interest expense	533,597	41,872
Accrued payroll and related benefits expenses	607,780	585,313
Deferred fees and program revenue	2,602,416	2,717,369
Refundable advances for special events	674,325	553,778
Notes payable	37,985,634	42,324,834
TOTAL LIABILITIES	45,128,198	49,558,296
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	129,146,787	130,380,802
With donor restrictions	103,256,976	106,150,149
TOTAL NET ASSETS	232,403,763	236,530,951
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	277,531,961	286,089,247



Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2022

Operating Revenue	W/OUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	W/DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
FEES AND PROGRAM REVENUE			
Admission fees	17,621,899	-	17,621,899
Membership fees	4,341,699	-	4,341,699
Gift shop sales	3,550,462	-	3,550,462
Cost of goods sold	(1,929,491)	-	(1,929,491)
Educational program fees	2,499,725	-	2,499,725
Parking fees	1,841,090	-	1,841,090
Facility rental, food services, and exhibit participation fees	1,901,514	-	1,901,514
CONTRIBUTIONS	3,470,055	2,247,415	5,717,470
SPECIAL EVENTS	2,038,937	-	2,038,937
COST OF BENEFITS PROVIDED TO DONORS	(838,848)	-	(838,848)
NET INVESTMENT RETURN	(3,317,282)	-	(3,317,282)
OTHER INCOME	2,050,428	-	2,050,428
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	33,230,188	2,247,415	35,477,603
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS			
Program expenditures	3,096,767	(3,096,767)	-
Expiration of time restrictions	3,800,000	(3,800,000)	-
Investment earnings distributed from endowments	1,771,693	-	1,771,693
TOTAL	41,898,648	(4,649,352)	37,249,296

Operating Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES			
Museum collections and exhibits	14,336,251	-	14,336,251
Admissions and visitor services	8,910,665	-	8,910,665
Educational programs	3,494,132	-	3,494,132
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	26,741,048	-	26,741,048
Management and general	5,994,449	-	5,994,449
Advertising and public relations	4,296,216	-	4,296,216
Fundraising	2,958,457	-	2,958,457
Gift shop	1,626,893	-	1,626,893
Membership development	985,830	-	985,830
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	42,602,893	-	42,602,893

Changes in Net Assets from Operations

	(704,245)	(4,649,352)	(5,353,597)
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS			
Non-operating contributions	-	7,782,025	7,782,025
Net endowment investment return	-	(4,002,948)	(4,002,948)
Collection purchases	(780,975)	-	(780,975)
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS			
Endowment distributions	-	(1,771,693)	(1,771,693)
Collection purchases	251,205	(251,205)	-
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(1,234,015)	(2,893,173)	(4,127,188)
Net assets, beginning of year	130,380,802	106,150,149	236,530,951
Net assets, end of year	129,146,787	103,256,976	232,403,763

Development

Thanks to the unwavering support of our donor community and board of trustees, the Museum raised **\$14.1 million** in the 2022 fiscal year: \$6.9 million for general operating support, \$2.6 million for restricted endowment funds, and \$4.5 million for capital campaigns. Compared to 2021, revenues for the Annual Fund increased by 20 percent and endowment fundraising increased by 82 percent.

Ambitious capital projects were launched in the spring to renovate the Museum's most-visited and utilized spaces. The Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals will be transformed with twice the exhibit space, ultramodern displays, and new world-class pieces, cementing the hall's status as home to the finest collection of natural mineral crystals in the world. The Lower Level Education Wing will also be reimagined with improved classrooms, immersive dioramas and biomes, and an Early Childhood Learning Center, allowing HMNS to better serve children at a critical time in their development.



EVENTS

ANNUAL GALA: THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Traditional gowns and tuxedos were traded for waders and ghillie suits at *The Great Outdoors Gala*. The spectacular evening was chaired by the Gordy family, who welcomed 500 guests for a night of dinner, dancing, and silent auction bidding. In addition to rare gems and fossils curated by President and CEO Joel A. Bartsch, the auction featured unique themed items such as a vintage FJ Land Cruiser and private partridge hunt in Montana. Proceeds from the event totaled **\$2,035,460**, second in revenue only to the 2021 *Gala*.





CRITTER CRAWL: A BUTTERFLY FLUTTER & BUG BASH

This year ushered in the first iteration of our reimagined family fundraising event, *Critter Crawl: A Butterfly Flutter & Bug Bash*. Activity stations for younger attendees were scattered throughout the Cockrell Butterfly Center, including an insect petting zoo, face painting, and cockroach racing. Five hundred guests joined Chairs Caroline and Will Brown, Margot and Zach Davis, and Leslie and John Pitts to raise **\$88,940** for youth education programming.



Award recipients Valerie Akinloye, Madison Burke, Tabitha Vu, and Molly Mosley

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE LUNCHEON

The *Excellence in Science Luncheon* has celebrated outstanding STEM education for over three decades. Through an endowed fund established by The Cockrell Foundation, four Houston-area students and teachers were awarded at the event for their academic achievements. This year's luncheon was chaired by Nancy and David Pustka and honored longtime Museum benefactors, Paula and Rusty Walter. Astrophysicist and professional poker player, Liv Boeree, spoke to 250 guests on how artificial intelligence has transformed the game of poker and lifted the veil on the mysteries of the natural world. Just over **\$450,000** was raised, breaking all prior luncheon records.



Our Supporters

The Houston Museum of Natural Science gratefully acknowledges the following donors who supported our mission with gifts of \$1,000 and above in 2022.

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Lists are displayed in alphabetical order

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Gifts to the Annual Fund provide for the Museum's ongoing needs, such as providing low-cost or free school field trips, accessibility resources, and innovative programming. Donors of \$2,500 or more are invited to join our premier donor group, the President's Society, and enjoy exclusive benefits including private exhibition previews and events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Become an underwriter or purchase tickets for our annual fundraising events: the *Annual Gala*, *Excellence in Science Luncheon*, and *Critter Crawl*.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

Corporations are invited to support the Museum through the Partners in Science program. Additional underwriting opportunities include education programs, special exhibitions, and showings at the Wortham Giant Screen Theatre and Burke Baker Planetarium.

PLANNED GIVING

Join the HMNS Legacy Society with a planned gift that will help sustain the Museum for generations to come, including developing state-of-the-art exhibitions and programs in line with technological and scientific discoveries.

For more information, visit [HMNS.ORG/GIVE](https://www.hmns.org/give), write to DEVELOPMENT@HMNS.ORG, or call 713-639-4729.

EXIT THROUGH THE MUSEUM STORE

On your next visit, stop by the Museum Store and take a little piece of HMNS home with you. Choose from an array of curated merchandise including intricate mineral carvings, handcrafted jewelry, and artfully prepared fossils.

