

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Exhibitions and Facilities Plan

FY July 2014-June 2015

Overview

For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Museum will focus efforts on implementing its long-term vision for permanent galleries and facilities. Having re-imagined the Museum's education programs, now over 12,000 people participate in Museum education programs. Collections management has been dramatically improved and as a result the Museum has earned re-accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums (an honor earned by fewer than 5% of American museums.) All aspects of the Museum have been upgraded except for the Museum facility and galleries. Many of the permanent exhibitions have been on display since the late 1950s.

Permanent Galleries

Butterfly Pavilion

A Butterfly Pavilion has been planned for the Museum's Native Plant Garden. It will offer visitors an immersive experience with butterflies native to Monterey County and their host and nectar plants. In this new fiscal year, fundraising efforts would ideally support the Butterfly Pavilion completing the Design Development Phase, and moving through the Construction Document Phase.

Monarchs Gallery

A new Monarchs Gallery will move forward as funding allows. Located in the space formerly occupied by the Museum Store, this room will be remodeled and expanded to incorporate the adjacent hallway to allow for the permanent Monarchs Gallery. When construction is finished, elements of the current *Monarchs Come Home* exhibition will be relocated into the space until fundraising efforts could support implementing a new monarch gallery exhibition design. *Monarchs Come Home* has served as an extremely success pilot for a permanent Monarch Gallery and audience evaluations and feedback from this exhibit will be incorporated into the new Monarchs Gallery.

First Inhabitants Prototype

A prototype exhibit focusing on First Inhabitants will be designed and installed in the space at the top of the lobby stairs.

The Ohlone, Esselen, and Salinan survived for thousands of years by using natural resources from the land and ocean. This prototype will focus primarily on the plant resources used for food, housing, and basket-making. It will include elements appropriate for the school groups that schedule fieldtrips to the Museum. Exhibit valuations of this prototype will inform the design of a long-term exhibit.

Biodiversity Gallery

Ideally the Museum's fundraising efforts will support expanding the old Museum store space creating a new permanent monarchs gallery. (Please refer to "Monarchs Gallery" in the above Permanent Exhibition section.) The exhibit space cases occupied by the current *Monarchs Come Home* exhibition will be available to fill with the "Birds of Monterey County" specimens. These cases are significantly easier to access than the current Birds cases are, and they will enable birds to easily be moved in and out of cases for conservation.

Once the Birds are relocated, the main downstairs gallery will focus on the Biodiversity of the California Central Coast. This gallery will feature many of the Museum's taxidermy specimens and will speak to the special weather, ocean currents, and shifting lands that support the immense Biodiversity of the California Central Coast.

Special Exhibitions

Monarchs Come Home

Due to its popularity, the long-running *Monarchs Come Home* exhibition will remain in its current location until a permanent Monarch Gallery is constructed. (The Monarch Gallery is an expansion of the old store location.) The overarching theme for *Monarchs Come Home* is that the homecoming of monarch butterflies to California's Central Coast is one part of a unique and miraculous annual cycle.

The "MVSEVM"

Back by popular demand, the "MVSEVM" exhibition has been re-installed in the gallery formerly occupied by the Museum Store. The "MVSEVM" celebrates the founding spirit of the 130-year-old PG Museum, when scientists and citizens roamed the region and the world collecting natural specimens and artifacts. They brought back rare and curious items for study, and the museum grew to house "wonders of nature" made available for display and learning. When the Museum Store undergoes remodeling for the new Monarchs Gallery, the MVSEVM will be moved into the ground-level of the main gallery to form our new Biodiversity gallery.

Wildflower Show

This year will celebrate the 54th Annual Wildflower Show, Friday, April 17-Sunday, April 19, 2015. This show is a collaboration between the Museum and the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Guests will be encouraged to create personal lists of their favorite wildflowers while viewing hundreds of wildflower species and varieties during the largest wildflower show in the Northern and Western Hemispheres.

Illustrating Nature

All good science begins with observation. For the fifth consecutive year, the Museum will present the exemplary images from portfolios of students graduating from the acclaimed Science Illustration post-graduate program at CSUMB. Artwork includes animals, habitats, and science concepts illustrated using both traditional and digital techniques.

Facilities

In July, 2014 a new ADA compliant drinking fountain was installed in the Native Plant Garden.

The following facilities changes will be made as funding allows. The Museum is seeking funding to support the following:

- **Collections Research Room**
The current upstairs Education Room will be remodeled to become a Collections Research Room. It will house the Museum's library and will give researchers access to the collections database.
- **Education Room**
The downstairs Education Room will become ADA accessible through the remodeling of its bathroom and the changing of its two exterior doors.
- **Staff Room**
The current workroom will be subdivided so that half of the space will function as a preparation kitchen and staff/volunteer break room.
- **Garden Walls**
Garden walls will be built to enhance security of the backyard and to transform the backyard into a more natural experience by obscuring views of cars and parking.