



PPHM

PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2020-21

A N N U A L R E P O R T



Director's Note

Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Dear Members of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society,

I am delighted to present this annual report for 2020-2021, showcasing an impressive year at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. I am a new face among the talented PPHM staff, but I'm not a stranger to the rich collection found at the museum. My wife and I have had the pleasure of seeing our three children explore every corner of the building—only to come back time and time again! Settling into this job, however, has allowed me the chance to explore as well. And it seems to me that three guiding principles shape the work of PPHM.

The first is respectful collaboration – with individuals, communities, and institutions around the region, state, and country. This means working with large numbers of partners, sharing objects, knowledge, and training. It means educational engagement with visitors and students of all ages, creation of diverse research programs, and a host of other initiatives. And as the Annual Report highlights, collaborative projects undertaken in such future projects as the “Challenger Center” highlight this fact.

The second guiding principle is openness and understanding. The collections and archives are accessible and will continue to be made more accessible—not only to scholars and students, but also to the wider public—through innovative technology. PPHM recognizes its obligation to communities that have close cultural connections with objects in the collection. As ever, access is of prime importance. The treasures and accompanying stories found in the collection need to be presented to as many people as possible—whether physically or digitally. The Annual Report describes innovative work in PPHM's outreach, collections, volunteer programs, and virtual exhibits touched the lives of tens of thousands of people from any manner of background and location.

Finally, the overriding importance is found in preserving and sharing the collection for present and future generations. One recent, innovative way of doing this is found in PPHM's “STEAM Lab,” which will bring new stories and experiences to a large and diverse number of students. The Lab will host WTAMU, Region 16, AISD, CISD, and other students to utilize the PPHM collection to further their own knowledge of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The state-of-the-art experience for future generations in the STEAM Lab will not only help preserve and share the collection, but it will also promote new knowledge on a wide range of subjects.

I look forward to the certain progress PPHM will make in the coming years, from creating intriguing exhibits, and expanding educational engagement, to continuing work on upgrading and expanding the museum's structural assets. I continue to believe that, with our founder Hattie Anderson, “in the future our people will point with pride to their museum and the historical society.” To be sure, stewarding such a vision will require the commitment of many more people like you, who understand the importance of supporting PPHM's mission of preserving and interpreting the history of this great region of Texas. I know such people will step forward. I know this because of the character of the people in this region; I know this because PPHM's collections, combined with its capacity to move knowledge forward, will continue to touch the hearts and minds of the many individuals who make their way to the Panhandle of Texas and explore its rich history.

On behalf of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society Board of Trustees and the staff members of PPHM, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the strengthening of this remarkable institution.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "H".

Andrew Hay, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle

Panhandle-Plains Historical Society

Finance Report to the Membership

Total Assets

The total assets held by the Society at the end of August 31, 2021 were \$ 15,529,497

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 2018: \$11,835,644 FY 2019: \$12,500,795 FY 2020: \$13,758,166

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:

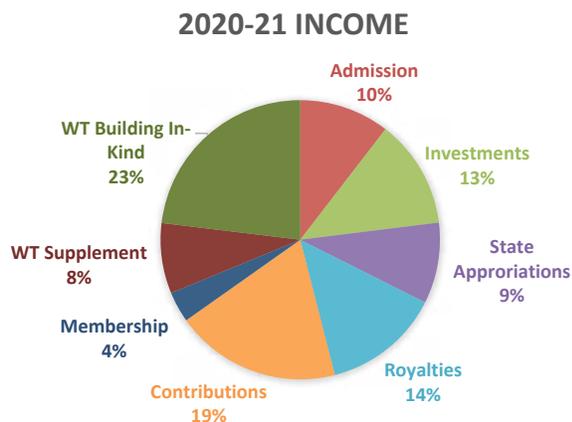
Texas A&M University System Fund	\$ 10,886,155	80.0 %
Amarillo National Bank	\$ 1,886,540	14.0 %
Happy State Bank/Bugbee	\$ 889,987	6.0 %
Other Investments	\$ 1,750	0.0 %
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$13,664,432	100.0%

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, 2021. We are very thankful for our generous contributors, as well as arts and humanities groups around the state and region that continued to show their support. PPHM continued to see an increase in oil and gas royalties and the Society is grateful for the continued support from West Texas A&M University. Over the past year the museum has shown its ability to thrive even in the most uncertain of times proving that the board, staff, and our patrons are committed to working together to usher the museum into the next 100 years. It is due to the continued support of our members, donors, and our community that the PPHS is able to provide the panhandle and state a first-class museum.





Cultural Foundation of the TEXAS Panhandle Formed

PPHM and "TEXAS" Musical Leadership Combined Under WTAMU Guidance

A new organization that combines the missions of two longstanding Panhandle institutions was announced in February by West Texas A&M University President Dr. Walter Wendler.

The Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle is an advisory body that will place Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, producers of the Outdoor Musical "TEXAS," under the same umbrella.

The Cultural Foundation will be led by an advisory board made up of prominent Texans with a history of service to the state who will be devoted to advancing the CFTP's mission.

Pat Hickman, chairman of the board for Happy State Bank and Trust Co. and Happy Bancshares Inc., will serve as the CFTP advisory board's first committee chair.

"My family home growing up was east of Canyon, just 10 miles from the state park. Both the museum and the play are near and dear to my heart," Hickman said. "It is my hope that the CFTP helps create a new passion for these Texas Panhandle icons. A strong board of directors has been assembled — individuals from all over the state, with unique spheres of influence and vested personal interests in preserving and passing the stories of our pioneers to generations to come."

CFTP will preserve the culture of the Texas Panhandle and beyond, focusing the efforts of both long-lived institutions under the oversight of WTAMU, as a member of The Texas A&M University System.

“Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum houses the largest collection of artifacts in the state, representing what I think of as the ‘real Texas,’” said Joel Hogue, chair of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society board of directors. “We are excited because we think the foundation can help us share our history and culture to a broader audience.”

“This will provide new opportunities for people to bring creative ideas and innovations to the table and allow us to tap into state-of-the-art technology and enhance the audience experience,” said Mark Hodges, chair of the TPHF board of directors.

“The Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle will provide a unique opportunity to demonstrate civic pride and service to the Panhandle,” Wendler said. “Both the Museum and the Foundation share a common interest in promoting an understanding of and an appreciation for Texas history. Combining their efforts will result in a regionally driven entity that will champion the Panhandle around the state, the country and the world.”

The board’s members represent an array of business, industry, civic and education leaders:

- **Brendon Anthony** of Austin, director of the Texas Music Office;
- **Mark Bivins** of Amarillo, rancher and partner in Corsino Cattle Co.;
- **John W. Crain** of Dallas, former museum director, current chairman of the Summerlee Foundation board of directors and member of the Texas Historical Commission;
- **Andrew Hay**, Amarillo, first Executive Director for the Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle;
- **Mike Heard** of Amarillo, managing partner and general manager of Cattle Town Feeders and Spearman Cattle Feeders;
- **Pat Hickman** of Canyon, chairman of the board for Happy State Bank and Trust Co. and Happy Bancshares Inc.;
- **Mark Hodges** of Amarillo, Amarillo Market President of FirstCapital Bank of Texas;
- **Joel Hogue** of Amarillo, a senior member of Amarillo law firm Sprouse Shrader Smith PLLC;

- **Tim Leach** of Midland, vice chairman of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and executive vice president of ConocoPhillips, Lower 48;
- **Amy McLane** of Salado, a public relations expert who has worked for the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Stars and the AT&T Cotton Bowl;
- **Will Miller** of Amarillo, president and chief lending officer of FirstBank Southwest Amarillo;
- **Judge Morris L. Overstreet** of Amarillo, community leader and former member of the Texas State Court of Criminal Appeals;
- **Jerry Patterson** of Austin, former Commissioner of the General Land Office of Texas and former state senator for District 11;
- **Nancy Painter Paup** of Fort Worth, a manager of Texas business, real estate and ranching interests who has served on several prominent statewide boards, including the Texas State Historical Association;
- **Donald E. Powell** of Amarillo, former CEO of First National Bank and former chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.;
- **Karen Price** of Amarillo, a community leader and former television reporter;
- **Rodney Ruthart** of Amarillo, executive vice president and chief credit officer at First United Bank;
- **Carter Smith** of Austin, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department;
- **S. Shawn (“Shawn”) Stephens**, B.A.; J. D.; LL.M. of Houston, practiced law in Houston for 30 years; heads the Texas appellate practice of King & Spalding LLP. and chairs the Houston Ballet Board;
- **Lionel Sosa** of San Antonio, independent marketing and creative consultant and founder of Sosa, Bromley, Aguilar & Associates;
- **Neil Terry** of Canyon, WT executive vice president and provost and former dean of the Paul and Virginia Engler College of Business;
- **Richard Ware** of Amarillo, chairman of Amarillo National Bank;
- **Walter V. Wendler** of Canyon, WT president, former chancellor of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and former vice chancellor for planning and system integration with The Texas A&M University System.



Andrew Hay Named Executive Director of the Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle

An Amarillo arts leader has assumed the helm of the Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle and two leading Panhandle institutions. Andrew Hay joined the CFTP on Sept. 1 as its first executive director.

CFTP was formed this year to preserve the culture of the Texas Panhandle and beyond, focusing the efforts of both Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, which produces the musical 'TEXAS'. CFTP operates under the oversight of WTAMU, as a member of The Texas A&M University System.

"The Cultural Foundation of the Texas Panhandle will play a critical role in sharing the history of our region and its future," Wendler said. "Finding an executive director to lead the CFTP and understand the significance is vital. We've done that with Andrew Hay. The Panhandle is distinctive. More importantly, the history of the Panhandle is absolutely central to the history of our great state, and Andrew understands that. We are Texas."

Hay, a Colorado native, moved to Amarillo with his family in 2013, assuming leadership of the Amarillo Symphony in 2018, where most recently he has headed up the search for its new music director.

"I'm absolutely honored and humbled to be offered the job," Hay said. "It's a tall order, but Dr. Wendler and the advisory board saw that I fit the bill because of my experience in the performing arts, my local ties and, most importantly, my love of the history of this region."

"I'm looking forward to working with staff and stakeholders to continue to collect, curate and celebrate the matchless history of this region through the efforts of CFTP. But I'm also looking forward to innovating access to the amazing artifacts in the collection of PPHM and to the outstanding artistic product of 'TEXAS' so that as many people as possible might engage the rich heritage of the Panhandle and the wider state of Texas."

"How fortunate we are to have someone so well qualified right here in our midst to lead and guide the CFTP," said J. Pat Hickman, CFTP advisory board chairman and chairman of the board for Happy State Bank and Trust Co. and Happy Bancshares Inc. "Andrew's high-caliber leadership, character, people skills and ties to the Texas Panhandle are exactly what we are looking for. We could not be more pleased."

"The CFTP is a great vehicle to make not only our region, but also the entire state of Texas and beyond, take notice of where we are and what we can do," Hay said. "We want to make it possible for many, many more people to engage with the history and culture of this area of Texas."

"I'm really excited about Andrew Hay and what he brings to the table for the benefit of both the museum and 'TEXAS', said Joel Hogue, chair of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society board of directors. "The museum is entering its second century, and Andrew's leadership at the CFTP will help assure that the future is bright."

Hay said it did not take long for him and his family to fall in love with their adopted hometown.

"There's a strange beauty and a fascinating history to this place, which was kind of the last place to be settled in the United States," Hay said. "There's an attitude that goes with the people who live here — individualistic and pioneering, but quick to support others. I love that combination, that attitude toward life and the history that goes along with it."

A native of Littleton, Colo., Hay and his wife, Kendall, have three young children: Amelie, Aaron, and Isla. Hay's formal educational background is a mixture of management, philosophy, history, the arts, and theology — the latter being the subject of his Ph.D. from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Noteworthy Numbers

2020-2021

\$68,743
in Store Sales



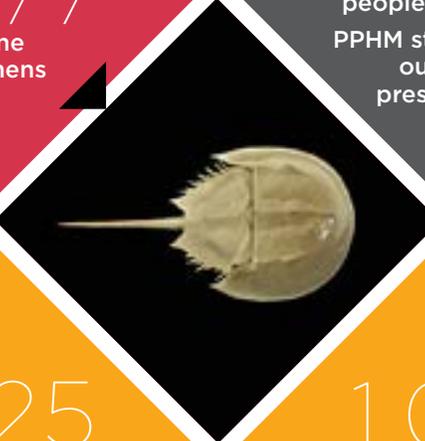
19,237
followers on social media



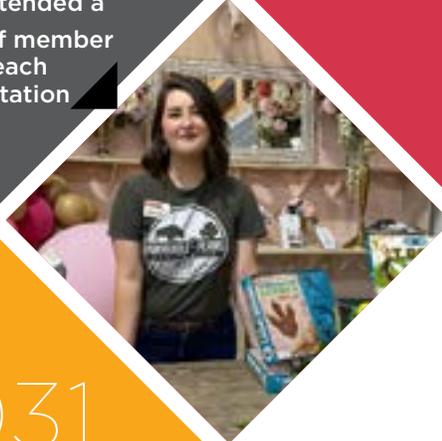
7,474
School Children Served



Completed full inventory, data entry, and rehousing of
7,077
marine specimens



6,583
people attended a PPHM staff member outreach presentation



3,218
Students attended a virtual learning program



1,825
views of our 86 educational and fun videos on YouTube



1,031
Veterans visited the museum as part of Blue Star Museums



583
articles or broadcasts showcased PPHM



13,002
Virtual tours on Virtually Anywhere



Noteworthy Numbers

2020-2021

584

Different zip codes represented in our visitor numbers

517

people participated in our in-gallery Summer Programs

Completed full inventory of the
380

taxidermy specimens in the natural history collections

260

Specimens in Rocks of the Ages Exhibit

184

Summer Passes Sold

58

New Families Became PPHM Members

48

Summer campers attended camp. Our biggest camp yet!

22

Outreach trunk rentals traveled to 10 different schools

19

Institutions across Texas and the US have PPHM artifacts on display-everywhere from the Bullock Museum to the Embassy in Lesotho.

8

volunteers contributed 227 hours on collections management projects in the Archaeology Department



Virtual Exhibitions

PPHM has made a significant push to digitize portions of the collection in order to make our holdings increasingly available to researchers and the general public. This includes a virtual component of our online digital exhibitions using the web-publishing platform Omeka.

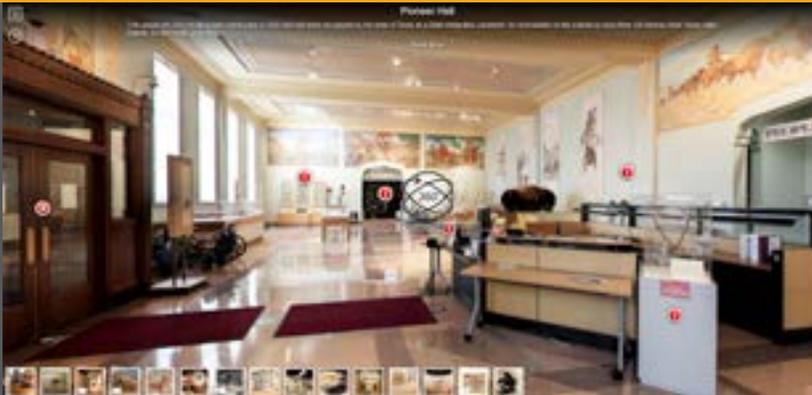
As virtual visitors interact with the site, they can view full exhibitions, collections or individual artifacts based upon their interests. This site is not only wonderful for the curious visitor but also opens up possibilities for research and student discovery.

The current collections on Omeka are: “Highlights from the PPHM Holdings,” artist Isabel Robinson, a portion of the seashell collection, and the Montgomery Ritchie papers. Current exhibits include: *Isabel Robinson, 1894-1976* and *The Baffin Island Photographs of M.H.W. Ritchie*.

The anthropology, archival, and collections team continue to work hard in making all PPHM artifacts available to the public. A Digitization Plan is currently being written and edited between the collections and archives departments.

An upcoming digital exhibit featuring PPHM’s medical equipment was largely curated by our summer employee Elaine Griggs. This exhibit comes at a very relevant time in our country and will compare historical medical equipment and experiences with today.

PPHM will continue to add exhibitions and artifacts to this online platform making all of our collection available soon.



Virtually Anywhere

This year, PPHM introduced a new feature on its website that allows users to tour the museum virtually. This new interactive tour features 360° imaging of the museum’s permanent galleries. Visitors can visit fifteen different locations throughout the museum easily from their computer or mobile device while diving into specially marked artifacts for a look at the extensive PPHM collection. The tour features an in-depth look at our on-loan Theodore Roosevelt shotgun, PPHM’s

Pioneer Town, remarkable art galleries and more. There are over 30 different “hot spots” that play a video or offer insight into an artifact or artwork.

The virtual tour was created through a partnership between the company Virtually Anywhere, the PPHM Marketing Department and West Texas A&M University IT. The goal is to give an at home experience that inspires curiosity and ultimately visitation. The tour has been visited over 16,000 times as of the end of this year.

The next phase of the project will be to add 360° live cameras in high traffic museum locations across PPHM to give visitors a look at daily happenings.

Virtual Archival Resources

Finding aids for PPHM archival collections became available online through Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) in December. 50 collection guides are now on the TARO website including 26 in process adding to our digital collections. In addition, the Archival team continued the cataloging of unpublished manuscripts and oral histories, adding over 400 items to the Research Center catalog.

Exhibitions and Special Programs

2020-2021



The Panhandle Prohibition Exhibition Opened October 17, 2020 — Furniture Gallery

On January 17, 1920, a new day dawned for most of the USA as the 18th Amendment went into effect. Americans could no longer manufacture, sell, or transport alcoholic beverages. The Temperance movement took Texas early but now had an impact on the rest of the US from organized crime to underground bars to fashion of the day. *The Panhandle Prohibition Exhibition* takes you back to the Texas Panhandle in the 1920s. Guests learned the diversity of music and opinions in our very own recreated speakeasy complete with augmented reality and a chance to take their very own mugshot. Understand fashion, consumerism and politics of the day while listening to some great jazz. Our two augmented reality videos had a combined 1,358 views.

There was a great deal of uncertainty and challenges in 2020, but we were still able to do some really fun and remarkable things! One highlight was the opportunity to do some programming around our Prohibition exhibitions. We were able to let loose and dig into a Murder Mystery with our fun event, *Murder & Mayhem at Old Tascosa*. We invited attendees to embody characters in the vein of early 20th century gangsters and bootleggers in the Panhandle.



The Roaring 1920's Flapper Fashion Opened December 23, 2020 — Textile Gallery

Women known for their energetic freedom, embracing a lifestyle were commonly called “Flappers” in the 1920s. While many viewed them as dangerous and immoral, they were considered the first generation of independent American women who pushed economic, political, and sexual boundaries. No one knows how the word flapper entered American slang, but its usage first appeared just following World War I. The classic image of a flapper is that of a stylish young party girl that smoked in public, drank alcohol, and danced at jazz clubs. They donned fashionable dresses of shorter, calf-revealing lengths and lower necklines, wore high heeled shoes, wore quite dramatic makeup, and enjoyed the art of accessorizing. *The Roaring 20s Flapper Fashion* draws from the museum’s remarkable collection and features eighteen flapper dresses, showcase some exciting accessories from the era, and gives some insight into pop culture of the 1920s.

As part of this exhibition, PPHM hosted the Canyon Women in Business breakfast and showcased our *Flapper Fashion and Prohibition Exhibition* to this key group of stakeholders in our community. Another highlight from programming was *Best of the Barrel*. We were able to partner with some great groups like M&R Liquor, Old Hansford, Still Austin, and our evergreen event sponsor, Budweiser. We got to learn a great deal about whisky and celebrate some local makers and distributors. *The Prohibition Exhibition and Flapper Fashions* really offered a fun opportunity to highlight some history in our area that isn’t often told!



Good Things to Come Opened January 4, Closed March 2, 2021

Good Things to Come was an exhibition of WTAMU art student work inspired by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum made during the Fall of 2020. The WTAMU Art Program often uses the PPHM as subject matter, and sends drawing and other classes over to draw from the collection every semester. The WTAMU Art Dept. encouraged students to engage with the collection from a conceptual standpoint and the museum provides a wealth of information to help student research many levels of content. Ten students participated in the *Good Things* show, most from the Printmaking course. The prompt for the project was to find an image or an object in the museum’s collection and expand the idea into a new presentation. Revett, the instructor, also added a design prompt requiring them to integrate circles in the designs, with the intention of using the circles as a connecting point for a mural the WT Mural Squad painted in the Spring Semester on the same wall in the Derrick Room.



ROCKS of the AGES

Rocks of the Ages Showing off the brilliance of earth's designs!
Opened February 20, 2021
Bivins Gallery

Over 200 rocks, minerals, and gems highlight the dynamic and intense geologic history of this region and beyond. This exhibition features specimens, both common and uncommon, that dazzle by the richness of their color, texture, shape, and intricate patterns. Forged long ago from extreme heat and pressure and then subject to the effects of time and natural processes, these specimens tell the story of a constantly changing planet, the powerful forces that have sculpted our landscape, and the very materials that make life possible. They illustrate some of the treasures beneath our feet and the brilliance of earth's designs. The exhibition draws almost exclusively from the eclectic geology collection of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum with the addition of a couple of loaned pieces.

Each specimen has been carefully selected, mounted, and displayed to accentuate its physical properties and characteristics.



Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas
May 4, 2021- September 6, 2021
Harrington Changing Gallery

An engaging exhibition that revealed a vivid picture of what living, breathing dinosaurs were really like. This exhibition introduced how current thinking about dinosaur biology has changed over the past two decades and highlighted current research by scientists from the American Museum of Natural History and other leading paleontologists around the world. Using a combination of major fossil finds, captivating computer simulations, and provocative models, *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas* introduced a dynamic vision of dinosaurs and the scientists who study them.

Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.



Raptor Run and Dino Fun — May 22, 2021

Once we decided that the museum would host *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas* from the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the ideas for events really started rolling in. We couldn't wait to take advantage of the opportunity this new and exciting exhibition would bring. We enthusiastically settled on the aptly-titled *Raptor Run* and it was truly one of the most enjoyable events to work on. We had so many families come and run together and that was an unexpected and pleasant surprise. PPHM got to be part of many memories that day and we were so glad that 96 people ran like they were being chased on a Saturday morning with us!

The fun continued inside with some exciting activities for all visitors, and we even had an exciting animal show by The Wild Hanburys! Micah, Jaelyn, Lindsey, and Seth taught kiddos about the closest relatives to dinos these days...birds! Don't worry, we still got to see some of our reptilian and amphibian favorites. These events would not have been possible (or near as fun) without our generous sponsors, KAMR & Fox 14, Pondaseta, Local Legends, and Atmos Energy.



DinoStore
Opened May 4, 2021—September 6, 2021
Alexander Gallery

A specialty pop up DinoStore that complimented *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas*.



Art Out Loud

PPHM showcases a diverse collection that features the vast range of cultures that have built the Panhandle-Plains region. To highlight this diversity, we of course looked to the arts. In looking to the arts, we decided that our blank walls in the Derrick Room needed a mural befitting our community.

We debuted this incredible, WTAMU student created mural at the *Art Out Loud* event.

Guests entered into Pioneer Hall which was transformed by Parie Donaldson and her incredible artistic talent. There were hors d'oeuvre and cocktails served from a four-sided, custom created bar inspired by the mural (which was later auctioned). Many great silent auction items were available thanks to Lisa Orasco and her team.

Jon Revett and his West Texas A&M University art students created a mural for us on the Derrick Room wall which was the second stop of guests' journey into the event. The mural was created with the idea of portraying **WHO WE ARE**.

"My use of the interlocking circles say no matter how diversely we view things, we are all are connected. The trial of the last years have all connected us, so I wanted the colors from Sahula-Dycke's Dawn painting [hanging in PPHM], and I decided to use reflective paint inspired by the mirror of Minimalism, making the viewer become part of the work. Another unexpected aspect of this paint is that it leaves the brushwork visible, this shows the hand of WT students who painted the work. It has further inspired two other murals as part of

the WT 125 project to expand the reach of WTAMU and its programs across the top 26 counties of the Panhandle. Thus, by incorporating the students who painted it and the museum goers who view it, this mural became a more truthful picture of *Who We Are*," said Revett when sharing about the work during the gala.

After a happy hour and time to be enthralled with the mural, guests dined on a themed culinary adventure curated by Kristi Aragon and Two Knives Catering. The dinner was capped off with a live auction full of many unique items and experiences. After this, everyone went back into Pioneer Hall and danced until midnight to the soulful funk of *Shinyribs*.

The evening was an incredible success. Thank you to our chairs- Lilia Escajeda and Claudia Stuart along with our committee- Kristi Aragon, Courtney Bowman, Lisa Hoff Davis, Parie Donaldson, Julianne Guy, Lisa Orasco, Jon Revett, Maegan Seymour, Richard and Dana Walton and Lacie White.

The mural will remain up for all to see along with a moving video narrated by Jon telling the mural's story. We invite you to come (or come back) to see it!



Black History Month with KAMR

Each February 1 launches the federally recognized celebration of Black History Month, honoring the contributions of African Americans to the history of the U.S. and greater civilization.

This year, PPHM worked with KAMR to celebrate and amplify black voices through a moving and informative interview series. We were able to celebrate these 15 individuals for their impact on our community.

The best part of the series was just how different each interview turned out. Similar questions would yield such different responses from each leader. The questions included:

- Why is it important to learn about who makes up our community, specifically why is it important that we celebrate Black History Month?
- If you were teaching children about black history or African American culture, what would you want them to learn or know?
- How would you encourage someone to overcome adversity?
- Tell us about your role in serving the community.
- What are some ways our community can contribute to the fight against racism?
- Tell us about how you find passion and joy in your everyday life.

Their personal and professional experiences weaved a dynamic and vibrant story that was shown on television through KAMR, online and on social media. From Bowden Jones' history lesson on black excellence to Mildred Darton's illumination of infrastructure disparities in North Amarillo to Angela Allen's discussion of diversity at West Texas A&M, viewers were privy to a mere snapshot of the vast experiences of the black community in the Panhandle.



STEAM Lab

A Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Lab is the newest permanent space at PPHM. PPHM renovated this space with the input of the WTAMU Engineering - Senior Design students to create a multi-functional learning space.

This space will be used to implement core science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives, while also promoting the history, art and culture of our region. The STEAM Lab will feature learning opportunities utilizing the PPHM collection, such as using an artifact like a windmill to explore engineering concepts. The STEAM Lab will promote learning for all ages in a space that encourages inquiry. This installation will allow PPHM to offer highly sought after STEM based educational

programs with active involvement from community and educational partners like Canyon ISD, Amarillo ISD, Region 16 and WTAMU.

PPHM has had STEM based education for several years but many do not associate STEM and the history museum. By adding the STEAM Lab to PPHM we are intentionally bringing science, technology, engineering, and math to a history museum. To make sure we are meeting the needs of the area ISDs and higher education, we have formed a think tank to make sure all that PPHM does in the STEAM Lab is of use. The think tank consists of representatives from PPHM, WTAMU, Amarillo College, Amarillo ISD, Canyon ISD, Pampa ISD, and other area leaders. These varied viewpoints will help us a make a better and more useful STEAM Lab. We look forward to serving more children, students and families with this space.



Education Credit Union History Studio

PPHM believes that one of the best ways to serve our mission is by putting our community first and meeting their needs. In partnership with Education Credit Union, PPHM has renovated our old Education Classroom to become the *Education Credit Union History Studio*. A multifunctional space that can host everything from school groups to birthday parties to corporate retreats and meetings.

“At ECU, we firmly believe that when you learn more, you live more. PPHM’s stated role of ‘It is the sacred duty of ours to collect the record of life here and hand this on to the children of the future,’ is a perfect demonstration of this principle. We are very proud to partner with PPHM and help provide a vibrant space to feature WTAMU students’ and alumni artwork and an inviting place for area teachers and school children to gather and learn while visiting the museum. This room is also a great space for our community to enjoy for birthday parties, business meetings, and so much more. The featured artwork will rotate, and visitors will want to keep coming back to see what’s new,” said Eric Jenkins, President of Education Credit Union.

This public meeting, creating and fun space will be available for rent beginning in fall of 2021.



Interns and Volunteers

Interns

PPHM has a robust internship program as we are able to place participants in many areas from collections to marketing to education. Some of the successes this year include:

- PPHM created a new six-month Collections internship position for student, **Hagen Hobbs**, to fulfill requirements for the Texas Tech Museum Studies graduate program. This establishes a new partnership with Texas Tech and allows students to gain practical work experience within the department.
- **Elaine Griggs**, who has previously worked as a summer intern was also back this summer as a contracted employee, she started in May and left at the end of July. The small exhibits cases outside the Registrar and Collections offices are now housing *Readying for the Day - His and Hers*, which was curated by Elaine with the assistance of Hagen.
- **Ellie Boyett**, WTAMU Communications Student came to work as the PPHM Communications Intern focusing on our social media presence. This year Ellie started a new TikTok channel to reach out to younger audiences about PPHM.

Volunteers

PPHM welcomed our volunteers back in April of 2021. A total of forty-three volunteers dedicated over 530 hours of work throughout the museum. Fourteen of the volunteers were WTAMU students that contributed 52 hours of service. Our amazing volunteers served in multiple departments including natural history, education, programs, and PPHM's Archives and Research Center. There were multiple events that were a success due to the outstanding support given by PPHM's volunteers. Some of these events include: *Raptor Run*, *Art Out Loud*, *Boulders, Brands*, and *Bones Summer Camp*, and *Summer Gallery Programs*.

- In the Archives, **Darrell Dixon** has begun inventorying and rehousing negatives from the Amarillo Globe News photograph collection and **Eliza Edwards** sorted and rehoused another portion of the AGN photographs, as a summer project.
- Eight volunteers contributed 227 hours of work on collections management projects in the Archaeology Department over the past year. Most of these hours have been within the past three months, as the department was without volunteers for 14 months due to health measures taken during the pandemic.
- In February, long-time Adjunct Curator of Archaeology **Rolla Shaller** passed away. Rolla was a lifetime member of the PPHS, a retiree from the museum and the university, and a dedicated volunteer. An article on his contributions to Texas archaeology authored by Dr. Arias and Rebecca Shelton was published in the summer issue of *Texas Archeology: The Newsletter of the Texas Archeological Society* 65(3): pp. 17-19. Copies are available upon request.
- We also sadly note the passing of **Alvin Lynn** on August 27, 2020. Alvin was a longtime member and volunteer at PPHM. He had recently been awarded the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archaeology from the Texas Historical Commission.



Alvin Lynn (L) and Rolla Shaller (R)

Public Perception

Heidi G. on her Mother and son vacation in July 2021—“Excellent displays! We loved learning more about the history and people of the area. Always great to get a college visit in too!”

Kathryn C. from Hardin, TX in June 2021—“We stopped in and had planned to spend an hour or maybe two here. We had no idea of the depth of this museum. From a fascinating dinosaur display (did you know there were once Rhinos in Texas), to the oil patch times. After nearly 4 hours we had only covered half of the museum. We ran out of time, but will visit the other half when in the area next.”

Holladay Family March 2021—“This museum was not even on my radar when we planned our trip to Canyon. I figured it would be small and old, and not suitable for small kids. Boy was I wrong!! This is one of the best museums I’ve been too; absolutely a hidden gem in this small town. There are so many exhibits. Interesting facts about Texas. Interactive things for kids. And even amazing art thrown in there too!! I was absolutely blown away and wish I could tell everyone about this place!! If you’re in Canyon, or even Amarillo, please make plans to visit!!”

Britt C from Kern County, CA in 2020—“This is Texas largest history museum with over 26,000 square feet to walk around and learn. Give yourself enough time to see everything. I would say we were there three hours and that was with a little boy and he was not bored. When you walk in it shows you the different time periods. We loved the dinosaur area, probably my sons favorite. You will walk into the Old West in a life-size Pioneer Town, I really enjoyed that. That is a permanent exhibit along with, paleontology, Geology, archeology, weapons, transportation and many more. They also have special exhibits so they change from time to time. If you go to their website it will show you the exhibits they currently have. We would definitely visit this museum again if we were in the area.”

Mike B. from Pearland, TX in October 2020—“Had a few hours to burn and decided to take look here. I really enjoyed this place. I’m not really big into art, but all the other displays were really neat. On the first floor they have old buildings such as hotels, saloons, barber shops.....and more that you can view a part of. I mean it’s not the whole building, but they show you what it was like back then. You probably need about 3 hours to get a really good tour. I think I was there about 2 hours and there were some exhibits I didn’t get too. I would definitely check it out, and I’m glad I stopped in.”

Kimberly T. from Jefferson, TN in June 2021—“This was an awesome museum!! Very well done!”

Kelley R. from Charleston, SC in May 2021—“Okay so first off, I want to say, if you haven’t been to Canyon, TX, you are missing out. This little town is amazing and their downtown square is beautiful! The Panhandle-Plains Museum is connected to the West Texas A&M campus. Parking for the museum is across the street in designated spots just for visiting museum patrons. The museum is multi storied and packed full! To really devote time to each exhibit would take a couple of hours. We are a military family and during the month of June, this museum participates in the Blue Star Family program. This means that veteran, active and guard/reserve are FREE with an active CAC card. What a great asset this collection of history is for TEXAS!!!!”



A Look to the Future: The PPHM Challenger Center

Education is a primary pillar of PPHM. School tours are the backbone of our education program. Studies of children who visit museums show increased critical thinking skills, tolerance, and historical empathy plus they become lifelong lovers of museums. Additionally, museums strengthen their communities. This is why we must do all we can to continually create enriching programs that are stimulating and relevant.

PPHM: Across All Frontiers has four parts; a permanent installation of a Challenger Learning Center, the creation of both a STEAM (adds arts to STEM) Lab and History Studio, and an increase to the Hattie Anderson Education Endowment. The *STEAM Lab* and *Education Credit Union History Studio* open in the fall of 2021 and the endowment is being used for the betterment of our education department. This leaves the Challenger Learning Center as the final piece. Within this immersive learning space, visitors will conduct STEM based simulation missions led by certified teachers. This allows PPHM to offer highly sought after STEM based educational programs with active involvement from educational partners like Canyon ISD, Amarillo ISD, Region 16, lead4ward, the WTAMU College of Engineering, and the WTAMU College of Education and Social Sciences.

With this addition, student tours will include exposure to over forty STEM related jobs with real world application. It has always been the mission of PPHM to exhibit and interpret the scientific heritage of our region and this allows us to better tell that story. Additionally, this demonstrates our commitment

to serving the community's needs. Statistics show over 40% of children lose interest in STEM by the eighth grade, which limits our regions and country's competitiveness. The Challenger Learning Center will create life changing experiences which foster curiosity and discovery.

PPHM will offer the customization for the visit which includes pre and post visit classroom activities to ensure children receive a well-rounded education. Our goal is for each student to become part of a community working and playing together, helping each other grow into strong, socially conscious, free thinking individuals. This addition allows PPHM to meet the needs of every school child in the Panhandle-Plains region on multiple levels. The Texas Panhandle consists of eighty-two school districts and 226 campuses with an average daily attendance of 80,000 students. PPHM is uniquely centered in the middle of the Panhandle, allowing increased accessibility for all students. It creates a learning opportunity not available in a 360 mile radius. Roughly eighty-five percent of our regional campuses are considered Title 1 schools with a high percentage of children coming from low-income families. Students attending Title 1 schools are less likely to be exposed to cultural institutions. This addition allows the museum to bridge that divide.

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