

MUSEUM of  
VENTURA  
COUNTY

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024  
EDUCATION &  
ENGAGEMENT  
IMPACT REPORT



CURIOSITY - COMPASSION - CONNECTION



JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

# EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT IMPACT REPORT

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thanks to the generous support of our funders, we made Ventura County a more curious and compassionate community this year through our Education & Engagement programs.

### Funding provided in part by:

#### Education Programs, Internships, and Scholarships

*Evelyn and Howard Boroughs*



Bonita C. McFarland Endowment Fund

Gene Haas Foundation

Lydia Hopps

Harriet H. Samuelsson Foundation

Smith-Hobson Foundation

Martha Spriggs

Rosemarie Magness Chumash Education Program Fund courtesy of Bethe and Tim Sullivan

#### Community Programs

Aera Energy & Ventura Citizens for Energy Independence

Al Lowe Construction, Inc.

Amgen

AssuredPartners Insurance

California State University Channel Islands

Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation

City National Bank

Community Memorial Healthcare

Gene Haas Foundation

Hofer Properties

Karen and Tom Pecht

Kirby Subaru

Mike Sedell

Montecito Bank and Trust

Pierpont Racquet Club

Puretec Industrial Water

Richard Rush

TOArts

Topa Topa Flywheelers

#### Ventura County's 150th Anniversary Celebration



The Brokaw Family, Nursery, and Ranch

The Kearney Family

The Orr Family

# MUSEUM OF VENTURA COUNTY

## 2023-2024 EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT AT-A-GLANCE

**11,097**

PEOPLE SERVED

**106**

SCHOOL TOURS

**72**

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Colleges, universities, community organizations, and K-12 schools & districts

**50**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**29**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS  
AND POP-UP EXPERIENCES

highlighting Ventura County art, culture, and history

**\$61,000**

GIVEN TO OUR COMMUNITY

through grants & scholarships

*Nowruz (Persian New Year)  
Ventura, Mar 23, 2024*

*Sahlala Dancers performed traditional Persian dances and led a community dance party at MVC's Nowruz celebration, honoring Ventura County's Persian community.*



**ALL 5 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS SERVED**

# Making the GRADE

How MVC school tours brought history and culture to life for one teacher's classroom



Students experience the 'ap - traditional Chumash housing - in the Downtown Ventura garden, Jan 2024.



A mom and her daughter learn about seeds at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula, May 2024.



Students explore artifacts on the touch table during their school tour in Downtown Ventura, Jan 2024.

## Meet Stacy Mikkelson 2023-2024 Teacher of Distinction



A third-grade teacher at Pierpont Elementary in Ventura, Stacy has been inspiring students for 26 years. This is her story, which she shared at the History and Horizons Harvest Luncheon held on April 6, 2024 at MVC's Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula.

I teach young minds because I understand that **small moments can make a big impact on young people** who are just learning how to navigate the world. I have been taking my third graders to the museum for many years because it is such a rich experience.

During the month of November, I teach my students the lessons and impact of Native American communities across the United States, specifically the Chumash of Ventura County. My throughline is 'where you live determines how you live'.

At the end of the month, **I schedule our field trip to MVC and WOW, does it come alive for them then!** My students are so excited to see what they have been studying and really experience it! Experience is the key to success with young learners.

My students come away with a grand appreciation for Chumash culture and their own culture. They see that this isn't just A museum, but THEIR museum.

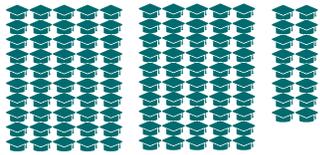
“  
**They see that this isn't just A museum, but THEIR museum**”

**One student I taught, a few years ago, had a profound experience with this type of hands-on education.** Every student learns differently, and this student had trouble relating to the material, went off task, and didn't want to do the reading. It wasn't until we visited the Museum that the switch flipped. They began to see themselves in this history and understand the material by relating it to their own lives. Today, they are in 9th grade at Ventura High School. **They kept that understanding with them and now they want to go to college for history!**

2023-2024 SCHOOL TOURS BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE

2,907 Students



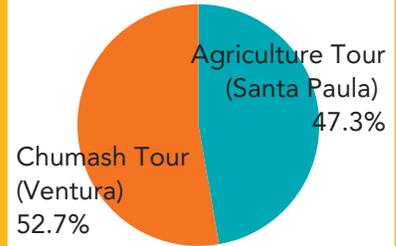
The equivalent of 116 average grade school classes

% OF DISTRICTS SERVED



of all Districts with Elementary Schools in Ventura County

TOUR FOCUS



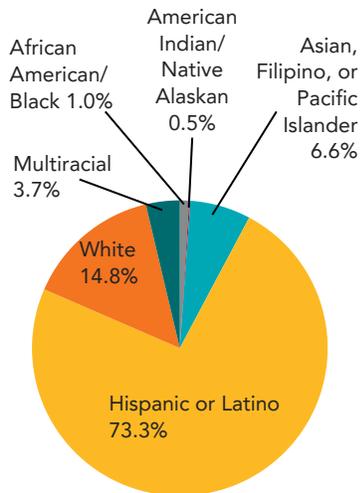
PEOPLE & PLACES



BOOKING

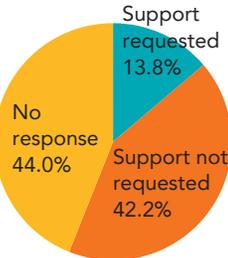


STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS\*

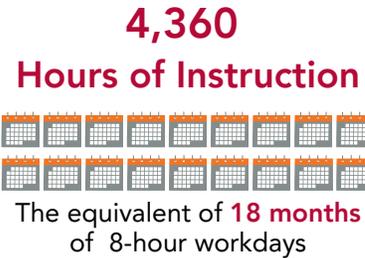


\*Calculated from data available via the California Department of Education (CDE). Categories are from the CDE.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT



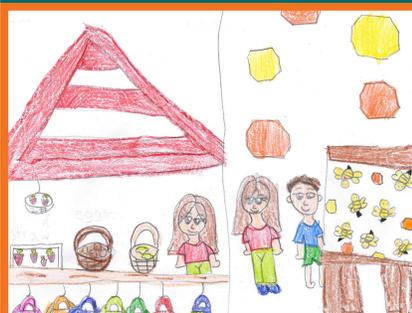
STUDENT CONTACT TIME



SCHOOLS SERVED



Thank you notes from second grade students at Barbara Webster Elementary in Santa Paula



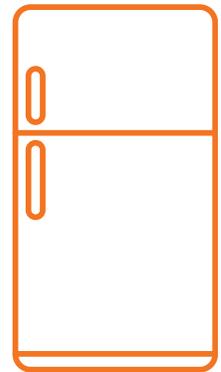
## 2023-2024 INTERNSHIPS

TRANSFORMING ENTHUSIASM  
INTO EXPERTISE

# From Campus to CAREER

**Research Library & Archives Intern Ali Phelps** worked with MVC Library staff to process backlogged collections.

During her internship, Ali processed 17.27 cubic feet of material. That volume would fill a medium-sized refrigerator!



Ali worked with the Malinda Chouinard papers and Vetco Offshore Industry records and created finding aids for 16 archival collections.

After Ali's internship, she graduated with a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and **accepted a position with the National Parks Service History Collection.**



“My experience at the Library provided a solid foundation in archival skills. Without this experience [...] I would not be ready to embark on this next adventure.

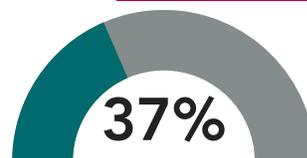
ALI PHELPS  
2023-2024 LIBRARY & ARCHIVES INTERN

## ALUMNI INSIGHTS

### WHERE MVC INTERNS WORK NOW

- Museum of Ventura County
- Oxnard College
- SAMO Youth
- Santa Barbara Natural History Museum
- National Park Service
- County of Ventura

### REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITY



Identify as Latino/a



of Museum Educators have been proficient in Spanish, allowing MVC to support language needs on tours

## 2023-2024 INTERNSHIPS

# Meet the 2023-2024 INTERNS

## LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

### KELLI COUSE

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Marketing

### DOUGLAS JOYS

University of Denver  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History, Political Science

### WILLIAM MCNEIL

University of California, Los Angeles  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

## MUSEUM EDUCATORS

### AMIHAN FRANADA

Ventura College  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Art, Education

### CECILIA LOPEZ

California Lutheran University  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Environmental Science,  
Communications



MVC helped refine my interests [...] I really believe that I owe my specialist position to the skills I learned while interning with them.

AMIHAN FRANADA  
2023-2024 MUSEUM EDUCATOR



### ALI PHELPS

San Jose State University  
Graduate Student  
Degree Focus: Library and Information Science

### VINCENT ROMERO

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

### STEPHANIE ZAGER

University of California, Los Angeles  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History, minoring in Information and Media Literacy

### SAMUEL "SAM" PONCE

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Environmental Science

### NATHANIEL VARGAS

Ventura College  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Sociology

## 2023-2024 INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

### INTERNS

**10** INTERNS

4 - Museum Educators  
6 - Library & Archives



**3** PROFICIENT IN SPANISH



### SCHOOLS

**7** COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

California Lutheran University,  
Oxnard College, Ventura College  
CSUCI, San Jose State University,  
UCLA, and University of Denver

# EMPOWERING STUDENT ARTISTS

IN 2024, MVC AWARDED \$11,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO TALENTED ART STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY.

The Museum of Ventura County is championing the transformative power of art through its Bonita C. McFarland Visual Arts Scholarship. The scholarship, supported by the generous endowment of the late Bonita C. McFarland, and administered by the Museum of Ventura County and its Fine Arts Committee, **goes beyond funding education—it amplifies emerging artistic voices and enriches our community.**

The candidates for this scholarship are **promising high school seniors and continuing college students in visual arts who reside in the County.** They are chosen for their artistic merit and dedication, demonstrated through a portfolio, an essay on their artistic and career aspirations, a recommendation letter from a mentor, and their educational achievements.

For the 2024 scholarship cycle, students' career aspirations ranged from more traditional careers such as making and teaching art, to art therapy, animation, film storyboarding, character and set design, concept art, illustration, and architectural design.

**It's more than a scholarship. It's about empowering the artists of tomorrow, while creating a brighter, more colorful future for Ventura County.**

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*Doña Camaleóna*  
Audrey Abbe  
California State University  
Channel Islands



*Eyes of Peace*  
Jami Chambers  
El Camino High School  
& Ventura College



*Love Birds*  
Wren Stepan  
Ventura High School  
& Ventura College



*Learning to Fly with  
Wings of Failure*  
Emmalynn Tsai  
Oak Park High School

ON DISPLAY: ART OF THE  
FOUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

JUN 8 - OCT 13, 2024  
MVC DOWNTOWN VENTURA  
HELEN YUNKER ALCOVE

## 2024 BONITA C. MCFARLAND VISUAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

### APPLICATIONS FROM

- California State University Channel Islands
- Moorpark College
- Oxnard College
- Ventura College
- Buena High School
- El Camino High School
- Newbury Park High School
- Oak Park High School
- Pacifica High School
- Rancho Campana High School
- Ventura High School

### WORK SAMPLES INCLUDED

- Animation
- Beads
- Bronze casting
- Ceramics / Pottery
- Charcoal
- Collage
- Costumes
- Crochet work
- Digital art (Procreate, Photoshop, Illustrator, Clip Studio Paint)
- Gouache
- India ink
- Laminated sticker vinyl
- Linoleum block prints
- Mixed media
- Painting (oil, acrylics, watercolor)
- Pastels
- Pen / Pencil / Colored pencil
- Photography
- Recycled cardboard
- Sculpture
- Shoes
- Storybooks

### STUDENTS ACCEPTED TO

- California State University Channel Islands
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Long Beach
- DePaul University
- Full Sail University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Massachusetts College of Art & Design
- Nottingham Trent University
- Otis College of Art & Design
- Pratt Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- Seneca College
- Sheridan College
- University of the Arts
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- Ventura College

## 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

**\$11,000**

SCHOLARSHIP MONIES AWARDED

#### STUDENTS SERVED



15

7

APPLICATIONS AWARDEES

#### SCHOOLS SERVED

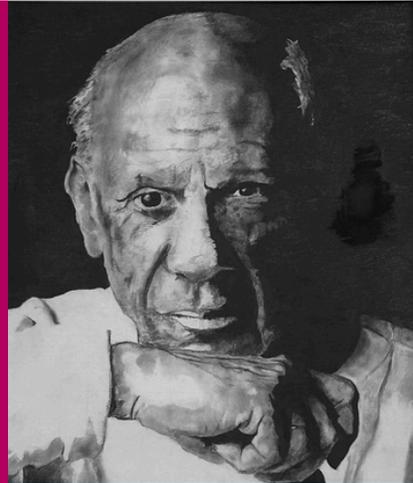


7

4

HIGH SCHOOLS COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

HONORABLE MENTIONS



*Picasso*  
Wylde Brandt  
Ventura High School



*Poinsettia Tears*  
Gabiella Mortillaro  
Oak Park High School



*Steinberg*  
Angel Gabriel Garcia  
Oxnard College

# A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

The 150th Anniversary of Ventura County

In 2023, Ventura County officially turned 150 years old. This was an opportunity to build community connection and pride in our region's unique history as we move forward together into a brighter future.

## MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

To support community celebration, the County of Ventura and Museum of Ventura County co-created a grant program that made a total of \$40,000 available to individuals and local organizations. Stipends ranged from \$300-\$1,700 to participate in the Mountains to Sea Jubilee, in pop-up experiences across the County, and to brand their individual programs as part of the 150th Anniversary.

**\$40,000**

COMMUNITY  
GRANTS GIVEN

**54**

PROPOSALS  
AWARDED

## MOUNTAINS TO SEA JUBILEE

*Santa Paula, Oct 21, 2023*

Featuring community organizations, artists and performers, government agencies, and cultural artisans, this free family festival brought together the entire county to honor the County's anniversary.

## POP-UP EXPERIENCES

*Moorpark, Port Hueneme, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura*

The Museum of Ventura County took the celebration on the road with games featuring photos and artwork from its collections, library, and archives with the community.

Mountains to Sea Jubilee, Oct 21, 2023



Flamenco 805's dances highlighted the influence of Spanish culture in Ventura County.



Students from New West Symphony's Laby Harmony Project performed music written in 1873.



Memorias Tejidas wove Zapotec wool tapestries, spotlighting the County's Mexican indigenous groups.



Togen Daiko's taiko performance showcased Japanese American culture in Ventura County.

# PROGRAMS LIST

## EVENTS

- 3rd Annual Ventura County Wildflower and Weed Show
- ArtWalk
- Annual Public Meeting of the Citrus Label Society
- Home for the Holidays
- Honeybee Day
- Humane Society of Ventura County Vaccination Clinic
- Mountains to Sea Jubilee
- Nowruz (Persian New Year)
- Obon Celebration
- Playdate in the Garden (3 sessions)
- University of California Master Gardener Open House
- Ventura County Farm Day 2023

## WORKSHOPS AND CAMPS

- Play-Well LEGO Camps (4 sessions)
- Zine Making Lab

## LECTURES, SCREENINGS, AND ROUNDTABLES

- Exhibit Spotlight Lecture: Land Use in Ventura County
- Strong & Resilient Women of Rancho Guadaluca
- Ventura Land Trust Lecture
- 6 Generations, 200 Years Later

## MVC LIBRARY, ARCHIVES, AND COLLECTIONS

- Ventura County Chronicles: Unveiling the Archives (2 sessions)

## POP-UP EXPERIENCES

- Banana Festival at Port Hueneme
- Strathearn Ragtime Revival
- Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Center
- Ventura County Fair

2023-2024  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS  
BY THE NUMBERS

**8,173**

**COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS  
REACHED**

**29**

**COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS  
AND POP-UP  
EXPERIENCES**

highlighting Ventura County  
art, culture, and history

**50**

**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS**



**Zine Lab**  
Ventura, Feb 2, 2024

This hands-on workshop taught community members to use the MVC digital library to craft zines - powerful, pocket-sized publications made from photos and magazine clippings that tell visually compelling stories.

Diversity Collective enriched the Museum's resources, empowering Zine Lab participants to share their unique stories.

# MUSEUM of VENTURA COUNTY

## PARTNERS & SCHOOLS

### WHO WE'VE WORKED WITH IN 2023-2024

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Art Trek, Inc.
- Arte & Cultura Collective of Santa Paula
- Ballet Folklórico Bell Arts
- Bell Arts Factory
- Blanchard Community Library
- Blue Ridge Honey
- Breastfeeding Coalition of Ventura County
- California Native Plant Society
- Camarillo Ranch Foundation
- Channel Islands Maritime Museum
- Christina Eilar
- City of Ventura
- Colleen Delaney
- Diversity Collective Ventura County
- Flamenco 805
- Focus on the Masters Arts Archive & Library
- Harry Selvin Orchestra
- hi stok'oy hil xus Chumash Cultural Group
- Humane Society of Ventura County
- Interfaith Council
- Iposi Women Veteran and Two-Spirit Native Drum
- Memorias Tejidas
- New West Symphony Association
- Niños del Maíz
- Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters
- Open Door Studio
- Oxnard Heritage Foundation
- Pinaysphere
- Play-Well LEGO
- Roberto Vargas
- San Buenaventura Friends of the Library
- Santa Paula Beekeepers Association
- Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Paula Concert Series at the Universalist Unitarian Church
- Santa Paula Historical Society
- Santa Paula Latino Town Hall
- Santa Paula Theater Center
- Simi Valley International City of Peace
- Tara O'Gorman
- The Laby Harmony Project of the New West Symphony
- The Santa Paula Police Department
- Togen Daiko
- University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources & University of California Master Gardeners
- Ventura County Agriculture/Weights & Measures
- Ventura County Mobile Library
- Ventura County Sheriff's Office
- Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
- Ventura Land Trust
- Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council
- Vita Art Center

#### COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- California Lutheran University
- California State University Channel Islands
- Moorpark College
- Oxnard College
- San Jose State University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Denver
- Ventura College
- Ventura County Community College District

#### K-12 SCHOOLS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Anatola Elementary
- Barbara Webster Elementary
- Brekke Elementary
- Bridges Charter School
- Buena High School
- Camarillo-Conejo Homeschool
- Cesar E. Chavez Elementary
- Citrus Glen Elementary
- Curren Elementary
- Cypress
- E.P. Foster STEM Academy
- El Camino High School
- Elm Elementary
- Emilie Ritchen Elementary
- Girls Inc. Carpinteria
- Hollywood Beach
- Homeschooling group: Association of Children Home Educators of Ventura County
- Hueneme Elementary
- Juan Soria K-8 School
- Lincoln Elementary
- Mar Vista Elementary
- McKevelt Elementary
- Mira Monte Elementary
- Montalvo Elementary
- Newbury Park High School
- Oak Park High School
- Orlivlands School
- Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church
- Pacifica High School
- Parkview Elementary
- Pierpont Elementary
- Poinsettia Elementary
- Rancho Campana High School
- Revo Academy
- Richard Bard Elementary
- Rio Del Mar Elementary
- Rio Del Norte Elementary
- Rio Del Sol STEAM Academy
- Rio Lindo Elementary
- Rio Plaza Elementary
- Rio Real Elementary
- Rio Rosales Elementary
- Ritchen Elementary
- Sacred Heart School
- Sheridan Way Elementary
- Somis School
- Tierra Linda Elementary
- Tierra Vista Elementary
- Ventura High School
- Ventura Missionary School

#### K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Briggs
- Conejo Valley
- Hueneme Elementary
- Oak Park Unified
- Ocean View
- Ojai Unified
- Oxnard K-8
- Oxnard Union
- Pleasant Valley
- Rio
- Santa Paula Unified
- Somis Union
- Ventura Unified