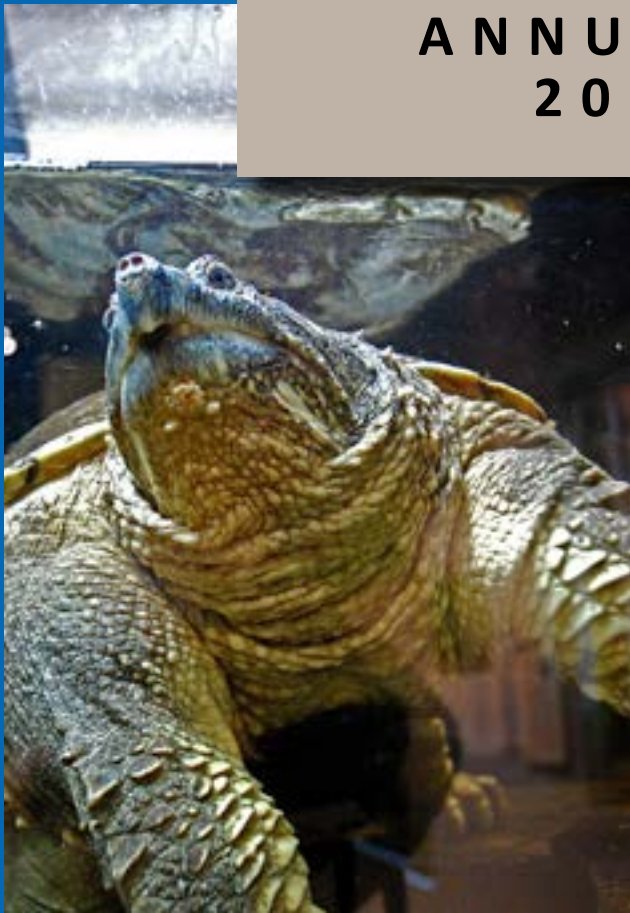


Your  City of Las Cruces
MUSEUMS

ANNUAL REPORT
2015 - 2016



Greetings from the City of Las Cruces Museums

The Las Cruces Museum System had a wonderful year highlighting amazing history and people of our region. We are proud to promote understanding and appreciation of history, culture, arts, and the sciences with our residents and visitors. I'd like to touch on a couple of the exhibits and programs that helped us to move our mission forward this year.

At the beginning of the year, the Branigan Cultural Center was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. With this grant, we were able to provide over 40 public programs celebrating 500 years of Latino American History.

“We are committed to hosting exhibits throughout the year that continue to highlight the history, culture, and art from our region.”

New Horizons Mission's flyby of Pluto had an exciting significance to our region, as Las Cruces is proud to call Clyde Tombaugh one of our own. The Museums honored the work of local hero Clyde Tombaugh with the exhibit *Beyond Pluto: The Clyde Tombaugh Story*.

In the past year, we reached out to area artists for the juried show *Here and Now* which highlighted the amazing artistic work being produced in our region. We hope to make this a bi-annual celebration. We are committed to hosting exhibits that continue to highlight the history, culture, and art from our region.

Towards the end of the calendar year, the Museum System contracted with People, Places & Design Research to develop new evaluation tools and assist us in connecting with the Latino community in Dona Ana County. We are excited about the things we learned and look forward to continuing to engage long-term with members of our community. We are using this project as a starting point in developing a new history exhibit. If you are interested in this project, please visit our website at lascrucesmuseumsshareyourstory.wordpress.com.

We also introduced Late Night Thursdays, testing the waters for regular evening hours. We still have a few things to work out - such as safety lighting at the Railroad Museum and staff schedules - but we hope to make evening hours a permanent offering in the new year.

I am very proud of the work we have done over the past year. I would like to thank my staff and volunteers for their dedication to our mission. I invite you to come by and visit us – admission is always free! We'd love to have you at the Branigan Cultural Center, Museum of Art, Museum of Nature and Science, and the Railroad Museum.

Rebecca Slaughter
MUSEUMS ADMINISTRATOR



Museum System Mission

The City of Las Cruces Museums promote understanding and appreciation of history, culture, arts, and the sciences through an ongoing exchange of ideas, information, and experiences with our residents and visitors.



Garland Courts
ACTING EXHIBITS MANAGER



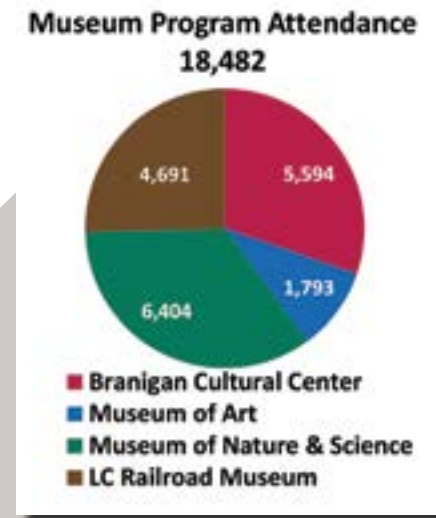
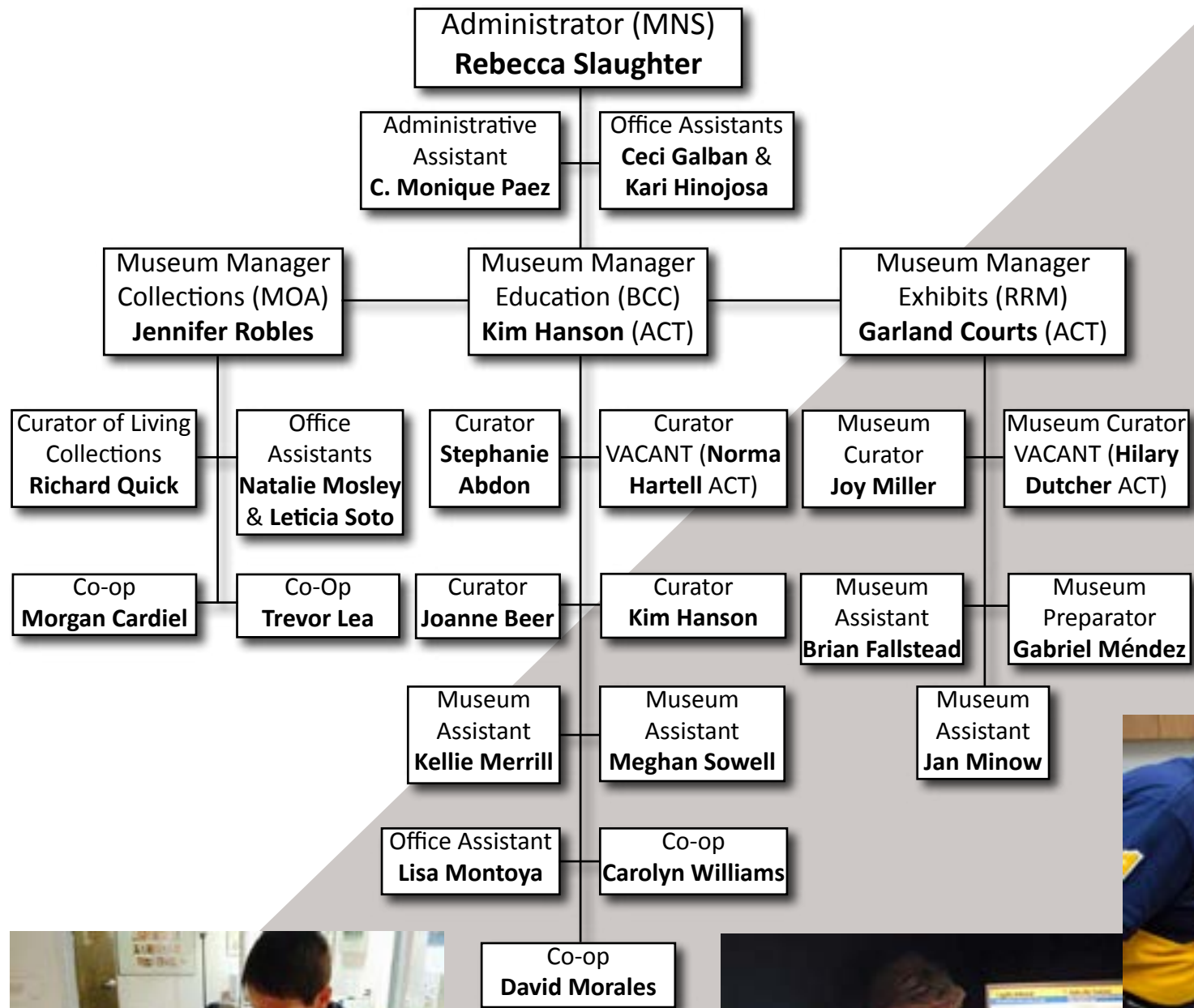
Kimberly Hanson
ACTING EDUCATION MANAGER



Jennifer Robles, Ph.D.
COLLECTIONS MANAGER

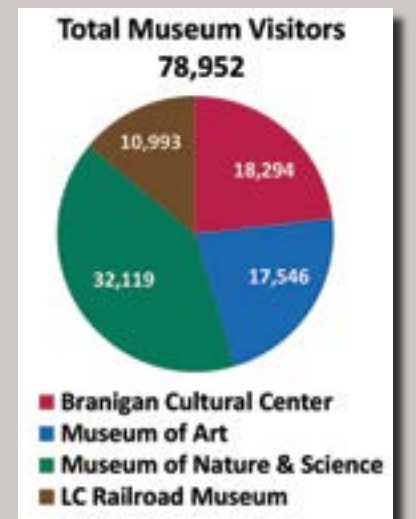
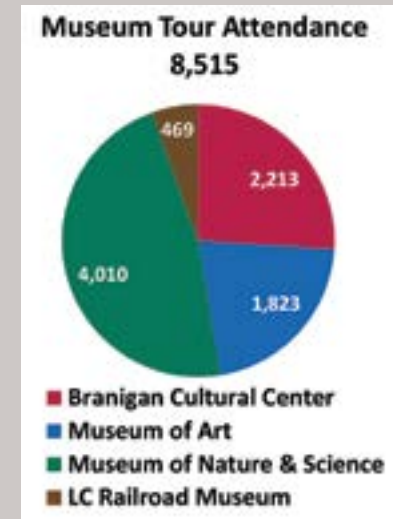
Museums Administration

Museums Organization Chart



Our four City museums attract a dynamic and varied audience. In the People, Places & Design Research study done in May, 2016, we learned some interesting facts and figures about our visitors:

- About half of the people visiting museums in May were coming for the first time. As museums need to attract both first-time and repeat visitors, this is a good result.
- About 80% of museum visitors in May were local residents.
- Nearly half (44%) of May visitors reported their cultural heritage as Hispanic, Latino, Mexican, white Spanish-speaking household, or other multi-cultural origin that included Latino roots, a higher proportion than expected.
- Another interesting result found that two-thirds (66%) of the visitors to the Museum of Nature and Science are family groups with children, as are almost half (45%) of the visitors to the other museums.



Museum Visitors

Special Events

A Night Under the Stars – Celebrating the historic fly-by of Pluto by the New Horizons spacecraft

An Old-Fashioned Holiday Celebration at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum

Arbor Day

Archaeology Day

Cultural Bazaar

Day of Dance

For the Love of Art

Houseplant Appreciation Day

La Llorona Folktale Festival

Museum Selfie Day

Pi Day

PictoGraff: The Art of WarPrayer

Plutopalooza

Railroad Days 2016

Spring Break Camp – A collaboration of all four Museums

Story Corps – with KRWG TV & NPR

Thursday Nights at the Museum

Zymurgy – The Science of Fermentation



Railroad Days 2016
May 6 & 7



Here & Now – Regional Juried Exhibition

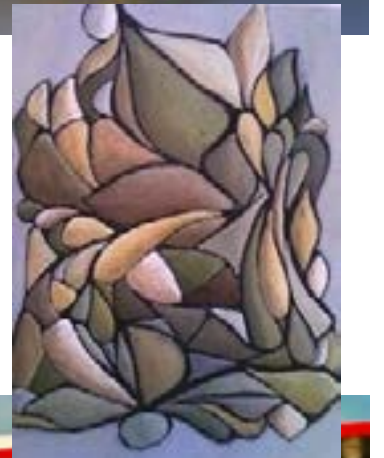
From the Ground Up XXVII – Regional Juried Ceramics Exhibition

Paul Outerbridge – New Color Photographs from Mexico and California, 1948-1955

Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints - Fort Wayne Museum of Art

High School Senior Show

Light, Color, Space, Motion - Carlos Estrada-Vega & David Alan Boyd



Exhibits Museum of Art

Beyond Pluto: The Clyde Tombaugh Story

Coyote Tales - Ann McMahon

More than Sugar Skulls: Celebrating Dia de Los Muertos in the Borderlands

Beggars of Venice - Ed Smith

Remembering the Mays: A Tribute to a Pioneering Family

Around the World - Alejandra Gamez

The Visionarias - Chris Carruth

For the Love of Art 2016 - ArtForms



Reflections: African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collections - IA&A

3-Dimensional Journey - Lois Duffy

Our Living Culture - New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter

PictoGraff: The Art of WarPrayer

Barbara Hubbard: Bringing Nashville to Las Cruces

Visions of Our Monument: Portraits of the Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument - Meg Freyermuth

Plastics Unwrapped – Burke Museum, University of Washington

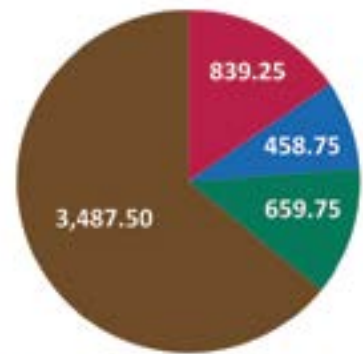
Fire and Fiber - Potter's Guild of Las Cruces

Exhibits Branigan Cultural Center

Volunteers



5445.25 Total Volunteer Hours by 155 Volunteers



- Branigan Cultural Center
- Museum of Art
- Museum of Nature & Science
- LC Railroad Museum

The Museum System has awesome volunteers. Over the past ten years our volunteer corps has led countless tours, built a roadbed for the caboose, made our gardens shine, and given hours of time making the museums welcoming to the public. Thank you so much for your dedication and love. We couldn't do it without you all! – **The Museum Staff**



The Foundation for Las Cruces Museums continued efforts to increase financial support and public awareness of the four City of Las Cruces Museums.

A major project this past year was working with the Progress Club of Las Cruces to provide funds and purchase Assistive Listening Devices. We purchased transmitters and receivers so hearing impaired visitors can now attend presentations and other Museum events.

In October, we sponsored the second annual Navajo Rug Auction in Las Cruces. The event expanded to two days with appraisals of rugs and other Native American items on Friday night. We are planning to continue the expanded auction in October 2016.

The Foundation again had the popular "Rat on a Stick" booth at the annual Renaissance Faire. The sale of "Rat on a Stick" requires almost 100 volunteer hours, including preparation and actual selling. Since the Foundation is an all volunteer operation, this intense level of participation can be difficult to achieve.

Museum staff continued with evening events to reach out to a segment of the adult population that does not have time to attend the museums during ordinary open hours. The event "Zymurgy," discussing the science of fermentation, was held in at the Railroad Museum in October. The Foundation worked with High Desert Brewery and Amaro Winery to obtain permits for serving beer and wine at the adult events.

The Foundation provided certificates and financial awards at the All City High School Seniors show at the Museum of Art. In addition to the Best in Show for creative art, as selected by teachers and curators, we added a Best in Show for culinary arts. These awards are intended to recognize the outstanding work of local high school seniors and to encourage talented students to continue their creative interests.

Restoration of the historical caboose is a project for which the Foundation has raised over \$22,000. We hope the City will begin work on this project during the new fiscal year.

Michael Weiss, President
PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION



Information on the Foundation is available via email at friendsoflcm@gmail.com, on our website, www.foundationlcm.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoundationLCMuseums. Museum and Foundation activities are updated in our monthly Bulletin article, published every first Friday.

Foundation for the Las Cruces Museums

The Community Speaks:

“The **Branigan Cultural Center** is appreciated for history exhibits, programs, special exhibits, the building and its ambience.”

“The **Museum of Art** is appreciated for the variety of art that it presents, for the changing exhibitions, for local/Southwest/Indian art, and for its programs.”

“The **Museum of Nature and Science** is appreciated for being kid-friendly and interactive, for the variety of exhibits including the live animals, and for the location.”

“The **Railroad Museum** is appreciated for the history of railroads, for seeing actual trains nearby, for the model trains and for programs.”

People, Places & Design Research report

MUSEUMS



Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

Las Cruces Museum System
411 N. Main / 410 N. Water Street
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-541-2296

Mailing Address:
City of Las Cruces Museums
P.O. Box 20000
Las Cruces, NM 88004


City of Las Cruces[®]
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE