



UNITED STATES NAVAL
UNDERSEA
MUSEUM

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2022



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The **U.S. NAVAL UNDERSEA MUSEUM** (USNUM) strives to connect veterans, active-duty Sailors, and our national audience with the history, technology, and operations 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.

Throughout 2022, the museum focused on recovering from COVID-19 operational impacts, while continuing to address mission-essential responsibilities and serve our Navy and civilian communities. The museum welcomed 42,734 in-person visitors and transitioned back to in-person offerings for educational and public family programs, serving 6,420 students, Sailors, families, and other patrons. Additionally, the museum opened a 1,800-square-foot temporary exhibit, executed five conservation projects, and completed a major HVAC and humidification system installation in 2022.

- **Inside front/back cover:** Images of submariners from our new exhibit, *Giving Voice to the Silent Service*, which explores how submarine service shapes those who serve.

- **12,448,454 VIRTUAL VIEWS**
earned through our social media platforms, website, and virtual tour
- **42,734 VISITORS**
welcomed to the museum
- **76 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
implemented for 6,420 participants
- **286 ARTIFACTS EXHIBITED**,
67 at other organizations
- **1,037 ARTIFACTS ADDED**
to the collection, for a total of 50,577 items
- **296 EVENTS**
hosted for 10,809 Navy and civilian personnel
- **6,286 VOLUNTEER HOURS**
provided by 75 volunteers
- **5 CONSERVATION PROJECTS**
carried out
- **125 RESEARCH INQUIRIES**
fielded and answered

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM,

I take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all we have accomplished in the last year. I think you will agree that we are up to great things.

The U.S. Naval Undersea Museum is an institution where upholding responsible collections stewardship, service to the public, and a culture of learning, innovation, and transparency are the measures of our impact on the U.S. Navy and the communities we serve, and to the museum field in which we belong. In 2022, USNUM staff and volunteers welcomed 42,734 onsite visitors and reached nearly 12.5 million online. Onsite visitation continued to recover at a rate of 60% compared to 2019's pre-pandemic visitation, a rate slightly above reported national levels.

As we reflect on 2022, our nation and world continue to experience challenging times. This reinforces the critical role that cultural institutions such as USNUM play in collecting and sharing stories, both past and present, about the Navy's rich heritage and role on the world's stage. The museum offers spaces and platforms to open dialogue and highlight human experiences that shape and inspire. One such example of this is our newest exhibit, *Giving Voice to the Silent Service*, which opened in 2022.

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Our education programs are another key tool for sharing Navy history, as well as fostering the public's engagement with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts. In 2022, USNUM transitioned back from virtual to in-person offerings, hosting 76 education and public programs serving 6,420 people. The participation of students and families in programs such as Summer STEAM, Science Saturday, and Navy STEM Days demonstrates the public's interest in and appreciation for the opportunities USNUM provides for learning. USNUM also maintained the strong education partnerships developed during the COVID-19 pandemic years with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF), Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Keyport, Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) and Navy Region Northwest (NRNW) School Liaisons, NRNW Gold Star Families, Exceptional Family Member Program, and NBK Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. These partnerships allow us to maximize staffing and operational resources for the benefit of our Navy and civilian communities.

I believe this next year will be as dynamic as we have been historically. I look forward to 2023 knowing that the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum will continue to prosper with your strong support. We are positioned well for the future, and with every new exhibit, program initiative, and outreach effort, we will further the mission of our museum.

Thank you for your partnership and investment in our wonderful museum.

LINDY DOSHER

USNUM Director



CONNECTING TO THE UNDERSEA NAVY



Facilitating connections to the U.S. naval undersea experience is our mission and purpose. Through exhibits, programs, collections, and virtual interpretation, we amplify the stories of the U.S. Navy's undersea communities, in turn creating meaning and value for our audience. This year, we opened a major new exhibit about the submarine community, expanded our virtual offerings, and served as a wide-ranging resource.

GIVING VOICE TO THE SILENT SERVICE

Opened September 2

Our newest exhibit, *Giving Voice to the Silent Service*, offers visitors an inside look at the submarine community's multifaceted identity, which has often been concealed by its silent stance. Most submariners find the unusual culture and shared experience of submarining deeply transformative; for many, the title of "submariner" lasts a lifetime.

Filled with historic artifacts, personal stories, vivid imagery, and hands-on interactives, *Giving Voice to the Silent Service* explores how submarine service shapes those who serve, from qualifying and deployments through retirement and beyond. The resoundingly enthusiastic feedback the exhibit has received underscores the power of community-centric interpretation.



Left: Hands-on interactives and a recreated "love me" wall invite visitor engagement in the new exhibit *Giving Voice to the Silent Service*.

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

In 2022, we continued sharing stories, artifacts, exhibits, and educational activities with our ever-growing online community. The museum's virtual content earned more than 12.4 million impressions and drew almost 9,500 new social media followers, growing our collective audience to more than 30,000 followers.

To further expand access to our artifact collection, we launched a new Digitized Collections webpage in March. The new resource connects virtual users to some of our most significant or high-use artifacts, now readily accessible as digital 3D models, high-resolution scans, or archival finding aids.

A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

The museum is an important resource for Navy organizations, the public, researchers, and other museums. We use our artifact collection and expertise to support public inquiries and research projects, fielding an average of 150 queries a year. Whether we are confirming a historical date, sharing digitized submarine war patrol reports, identifying examples of cultural changes for the Vice Naval Chief of Operations, or fact-checking deep submergence history for *The New Yorker*, every question is an opportunity to facilitate undersea connections.



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. Our programs inspire participants to explore the scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical 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 (and do!) influence a student's career choices and encourage a lifetime of learning.

DIGITAL AND ONSITE PROGRAMS

The education department continued its virtual presence by sharing STEM-based web activities for at-home application. The activities are designed for young learners and use common household objects for recreating demonstrations and experiments. Under a new STEM partnership with the regional Gold Star program and the Exceptional Family Member Program, USNUM, along with the Puget Sound Navy Museum (PSNM), PSNS & IMF, and NUWC Division Keyport, provided a week of virtual workshops to Gold Star and Exceptional Family Member Program families across an 11-state region. Registration and feedback revealed that learners of all ages participated in, and appreciated, USNUM and our partners' virtual offerings.

Over the year, the museum transitioned back to "stay and explore" onsite programming, bringing back Summer STEAM, a weekly offering of science-based programming between the 4th of July and Labor Day. Onsite participation in Summer STEAM reflected pre-pandemic rates, with numerous families expressing gratitude for past virtual and pickup STEM kits, and for welcoming the community back to onsite programming in a safe and engaging way.

NAVY STEM DAYS

Navy STEM Days is an educational program for regional fourth and fifth grades, resulting from collaboration between the museum, PSNM, PSNS & IMF, and NUWC Division Keyport. In its ninth year, the program continued on its virtual platform before transitioning back to onsite learning in the fall. In doing so, we learned that welcoming students back to the museum was particularly consequential for the community. Teachers who had become familiar with the STEM team through our virtual presence expressed delight at meeting the team in person, and revealed a compelling reward for our effort to bring Navy STEM Days back to USNUM: after years of virtual programming, USNUM was the location teachers chose for the first field trip their students had ever taken.

DISCOVER E DAY

In its 24th year, National Engineers Discover E Day once again celebrated onsite! The museum's education department partnered with PSNM, PSNS & IMF, and NUWC Division Keyport to host three days of extended museum hours. Balancing the reopening of the museum with continuing pandemic guidelines, visitors came to the museum after work to pick up a multitude of engineering challenges, science experiments, and mathematical demonstration kits. These kits were designed for general learner levels, ranging from elementary to post-high school discovery.





PRESERVING NAVY HISTORY

Museums derive their identities and products — education programs and exhibits — from their artifacts. Our collections department ensures USNUM’s artifacts are physically and intellectually cared for. Through database management, conservation programs, exhibit support, and major facility projects, the department continues to increase its efforts to collect, document, and preserve the objects in our care.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In 2022, we continued to collect from submarines going through the decommissioning and recycling processes. These ties with the active fleet enable us to collect unique items from the modern Navy, both of overall naval significance and significance to individual Sailors’ experiences. Other major new acquisitions this year included a collection of submarine and Navy memorabilia documenting the career of former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West, and the research files of pioneering American submersible engineer and pilot Will Forman.

○ **Left:** MCPON Rick West donated many objects from his Navy career, including this oar given to him while serving as Force Master Chief of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

CONSERVATION

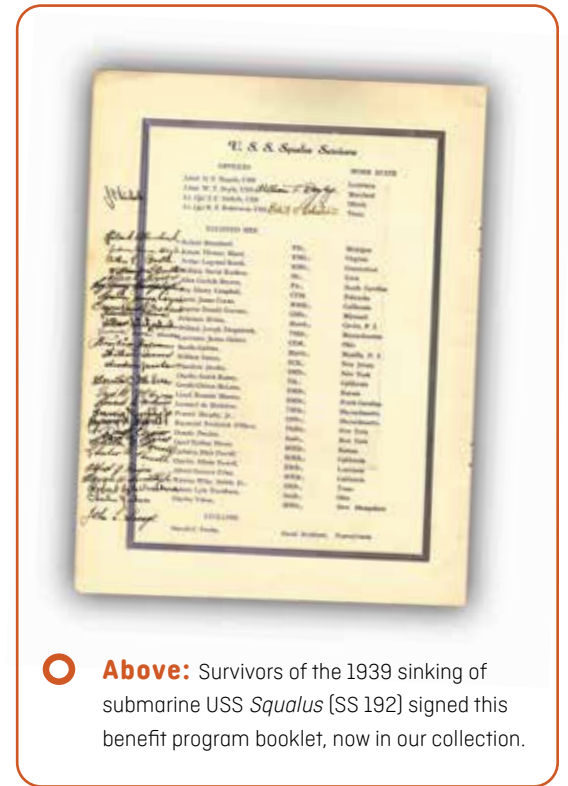
More than just growing the collection, maintaining the collection is equally important. In the past year, the museum completed a preservation assessment on our largest artifact, *Trieste II* (DSV 1); pressure washed *Trieste II* and DSRV *Mystic*; and had three objects professionally conserved: a book on display in our new exhibit *Giving Voice to the Silent Service*, an early Navy remotely operated vehicle, and a quarterdeck mat from USS *George Washington Carver* (SSBN 656). Additionally, the installation of a major HVAC and humidification control system in 2022 ensures a healthy preservation environment for artifacts on display.

LOAN PROGRAM

USNUM artifacts continue to be displayed outside the building, including in museums around the world, veterans memorials, and other Navy facilities. In 2022, the museum had 67 artifacts on loan to 33 organizations.

MANAGING THE COLLECTION

Day-to-day management of our collection is critical. Fully documenting artifacts ensures future users know what we have, where it is, and why it is in the collection. The collections department edited more than 4,000 records in our collections management system during 2022, and added more than 1,500 new multimedia records to visually document the collection. These actions are part of what makes us proud of our level of care for the more than 50,000 items in the collection.



○ Above: Survivors of the 1939 sinking of submarine USS *Squalus* (SS 192) signed this benefit program booklet, now in our collection.



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



Knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers, 75 in all, provided more than 6,200 hours of essential support to the museum as they welcomed and greeted visitors, tended the store, processed collections, assisted with educational programs, and prepped exhibit spaces. THANK YOU to the following people who volunteered their time and energy to the museum in 2022:

GOLD PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

John Gerten

SILVER PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Robert Paul, Larry Snyder

BRONZE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Bruce Riggins, Cathy Wedelstaedt, Douglas Anderson, Charles Gundersen, Patty Dionne, Douglas Crinklaw, Randy McNary, Don Carpenter, Faryn Seal, Mike Peterson, Walt Van Dyke, Rich Dixson, Bonnie Thomas, Rick Gunderson, Steve Grether, Rachel Benedict, Don Jassek, Candy Peters, RuthAnn Jassek, Jerry Coss, Darlene Iskra, Joseph Lawlis, Terry Warring, Amanda Gonzalez, Ed Seal, Tony Carbo, Ted Ross, Steve Shapro, Carson Bryant, Brian Nyquist

SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Anderson, Diego Baca, Sharon Baker, Thom Boren, Carl Bowers, Hoyt Burrows, Adrian Campbell, Aida Carbo, Don Chalupka, Mike Collier, Floyd Crow, Charles Gibbs, Harry Gilger, Carey Ann Ginos, Tom Heman, Bob Latham, Pam Love, Frank Luce, Greg Martin, Helen Muterspaugh, Joel Oviedo, Richard Sottile, Kevin Syltebo, Bobbi West, Calvin Williams, Clete Wood



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 (retirements, changes of command, promotions, commissionings) and for trainings and meetings. In 2022, the museum hosted more than 10,800 people for 296 onsite events, including 35 retirements and nine change of command ceremonies. Free use of the facility for the Navy to conduct ceremonies, trainings, and meetings promotes fleet and mission readiness.



SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT SQUADRON 5

MMA1 Brandon Gastaud, TMCS Christopher Cates,
ITS2 Alexander Gonzalez, ETN1 Aleczandir Sheriff

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND, TRIDENT REFIT FACILITY BANGOR

EMCS Charles Laymon, ETN2 Aaron Birnschein,
MMN1 Michael Ford, ETNC Bryan Patterson

UNMANNED UNDERSEA VEHICLE SQUADRON ONE

STSCM Jared Burt, FT1 Everett White, TM1 Toby Paul,
FT1 Kevin Miller, STSC Eric Boyd





STAFF

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- **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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