

A group of five students are gathered around a wooden table, looking down at several large, fossilized bones. The bones are dark and irregular in shape, resting on a dark, textured surface. One bone is particularly large and prominent in the center. The students are dressed in casual clothing like hoodies and jackets. The background shows a window with some greenery outside.

**MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL  
AND CULTURAL  
HISTORY**

# CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS

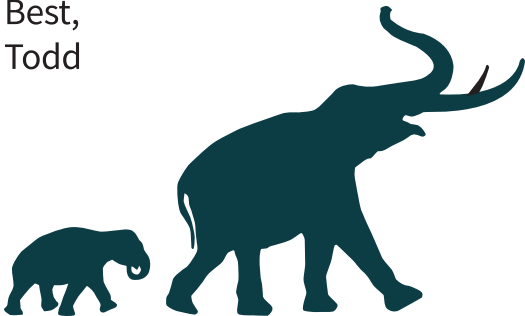
2023 Annual Report

**In my initial days as director of MNCH,  
I have seen our museum's incredible impact.**

It serves as a place of connection, fostering a sense of pride and identity among community members. I have seen a parade of school children meander through our exhibit halls and their eyes widen in awe; I have seen families bond over shared discoveries; and I have seen lifelong learners find a sanctuary for intellectual exploration.

This report offers a snapshot of our activities from July 2022 to June 2023, both in the museum and across the state.

Best,  
Todd



**Todd Braje**  
Executive Director



# STUDENTS

are at the heart of what we do.

Every day at the museum, students take their learning beyond the classroom. The museum is a vital part of the University of Oregon's commitment to a rich academic experience and inclusive university community. We are proud Ducks!

**5,500+**

University of Oregon  
students served

**52**

student  
employees

**50+**

UO academic  
course visits

**130+**

student  
members



*Students celebrate accomplishments and engage in groundbreaking research at the museum.*

# 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 challenges us to grow.

**440**

member households

**3,300+**

K-12 students  
served on-site

**5,000+**

volunteer hours  
recorded

**70**

volunteers

**30,000+**

guests welcomed

In 2023 we launched the Access Membership Program, inviting guests who use SNAP benefits or Oregon Trail cards to join at a discounted rate. Access members enjoy all the same member benefits. Our museum community is growing!





A museum guest signs a photo of herself in *Outliers and Outlaws*.

# EXHIBITS

that honor community  
and inspire connections

Discover yourself at the museum—or find a neighbor. This year we were honored to host *Outliers and Outlaws—Stories from the Eugene Lesbian History Project* and *MAGIC in Medieval Europe*, as well as well as *Braiding Sweetgrass* author Robin Wall Kimmerer as a featured contemporary Indigenous artist.





# STATEWIDE

## service across Oregon

From the ocean to the high desert, from the Willamette Valley to the Wallowas, the museum supports education and research around the state.



**10,000+**

Oregonians  
served off-site

**22**

libraries and community  
centers hosted a traveling  
exhibit from MNCH

**280**

traditional artists on  
the Oregon Culture  
Keepers Roster

**29,000+**

individual artifact  
fragments analyzed

**2,000+**

new marine fossils  
labeled as part of the  
Fossil Hackathon



Director of the Condon Fossil Collection  
Edward Davis brought students and museum  
staff to the Oregon coast to study and  
identify more than 2,000 fossils.



*The museum welcomed Samoan researchers and tradition-keepers Regina Meredith Fitiao and Su'a Ulisone Fitiao to study the museum's collection of tapa cloths.*

# STEWARDSHIP

## of our shared cultural history

Our museum is not just a collection of items. We work to make our collections and research accessible, especially to Indigenous scholars and bearers of cultural traditions.

**Museum archaeologists worked with the Oregon Historical Society and Tribal members from the Burns Paiute Tribe and The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indians on a two-day public symposium: *Human Experience in the Oregon Great Basin: Past and Present Ways of Knowing.***



Photo: Gary Halverson, Oregon State Archives



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# LOOKING FORWARD

## What to expect in 2024

- Educational programs in 80+ libraries
- New exhibits that look from the sea to the stars
- The launch of *Native Innovation*, a new Museum Adventures traveling exhibit
- And much, much more!

