Panhandle-Plains Historical Society

FINANCE REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Total Assets
The total assets held by the Society at the end of August 31, 2022 were $14,927,778.95

This is an unaudited figure and includes current operating and endowment accounts.

Brown, Graham & Company, an accounting firm located in Amarillo, Texas has audited the financial records of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society for the past several years. In the Independent Auditor’s opinion, the financial statements referred to present fairly the financial position of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society. The past three years audited total assets as of August 31st are as follows:

FY 2019: $12,500,795
FY 2020: $13,758,666
FY 2021: $16,000,250

Investments
Funds are held with the Texas A&M University System, Happy State Bank, and Amarillo National Bank. The asset allocations for investments held at the two banks are set by the finance committee of the PPHS. The asset allocation for all funds held at the Texas A&M University System is set by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Balances:

- Texas A&M University System Fund: $10,008,469 (80.0%)
- Amarillo National Bank: $1,653,373 (15.0%)
- Happy State Bank/Blugbee: $917,027 (7.0%)
- Other Investments: $1,750 (0.0%)

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS** $12,580,619 (100.0%)

Operating Funds
Operating funds are held in accounts at Wells Fargo, Canyon (Unrestricted and Friends of Southwest Art) and Happy State Bank, Canyon (Research Center, Petroleum Wing, Temporarily Restricted and Capital Campaign).

Operations
Another year of operations was successfully completed by PPHM on August 31, 2022. We are very thankful for our generous contributors, as well as arts and humanities groups from around the state and region that continue to show their support. Oil and gas royalties have maintained an increase over the last several years and the overall operating revenues for the Museum were up by 13% from 2021. The Society is grateful for the continued support from West Texas A&M University and we owe special recognition to our members, donors, and community for your ongoing engagement in PPHM.

**2022 Revenue**

- State Appropriation: $99,221.00
- Admission: $307,473.31
- Exhibits/Programs: $395,959.24
- Contributions: $971,844.05
- Security: $127,506.68
- Investment Fees: $14,523.99

**2022 Expenses**

- Administration: $134,883.01
- Marketing/Donor Development: $137,284.29
- Store Cost: $32,252.45
- Membership: $94,775.90
- Investments: $369,078.06
- Royalties: $547,785.05
- Wt In-Kind: $656,172.00
- Wt Support: $205,189.00
- Contributions: $971,844.05
- State Appropriation: $99,221.00
- Admission: $307,473.31
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Edited by Stephanie Price, Director of Marketing & Communications

Director’s Note

2021-2022

Dear Friends and Members,

For nearly ninety years, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum has stood as the first university-based museum in the State of Texas. Its mission has been to educate and inspire a diverse public with the cultural and scientific heritage of the nation and state, specifically the Panhandle of Texas. On the occasion of the opening of the museum building (now Pioneer Hall) in 1933, the second president of WT, J.A. Hill—a remarkable figure tied to the beginnings of the Society and museum—wrote:

"By the collection of its materials and the erection on this campus a beautiful and durable monument, this organization is trying to express its devotion to the best that is in our changing civilization. Members of the Society, in raising this memorial to the spirit of the pioneer, for generations to come, you will be inviting, through your organization and its visible symbols, the youth of this country to follow those principles that have made this place great."

Devotion to the best: an invitation to generations. Those are powerful truths that have guided this museum for nine decades. This has always been a museum devoted to such principles, especially as they are borne out in various exhibitions and educational pursuits. This was seen this past year in some notable exhibits, especially Objects of Enchantment and Quinacridone Traditions. In each of these, the curatorial staff came together to help the community tell stories about their own cultural backgrounds with the desire to understand the traditions of others. Such moments, and the resulting exhibits, revealed a "devotion to the best" when it comes to human interest and the power of story.

With regards to educational pursuits, much can (and will) be said through the coming annual report. I pause here to note that the museum constantly seeks to "invite...the youth of this country." This past year saw 16,181 students and 56 school districts served; and nearly 4,000 college students and faculty visited galleries and collections, including several exhibits that were designed in collaboration with WTAMU faculty and students. I am always astounded that PPHM serves every K-12 school district in the Panhandle of Texas, not to mention dozens outside the region and state.

In its pursuits, PPHM represents an abiding obsession with the richness of this region's everyday surroundings; the landscape, buildings, people, wildlife, values, and stories that give meaning to this part of the nation. The museum is concerned with promoting the commonplace as a not-so-commonplace: the regions rich, diverse and distinctive landscape, culture, and history. Canyons and Cadillacs, arrowheads and artists, cowboys and Comancheros, pastures, Wildcatters and wallows—this part of the country offers fascinating stories across all frontiers.

The network of rich understandings between people and a land's history is not merely about scenery, however. It takes us below the surface, to where the land might reflect back to us a story of purpose and belonging. The history of a region contains thousands of stories that have never been written down: tales of daily lives and struggles to build shelter, find water, grow food, help neighbors, fight enemies, endure the elements, survive disease, turn a profit. Stories are the currency of ordinary history, and history is a set of stories we tell to understand the traditions of others.

All the best,

Andrew Hay, Ph.D.
Director
Noteworthy Numbers 2021-2022

86,915 Website Visitors
37,900 Video Views on Youtube
29,271 Virtual Tours on Virtually Anywhere
16,181 School Children Served
15 Choirs Sang at Our Annual Christmas Open House
5,615 Students Attended an Outreach Program
3,085 People Attended a Staff Outreach Presentation
Over 1,800 Volunteer Hours Served
16,181 School Children Served
21,556 Followers on Social Media
250 Digital Archival Images Sent to Researchers and Publications
250 Videos Created for Social Media
64 Videos Created for Social Media
56 School Districts Served
1,268 WTAMU Students Visited PPHM
557 Research Center Visits
557 Research Center Visits
2,455 Artifacts Available on Omeka Digital Platform
301 Students Attended Our New STAAR Prep
43 Special Event Rentals
86,915 Website Visitors
$60,123.50 in Store Sales
2021-2022 PPHM ANNUAL REPORT
245 Artifacts Available on Omeka Digital Platform
56 School Districts Served
1,157 Media Stories Showcased PPHM
250 Digital Archival Images Sent to Researchers and Publications
$60,123.50 in Store Sales
557 Research Center Visits
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86,915 Website Visitors
PPHM joined the Museums for All program in October. This growing initiative provides low-income families with reduced admission rates to participating museums nationwide. Addressing the admission barrier will see more community members exploring our collective history.

Museums for All was created by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2014. Since the launch of the initiative in 2014/2015, Museums for All has served more than 4 million visitors nationwide at more than 900 museums of all varieties, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Museums for All is the only nationally coordinated financial accessibility program in the museum field, providing an easy-to-implement structure and the ability for participating museums to customize their implementation. 214 people have visited PPHM using this program since its launch.

The Education Department is one of the fundamental parts of PPHM tasked with the mission to enhance the museum experience for students K-12. PPHM provides engaging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) related experiences that are unique to this region. The programing and special events help students develop critical thinking skills, embrace challenges, and immerse themselves in our region’s history and overarching story. With high quality educational programming, we were able to bring our initiatives beyond the museum walls via outreach programs and virtual learning opportunities reaching the USA, Canada and Mexico.

The museum served over 15,800 students this year, which is an increase from the previous year of 7,474. In 2022, the new STEAM lab opened in January. This lab is an inviting space for area schools to integrate the history of our area with science, arts, and math through TEKS based initiatives. This incredibly successful interactive and inquiry-based space can be used for anything from a science lesson on wind energy, to an art lesson on color theory, and everything in between. Our team tailors the experience to meet students’ needs and fulfill classroom learning objectives.

The Education Department continued its contract with Canyon ISD and formed a new contract with Nazareth ISD that offers exceptional benefits to those school districts and their students. We expanded our museum-wide programs, reaching different needs of teachers by hosting our first STAAR Prep for 5th/8th Science classes. Our K-12 community events included: Constitution Day, American Sign Language Event, Canyon ISD Wax Museum, Week of the Young Child, Read Across America, and a new STEAM Summer Camp. We were also able to serve our hard-working teachers in CISD by delivering treats to 1,175 teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

2021 marked the 100th Year of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society. The role of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum remains the same as it was in 1921. “It is the sacred duty of ours to collect the record of the here and hand this on to the children of the future,” visionary founder Hattie Anderson once said, “and we believe in the future our people will point with pride to their museum and the historical society.” That pride was felt through PPHM’s members, board of trustees, visitors, schoolchildren and the Panhandle community as we celebrated this milestone in September at the 100th Annual Meeting. From board president, Joel Hogue to director Andrew Hay, a contemplative look at the past was shared along with a vision for the future.

The Annual Meeting video featured many members, donors, visitors, educators, and staff. This video was put together to celebrate this impressive milestone and show the impact PPHS has had on our community. Use your phone to scan the QR code to view the video.

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Southwest Abstractions of Emil Bisttram
September 21, 2021-March 19, 2022

The WTAMU Art Program and PPHM jointly presented this exhibition of the artist's late-career paintings. Emil Bisttram was one of the leading painters in the Southwest during the twentieth century. With Raymond Jonson, Bisttram founded the Transcendental Painting Group in 1934. Bisttram, Jonson, Agnes Pelton and fellow members believed that color and abstract forms had a universal essence that they explored in their work. This exhibition drew exclusively from an extensive collection of Bisttram paintings from the Ladd Family of Amarillo and featured student videos studying the painter's work. This was the first time this group of works had been exhibited together in a public setting. This exhibition included an opening reception and lecture with Dr. Ruth Pasquerine on September 21st as well as a special donor event focusing on the artist's work and life November 6, 2021.

TEXAS Dressed
November 20, 2021-April 30, 2022

In partnership with Joyce Kuenst, TEXAS costume designer, this exhibition focused on the costumes and story of TEXAS Outdoor Musical, the Official Play of Texas was a featured 2022 Textile exhibition. TEXAS Dressed featured 35 costumes from the production along with music, video, print publications and images. This show, set against an authentic tapestry of history shows fictional characters who bring to life the stories, struggles, and triumphs of the settlers of the Texas Panhandle in the 1880’s. The opening reception and curator talk was held in December of 2021.

Paradox in a P.O.W. Camp
January 15, 2022-April 23, 2022

Using the papers of Ann Cockrell Osburn and other Research Center sources, the exhibition explored the relationship between residents of the Hereford area and Italian Prisoners Of War held in the World War II camp located south of the town. The exhibition included a variety of items, from photographs to hand-written letters of the P.O.W.’s learning English, to art pieces such as drawings, sculptures, and rings created by the soldiers given as gifts to Cockrell Osburn. We were able to show within this exhibit a paradox; that idea of really positive and close friendships coming out of a very unusual and unfriendly environment. PPHM and Panhandle PBS held a Film Screening Panel Discussion on March 31, 2022 about the Hereford P.O.W. Camp of World War II. Deana Craighead, PPHM’s Curator of Art, led a discussion on the P.O.W. camp, exhibition, and film along with exhibition curator Warren Stricker and WTAMU Art Historian, Dr. Amy Von Lintel.

Georgia O’Keeffe’s Cabinet of Curiosity
February 21, 2022-2024

Between 1916 and 1918, Georgia O’Keeffe wrote close to 200 letters documenting her collected experiences while living in Canyon and teaching at West Texas Normal College. Drawing from these letters and borrowing from the classical traditions of the curiosity cabinet, symbolic objects from the museum’s permanent collection have been chosen to represent the ways in which O’Keeffe was trying to make sense of the vastness, the weather, the speed, and the freedom she found here.

Objects of Enchantment and Maker’s Space
May 7, 2022-April 2023

This magical summer exhibition invited visitors to step into their favorite fairytales in Objects of Enchantment. From light and whimsical to dark and brooding, PPHM featured items from our collection found in fourteen favorite fairy tales such as The Little Mermaid and Beauty and the Beast. The exhibit is based on when literature for children began and features stories from the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Andersen and others. Items lent from the Amarillo Little Theatre, WT Theatre Dept and Dr. Brian Krause blend with artifacts from the PPHM collection to create a fanciful exhibit for all ages. Behind the exhibit, there is a Maker’s Space where there is crafting, play and education, along with shopping focused on the themes found in the exhibit. Objects of Enchantment and the associated educational space, is one of the most, if not the most, family centric major exhibition PPHM has ever done. PPHM had many special programs around this topic, Summer Story Time, crafting in the Maker’s Space, Movies on the Lawn and our gala theme.

Quinceañera Traditions
June 2, 2022-February 2023

Rich with historic and symbolic meaning, the pageantry of the quinceañera marks a fifteen year old’s journey from girl to woman. As a rite of passage, it is a celebration of food, family and faith that encompasses both the old and the new. This exhibition featured stories from those in the Panhandle region and three generations of quinceañera celebration and was developed by curator Deana Craighead along with a committee of community volunteers. In recognition of the diverse people of our area, this exhibit will lead our introduction of Spanish text panels to future exhibits. An opening reception for Quinceañera Traditions was held on Thursday, June 2 and more programming will happen in the fall of 2022. Our exhibit sponsors included Dean Boyd, Los Barrios de Amarillo, Telefundo and Amarillo National Bank.

Traditions of Heritage & Home
August 27, 2022-July 2023

Traditions of Heritage & Home is a quiet, contemplative look at how religion is woven into life at home. This exhibit features mission style furniture and religious art and artifacts from the PPHM permanent collection. This exhibition was co-curated by Jenni Opalinski and Deana Craighead.
21-22 Digital Efforts

Research Center Catalog
Access to the Research Center collection improved dramatically this year through work on the online catalog. The complete book collection is now in the catalog and the addition of records for archival collections, oral histories, and unpublished manuscripts is underway. Over 12,000 items are currently described in the online catalog, and new records are regularly added, greatly improving exploration of and access to our unique holdings. The catalog is made possible with the assistance of the staff at Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University.

Kay Shuey Palm Photograph Collection
This year, the Archival Team concluded a project to digitize 200 negatives from the Kay Shuey Palm photograph collection. This endeavor originally began in 2017 with funding received from the Rescuing Texas History mini-grant in conjunction with the University of North Texas libraries. These digital images were then made accessible online through the Portal to Texas History, exhibiting significant people, places, and events from the life of Palm. From the perspective of Palm, we catch a glimpse of rural life in the Texas Panhandle from the 1910s to about the 1930s, with scenes ranging from ranching and farming activities, to family and community occasions. Over two-thirds of Palm’s negatives were unable to be funded by the grant, so work is currently underway to finalize the collection and make the complete gallery available to the public.

Roaring 1920’s Flapper Fashion
In 2021, PPHM made a significant push to image portions of the Kay Shuey Palm photograph collection. This year, the Archival Team concluded a project to digitalize 200 negatives from the Kay Shuey Palm photograph collection. This endeavor originally began in 2017 with funding received from the Rescuing Texas History mini-grant in conjunction with the University of North Texas libraries. These digital images were then made accessible online through the Portal to Texas History, exhibiting significant people, places, and events from the life of Palm. From the perspective of Palm, we catch a glimpse of rural life in the Texas Panhandle from the 1910s to about the 1930s, with scenes ranging from ranching and farming activities, to family and community occasions. Over two-thirds of Palm’s negatives were unable to be funded by the grant, so work is currently underway to finalize the collection and make the complete gallery available to the public.

21-22 Digital Exhibitions

Bob Marrs: West Texas Renaissance Man
Bob Marrs was a renowned saddle maker of the Texas Panhandle who operated out of Amarillo, Texas. In addition to having incomparable leather working skills, Bob was a cowboy, artist, collector, veteran, mentor, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Bob was, in many ways, his own version of a West Texas Renaissance Man. He valued hard work and practicality as well as artistic beauty, and was determined to succeed at whatever he put his mind to. This exhibit celebrates Bob’s life and legacy as a symbol of the pioneer spirit of the Texas Panhandle.

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One Enchanted Evening

Guests walked into a transformed Pioneer Hall crafted by the talented Parie Donaldson focused on bringing fairytale to life. And what a job she did! It was magical. Two Knives offered themed hors d’oeuvre and cocktails served in the Enchanted Garden space of Pioneer Hall. Many great silent auction items were available to view and bid on during this time which helped us net over $75,000 for the event.

The night then proceeded as guests walked through the brand new PPHM Exhibition Objects of Enchantment! This exhibition, debuting that evening, explores objects showcased in fairytale and discusses the themes of light and dark, love and greed, redemption and more.

Dinner was served in the PPHM Derrick Room where guests enjoyed our themed four course menu featuring items like Rumpelstiltskin’s Fillet Carbonara and the Queen’s Apple Tartlet. Sparky Asister hosted a spirited live auction where we auctioned off not one but two trips to Italy and two private, behind the scenes tours of PPHM. The event ended with a dance party by GOGA Music of Dallas.

For nearly ninety years, PPHM has been telling stories and fairytale are a part of the stories that make us who we are. After all, Hans Christian Andersen said, “Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale.” Thank you to the donors who made One Enchanted Evening magical!
**21-22 Special Programs**

*WTAMU Homecoming Speakeasy*

The Alumni Association and PPHM hosted a party that was the bees’ knees inside PPHM’s Panhandle-Prohibition Exhibition. We had about 60 guests explore the Roaring 20s and celebrated WTAMU’s Homecoming theme.

*Tidings of the Trees Inaugural Year*

This VIP event was filled with holiday music, food stations, and a festive bar. Chairwoman Suzanne Whelton along with Alice Hyde and Kay Cooper solicited the unique trees and put together a profitable and festive event. Welcoming guests at Pioneer Hall was Santa along with the museum’s signature fourteen foot Christmas tree, but that was the first of many trees that guests encountered. Over 200 guests were dazzled by 15 one-of-a-kind Christmas trees created by local artists and businesses. These trees were made out of unique and interesting materials, with creative themes and were spectacular, festive, and in demand. Thanks to auctioneer Spanky Assiter, this unique event also boasted an inaugural Christmas tree pin designed by artist Kat Luciano.

*Redesigned Christmas Open House*

The museum was filled with Christmas activities for the community at our Christmas Open House. In the snowy woods of Hazelwood Lecture Hall, Santa was ready to listen to all of the kids’ Christmas wishes. Throughout the museum, children made fun holiday-themed crafts like a popsicle-stick Christmas ornament or an accordion tree. The Amarillo and Canyon Libraries told Christmas stories in a cozy setting while children’s choirs sang Christmas tunes that fill the museum with holiday cheer emceed by KTUU. Santa’s Helpers also had a station to make the staple holiday snack—Christmas cookies. Finally, there were plenty of fun family photo opportunities under new balloon arches. The community committee brought new enthusiasm for a beloved event. Thank you to Ellen Jones, Dana Wabson, Kathy Shaddix, Courtney White, Kaki Clifton, Tiffany Curtis and Whitneyrose Upchurch.

*Special Partnership Events—Artifacts Comm Alive & Deaf Awareness Week*

In November, Students from the West Texas A&M University Communication Department spread throughout the museum sharing the interesting stories of artifacts in our exhibits. This year’s theme was Six Tales of the West featuring the Theodore Roosevelt shotgun and dinosaurs among the tales. Another West Texas A&M University and Canyon ISD partnership was with Traci Frather. Canyon High students provided information about our exhibits using American Sign Language for one special weekend in April as part of Deaf Awareness Week. At PPHM, we want everybody to be able to enjoy our exhibits, so we work to make our museum experience accessible to all.

**21-22 Key Conservation Projects**

*Quanah Parker’s Headdress*

Quanah Parker’s headdress was conserved at PPHM in early November by a Dallas-based firm. The headdress was in need of professional cleaning to remove surface dust and minor stabilization work to secure stitching and feather tassel tips. Recommendations were provided for its storage, care, and handling.

*Kit Carson-Bac-sum Road Archaeological Project*

In April, Archaeology staff and volunteers completed a three-year project of cataloging and housing the records and artifacts associated with the Kit Carson-Bason Road Archaeological Project. The collection from donor Alvin Lynn includes over 1,800 historic and military artifacts from his fieldwork at thirty-two archaeological sites across Texas and New Mexico.

*Fragile Fossil Collection*

Archaeology staff and volunteers are continuing to conserve and make plaster jackets for the museum’s most fragile fossils. In the past year, major repairs were made to mastodon and mammoth tusks, and form-fitting plaster jackets were designed and made to better support these and other large paleontological specimens. The jackets, constructed from layers of fiberglass and dialected plaster, house the fossils while they are in storage, thereby contributing to better preservation outcomes.

*Art in Paper Storage*

Wood-based storage furniture off-gasses acids that can damage collections over time and should be avoided if possible. The Collections Team received refurbished metal flat file drawers to utilize in art storage. In 2022, the team began an inventory and collections move of works on paper housed in the current wooden flat file drawers. This project will allow for better archival storage of the works on paper collection. In addition to the inventory and better storage, there will be improved organization and utilization of space.

*Registrar team, Jenni Modzel and Hagen Hobbs moving works on paper*

*Volunteers Nadyne Lynn and Joe Faulkenberry on the last day of cataloging*

*Artwork work on the Quanah Parker headdress*

*Fossil specimens in customized storage jackets*
This year PPHM welcomed new staff members to our already hardworking and thriving staff.

Macayla Barnasevitch, new Museum Educator’s role here is to develop, engage, and support students in STEAM initiatives, participate in community outreach, and lead guided programs within the museum for our K-12 population. Her favorite part of being in the museum is being able to interact and assist our future leaders while they explore, problem solve, and get hands-on with STEAM activities! She is a Canyon native who grew up visiting PPHM then worked here as a college student from 2016-2020. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from WTAMU.

Deana Craighead is our new PPHM Curator of Art. Deana is responsible for the curation, preservation and collection of art for PPHM in addition to teaching art history focused courses at WTAMU. Deana comes to PPHM with a B.S. in History from Texas Tech University and an M.A. in Art History from West Texas A&M University and grew up in Dalhart. One of the highlights of her education was a study abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris. Deana said it was life changing to see in person the works of art she had studied for so long in school. She has over 10 years of experience from the Amarillo Museum of Art, beginning as a volunteer and most recently as Curator of Education. Right out of college, her first job in Amarillo was with Center City and the Main Street program, where she learned about the History of this area.

Hagen Hobbs grew up in Lubbock, Texas. He came to West Texas A&M University and received a Bachelor of Arts in History while working at PPHM, where he discovered his passion for museums and his future career. Hagen went on to receive a Master of Arts in Museum Science from Texas Tech University. In 2022, Hagen transitioned from Intern into a full-time Museum Specialist. Hagen will act as a liaison between the Collections and Education Departments to better serve our younger visitors. He will assist with projects in both departments and will oversee care of the Education Collection.

Lisa Insall, Administrative Assistant is from Andrews, Texas and has lived in the Texas Panhandle for 30 years. She has ten years of service to West Texas A&M University and recently transferred from the library to the museum. She enjoys the museum because she has always been interested in the stories of the people who came before and the record they left in the objects preserved from a way of life that is now gone.

Jenni Opalinski is PPHM’s Curator of History. As the Curator of History, she will be responsible for curating new exhibitions and caring for the permanent extensive history collection. Jenni comes to PPHM from the Museum of the Southwest where she spent 7 years as Collections and Exhibitions Manager and most recently at the Historic Waco Foundation as Curator.

PPHM has fantastic student workers who assist in several areas across PPHM. This year’s new group included:

- Leroy Aleman, Front Desk
- Madilyn Ballew, Front Desk
- Brenna Campbell, Archaeology
- Catherine Davis, Exhibitions
- Raeang Higgins, Administration
- Aaron Huddleston, History
- Haleigh Klaehn, Archives
- Kendall Powell, Social Media Marketing
- Caitlynn O’Dell, Front Desk
- Hannah McClure, Front Desk
- Tearane’ Lockhart, Special Events

Archaeology Department volunteers working on various projects

- Thank you to our dinosaur costume volunteers who make the parades fun

PPHM would like to thank all of its volunteers for their hard work and dedication.
American Bus Association (ABA) awarded PPHM one of the Best of the Best 2021 Cultural Travel Attractions. Destinations Magazine and ABA celebrate outstanding travel industry members who go above and beyond in serving group tours.

PPHM was awarded #8 Best Western Art Museums of the Year by True West Magazine and chosen once again by the Editors of True West magazine as the Best Pioneer History Collector. “The museum’s permanent collection of 8,000 artworks matches its exhibits on archaeology, paleontology, American Indian and Old West history.”

PPHM won a historic six ADDY Awards—two gold awards and four silver awards in the local Amarillo competition. In addition, Stephanie Price, Marketing Director was awarded the prestigious Silver Medal at the 2022 American Advertising Awards. Hosted by AAF Amarillo. Conducted annually, the American Advertising Awards is the advertising industry’s largest and most representative competition.

Texas Association of Museums gave PPHM a Merit Award for the Art Our Loud Gala Invitation and a Bronze Award for Marketing Materials, Supplementary Materials, and Posters for the 2021 Annual Report.

PPHM has been named Best Art Gallery/Museum for Best of Amarillo for over 10 years.

Canyon Annual Readers’ Choice Awards awarded PPHM the 2022 Favorite Museum in their Discover Canyon issue.

Archaeology staff and volunteers continue to collaborate with the Texas Master Naturalist Program in local events and trainings. In May, Dr. Veronica Arias completed her certification to become a Texas Master Naturalist, while Archaeology assistant Miranda Bible obtained her recertification. Researchers from several different universities and governmental agencies submitted queries and access to collections requests over the past year. Institutional affiliations included Columbia University, Southern Methodist University, Texas State University, University of Arkansas, West Texas A&M University, Plains Archeological Research, National Park Service, Forest Service, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

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American Bus Association (ABA) awarded PPHM one of the Best of the Best 2021 Cultural Travel Attractions. Destinations Magazine and ABA celebrate outstanding travel industry members who go above and beyond in serving group tours.

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Community Praise

Congratulations on your STEAM Lab as PPHM continues to expand fantastic opportunities to the wider community, region and beyond.

— Becky Yoes, Community Member

Such a great experience every time we visit. So many great exhibits to tell our Texas Panhandle history and geology. Glad we have such a great museum so close to home.

— Logan Schuler, Visitor

This is the place to go for families that enjoy learning. The interactive learning was the best part for my children. The art galleries were amazing and wonderful. The bone exhibit was quite spectacular. The best part is that it took two and a half hours to thoroughly see all that there was to see. It is definitely worth the money.

— Jessica Joles, Visitor

Enjoyed this! Love this fine museum...started going there as a child when our parents would take us there after a fishing trip to Buffalo Lake.....we thought it was a great treat...and I continue to go there every chance I get!

— Patsy Myers, Visitor

Thank you so much for hosting our 3rd and 4th graders. We had a great time. Our favorite parts were the Pioneer Town Scavenger Hunt and the Picasso Projects in the STEAM lab.

— Ashley Eustace, Arden Road Elementary

What a wonderful museum and staff! Thank you again for taking the time at short notice to meet and tour us around. I’ve been telling my friends and colleagues about your institution since. Many best wishes and I hope to reconnect with you all again soon.

— Anthony J. Elia Director and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian, Bridwell Library, SMU Libraries and Perkins School of Theology

— Just wanted to say thank you, once again, for that wonderful experience at the museum. It was fantastic. [Deana Craighead] really went out of [her] way to make it all great. So very appreciated. Looking forward to our next visit.

— Gary and Cathleen Wolf, following a visit to the museum researching their recent purchase of a Frank Paul Sauerwein painting.

I’m from Austin. I’ve been to the Bullock Texas History Museum and the Texas Memorial Museum on the UT campus. Both do a great job of educating Texans — whether it’s Texas history or the biology and geology of Texas. But if you want a museum that combines both and adds art, along with a regional focus, you need to go to Canyon and visit the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. You’ll spend several hours there and still be surprised by what all is there.

— Wes Ogilvie, Visitor
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