

Report for RCC & YCHS - October 2023

Museum Updates:

- **Exhibits:**

Update about the latest changes made to SHM from Vanessa Fajardo, Curator, and Rebekah Tabah, Assistant Director: "The updates made to the Sanguinetti Museum converted the Bridal Suite back into a historic bedroom. As Sanguinetti's family grew, he made additions to the home, and the room was made to look like what most likely would've been one of his children's bedrooms. Extensive cleaning, rearranging, and addition of items/collections



pieces were added to the bedroom. The back room which was previously the Chocolate Shoppe is now the current Bridal Suite, meeting room, and education room for when tours come through. Curtains were added to the windows to provide privacy when being used as a bridal suite. We also were able to install the loan of a painting depicting a Yuma Steamboat on the Colorado River. It is a beautiful piece that is such a great highlight in the front room. It was a loan through YCHS/Via Bruce Gwynn. The display case purchased by YCHS was moved from the home of Bruce Gwynn and installed to the front of the museum. The case is now filled with artifacts and props from Yuma/Tucson/Tempe collections to show the array of objects that might have been sold at the Sanguinetti Stores."

- **Garden:**

We have been working in the garden about once a week. Our garden work consists of deadheading, pulling weeds, fertilizing and giving the roses food, and ensuring they have plenty of water. We are so thankful to our new volunteer, Adrian, for all his help with the garden in the summer months! We recently went through with volunteers to double-check all the outlets to ensure they were working and replaced dead lights to the best of our ability. We also want to thank YCHS for donating to remove some of the palm trees from the garden and for their help fixing our sprinklers!

- **Building Updates:**

One of the windows by the museum entrance door was damaged, and we are getting it replaced. We are working with John's Glass, who has ordered the glass, and it should be here in a couple of weeks.

The roofers have been on pause the last couple of weeks because they had to order some things to finish up. It looks like the hole has been covered; they just need to lay some shingles down. They have been working with Donna to coordinate work, and we appreciate her help with this project!

Update from Mel Davis, VP of Operations/Human Resources/Procurement, on the latest updates to the building: "IT lines and on-site inspection complete. We are waiting for a quote from the vendor for line installation, and IT upgrades to tie the museum into the gift shop.

We are in the process of scheduling HVAC repair. We have been in contact with a vendor providing a quote for the Risk Management claim for Jack Mellon's Porch damage. The agency is working on compiling photos and scope of work for the north side of museum repairs. The agency is also working on completing a Risk Management claim for interior damage of Jack Mellon's walls and baseboards. The liquor license was suspended when Yanna left the agency and cannot be renewed. It falls under the employee's name, and the agency has no plans at this time to obtain a new one."

Programs/Events:

- **Ghost Tours:**

We are back to hosting our ghost tours again! We listed three dates for October, and they sold out within less than a week. We sold 110 tickets total for these tours. We have had a lot of interest in these, so we have three more coming up in November on the 10th, 14th, and 18th. The tickets for these tours will be going on sale on November 1st at 10:00 a.m. We would love to have volunteers participate in these

tours downtown as chaperones, tour guides (which can be a paid opportunity if interested!), or event set-up help. If you are interested, please let us know. We will be posting asking for volunteers on Social media. Please feel free to share!



- **Veterans of Yuma Celebration:**

We want to honor the service of Yuma Co. veterans for Veteran's Day at the museum on November 4th from 2-3:30 p.m. During this event, we were looking to set up tables throughout the garden where veterans and their families can showcase their memorabilia and souvenirs from their service. I am working with Mark Martinez, the Quartermaster for the VFW Post 1763, to share the event with the members and possibly have a volunteer speaker to speak about their experiences or the holiday's history. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the showcase or speaking, please let us know either by phone, email, or there will be an RSVP Google Form for veterans or their families to fill out: <https://forms.gle/RUFhGkxkP6hjk9pQA>. If you would like to donate water, coffee, drinks, snacks, or your time for this event, we would appreciate it!

- **Garden Talks/History Dinners:**

We have been working to continue as many of the programs as possible. Two of the most important are the Garden Talks and History Under the Stars Dinners. Attached at the very bottom, you will see the current presentations that have been confirmed. If you want to give a Garden Talk or dinner presentation, please let me know, and we can work on a date and a time. I am working with Marketing to get advertisements out for these very soon, so please let me know before December 1st if you are interested.

We cannot buy refreshments for the Garden Talks without increasing the ticket price or charging AHS members who have gotten in for free in the past. Please let us know if you would like to donate coffee, pastries, etc., for these events. We would appreciate it!

We are currently accepting bids from local businesses to cater the History Dinners. We are still waiting on a few responses but have been in contact with The Garden Cafe, Chef Eddie, Chef Jonathan Palacio, and Chef Alex. Jillian has been an instrumental part in helping with the planning of these events!

- **Events/Weddings:**

We are hosting events again in the garden! We have booked two weddings, a bridal shower, and a dinner event for October, with close to 300 people visiting the museum during these events. Currently, for November, we have one wedding booked for the end of the month. We are still accepting facility rentals for November and December, so feel free to share!

Staff/Volunteer Updates:

- **New Staff/Volunteers:**

We have an outstanding new volunteer, Adrian. Adrian is a Yuma native and a graduate of Kofa High School. He has been a big help for us during event set up and tear down, and also a big help in the gardens. We are very thankful for the time he puts in here at the museum. We will advertise for more volunteer opportunities and hope to get more on board to help with museum programs.

We are in the process of interviewing for another guest experience member who will be full-time. We had our first 2nd round interview, but we have a few more to go. No timetable was given when the selection will be made for this position.

Mel told us the Museum Manager position final meeting with Classification and Recruitment was 10/19/23. They are updating the system so that we can submit the position for recruitment.. Once it is approved and posted, we will send out notifications.



Other Museum Highlights:

- **Feature on AZ's Family Channel 3:**

The entire City of Yuma got a fantastic shout-out on October 6th from Arizona's Family Channel news team. They went around and highlighted some of the great businesses here in town and introduced their new reporter for the area. We got to show them around the museum and discuss our programs and exhibits. I briefly chatted with the Yuma reporter and told her I would reach out to her when we get an opening date to see if she could do something for us.

- **Fort Yuma Rotary Club Presentation:**

Jenny was asked to provide a presentation talking about the museum and gardens for the Fort Yuma Rotary Club at the Civic Center on October 12th at noon. It was great to meet people in the community, and she had a wonderful time.

- **National History Day in Arizona - Southwest Regional in Yuma - February 10th!**

The education team is working with Monica Ketchum and AWC staff to bring National History Day back to the kids in Yuma County and surrounding areas. We are so excited to expand the program and get some of the local schools involved.

National History Day in Arizona is a program for grades 4-12 to develop history projects based off of their skills and interests. They can create papers, documentaries, websites, exhibits, and performances for their project for a chance to compete with other scholars across the state. If you know any teachers who would be interested in participating in the program or if you would be interested in volunteering to judge on February 10th please let me know!

SHM Event Calendar:

This is subject to change, but this is the most up to date as of 10/19/2023.

October

- **Oct. 13th - Ghost Tour**
- **Oct. 14th - Wedding**
- **Oct. 22nd - Bridal Shower**
- **Oct 24th - Dinner Event**
- **Oct. 27th - Ghost Tour**
- **Oct. 28th - Wedding**
- **Oct. 31st - Ghost Tour**

November

- **Nov. 4th - Veterans of Yuma County Veterans Day Celebration**
- **Nov. 10th - Ghost Tour**
- **Nov. 14th - Ghost Tour**
- **Nov. 18th - Ghost Tour**

December

- 2 - Old Town Christmas
- 6 - Christmas at the Sanguinetti (If this is the wrong date, please let me know)
- 10 - Christmas on the Colorado (not our event, but staff will be volunteering)

January

- January 13th - Garden Talk – Linda Elliott - Nelson – Schools in Yuma
- January 20th - Garden Talk – Jessica Lawson – Haunted History: Yuma, AZ
- January 24th - Garden Talk – Laurie Boone – The 1916 Flood

February

- Feb. 3 - Redondo Auction
- February 10th - NHDAZ Southwest AZ Regional - Yuma @ AWC
- February 13th - History Dinner - Kaitlin Schnable (BLM) - Following in the Footsteps: the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- February 17th - Garden Talk - Jill McCormick (BLM) - Before Yuma
- Feb. 21 - Garden Talk – Mark Schauer (YPG) RE– History of the Army in Yuma

March

- March 9th - Garden Talk - Tammy Snook - Past, Present, and Future of the Colorado River
- March 12th - History Dinner - Jessica Lawson, 944th Fighter Wing Historian - The History of How the US Military Put Yuma, AZ on the Map