

UNITED STATES NAVAL
UNDERSEA
MUSEUM

 ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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2020 HIGHLIGHTS

THE U.S. NAVAL UNDERSEA MUSEUM (USNUM)

strives to connect veterans, active-duty Sailors, and our national audience with the history, technology, operations, and experiences of the undersea Navy. Through artifacts, exhibits, and educational programs, we tell the stories of the exceptional people and cutting-edge technology that define the Navy's undersea communities.

In early March, the museum closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure affected every aspect of museum operations. For the remainder of the year, staff maximized virtual content and programming to continue serving our community. These efforts earned the museum record numbers of virtual impressions and new audience growth. Education staff offered distance learning workshops and STEM activity kits for curbside pickup, as remote continuations of our strong educational offerings. And despite the closure, USNUM staff executed two major projects: the preservation of DSRV *Mystic* and the installation of new audio-visual equipment in two facility spaces.

10,622,154 virtual views earned through our social media platforms, website, and virtual tour

11,421 visitors welcomed in person before closing March 12

148 education programs implemented for 3,194 participants

Online exhibit, *Man of Honor: The Story of Carl Brashear* launched

190 artifacts exhibited, 55 at other organizations

541 artifacts added to the collection, for a total of 48,402

70 events hosted for 5,118 Navy and civilian personnel

2,220 volunteer hours provided by 96 volunteers

Major preservation and restoration project of DSRV *Mystic* carried out

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The year 2020 was like no other – for the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum (USNUM), for the country, and for the world. No one could have expected a pandemic that would affect all aspects of our home lives and work, or bring the challenges that COVID-19 created.

With the arrival of COVID-19 in the States and ensuing museum closure, the USNUM team quickly shifted from welcoming visitors in-person to sharing our mission virtually. Our primary goal remains to serve our Navy and civilian communities and current circumstances allow us to do so in new and expanded ways. In 2020, we re-envisioned in-person programming for distribution digitally, launched a number of online initiatives via our social media platforms, and implemented virtual projects that had been in development for several years but not fully realized due to time and personnel constraints. A good number of large-scale facility and conservation projects were tackled, highlighting one positive aspect to the facility closure.

While these new digital initiatives and partnerships look effortless, USNUM staff worked tirelessly, spending untold hours in research, preparation, meetings, and equipment troubleshooting to make them possible. I applaud the resiliency and adaptability of the staff; the year's successes and progress are truly a testament to the level of professionalism of our team as whole. It was a period of continued growth, especially virtually, and I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all that we have accomplished in the last year.

This annual report provides a year-in-review, and I think you will agree that our efforts resulted in many impressive achievements.

USNUM is an institution where responsible stewardship, service to the public, and a culture of caring, scholarship, innovation, and transparency are how we measure our impact on the U.S. Navy, the community in which we serve, and the museum field to which we belong. This did not change in 2020. In January and February 2020, we welcomed 11,311 physical visitors to the museum. In March, we shifted gears to our digital approach and welcomed an additional 10,622. Our virtual outreach is very impressive, offering a number of new and innovative avenues for remaining engaged with our stakeholders.

Our goal at USNUM is to provide spaces and platforms to open dialogue and highlight human experiences that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. One such avenue to share these stories is through our exhibit program. While we have not been able to welcome visitors through our doors, we wanted to ensure that we still created accessible avenues to share our exhibits and collections with the public. The museum's new interactive 3D virtual tour is a valuable tool to provide the type of accessibility we want to achieve. The museum's new online exhibit, *Man of Honor: The Story of Carl Brashear* is also a resounding success.

Our education program is a key tool for relaying Navy history, culture, technology, and innovations to our community and fostering

the public's engagement with technological and scientific concepts. The USNUM Education Department excels in creating exceptional, inspiring experiences for learners of all ages. Throughout 2020, education programs were revamped as all in-person outreach programs were cancelled beginning in March. The museum successfully implemented new virtual program offerings to include #MuseumAtHome STEM activities, the development of the very successful Curbside STEM Pickup! program, and adapting and doubling Navy STEM Days

...despite our current hardships, our museum will continue to grow and prosper.

in a virtual format. The participation of approximately 3,229 students and families in these programs demonstrates the public's interest in and appreciation for the opportunities USNUM provides for learning.

Our Collections Management Department is responsible for the care and preservation of the 3D artifacts, archival materials, and reference items utilized by USNUM to share our Navy's undersea stories. The 48,402 artifacts that reside within the museum's collection provide endless opportunities to develop exhibit and education programs that showcase those stories. A major triumph for the museum in 2020 was the full restoration

of DSRV *Mystic*, enabling the museum to hold this cherished artifact in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

Each year, our museum's accomplishments are made possible by the exceptional team we have working at USNUM. The USNUM staff continue to identify and participate actively in outreach events to connect with the community we serve, pursue training opportunities that improve their professional skills and benefit the museum, and work dutifully to achieve institutional goals. As 2021 begins, we remain unsure when we will be able to open the museum's doors to the public once again. However, as long as our literal doors are closed, we will continue to keep our digital doors open, carrying out our mission and increasing the museum's accessibility in any way we are able. I know that in 2021 the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum will continue to prosper with the strong support of the U.S. Navy, the public, the volunteer staff, and the Naval Undersea Museum Foundation. We are well-positioned for the future, and with every new exhibit, program initiative, and outreach effort we are furthering the mission of our wonderful museum. I look forward to the coming year with a renewed hope and focus, knowing that despite our current hardships, our museum will continue to grow and prosper.


THANK YOU for your partnership and investment in the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum. We look forward to the day we can welcome you back again.

● **LINDY DOSHER**
DIRECTOR

HIGH VELOCITY LEARNING

Applying the best concepts, techniques, and tools to accelerate learning as individuals and families, the museum's educational programming explores the knowledge and technology that enable the U.S. Navy's presence undersea. The programs inspire participants to explore the scientific, technological, engineering, art, and mathematical (STEAM) principles that form the foundation of the Navy's daily operations. Participation in the museum's programs and exhibits fosters an interest in and understanding of STEM principles that can influence a student's career choices and encourage a lifetime of learning. In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis forced the museum to reimagine and shift quickly to virtual and socially distanced education and public outreach offerings.

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DIGITAL AND CURBSIDE OUTREACH

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum posted STEM-based web activities for at-home application every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning in March. The activities were designed for young learners and use common household objects for recreating demonstrations and experiments. In addition to online activities, the museum began a Curbside STEM partnership with Morale, Welfare, & Recreation; the Puget Sound Navy Museum (PSNM); the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF); and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Keyport (NUWC Keyport) that offered drive-through pick-up locations for rotating STEM activities. More than 1,100 individuals were served in this new format.



NAVY STEM DAYS

Navy STEM Days is an educational program resulting from collaboration between the museum, PSNM, PSNS & IMF, and NUWC Keyport. In its seventh year, the program shifted to a virtual platform, teaching 546 local 4th through 6th graders STEM-based concepts that align with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

DISCOVER E DAY

Prior to the museum's closure due to COVID-19, we carried out our 22nd National Engineer's Discover E Day, drawing more than 625 children and families. Participants engaged in 22 different hands-on activities, including programming robots, designing electrical circuits, and drawing with 3-D pens. The museum, along with PSNM, PSNS & IMF, NUWC Keyport, NAVFAC, OceanGate Inc. staff; UUVRON-1 Sailors; and 59 volunteers staffed activity stations.



CONNECTING TO THE UNDERSEA NAVY



As windows into the undersea experiences of the U.S. Navy, the museum's exhibits connect our visitors to key people, events, technologies, and advances in the Navy's undersea endeavors. With the museum closed for much of the year, we forged virtual connections through our social media channels, online exhibits, and virtual museum tour. This digital outreach engaged record numbers of people in a wide range of undersea Navy content.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The year 2020 was USNUM's highest performing in history for virtual impressions, audience growth, and content creation. Following the museum's closure on March 12 due to COVID-19, USNUM staff increased social media output threefold and diversified our content to appeal to a wider audience.

These efforts doubled our virtual reach in 2020, earning 10,622,154 total views across our social media platforms, website, and virtual tour. We also successfully grew our collective social media audience to more than 20,000 followers.



Our digital outreach engaged record numbers of people in 2020.



NEW ONLINE EXHIBIT

In June 2020, USNUM launched a new online exhibit, *Man of Honor: The Story of Carl Brashear*, to honor the 50th anniversary of Brashear's historic qualification as the U.S. Navy's first African American Master Diver. The exhibit traces Brashear's journey to becoming a highly successful Master Diver and examines the legacy he created in life that continues beyond his death.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOUR

An interactive, virtual 3D tour of our exhibit galleries, created in 2019, became an invaluable resource following the museum's COVID-19 closure in March 2020. The tour provides virtual access to all the museum's exhibits via any web browser. It was explored more than 72,000 times in 2020.

NEW DIGITAL OFFERINGS

In the spring, USNUM created a webpage of digital resources to support students and families learning from home. The page featured content such as family STEM activities, online exhibits, and artifact highlights.

As part of ongoing efforts to expand access to our collection, staff added 124 new high-resolution scans of artifacts to our Flickr page in 2020. The new photographs grew our Flickr offerings to more than 800 images.



PRESERVING NAVY HISTORY

Museums derive their identities and products — education programs and exhibits — from their artifacts. In order for artifacts to be available for use in exhibits and research inquiries, they must be physically and intellectually cared for year-round. This care ensures the artifacts are physically able to withstand the pressures of exhibition now and into the future and enough data about the artifacts exists to make them valuable for exhibition and study.

Significant acquisitions for 2020 included:

A USS *Swordfish* (SS 193) battle flag, pictured below, that once belonged to *Swordfish* officer Lt. Cmdr. Wilhelm Baum

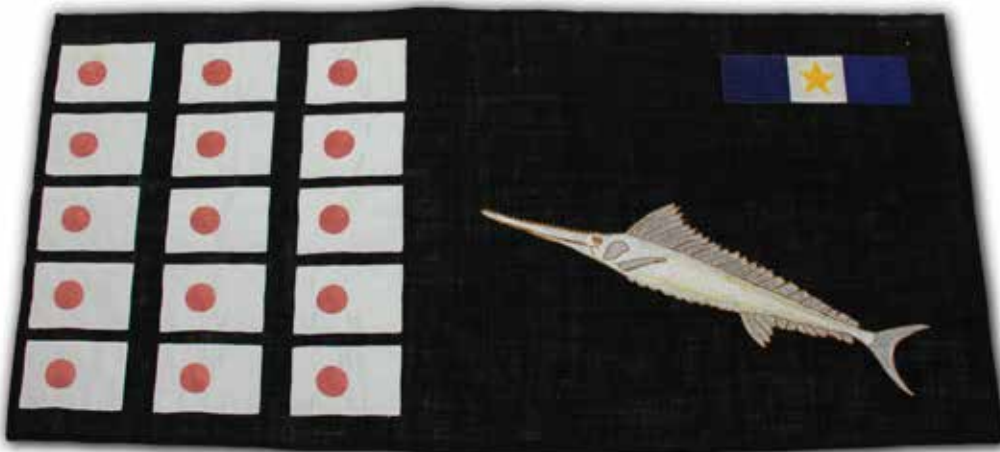
A large collection of submarine ephemera, comprising documents, artwork, manuals, postcards, booklets, and more

A MK 9 depth charge, MK 6 depth charge projector, and MK 27 torpedo director

More than 100 diving technical reports, written by experts at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit between 1955 and 1994, that evaluate diving equipment and procedures

LOAN PROGRAM

Providing access to museum artifacts by lending them to organizations across the globe allows a broader audience to engage with naval history and technology. In 2020, the museum had 55 artifacts on loan to 33 organizations, including museums and veterans' groups, reaching more than two million visitors.



CONSERVATION

USNUM executed several important conservation projects in 2020:

Major preservation and restoration project of deep submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV) *Mystic*, including substantial repairs to the fiberglass hull

Broken glass replacement in two torpedo data computer consoles

Conservation assessments of two large artifacts, ROV Deep Drone and a Hedgehog projectile launcher

Pressure washing of submersible *Trieste II* (DSV 1)

Professional conservation of a “Christmas tree” indicator panel from USS *Medregal*

RESEARCH

As a public institution, part of the museum’s mission is to assist with research inquiries. Curatorial staff fielded 200 historical and artifact questions in 2020, providing assistance such as:

Scanning historic images of **1960s submersible** interiors for a film production company, for use as visual reference in designing a film set for a Lucasfilm project

Providing photographs of the **first women submariners** to the Navy Art Collection, which resulted in three new artworks painted by the collection’s new combat artist

Helping the **Navy Experimental Diving Unit** locate historic versions of their command logo

Providing ***Sealab II* and *Trieste* images** to a historian for publication in a book about the intersection of Aquastar watches and diving history

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

The museum is fortunate to receive the support of knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers who do a stellar job serving as the public face of the museum as they welcome and greet visitors, conduct guided tours, attend the store, process collections, facilitate educational programs, build and install exhibits, and, in 2020, increase their support behind the scenes. Despite the museum's closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum's 96 volunteers contributed 2,220 hours to the museum, ensuring the achievement of the museum's mission to connect people to the U.S. naval undersea experience from yesterday through tomorrow.

THANK YOU to the following people who volunteered their time and energy to the museum in 2020!

**[The museum]
receives the support
of knowledgeable
and dedicated
volunteers.**



BRONZE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

100+ HOURS CONTRIBUTED IN THE YEAR

Mike Collier

Cathy Wedelstaedt

Aida Carbo

SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS

John Alcantra

John Gerten

Bob Latham

Faryn Seal

Doug Anderson

Harry Gilger

Joe Lawlis

Steve Shapro

Dave Anderson

Steve Grether

David Ledbetter

Casey Smith

Sharon Baker

Charles Gundersen

Colleen Montoya

Larry Snyder

Michael Blas

Rick Gunderson

Robert Paul

Alex Standard

Tony Carbo

Tom Heman

Fernando

Kevin Syltebo

Don Chalupka

Katherine Hildreth

Perezcarvajal

Don Tjossem

Delores Contreras

Darlene Iskra

Mike Peterson

Dennis Totten

Dawn Dailey

Don Jassek

Trish Ridley

Jerry Turner

Garth Dial

RuthAnn Jassek

Bruce Riggins

Walt Van Dyke

Steve Dilling

Joyce Johnson

Alexz Rosario

Clete Wood

Rich Dixon

Allen Keyser

Ed Seal

DISCOVER E DAY VOLUNTEERS

Troy Barnhardt

Jolene Dixon

Taura Helms

Rahul Petrie

Corinne Beach

Rich Dixon

Kevin Hovis

Stephen Porter

Christopher Beach

Tracey Etienne

Matt Jabloner

Ed Seal

Michael Blas

Chris Fitchett

Shelby Knafla

Trevor Singleton

Carl Bowers

Ciara Flanery

Catarina McDaniel

Courtney Smythe

Andrew Campbell

Jennifer Froderberg

Mikayla Monroe

Tony Towne

Aida Carbo

Azalea Grant

Benjamin Moore

Walt Van Dyke

Don Chalupka

Maiya Greene

Sybrina Nanez

Greg Waldrup

James Cline

Kevin Habener

Gerry Obando

Vena Ward

Jesse Combs

Kelsey Hall

Viveka Patterson

Cathy Wedelstaedt

Dawn Dailey

GiGi Hamilton

Travis Penry

Shonna Wilkerson

Sam De Lano

Matt Hamilton

Steve Peredo

Michael Wilmink

Charles Diesel

Marilyn Hawks

Abby Peterson

Elizabeth Wilson

Christopher Dingman

Tom Hawks

Mike Peterson

Jacob Yakawich

STRENGTHENING THE NAVY

The museum is proud to support Navy commands, Sailors, civilians, and families by providing physical space and intellectual resources at the museum for important ceremonies (retirement, change of command, promotion, commissioning) and for trainings and meetings. In 2020, the museum hosted more than 5,000 people for 70 such events. Free use of the facility for the Navy to conduct its business promotes fleet and mission readiness.

NAVY COMMANDS SUPPORTED IN 2020:

- Commander, Navy Region Northwest
- Coastal Riverine Squadron Eleven
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
- Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Keyport
- Naval Sea Systems Command, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility
- Naval Sea Systems Command, Trident Refit Facility Bangor
- Navy Region Legal Service Office Northwest
- Navy Region Northwest Fire and Emergency Services
- Office of Civilian Human Resources, Silverdale Operations Center
- Submarine Group 9
- Submarine Squadron 19
- Trident Training Facility, Bangor
- USS *Nevada* (SSBN 733)
- USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68)
- USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN 720)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED:

- Navy League of the United States
- U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

USNUM STAFF



Lindy Doshier
Director*



Jarrod Gahr
Exhibit and Graphic Designer



Steven Harvey
Exhibit Fabricator



Valerie Johnson
Educator



Mary Rogers
Volunteer and Events Coordinator



Mary Ryan
Curator



Beth Sanders
Collections Manager



Lorraine Scott
Collections Manager



Olivia Wilson
Operations Manager

* Staff shared with the Puget Sound Navy Museum



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