

Joe Lombardo | Governor Daniel P. Thielen | Administrator Tracey Sprague | Director 721 S. Moapa Blvd. Overton, NV 89040

Date: Dec. 5, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Tracey Sprague, Director

Lost City Museum

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report to the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025

### **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

# **Building Projects:**

Lost City Museum started the process of looking into updating our computer network and phone systems.

The Lost City Museum will be in FY2026 bidding out the job to rewire the museum with new CAT6 cable to fix ongoing internet and phone issues that have persisted at the museum for the last few years.

The local telephone company has recently installed fiber near our location. Currently finalizing quotes to start project in late fall.

#### Staff activities:

Virginia Lucas (Archaeology): Private Tours at LCM Great Basin Institute – 5/22 – 12 people NPS Lake Cultural Team – 5/22 – 8 people

Snap Meeting – 7/17 – 12 people Boulder City RR Ornament making event – 9/6 – 234 people High Noon with NHS – 9/18 – 25 people Lego Robotics Team virtual talk – 9/28 – 10 students

**Community Outreach** 

William E. Orr Middle School – 4/10-11 – 256 kids – teaching kids about developing museum exhibits

Attended the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado April 23-27

Raymond Robbins (Exhibits):

Lost City exhibit temporarily installed at the Mesquite Library Apr-Jun.

Lost City Timeline exhibit panel write up for 1935 Gallery.

1935 and 1981 Gallery text boxes converted to Canva for printing, and text panels installed in 1981 Gallery.

1981 Lost City Pageant and 1973 Mineral exhibits rewrite started.

Creation of Social Media Posts.

Continued work on 250th/Lost City Pageant exhibit in 1981 gallery.

Work on revamp of mineral and fossil exhibit in 1973 gallery.

Print and put up new text panels in 1973 gallery.

# **BUDGET SUMMARY**

# **Comparison of Revenues Budgeted/Received:**

	GL/CAT	SFY2025	Actual
		Budget	YTD
Membership	4008	5000.00	2960.00
Merchandise	4025	90000.00	92423.30
Sales			
Gifts and	4251	5000.00	2322.18
Donations			
Treasurer's	4326	5924.00	4424.90
Interest			
TOTAL		110924.00	102130.38

Comparison of Expenditures Budgeted/Expended:

	GL/CAT	SFY2025	Actual
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Administration	35	75348.00	71127.33
Arch Special Projects	36	2500.00	2210.91
Buildings and Grounds	37	2500.00	2373.25
Museum Store	41	79944.00	70998.29
Special Events	42	6950.00	5793.51
Board Appr Special	48	96717.00	7997.38
Projects			
TOTAL		268959.00	160500.67

### **MUSEUM STORE**

April – \$9,277.08, \$6.79 per customer

May - \$ 8,553.93, \$9.57 per customer

June - \$4,678.49, \$8.70 per customer

July - \$4,844.92, \$9.56 per customer

August - \$6344.55, \$10.25 per customer

Sept. - \$4770.74, \$8.65 per customer

The Museum Store ended the fiscal year at \$2423.30 above the projected number of sales. The Museum Store made almost \$10k more than the previous year, which was \$82,989.00 In FY26, the Museum Store is already averaging higher sales compared to the previous year.

# MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>BREAKDOWN</u>			NEW	RENEW
SENIOR	\$25.00	9	225.00	3	6
VETERAN	\$25.00	0	0.00	0	0
STUDENT	\$25.00	0	0.00	0	0
INDIVIDUAL	\$45.00	2	90.00	1	1
FAMILY	\$75.00	0	0.00	0	0
<b>FAMILY SENIOR</b>	\$55.00	3	165.00	2	1

FAMILY					
VETERAN	\$55.00	1	55.00	1	0
SUSTAINING	\$125.00	1	125.00	0	1
SUSTAIN					
SENIOR	\$105.00	0	0.00	0	0
SUSTAIN					
VETERAN	\$105.00	0	0.00	0	0
CONTRIBUTING	\$250.00	0	0.00	0	0
PATRON	\$500.00	0	0.00	0	0
BENEFACTOR	\$1,000.00	<u>0</u>	0.00	0	0
TOTAL		16	660.00	7	9

April through June 2025 – Senior – 9 total, 3 new and 6 renew Individual – 2 total, 1 new and 1 renew Family Senior – 3 total, 2 new and 1 renew Family Veteran – 1 total, 1 new Sustaining – 1 total, 1 renew

Total – 16 memberships, \$660.00, 7 new and 9 renew

July through Sept. 2025 –
Senior – 9 total, 5 new and 4 renew
Veteran – 2 total, 1 new and 1 renew
Individual – 2 total, 1 new and 1 renew
Family – 1 total, 1 new
Family Senior – 5 total, 2 new and 3 renew
Family Veteran – 1 total, 1 new
Sustaining – 1 total, 1 new

Total – 21 members, \$875.00, 12 new and 9 renew

### **ATTENDANCE**

April – \$6138.00, 1,367 total guests

May - \$4,169.36, 894 total guests June - \$2,495.00, 538 total guests

Total attendance for the year – 10,741

Since COVID, the museum has slowly been seeing increases in attendance.

Each year has been higher than the previous. While still not at pre-COVID numbers, Lost City did see an increase again this past fiscal year.

### FY26

July - \$2,672.00, 458 total guests August - \$2792.00, 422 total guests Sept. - \$3,005.00, 525 total guests

Attendance was down a little bit during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, a total of about 200 less compared to last year. Admission did change for \$6 to \$8 starting on July 1, 2025.

**EVENTS AT LOST CITY -LCM 2025 Lecture Series:** 



4/19 Lithics Demonstration – 22 people



5/17 DRI Talk - 25 people

6/14 – Lost City Talk – 22 people 8/23 – Tule Springs talk with Dr. Perry – 9 people

# **FUND RAISING**

Currently no major fundraising is happening at Lost City Museum or with the Lost City Museum Docent Council



NEVADA MUSEUMS & HISTORY

Joe Lombardo | Governor

Daniel P. Thielen | Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD

MUSEUM

Christopher MacMahon | Director

**Christopher MacMahon** | Director 601 Yucca Blvd. Boulder City, NV 89005

Date: November 18, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Christopher MacMahon, Director

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report to the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

#### **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

# **Building Projects:**

Construction of the visitor center is progressing nicely. The building has been framed and dried in. Windows will be installed in late November and early December fully sealing the building. Construction of the passenger loading platform's shade canopy has also been completed, with concrete work for the platform and retaining walls currently in progress. Installation of new tracks will begin in December and should be completed by the new year. Concrete work on the building's exterior will continue through the winter moving from the west counterclockwise around the structure finishing with the welcome plaza in late winter or early spring. Substantial completion is anticipated in late April at which time exhibit installation can begin and is anticipated to take approximately 3 months. The museum can hire the approved Custodian, Storekeeper, and part-time (19 hours per week) Museum Attendant at the start of FY27. We anticipate opening the visitor center in Fall 2026. Photos of construction are included at the end of this report.

#### **Staff Activities**

In late spring, Restoration Specialist Braden Brickman and volunteer Chris Fussell painted locomotive 1855 in its U.S. Army livery. Braden has reinstalled the spark arresters that were added to the locomotive by the Transportation Corps during its service at the Sierra Army Depot, along with the amber safety beacon in front of the locomotive's cab. Minor electrical and air work were completed in fall, and we anticipate shakedown runs in December before returning the locomotive to service.

Director MacMahon and Facility Maintenance Specialist David Judson worked to update wayfinding signs around the campus in June.

Staff have ordered shade structures and leveled out the inner loop area of the live steamers for the long-planned picnic area. Picnic tables and benches have been assembled. Initial set-up of the picnic area was undertaken in late summer and early fall. Remaining work will be completed in early 2027 following holiday activities.

Restoration Specialist Brickman traveled to Durango, Colorado in September for the annual Heritage Rail Alliance Conference. Brickman was able to network with other mechanics and restoration personnel around the county and joined the organizations parts swap community. During the annual dinner, Brickman and the museum were recognized for the restoration of Union Pacific dining car 4813 in 2024. Building connections like this helps expand our museum's influence and develop partnerships throughout the country. We thank the board for supporting this professional development opportunity.

The museum partnered with the United States Forest Service, Nevada State Museum Las Vegas, Lost City Museum, and the Clark County Museum to host an ornament making station for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Approximately 250 guests participated, making it a highly successful collaboration.

Director MacMahon and Railroad Restoration Specialist Braden Brickman assisted the Clark County Museum with repairs to a door on their Union Pacific boxcar which had seized shut.

Rail Bike operations started October 20 and are running weekdays at 1:00pm, 3:00pm and 6:00pm.

The museum was able to hire its new groundskeeper in November. Please help us welcome Don Ortega during your next stop at the museum.

### **MUSEUM STORE**

#### **Museum Store Sales Narrative:**

Tiane has been doing exceptionally well in the store. She received new branded merchandise in late spring, including a popular design featuring locomotive 844 that was created by museum volunteer Elliot Gorlin. The museum store recorded \$42,924 in sales for FY25 despite being closed for two months while hiring a new administrative assistant, and the fact the store is less than 100 square feet in size.

# **MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

### **Membership Program Narrative:**

Membership is through the Friends of the Nevada Southern Railway. As of August 2025, the Friends have 117 Volunteer members, 14 Individual members, 47 Family members, and 7 honorary members for a total of 185.

### **ATTENDANCE**

# **Museum Attendance Narrative**

The museum had one of its best years on record. FY25 saw a record 2,947 K-12 students visit the museum (nearly double the previous high). The museum also set record attendance in its display pavilion with 38,321 visitors (10,000 higher than previous best year), and third highest year for train rides with 34,633 (best year is 2013 with 40,522).

# **Appendix A: Photographs**



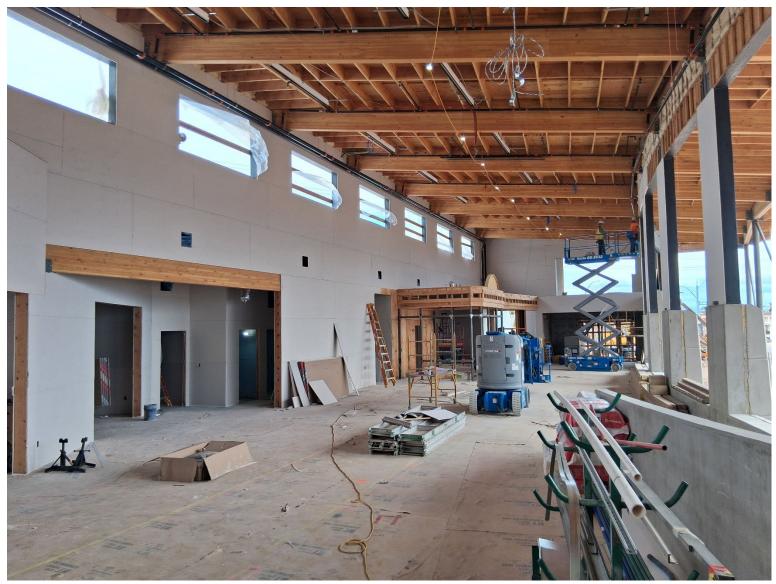
U.S. Army locomotive 1855 has been repainted into its Army livery.



Visitor Center east face as of August 5, 2025



Front view of Visitor Center construction November 4, 2025.



Interior view of Visitor Center construction November 18, 2025.



Joe Lombardo | Governor

**Daniel P. Thielen** | Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Sean Pitts | Director

1100 Avenue A

Elv. NV 89301

Date: September 12, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Sean Pitts, Director

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report to the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 – October 3, 2025

#### **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

# **Building Projects**

Ely continues to make progress on both State-owned buildings despite the lawsuit from the Nevada Northern Railway Foundation. We have languished for two years hoping for a legal resolution regarding our records that were taken and the newer dispute over who owns Avenue A (the street both buildings sit on).

Staff continue to maintain and preserve both buildings. A new coat of paint makes them the two best looking buildings on the complex. We work tirelessly to ensure the buildings are a showcase to the public.

We were disappointed that the seismic study of the Depot was not funded in the Capital Improvement list. Engineers are telling us this is "a 911 project." The Depot is structurally unsound in the event of a seismic occurrence, it will collapse with projected loss of life of anyone inside. It requires reinforcement since it is in a Moderate Earthquake Zone and it is a matter of when, not if the earthquake will occur.

### **Staff Activities**

Sean was the history speaker for the Great Basin Youth Camp. They requested he return after interpreters from the California Trail Center were utilized last year. They brought 5 interpreters. Sean got better reviews from the participants than all five combined. They enjoyed the "History of the Silver State" with a focus on eastern Nevada.

Ely has completed the four of the Heritage Tours to Hamilton, 40 miles west of Ely. All totaled, more than 50 people attended the tours. We also added a tour to accommodate Preserve Nevada's meeting in Ely. We will reschedule a tour for the next Board Meeting in Ely should Board Members want to participate. We received positive comments from those who attended stating the interpretation, reproduction map, and historic photos made the trip so much more enjoyable. We appreciate the prompt work on the part of Francine who really helped with the advertising. We have people who are inquiring about next year's heritage tours. We are planning to add trips to the Belmont Mill and the historic town of Ward.

The Ely Lions Club celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their organization in the Freight Building. We have a good relationship with this group. They do a great deal in this community that directly or indirectly benefits the Museum, so we were happy to help them recognize this milestone. Sean was the introductory speaker with the topic "Ely in the Roaring 20's." Over a hundred people attended...all dressed in 1920's attire. It was an interesting evening with positive comments about the building and its community use.

The Ely Mainstreet Association is a group of locals who have taken upon themselves the goal to improve the town's main street. One of their projects is a grant to identify historic business and homes for a walking tour. Once they received funding, they soon found they were over their heads and called on NSRM-Ely for help. We won't receive any of the funding but consider it an opportunity to help our community by contributing our time and knowledge to the project. We will help with the identification of historic architecture that is still visible.

The National Christmas Tree that was harvested in Nevada held a whistle stop showing on the Museum grounds in Ely. Sean was interviewed for the story. The video will air sometime in December. We were pleased to provide the local heritage for the special.

The educational community of Ely came together for a "Literacy Night." Sean was the featured storyteller as the community gathered to focus on the importance of literacy for every resident. The event was a partnership with NSRM-Ely, the local School District, Great Basin College, and the White Pine Public Museum. It was a pleasure to join with our partners for such an important cause.

Ely lies downwind of the site of above ground nuclear testing from 1959-51. A new effort to document the people affected by the testing is being undertaken by the University of Utah in conjunction with the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership. Sean was interviewed for over an hour for local background information and how that testing changed the lives of residents. We provided contact information for people who should be interviewed and added our knowledge of people we interviewed that are now deceased. The accumulated materials will be housed at the UofU in a collection called "The Fallout of Fallout."

Ely hosted the Chevrolet Antique Car Club in mid-September. Drivers from around the western states brought their vintage Chevy cars. Some were from the 1920's. It was an impressive gathering of extraordinary machines. Sean was the guide to the Ward Charcoal Ovens and to Cherry Creek for the group. They have requested our services again in 2035.

# **ATTENDANCE**

# **Museum Attendance Narrative**

May 867 June 1004 July 964

August 459

Sept. 614 Oct. 521

Ely has had a cumbersome way of counting in the past. Going forward it will be a straight up number of visitors from the Depot and the Freight Building. Outreach visitation will continue to be tracked separately.

# **FUND RAISING**

## **Narrative**

No action in this area.



Joe Lombardo | Governor

Daniel P. Thielen | Administrator

MUSEUM, Las Vegas Hollis J. Gillespie | Director 309 S. Valley View Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89107

Date: December 5, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Hollis J. Gillespie, Director

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report to the Board of Museums & History

July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

# **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

### **Building Projects**

Nothing to report for the previous quarter. Freight Elevator shaft replacement completed in September

#### **Staff Activities**

# **History and Material Culture**

Josef Diaz, Curator

### **Activities summary:**

• We opened on September 27 in the rotating exhibit space, *The New Deal in the New West: On the Road in Nevada with Arthur Rothstein*. It features photographs with material culture. A grant was written to support this exhibit to the Centennial Commission and was received. It was \$57,000.00

- Research continues for the exhibit opening in 2026 that will celebrate the United States Semi guincentennial.
- We are collaborating with the Centennial Commission to open an exhibit in City Hall. It will feature the museum's Paiute dictionary along with material culture.

## **Natural History**

Richard Gawne, Curator

### **Activities summary:**

- The summer collection season was a success. A number of local insect species were collected in large numbers and will subsequently processed and added to the collection.
- An undergraduate student research project on insect wing shapes by Skylar Snow (UNLV senior) continues to advance. We expect to move toward publication in the spring.
- R. Gawne and S. Snow have had papers/posters accepted for a large biology conference that will take place in January. Attendance at this event will mark the first time that the NSMLV natural history section has participated in a biological research conference in several decades. Participation in this conference is a crucial part of our ongoing efforts to expand the activities of the natural history department.
- R. Gawne is continuing to make progress on computational models that will allow data to be extracted from preserved collection specimens in a semi-automated fashion. This work will likely be completed in the spring of 2026
- The construction of our insect incubator is now effectively finished. This is a crucial facilities upgrade that we were able to complete on a small budget. This incubator will allow us to breed selected insect species for the purposes of public outreach events, and internal research that aims to advance our understanding of some of the invertebrate species that are found in Nevada.

Manuscripts, Photographs, Research Library

Kassidy Whetstone, Curator

**Activities summary:** 

- Attended Society of American Archivists (SAA) conference and attended sessions about digital archival collections, collections preservation, and access
- Received an IMLS LSTA grant through the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records to attend the Association of Rural
  and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference in Albuquerque, NM. Attended conference sessions about library access, volunteer
  management, oral history documentation, and cataloging. Also made connections with staff from the Nevada State Library to
  discuss future grant and project opportunities
- Digitized 833 historic photographs and published them for online public access. This was performed heavily with the assistance of volunteers who are working through historic photograph collections.
- Cataloged 13 books. This involves locating the Library of Congress classification system number, attaching a label to the book, cataloging the book within PastPerfect, and placing the book on the appropriate shelf space.
- Fulfilled 32 research requests via telephone, email, and in-person contact. Materials accessed involved manuscripts, microfilm, books, maps, photographs, and newspapers.
- Processed 4.5 linear feet of manuscripts (3 collections)
- Participated in CBS News radio interview with Peter Greenberg for the Eye on Travel segment to discuss Las Vegas history and NSMLV's collections
- Assisted documentary crew for research and filming of upcoming Las Vegas history documentary
- Appointed to the Nevada State Board of Libraries and Archives.

# **Collections and Registration**

Holly Piper, Curator of Collections

# **Activities summary:**

• Late Summer was an active time in Collections. "The Old Spanish Trail" exhibit ended, which meant the preparation of dozens of artifacts from nine different loans for return. Then there was a quick turn-around for the opening of next changing exhibit, "The New Deal in the New West: On the Road with Arthur Rothstein", which included incoming loan objects that needed condition reports and documentation. There were also incoming and outgoing loans, several tours of Collections, and the start of a more involved era with the museum's social media team.

### **Exhibits**

- "Old Spanish Trail" closing, dismantling exhibit, undressing mannequins, packing and preparing loaned objects for return.

  Loans were from Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff (8 items), private collector Mark Winter (25 items), New Mexico

  History Museum (33 items), Neuvo Mexicano Heritage Arts Museum (2 Items), Fort Lewis College Center of Southwest Studies

  (3 items), Arizona State Museum (2 items) Clark County Museum (6 items), Private Collections (5 items), Thomas Cleary

  American Indian Art (5 items).
- Took down the "Moulin Rouge" exhibit case from the Curator's Canyon hallway. Dismantled display, checked condition of objects, returned to Collections storage.
- Assisted in setting up the "The New Deal in the New West: On the Road with Arthur Rothstein." Prepared condition reports, assisting in arranging objects, preparing space. Objects on display come from two loans, the Arthur Rothstein Legacy Project (14 items), and a private collection (3 items), and one object from the NSMLV collection.

#### Loans

- Outgoing loan of insects to Dirk Rohwedder for a presentation at Deaf Nation Expo.
- Return of outgoing loan of casino memorabilia (89 objects) from Clark County Museum. Began pest control freezing treatments, condition reports, and returning objects to home locations in collections.
- Performed preliminary steps for three potential outgoing loans, including creating inventory lists, checking condition of artifacts, and corresponding with borrowing parties.
- Began preparing objects for upcoming outgoing loan of the 1958 Soap Box Derby car and six related objects to the Clark County Museum.

#### Collections

- Observed leak of rusty water in Collections 1 from a pipe that is part of the fire suppression system. Oversaw repairs arranged by Facilities, checked cabinets and artifacts for any damage or moisture.
- Selected objects, wrote blurbs and researched facts and talking points, and assisted in housing objects in a display case for the first Battleborn Bingo night.
- Assisted in research, planning of logistics, and collection of the donation of large Regina Corona Music Box.

- Assisted in giving tours of collections, particularly of showgirl material Dita Von Teese, Antique Purse Collector's Society,
   Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
- Collaborated with Social Media team to photograph and prepare captions for material about Showgirls, especially costume drawings and some costumes.

### **Learning and Community Engagement**

Jordan Canal, Curator

# **Activities summary:**

### **Discovery Saturdays:**

• This is a weekly, free drop-in program with interactive stations surrounding a theme tied to the museum or a special recognition day. This program offers educational resources, a hands-on activity, and a chance for guests to learn from our hands-on Education Collection.

**July:** 17 adults | 16 children | 94 total attendees. Themes included: takeaway projects as the Education Room was closed for yearly cleaning.

**August:** 253 adults | 179 children | 432 total attendees. Themes included: Unearthed: Fossils of the Silver State special Discovery Saturday, Birds. Closed for two weeks due to staffing challenges.

**September:** 193 adults | 175 children | 368 total attendees. Themes included: Dragonflies, Scarecrows, and Pumpkins **Fiscal Year Totals:** 1685 adults | 1485 children | 3231 total attendees.

- Looking forward:
- Continuing to partner with other individuals and organizations for future Discovery Saturday programs. We are hoping to work with a local weaving guild, scientists, and cultural groups to offer some additional special Discovery Saturdays.
- Preparing special Discovery Saturdays: Nevada Day, Dia de Muertos, and Holidays Around the World in 2025.
- Introducing a couple paid installments of Discovery Saturdays for small workshop style

# Field Trips:

• This year we are seeing less field trips in the fall months than last FY. This does allow us to become more hands on to create meaningful experiences with the classes who are attending. All thematic worksheets that guide the groups through the galleries on their field trips are aligned with the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Sciences and Science. Currently we have six different worksheets that teachers can select from. In addition, our volunteers often assist with gallery engagements by showing part of our Education Collection on our hands-on artifact carts to enhance the visitor experience.

July: No field trips.

August: No field trips.

**September:** 50 adults | 229 children | 279 total attendees. 3 schools represented 3 field trips.

Fiscal Year Totals: 50 adults | 229 children | 279 total attendees. Includes 134 field trips from 105 schools, 39 of which are Title 1.

- Looking forward:
- Continue providing an accessible space for students to learn about Nevada and the region.
- Building our Museum Guide program to enhance gallery interactions

### **Sensory-Friendly Exploration Hours and Group Tours:**

• The museum offers group tours for a newly established fee and has just launched our new Sensory-Friendly Exploration Hours for those who would be better served by experiencing the museum without the dimmed lights, sound effects, or crowds experienced during regular museum hours.

July: 27 adults | 6 children | 88 total attendees. Four groups, including our first two Sensory-Friendly Exploration Hours participants.

August: 4 adults | 0 children | 4 total attendees. 1 group. Kassidy and Holly tours Dita Von Teese and company.

September: 22 adults | 0 children | 22 total attendees | \$200 earned. One group with our newly established Group Tour Rates.

Fiscal Year Totals: \*not all tour headcounts list ages. 265 adults | 74 children | 485 total attendees across 16 groups.

- Looking forward:
- Continue to build the Museum Guide program to better manage tour and Sensory-Friendly Exploration Hour visit requests.

#### Museum in a Box:

• Our Museum in a Box program continues to grow with the addition of a Desert Geology box and with higher reservation numbers than the previous record-setting year. All of the current boxes were rebranded with the new fonts and logos over the summer months, resulting in the production of 39 refreshed Teacher Handbooks. We continue to go through each box to update it to match the current Nevada Academic Content Standards and professional standards.

July: No bookings.

August: 36 adults | 826 children | 862 total attendees. Eight schools across 10 bookings.

**September:** 129 adults | 4,505 children | 4,634 total attendees. 36 schools across 48 bookings.

Fiscal Year Totals: 165 adults | 5,331 children | 5,496 total attendees. Includes 58 bookings from 44 schools.

- Looking forward:
- Refurbishing our Civil Rights in Las Vegas and Lost City Museum in a Boxes.
- Planning for the creation of new boxes for two additional themes.

#### **Volunteers**

We have recently reorganized our volunteer program and continue to work to update our documents to prepare for more regularly scheduled orientations.

**July:** 16 volunteers (5 in education, 1 in exhibits, 2 in galleries, 4 in library, 2 in natural history and 2 in museum store) | 342.3 hours **August:** 20 volunteers (11 in education, 1 in exhibits, 1 in galleries, 3 in library, 3 in natural history and 1 in museum store) | 200.02 hours

**September:** 6 volunteers (2 in education, 2 in exhibits, 1 in library, and 1 in natural history | 56.99 hours **Calendar Year Totals:** 2,417.10 hours | 50 volunteers

- Looking forward:
  - Hoping to hold volunteer appreciation and orientation events.
  - Looking to recruit and plan more learning opportunities for our Museum Guides.

### **Community Engagement:**

• We regularly attend festivals and events at the locations of the community organizations we partner with. We also accommodate schools when they request staff to present or speak with their students about our professions, a specific subject, or the museum in general.

July: No events attended

August: 800 individuals interacted with

8/8: 800 – Griffith Elementary School: Family Community Resource Fair

September: 237 individuals interacted with

9/6: 237 – Capitol Christmas Tree Ornament Painting @ Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

Calendar Year Totals: \*not all headcounts list ages 666 adults | 1,947 children | 6,497 total attendees. Across 30 events.

#### Social Media:

### Instagram

Followers: 4,691 (304 growth)

Views: 46,513 (most on September 19th: 5,461) Average Reach: 361 (most on September 18th: 2,460

### Facebook

Page Likes: 16,766

Impressions: 497,826 (most on August 4th: 74,355)

Reach: 409,921 (most on August 4th: 53,668)
Page Views: 5,143 (most on September 20th: 207)
Reactions: 4,803 (most on September 20th: 303)
Engagement: 24,409 (most on August 4th: 3,438)

#### **Exhibits**

Wes Southerland, Exhibits Manager

**Activities summary:** 

- The New Deal in The New West: On the Road in Nevada with Arthur Rothstein. Changing Exhibit Gallery.
- The photography exhibit opened September 26, 2025, and runs through April 2026. The exhibits team with the help of Facilities Supervisor, the Maintenance Worker and several volunteers, built some new walls, platforms and pedestals for artifacts to enhance the photographs. We changed the gallery color to a rich deep brown and changed all the lighting to a low lux led 10-degree spot bulb. This gave the gallery a more intimate feel. We also added two TV screens with digital images and a short documentary about the photographer.
- Bug Blast.
- I have finished all the graphics for the Bug Blast arcade game. Expect to have the exhibit open to the public by year's end.
- Language Access Program.

Exhibits installed 26 bilingual Spanish English panels in the *Permanent Exhibits* gallery. The Curator of Education contributed text to summarize key themes in the natural and cultural history of Nevada.

# New Equipment

The exhibits department was given enhancement money for fiscal 2026 to purchase new equipment and supplies to produce better quality exhibits. We have purchased a wall mount glass/ plexiglass cutter, a new vinyl cutter, 24" graphics monitor, 24" printer, and several foam mannequins. We will replace the obsolete dry-mounting press and various specialty supplies as well.

### **Facility Maintenance**

Raul Cuellar, Facilities Supervisor

# **Activities summary:**

#### **Work Orders:**

- Completed 41
- Open 16

# **Construction Projects**

- Shower to incubator room (Completed)
- Water filtration system (in process)

#### **Maintenance:**

- 38 work orders completed.
- Help exhibits department install exhibits.
- Help security patrol.

#### **Custodial:**

- 3 work orders completed of additional tasks.
- · Cleaned boiler and chiller room.
- Cleaned all elevator service and electrical service rooms.
- Both custodians have helped to relieve security for breaks.

# **Security:**

- Assist with monthly pest control by opening rooms for technician.
- Monthly inspections of fire extinguishers and first aid kits.
- Quarterly building safety inspection.

#### **Museum Store**

Lara Brown, Museum Attendant

# **Activities summary:**

- Store sales increased 7 percent over the first quarter of FY25. Because of the additional spending authority granted at the end of last fiscal year, the store was able to keep inventory levels high throughout the summer. When the private budget opened earlier than past years for FY 26, Lara was able to focus on developing custom items rather than having to rush and order aggressively to fill up the store.
- The New Deal in the New West: On the Road in Nevada with Arthur Rothstein exhibit opened in September. The store has an elegant display of books and matted prints for sale. Lara printed the images in-house and matted and packaged the prints

from supplies available from Amazon. This cut down costs severely and the store can offer these stunning images at a high profit margin.

#### 2025-26 Attendance

Jan-11,093

Feb-12,512

Mar-19,500

Apr-16,387

May-16,321

June-10,910

Jul-7899

Aug-7329

Sep-8874

Total+ 110,828

### **FUND RAISING**

Donors committed \$16,000 through Friends of Nevada State Museum Las Vegas to support Museum in a Box program (transportation, replenishment)



Joe Lombardo | Governor

Daniel P. Thielen | Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD

MUSEUM

Daphne DeLeon | Director 2180 S. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701

Date: November 13, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Daphne DeLeon, Director

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report for FY25 Q4 and FY26 Q1 to the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

### **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

# **Building Projects**

Door replacements (overhead and man) were completed by June 30, 2025.

Security Design project was completed by June 30, 2025.

Adventure Center project is in progress. First project meeting was held in September 2025.

### **Staff Activities**

New Staff:

Museum Attendants (2 Part-Time): David Reay and Victor Alvarez.

Victor Alvarez Accepted another state position in July 2025. Process to make David Reay full-time was started in September 2025.

Museum Store Manager: Jammer NcNeal

Transition: Volunteer/Staff Lunch Meet Up every other month starting July 2025 to facilitate transition to new volunteer roles by creating space for in-person interaction.

## **Education Update:**

Chenay Pointer, Education Curator is assessing current educational programming and developing new programs. Whistle Stop Stories and STEAM Sundays continue to attract new visitors. Attendance at educational programs have increased. Some attendance have become members to facilitate regualr attendance at programs.

### **History Update:**

Adam Michalski, History Curator is working with Nevada State Museum Carson City to get collection descriptions ready to be transferred to a collection database for NSRM (PastPerfect) and returning NSRMCC artifacts back to NSRMCC. NSRMCC will collaborate with railroad museums in Boulder City and Ely to ensure that select collections from all three museums will be available online by the end of FY26.

# **Restoration Shop Update:**

Annual Safety Meeting – Rule Book Safety Test: April 26, 2025, and May 17, 2025

All train and motor car volunteers are required to recertify annually by attending the safety meeting and passing the rule book test. Restoration Shop staff conducted the meeting with assistance from curators and other museum staff.

Inyo Restoration continues as Restoration Shop staff assess the amount of restoration/repair required and develop a timeline for completion.

# **Outreach/Events:**

2025 Operating Season (April 5, 2025 – December 30, 2025)

April 5, 2025 – June 30, 2025: 7,198 tickets sold (4,819 Admission + 2,379 train ride and special event tickets)
July 1, 2025 – September 30. 2025: 8,752 tickets sold (5,235 Admission + 3,525 train ride and special event tickets)

Number of Days Train and Motor Car Rides:

Train Rides: 14 Motor Car Rides: 18

# **Special Events:**

April 19-20, 2025, Eggstravaganza July 4-6, 2025, Star Spangled Steam-Up

### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Museum exceeded its FY25 Admission revenue goal by approx. \$30,000. Representing an increase of approximately 3,000 visitors, Museum revenues were healthy for FY25. FY26 Q1 visitation continued to see healthy numbers buoyed by the train ride sand special events and corresponding revenue.

### **MUSEUM STORE**

The Museum Store missed its FY25 revenue goal primarily because of the store manager position being vacant for 11 months of the fiscal year. This deficit was offset by store manager salary savings. Jammer McNeal, started on June 26, 2025, as the store manager. His sales experience has been translated into healthy store revenue up until September. Statewide computer issues resulted in the Store only being able to process cash sales for approximately 3 months. This negatively impacted store sales figures.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The implementation of the online ticketing services for admission, train ride and special event tickets allows the Museum to better analyze the success of its events and programming; and identify opportunities for growth.

In FY24 Q4 a total of 7,292 tickets were sold, generating gross revenue of \$40,047. In FY25 Q4 a total of 7,198 tickets were sold, generating gross revenue of \$67,048. This increase in gross revenue reflects the increase of admission and train ride prices and enhancement of programming.

In FY25 Q1 a total of 8,724 tickets were sold, generating gross revenue of \$72,960. In FY26 Q1 a total of 8,752 tickets were sold, generating gross revenue of \$86,970. This increase in gross revenue reflects the increase of admission and train ride prices and enhancement of programming.

The Museum will strive to enhance and refine programming to ensure that visitors continue to see the Museum as valuable proposition and encourage repeat and new visitors.

### **FUND RAISING**

The Museum assisted the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City (Friends) finalize an Eggstravaganza \$1,000 cash donation from Renewal by Andersen. The Museum is collaborating with the Friends to develop an Inyo Restoration fundraising campaign.



Joe Lombardo | Governor Daniel Thielen | Administrator Jen Roger | Director NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY 600 N. Carson St Carson City, NV 89701

Date: November 18, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Jen Roger, Director Nevada State Museum Carson City

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Quarterly Report to the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

### **Quarterly Reports**

### **Natural History**

During this period, the educational outreach efforts of Natural History included several Curator's Corner events. At the Christmas Tree Ornament event, information about the Official State of Nevada Symbols was shared with 125 attendees. A school tour provided an educational experience for approximately 60 students and chaperones, focusing on Nevada's native animals. Additionally, the Halloween Trunk or Treat event, themed "Creepy Crawlers," attracted an estimated 500 attendees who learned about Nevada's lesser-known creepy critters. In response to public interest, five information requests were answered, offering research assistance on various topics. A presentation on safety procedures at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City was delivered to 30 docents and staff members. Field work included the collection of rodents for potential inclusion in upcoming Natural History exhibits. Approximately ten days were dedicated to researching and organizing content to support the development of these new exhibits.

### Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Center Quarterly Report (August - October 2025):

During the August–October 2025 quarter, the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Center remained active with a variety of public programs and behind-the-scenes tours. These included a PEO group of 12, a Nevada State Museum new volunteer tour with 8 participants, a Cold Springs tour with 9 attendees, and a small group visit with Sherry McConnell. The Center also handled several consultations and donation inquiries, including Howard Cannon artifacts from Nancy Downey, square dance memorabilia from Cindy Salyer, a quilt from Gloria Hanes, and garments from Barbara Thorton. We were pleased to receive additional funding from the Nauman Foundation, which supported the acquisition of new Steel Fixture cabinetry. A major project this quarter was the delivery and

installation of this cabinetry, along with the relocation of objects in preparation for an upcoming HVAC update.

Costume specialist Shelly Foote consulted for four days, assisting with garment identification, dating, and analysis for an upcoming publication. Her insights have been incorporated into the existing manuscript. I also met with Ann Wolf of the Nevada Museum of Art to discuss future exhibition collaborations, including NMA's commitment to fund conservation of an 1880s gown. Additional administrative tasks included submitting and re-submitting purchase orders for Shelly Foote's expenses, completing all required IT certifications, and contributing a newsletter article featuring photos of Shelly and myself. I was honored to be selected as a judge for the National Make It With Wool Contest. Throughout the quarter, I actively participated in all Program and Collections Committee meetings, including those related to the *Riveting America* exhibition

## **Anthropology**

During the first quarter, Anthropology staff worked with our federal and state partners, Cultural Research Management (CRM) companies, and individuals to manage outgoing and incoming collections, loans, and research requests. These activities included a loan between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Museum (SISCCM). Other loans include paleontological materials on loan to the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, faunal materials from Smith Creek Cave (United State Forest Service controlled collection), which are on loan to Steve Emslie (University of North Carolina), and archaeological materials on loan to the Churchill County Museum. We responded and assisted with research requests including researchers from Texas A&M, University of New Mexico, Nevada Department of Transportation, the University of Nevada Reno and Las Vegas, and California State Parks. We processed and issued Nevada Antiquities permits and Curation Agreements with CRM companies, individuals, and state agencies. Collections received included 28 boxes of human remains (most likely Anglo) from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, two boxes from Far Western Anthropological Research Group, and three CRM collections of Paleontological materials. Anthro staff began work with the volunteers to rehouse materials from Pyramid Lake collections and began moving collections to make room for the HVAC construction at the Indian Hills Curatorial Facility. Anna gave two public lectures (UNR, Marzen House Museum, Lovelock) conducted four behind the scenes basketry tours, two school tours, and was a judge for the basket-making competition for the Washoe Tribe at Waší·šiw ?itdé?

#### **NAGPRA Report/Activities**



Joe Lombardo | Governor Daniel Thielen | Administrator Jen Roger | Director NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY 600 N. Carson St Carson City, NV 89701

Anthropology staff has conducted continuous work on inventorying NAGPRA related collections from federal, state, and private land. We continue to work with NHS to help facilitate access to the ancestral remains housed with NSMCC. We conduct monthly meetings with our Native American Research Review Committee to ensure tribal input and permissions are obtained prior to access and research of the collections. Anthropology staff met with BLM staff to reacquaint them with NAGPRA related activities and collections, due to the changes in Federal offices and changeover in staff. We repatriated one individual found in 1966 on the banks of the American River to the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok.

### Registrar

During this three-month period, work on accessions, loan renewals, new loans, research requests, donation requests, collections inventory and care, database entries and cleanup, historic photo collection research, requests and photo file clean-up have continued. The loan was renewed between NSMCC and NSRM Boulder City for the Merci Boxcar, along with other loans between NSMCC and the Navy, Northeastern Nevada Museum, and Tallac.

Work has continued jointly with the NSRMCC to identify, catalog, and move NSRM artifacts found in NSMCC history collections over to NSRMCC. In July 84 objects were transferred. This is an ongoing project. As artifacts are identified, cataloged, re-housed, and segregated, arrangements are made between the museums to move the items over. In July, Rachel Delovio and I worked together to deaccession a basket that had been on loan and destroyed in an arson file in 1996. More deaccessions will follow as each department assesses collections.

The August cyberattack slowed things down a bit, but I was still able to get a lot of work done. September highlights included starting to receive artwork, complete condition reports, and preparing the loan for the upcoming Great Basin Native Artists exhibition.

#### Gift Shop

In Q1 of FY25 (July 1 to September 30), total sales reached \$67,577.24 with 3,510 items sold, marking a significant increase of \$17,814.52 compared to the same period in FY24, which saw \$49,762.72 in sales and 3,499 items sold. A major contributor to this growth was the success of Medallion Sales, which rose from 200 units and \$17,500 in FY24 to 350 units and \$29,912 in FY25. Special events also played a key role in driving revenue. The Revival Car Show on July 12 brought in \$1,683.64, while the Coin Show on August 15 and 16 generated a combined \$8,430.51. Notably, the newly minted Liberty Seated

Medallion sold out within the first hour of the Coin Show. We continue to expand our network of local vendors, focusing on offering unique, one-of-a-kind items that reflect the spirit of Nevada and our Museum, while maintaining a commitment to affordable, high-quality merchandise.

#### **Exhibits**

This quarter saw a wide range of creative and collaborative projects across exhibits and public programming. For the Mine Adit Diorama, work progressed with mural painting, faux rock construction, and development of the *Stay Out, Stay Alive* interactive touch app in partnership with the Division of Minerals. A new text panel was also created to enhance the educational experience. At the Coin Show, efforts included designing event signage, creating packaging and labels for the "Pay Dirt" gold panning activity, organizing and facilitating volunteer bag assembly, and assisting with the repair and setup of the sluice box. The Ornament Decorating Event involved coordination with Forestry and Division of Minerals partners, designing a firefighting-themed game, preparing ornament-making materials, and producing event signage and advertising.

Significant progress was made on the Language Accessibility Program (LAP), including designing new webpages for translated exhibit sound files, recording and editing English narration in-house, and working with the Estipona Team to implement both Spanish translations and English audio for exhibits such as *Devonian* 

Sea, Ichthyosaur, Horse/Mammoth, Process of Coining, Ghost Town, and both the UOS and History Gallery audio tours. The Geographical Divides Exhibit wrapped up with the installation of the final Nevada Arts Council exhibit in the South Gallery, a public reception, and subsequent deinstallation. For Día de los Muertos, a volunteer-led plaster skull-making event was successfully planned and facilitated. Preparations also began for the upcoming THIS IS US Art Show, including meetings with artist Melissa Melero and the Anthropology department. Finally, the Fright at the Museum and Trunk or Treat Halloween events involved extensive planning, prop and scene fabrication, actor coordination, and the creation of promotional materials and signage.

### **Facilities**

The Facilities Department had a productive and eventful first quarter, ensuring all systems and spaces were well-prepared for the changing seasons. HVAC units across all locations were serviced in preparation for the fall, and exterior grounds were kept in excellent condition throughout the summer. Custodial staff maintained a high standard of cleanliness and disinfection in both public and staff areas. Preparations are also underway



Joe Lombardo | Governor Daniel Thielen | Administrator Jen Roger | Director NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, CARSON CITY 600 N. Carson St Carson City, NV 89701

for upcoming events in the next quarter. In July, key activities included rooftop HVAC servicing, monthly pest control and elevator maintenance, boiler loop pH testing (all within limits), and a successful Fire Marshal revisit with all deficiencies corrected. The team also supported the History department with item relocation and assisted the Textiles Center with a cabinet delivery. Additionally, staff participated in the NSM CIP 23-M42 meeting. Admissions saw weekend visitor averages of 300–350, with a South Gallery Reception event and no private rentals. In August, routine pest control and elevator maintenance continued, along with emergency generator servicing and boiler loop testing. Facilities staff attended both NSM CIP 25-M26 and 23-M42 meetings. Admissions increased to 350–400 weekend visitors, hosting events such as the Nations Christmas Tree Ornament and the Coin Show, with no private rentals. September saw continued pest control and elevator servicing, a fall filter change for 27 interior fan coil units, and a well water filter change at Indian Hills. Annual fire system testing at Textiles and Indian Hills passed successfully, and a new rooftop unit was installed at the NSM North Building. The team also participated in the CIP 23-M43 bid meeting. Admissions dipped slightly to 200–250 weekend visitors, with a highlight event being the NSM Lecture Evening and no private rentals.



**Joe Lombardo** | Governor

Daniel P. Thielen | Administrator

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Catherine Magee | Director

1650 North Virginia Street

Reno, NV 89503

Date: November 14, 2025

To: Board of Museums & History

From: Catherine Magee, Director

Nevada Historical Society

Through: Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History

Re: Combined Quarterly Reports o the Board of Museums & History

April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

#### **GENERAL MUSEUM ACTIVITIES**

### **Building Projects**

- HVAC and Roof replacement CIP projects 21-M52 & 23-S01-4 continue. The projects began on October 7, 2024, and remain incomplete.
- The Security, Life Safety, Electrical, Seismic Retrofit, Envelope Maintenance, and ADA upgrades CIP projects (23-M10, M16 and S02) began May 12, 2025, and are projected to conclude January 2027.

Due to construction projects, the NHS closed to the public on January 1, 2025. The Research Library closed to the public on May 9, 2025.

### **Nevada Historical Society On The Go! Off-site events**

While our building is closed, we continue to share the stories of Nevada through our Nevada Historical Society On The Go! Off-site events. In conjunction with community partners, NHS programs are hosted at venues throughout the community and virtually. Knights of Pythias host Writers' Wednesday, Washoe County Library System and the Sierra View Library host our Nevada History Lecture series and our American Gaming Archives Fireside Chat series, the ever-popular High Noon with Neal Cobb is hosted by Washoe County Library System, and Docent Council Lectures are hosted by KNPB.

### **NHS Community Outreach Events**

These two quarters, we participated in eight community events: two with the Reno Aces, one with Bowers Mansion Living History, Silver Sage Career Fair; Artown for the month of July, Animal Arc Education Expo, Silver Stage Fall Festival, and UNR Museums Studies presentation; reaching 8990 attendees.

### **Construction Preparation and Monitoring**

All NHS team members moved and protected collections for construction. All NHS team members monitored construction workers working in NHS collection areas.

NHS Docents assisted staff with construction preparation projects including equipment assembly, collections cataloging, and rehousing.

### **Collections Storage**

The NHS is no longer able to collect Nevada's history due to insufficient collections storage space. In addition to this, at the end of January 2025 the NHS lost over 3000 sq ft of free collection storage space. In an emergency collections move, all the collections were moved to temporary storage at the end of January 2025.

Catherine continues to look for 3000 sq ft collections storage for these collections, the price per square foot for leased space for collections is estimated to be between \$0.76 - 1.41sf. When an appropriate location has been found, Catherine will be requesting funds from DMH Board controlled monies to pay for the yearly lease.

### **Nevada Archives Navigator**

Since June 2024, the Nevada Historical Society has participated in an NEH grant-funded project in collaboration with the Nevada State Archives to create a discovery portal, the Nevada Archives Navigator, that enables the public to search for collections from multiple institutions. The Nevada Archives Navigator provides more detail about collections than PastPerfect allows. To date the NHS has made 3,768 records accessible. This will greatly improve user access and user experience for the public.

# 120th Birthday Gala

Fundraiser for the Friends of Nevada Historical Society held at the Elks club on April 11 with 111 attendees and raised \$15,149.33.

### America 250

NHS participating in Nevada State Library and Archives America 250 exhibit "All for Our Country" Shery is a member of the DMH committee

### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

## **Revenue/Expenditure Comparison Narrative:**

Ramit, Administrative Assistant and Store Manager, fulfils special orders for the Museum Store and sells memberships and merchandise at off-site events.

#### MUSEUM STORE

### **Museum Store Sales Narrative:**

Physical Inventory for FY 25 was completed by Catherine and Ramit.

Ramit, Administrative Assistant and Store Manager, fulfils special orders for the Museum Store and sells memberships and merchandise at off-site events.

### MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

# **Membership Program Narrative:**

Due to construction projects, the NHS closed to the public on January 1, 2025. We typically increase membership during onsite events. We had 15 new memberships and 205 renewals. We also have institutional memberships with five renewals.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Attendance Narrative**

We held 31 free offsite and virtual programs with a total of 2576 attendees.

We participated in eight community events with 8990 attendees.

The Research Library continued to schedule researchers as safety and construction allowed from April 1 to May 8 with 31 onsite researchers and fulfilling 74 research requests.

### **FUND RAISING**

NHS 120<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala raised \$ 15,149.33

Docent hours: 4400.5 hours 1 high school intern: 12 hours

Total volunteer hours donated this quarter: 4412.5 hours

Total value of donated time: \$132,154.00\* \* based on accepted rate of \$29.95/hour