



UNITED STATES NAVAL
UNDERSEA
MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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UNDERSEA
MUSEUM



● USS *Parche* (SSN 683) and crew members circa the mid-1970s

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

Throughout 2023, USNUM focused on closing the gap between current and pre-pandemic visitation by providing in-person programs and events while connecting to a wider audience through social media and outreach programming. Over the course of the year, we welcomed 52,957 in-person visitors and offered educational and public programs that served 8,741 students, Sailors, families, and other patrons.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

52,957
visitors
welcomed

16,746,646
virtual views
earned through our social
media platforms, website,
and virtual tour

92
education
programs
implemented for
8,741 participants

256
artifacts
exhibited,
55 at other
organizations

989
artifacts
added
to the collection,
for a total of 53,879

302 events
hosted for 15,090 Navy
and civilian personnel

7,012
volunteer
hours
provided by
94 volunteers

2
conservation
projects
carried out

118
research
inquiries
answered



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM,

Thank you for being part of our community for another excellent year! 2023 has been a year of improving our professional standards, expanding our reach, and refocusing our goals as a team.

We joined together as a staff to update our strategic plan, highlighting the areas in which we excel and those where we can grow. As part of this process, we adopted a purpose statement — “We connect you to the U.S. naval undersea experience from yesterday through tomorrow” — which will help us better chart the course for our collections, exhibits, outreach events, and education programming.

We are grateful to see that you also want to connect with us. Our team welcomed 52,957 visitors this year, a 24 percent increase from 2022 and a return to 80 percent of our pre-pandemic onsite numbers, and we grew our virtual reach to 16.7 million impressions. Staff and volunteers aspire to make each of these onsite and online visitors feel connected to our mission.

Reflecting on 2023, we are proud to have engaged more than 8,700 youth participants across our 92 onsite and offsite education programs, brought veterans’ stories to life through our well-attended Deep Sea Day: Meet the Veterans program, and added nearly 900 objects to our artifact collection, focusing on objects representing individuals’ connections to their naval undersea experiences.

Our team welcomed **52,957 visitors** this year, a 24 percent increase from 2022

As we set out in 2024, we look forward to introducing you to the stories of people that have and are shaping the Navy’s undersea heritage with our upcoming *Faces of the Deep* exhibit. Our team will also prepare for re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, which serves as national recognition of our commitment to excellence and the highest professional standards of museum operations and public service.

As a staff of nine, we cannot do this all on our own. We are thankful for the full team that makes our successes happen, from our incredible volunteer corps, to our teammates at the Naval Undersea Museum Foundation, our colleagues within the Naval History and Heritage Command, and our key education and active-duty partners. These combined contributions maximize staffing and operational resources for the benefit of our Navy and civilian communities. We are one connected community, and we look forward to bringing you new perspectives and stories with every new exhibit, program initiative, and outreach effort.

THANK YOU for your partnership and investment in our wonderful museum,

LINDY DOSHER,
USNUM Director

BETH SANDERS,
USNUM Acting Director

Added nearly **900 objects** to our artifact collection



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 underwater. The programs inspire participants to explore the scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) 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. Entering its second year, USNUM's STEM partnership with the regional Gold Star (GS) program, Exceptional Family Military Program (EFMP), Puget Sound Navy Museum (PSNM), Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS and IMF), and Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Keyport, provided a week of virtual workshops to GS and EFMP families across an 11-state region.

Onsite, the museum continued its weekly Summer STEAM program, offering science-based workshops and experiments between July 4th and Labor Day. Many fan-favorite activities that were not available during the pandemic, as well as activities newly developed by staff and our summer intern, were featured in 2023. The museum internship program continues to foster higher education, providing the opportunity to develop expertise and programming skills. Our 2023 intern, back for their second year, created Summer STEAM's most popular activity, focusing on the environments in which the U.S. Navy operates.

NAVY STEM DAYS

Navy STEM Days is an educational program for regional fourth and fifth grades, resulting from collaboration between USNUM, PSNM, PSNS and IMF, and NUWC Division Keyport. In its eleventh year, the program adopted updated workshops to correspond to current curriculum standards. At the fourth and fifth grade levels, many students are coming to the museum for their very first field trip, and teacher feedback has praised the opportunity for students to practice their soft skills alongside the academic workshops.

DISCOVER E DAY

In its 24th year, National Engineers Discover E Day was once again celebrated onsite. The museum's education department partnered with Navy personnel, regional STEM educators, and museum volunteers to provide hands-on science experiments, engineering challenges, and mathematical demonstration kits. Not only did the event serve hundreds of participants, it continues to affirm our commitment to building community relationships and is a great way to celebrate lifelong learning.





CONNECTING TO THE **UNDERSEA NAVY**

Facilitating connections to the U.S. naval undersea experience is our mission and purpose. Through exhibits, programs, publications, and virtual interpretation, we amplify the stories of the Navy's undersea communities, in turn creating meaning and value for our audience. This year, we hosted a highly successful Veterans Day program, revised a portion of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual, connected more deeply with our virtual community, and served as a wide-ranging resource.

DEEP SEA DAY: MEET THE VETERANS

In 2023, our popular Deep Sea Day program returned to connect visitors with Navy veterans! Almost 250 visitors joined us on Veterans Day for Deep Sea Day: Meet the Veterans, where they interacted one-on-one with veterans from the museum's volunteer corps. Participants delighted in the experience of hearing stories firsthand and viewing memorabilia from the veterans' service years.



U.S. NAVY DIVING MANUAL REVISION

When U.S. Navy diving leadership sought our help to revise the history chapter of the U.S. Navy Diving Manual for the upcoming eighth revision, we jumped at the opportunity to support one of our core communities. In just five months, USNUM staff completed a full revision of the chapter, rewriting more than 80 percent of the text, filling in numerous information gaps, and reframing the content for clarity.

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

In 2023, we continued sharing stories, artifacts, exhibits, and educational activities with our ever-growing online community. The museum's virtual content earned more than 16.7 million impressions and drew more than 5,000 new social media followers, growing our collective audience to more than 36,000 followers.

A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

We use our artifact collection and expertise to support inquiries and research projects from Navy organizations, the public, researchers, and other museums, fielding an average of 125 queries each year. Whether we are helping the Navy diving community establish a historically accurate inception date, digitizing a submarine battle flag to honor a World War II submariner, or scanning torpedo technical manuals for a fellow maritime museum, every question is an opportunity to facilitate undersea connections.

The museum's virtual content earned more than **16.7 million** impressions



● USS *Trepang* (SS 412) battle flag



PRESERVING NAVY HISTORY

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

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In 2023, we added nearly 900 artifacts to our collection. Of notable acquisitions for the year, several expanded our World War II holdings. These included a wartime diary and memorabilia of submariner Neal Cotner, a cocked hat and ceremonial sword that belonged to renowned submarine skipper Rear Admiral Willis “Pilly” Lent, and more than 450 commemorative Navy cachets collected by submariner John Crutchfield.



● World War II cachets collected by submariner John Crutchfield

PRESERVATION

This year, we focused our attention on conservation and preservation projects. Highlights include a multi-day conservation effort on the NR-1 manipulator, which involved resources from staff, Sailors, and professional conservators. We also undertook a large-scale photograph re-housing project, now 88 percent complete, bringing a higher level of physical and intellectual control to thousands of photographs in our collection.

Digitization also played a major role in our preservation efforts. We digitized 63 artifacts on obsolete video and audio formats, along with more than 5,000 slides, photographs, and new object acquisitions. The museum also created our first Digital Collections Management Policy, highlighting the unique challenges of caring for born-digital and digitized artifacts.

ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY

USNUM artifacts continue to be displayed at our museum and at museums around the world, veterans’ memorials, and in other Navy facilities. In 2023, the museum had 55 artifacts on loan to 30 organizations, and 201 objects on display in our galleries.

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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 2023, the museum hosted more than 15,000 people for 302 onsite events, including 35 retirements, 11 change of command ceremonies, 62 meetings, and 76 trainings. Free use of the facility for the Navy to conduct ceremonies, trainings, and meetings promotes fleet and mission readiness.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers, 94 in all, provided 7,012 hours of essential support to the museum as they welcomed and greeted visitors, tended the store, processed collections, supported education programs, and maintained exhibit and event spaces. With thanks to the following people who volunteered their time and energy to the museum in 2023:

GOLD PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (500+ HOURS)

Frank Luce, John Gerten

SILVER PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (250+ HOURS)

Charles Gundersen, Doug Anderson, Bruce Riggins

BRONZE PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD (100+ HOURS)

Rich Dixson, Robert Paul, Faryn Seal, Tony Carbó, Carl Bowers, Cathy Wedelstaedt, Don Carpenter, Randy McNary, Amanda González, Bonnie Thomas, Ted Ross, RuthAnn Jassek, Kathy Luce, Joseph Lawlis, Mike Peterson, Steve Grether, Larry Snyder, Walt Van Dyke, Douglas Crinklaw, Don Jassek, Rick Gunderson, Rachel Benedict, Charles Gibbs, Patty Dionne

SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Anderson, Sharon Baker, Thom Boren, Carson Bryant, Adrian Campbell, Aida Carbo, Don Chalupka, Mike Collier, Dolly Coss, Jerry Coss, Floyd Crow, Harry Gilger, Carey Ann Ginos, Darlene Iskra, William King, Pam Love, Greg Martin, Brian Nyquist, Cathy Palermo, Candy Peters, Ed Seal, Steve Shapro, Roger Shi, Kevin Syltebo, James Taylor, Jill Teglovic, Mary Jo Tharp, Terry Warring, Robyn Weimer, Bobbi West, Clete Wood

DISCOVER E DAY

Single-Day Volunteers: Travis Beach, Edward Gingras, Coleman González, Xochilt Luis Lopez, Cat McDaniel, Jessica O'Rourke, Keller O'Rourke, Genesis Ortega, Karen Ortega Egusquiza, Jessa Mae Palomares, Kiana Patterson, Viveka Patterson, Sarah Steffen, Emaredong Wally, Nicole Zitto

Navy Exceptional Family Member Program and Gold Star Program:

Megan O'Day, Olena Parry, Melinda Sauder

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, STEM Outreach Program:

Corinne Beach, Erin Guizetti, Daniel Hager, Jonathan Molod, Dianna Palermo, Rachel Smith

Submarine Development Squadron 5:

STS1 Arthur Dworniczek, STSC Nicholas Kleiner

Unmanned Undersea Vehicle FLOTILLA ONE:

STS1 Zachary Amsden, MMACS Justin Burke, STSCM Jared Burt, STS1 Jhonny Galvan, ITS1 Jeffrey Snow

Submarine Development Squadron 5, Special Projects:

MMA2 Ryan Barnes, TMCS Christopher Cates, MMA1 Brandon Gastaud, ETV1 Emerson Neasham





STAFF

LINDY DOSHER	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*



A Seabee diver with Underwater Construction Team 1 dives into the water, 2017 ●