

Museum of Northern Arizona

Overview

- **“Small Smithsonian” on the road to the Grand Canyon - One of the great regional museums of our world and certainly unique in the Southwestern United States,**
- **"Someone ought to tell the world about it," wrote Harold Sellers Colton and Frank E. Baxter in a 1932 guide for the northern Arizona traveler**
- **Founded in 1928 by a group of local concerned citizens, led by zoologist Dr. Harold S. Colton and artist Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton**
- **It shares the spirit of research, collections, education and outreach embodied in such great American museums as the Smithsonian, the Field institute, or the New York Natural History Museum**
- **Developed with strong relationships to local tribal organizations and people, particularly the Hopi. Continues to serve as a voice and cultural outreach center for regional tribes, who are vital in museum programming**
- **Vast region—colors to delight the artist, Native American peoples to engage the anthropologist, traces of human occupation to occupy the archaeologist, an open textbook for the geologist, plants and wildlife to intrigue the biologist and botanist**
- **Believe that a museum can be core to the culture of a community**
- **Believe that science, art and culture belong together in this one museum**
- **Staff of 53, at the best professional level it has been in decades**
- **A highly motivated and educated team of committed volunteers and docents, most of whom have supported programs and led tours for many years**
- **Hosts an international audience of visitors, offering an introduction to the rich cultural and biological and geo-physical history of the region**

- **Operating budget of \$5M**
- **Annual attendance 45,700 (11% children, 5% young adults, 65 % adults, 19% seniors)**
- **Membership 2,900 paid; total of 6,500 (difference subsidized by grants)**
- **Interpreter of the Colorado Plateau. 130,000 sq. mi. of spectacular mountains, mesas, and canyonlands in the Four Corners region of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico**
- **Healthy endowment fund with separate board of trustees**

Region

- **Interprets and researches the Colorado Plateau - 130,000 sq. mi. of spectacular mountains, mesas, and canyonlands in the Four Corners region of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, including the Grand Canyon**
- **Tremendous geological, biological, and cultural resources and diversity in a spectacular landscape**
- **Research and public exhibits intertwine with collections to present a rich, composite view of northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau**

Campus

- **Over 40 buildings on a 200 + acre campus. This includes an exhibits building dating to 1935 (24,700 sq. ft.) that is one of three MNA buildings on the National Register of Historic places, as well as research labs and a platinum level Leeds certified state of the art collections facility for more than five million Native American artifacts, natural science specimens, and fine art pieces**
- **Views and easy access to the San Francisco Peaks (12,633 ft)**

Collections

- **Collections tell the story of the Colorado Plateau's people and natural environment.**
- **Over 1500 Hopi and Zuni kachina dolls date from the 19th century to the present**
- **More than 5,000 prehistoric ceramics range from 500 CE to the mid-1600s and represent the Sinagua, Anasazi and other prehistoric cultures in the southwest**
- **3500 linear feet of archives and manuscripts document the museum's history, history of the area, and collection holdings**
- **Research and public exhibits intertwine with collections to present a rich, composite view of northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau**
- **150,000+ photographs, including early images of Navajo and Hopi peoples, allow tribal members and the public to view the region's history and to understand better techniques and design elements used to create pottery, basketry, and paintings**
- **Tens of thousands of natural history specimens and object history documentation, donor correspondence, and many other materials, the Museum of Northern Arizona preserves the region's human and natural history for visitors, researchers, and tribes**

Exhibitions

- **Nine permanent and changing exhibit galleries presenting Native cultures, tribal lifeways, natural sciences, and fine arts**
- **Full schedule of changing exhibitions planned several years out.**
- **Permanent exhibitions include geology, paleontology, archaeology, and ethnology.**
- **Unveiled an expanded and revitalized gallery called Native Peoples of the Colorado Plateau in 2018.**

- Zuni, Acoma, Southern Ute, Southern Paiute, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai, Dilzhe'e Apache, and Diné (Navajo) communities. we wanted the tribes to tell their stories
- Next major expansion (with promised \$1.7 M donation) is an extensive Katsina Doll Gallery to display more than 500 items.

Programs

- Award-winning annual festivals represent local cultures: Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, Latino
- Educational programs include monthly hands-on kids' activities, adult workshops talks and field trips, behind-the-scenes tours and a docent program
- Summer camps for kids on the MNA campus
- Rentals of historic buildings
- Ventures and custom tours explore the Four Corners Region of the American Southwest through river and hiking trips led by MNA experts

Research

- 70+ researchers and research associates
- Promotes research in the fields of archaeology, paleontology, geology, biology, and showcases Native arts and culture, anthropology related to the Colorado Plateau.
- Active research in archaeology, environmental sciences, botany, climate change, and more
- Collaborations with other entities, including Hopi and Navajo Nations, Northern Arizona University, National Park Service, and National Forest Service

- **Legacy of important discoveries including establishing the reference timeline for archaeological sites in the Southwest, categorizing Southwest potsherds, finding evidence confirming Continental Drift, and discovering many new species**

Shops

- **Award-winning Museum Shop & Bookstore onsite**
- **Fine art, jewelry, pottery, weaving, carvings, historical books**

Goals

- **Enhance collaboration between leadership, the board, art staff and research staff**
- **Continue to develop and support the best staff possible**
- **Refurbish and expand campus facilities**
- **Better control expenses vs budget**
- **Enhance and expand exhibits**
- **Create refurbish and expand galleries**
- **Combined capital campaign taking us to age 100**
- **Expand local, state and national outreach**
- **Continue expanding and enhancing the quality of staff and their interactivity with leadership**
- **Encourage enhanced Board/Leadership interaction**
- **Continue to improve collection conditions and documentation**

The Director/CEO position at the Museum of Northern Arizona is an outstanding opportunity for an individual who wants to lead this progressive institution through the final 10 years of its first century.