



**MUSEUM
OF NATURAL
AND CULTURAL
HISTORY**

CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS

2024 Impact Report



Greetings friends,

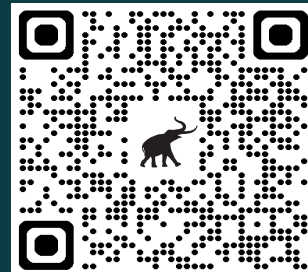
As I reflect on another incredible year at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, I am filled with gratitude for the dedicated staff, volunteers, students, and community members who continue to make our museum a vibrant hub of discovery, education, and engagement. Our commitment to fostering a strong and inclusive community remains at the heart of everything we do.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our dedication to education, research, and community engagement. The accomplishments of this past year would not have been possible without your support, and we are excited for what the future holds.

Todd Braje
Executive Director

30,500+
people visited the
museum in 2024

1.2 M+
online visitors



**Read the full letter
from the director here**

STUDENTS

are at the heart of what we do.

Every day at the museum, UO students take their learning beyond the classroom. Whether attending field school, joining the student club, working on staff, giving a poster presentation, or attending a class, talk, or symposium, the museum offers community, belonging, and education outside the walls of the classroom.

3,600+

UO student visits with
academic courses

45

student interns and
PLE program students

51

student employees,
some with multiple
museum roles

650+

students participated
in club activities



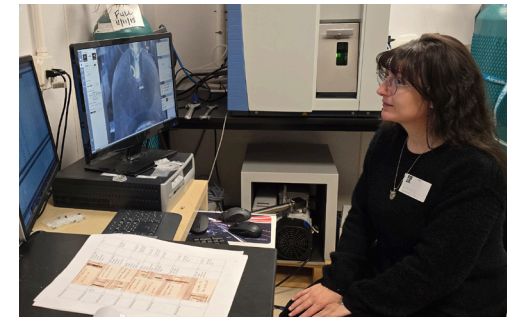
From left: A student employee helps out at Family Day; Tyler Zawacki, Mitchell Ralphs, and Leo Wickham, student employees from the archaeological research division, outside their office weeks before graduating; and Kai Schoettler, an earth sciences student, examines fossils in the Condon Collection. Kai won the museum's poster award for the Undergraduate Research Symposium.



STUDENTS flourish in the field.

Fieldwork is a transformative experience for students, where they prepare for careers in archaeology, anthropology, and beyond.

Clockwise from left: Greg Hansen cores a peeled tree; Gabi Gauthier and Stephanie Alexander at Connley Caves; UO students and Amah Mutsun Tribal members excavate at the new Indigenous Archaeology Field Methods field school; Tayla Hanson analyzes Saudi glass bangles from MNCH Anthropological Collections at the Field Museum in Chicago; Deanna Flores and Thomas Hillard prepare to collect fossils.



COMMUNITY

is built at the museum.

The museum is a place for creating connections—to each other, to our past, and to our future. It's where we discover what brings us together and where we are challenged to grow.

568

member
households

5,900

K-12 students
served onsite

8,600+

volunteer hours logged
(more than 1,000 at field school!)

115

volunteers

5,000+

museum visitors using free
and reduced admission

FAMILIES AT THE MUSEUM

Families of all shapes and sizes flourish at the museum. From Family Fun in the Sun in July and August to Family Days throughout the year, there's always something to learn at any age.



UO graduate student families spend an evening at the museum.

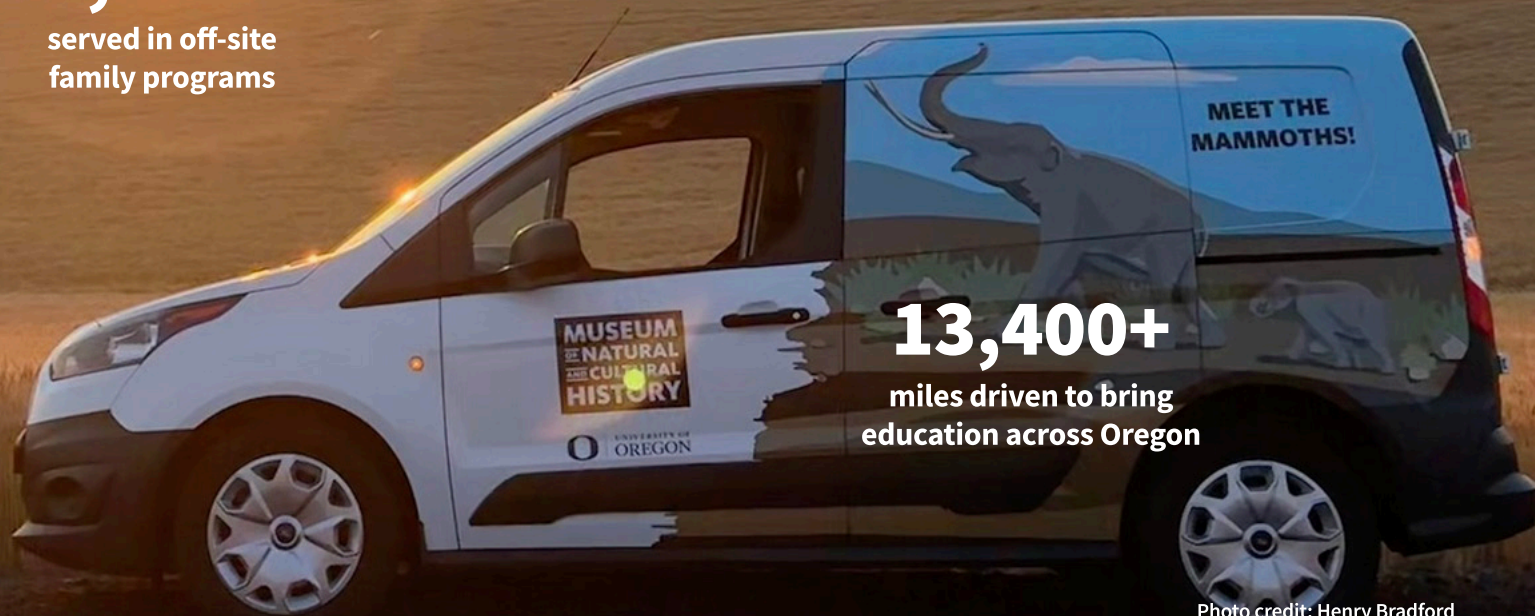
STATEWIDE

impact across Oregon.

We are Oregon's museum, serving communities in every corner of the state. From archaeological projects to traveling library programs to networks of culture keepers, the museum reaches far beyond our four walls.

7,700+

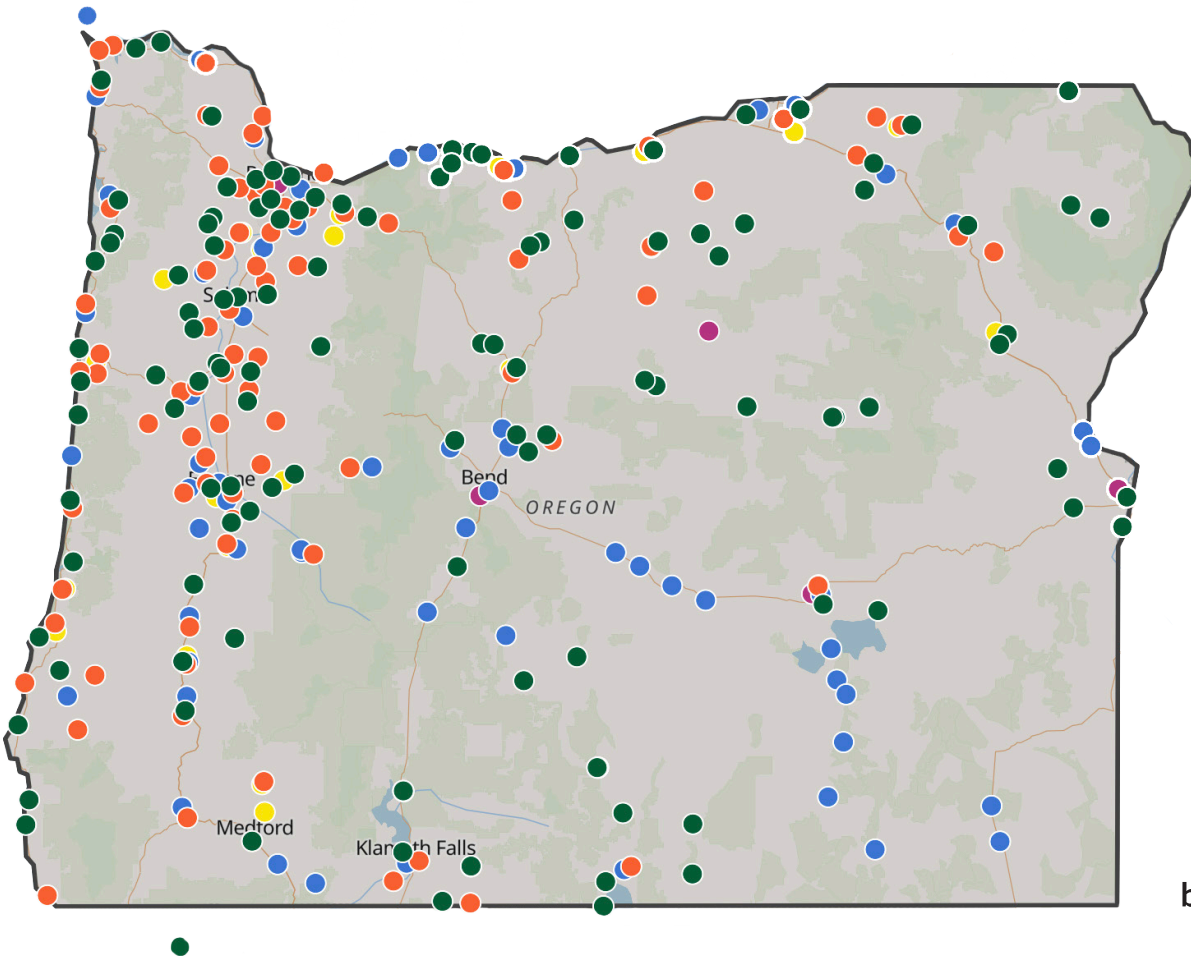
served in off-site
family programs



13,400+

miles driven to bring
education across Oregon

Photo credit: Henry Bradford



5 finalists

for the museum's
annual Oregon
Stewardship Award

28 communities

hosted Museum
Adventures traveling
exhibits

105 libraries

hosted summer
family programs

280+ artists

on the Oregon
Folklife Network roster

**1,700+ acres
surveyed**

by museum archaeologists

Museum scientists, educators, and activities visited communities far and wide across Oregon in 2024.

ILLUMINATING

the world around us.

Museum exhibits, collections, and research shape our understanding of the world, from right outside our doorstep to the cosmos millions of light-years away.

17,700+

items in ethnographic
collections

5,000+

objects catalogued
from the Jenson
Arctic Collection

30

publications by
museum staff
in 2024



Art: Ray Troll

SPIKE-TOOTH SALMON

For years, scientists thought that *Oncorhynchus rastrosus* had teeth that curved down from its upper jaw, like a saber tooth cat. In 2024, Condon Collection director Edward Davis co-authored a paper describing for the first time how this 8-foot-long prehistoric salmon's teeth jutted out from its jaw like a warthog. Our knowledge of the world is always growing!

EXHIBITS on view in 2024



Outliers and Outlaws

Stories from the Eugene Lesbian History Project



THE BEESWAX SHIPWRECK



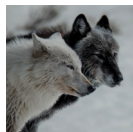
OREGON STORIES: BRYAN BOENDER AND YASIN MALIKZADA



Underwater Forests Oregon's Kelp Ecosystems



STEPH LITTLEBIRD: NATIVE ART IN ACTION



WOLVES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RONAN DONOVAN



OREGON STORIES: ENID LEFTON AND SHAYNA MELTZER



OREGON'S COASTAL COLOSSUS— DESMOSTYLUS



CAPTURING THE COSMOS Images from the James Webb Space Telescope



PINE MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY A Place for Stellar Student Research



OREGON— WHERE PAST IS PRESENT



EXPLORE OREGON

SHARING STEWARDSHIP

of our collective past, present, and future

How were the objects in our museum acquired? How can we care for these collections in ways that honors descendant communities? How can we tell more inclusive stories? The museum is committed to creating an atmosphere where everyone feels they belong.



From left: Director of Anthropological Collections Pamela Endzweig and basketry expert Stephanie Craig (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) discuss baskets from museum collections; Craig gives a talk featuring her handmade baskets. Photos by Jack Liu.



DECOLONIZING THE MUSEUM

With support from UO, museum staff and advisory council members attended “Decolonization 101: Native American Cultural Competency and Awareness for Museums,” a presentation from Live Oak Consulting.

CHANGES WE ARE IMPLEMENTING

- **Focusing on exhibits that tell inclusive Oregon stories**
- **Making more exhibits and family activities bilingual**
- **Building Indigenous partnerships**
- **New research and collections policies**
- **New museum signage and art**
- **Contemporary Indigenous artists in residency program**

Look for more to come in 2025!



Museum of Natural and Cultural History
1224 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1224
Phone: 541-346-3024

LOOKING FORWARD

What to expect in 2025

- New exhibits examining untold stories—past, present, and future
- The return of Oregon Culture Nights
- And much, much more!



*Sonya Sobel (front) and museum archaeologists
work hard in the field no matter the weather.*

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