

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

A close-up photograph of a large, green-painted metal gear mechanism. In the foreground, a large brass gear with a central handle is visible. The background shows a blurred document with the title "Keepers of the Light Station" and some smaller text.

Annual Report
2023 – 2024

Preserving
Maritime History
For 25 Years

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Images throughout the annual report courtesy of:

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Our Mission

Creating excellent exhibits and educational experiences that celebrate the Santa Barbara Channel and illuminate our rich connections with the sea.

Message from the Executive Director



As SBMM celebrates its 25th anniversary, I look back upon my 18 years with the museum, and I must smile. Our founders did an amazing job working with the city to acquire this space and get the doors open. From the beginning, they knew that interactive exhibits and education programs would enhance learning opportunities for all ages. And we continue to build on our founders’ vision.

Today we have 13 different education programs, focusing on project-based learning and getting youth of all economic backgrounds to experience life aboard an 1830s tall ship, or aboard a NOAA research vessel, or

learn what to look for when walking our amazing coastline. We provide experiences for nearly 5,000 youth each year, and we never know how many of them will be inspired to become marine scientists, ship captains – maybe even the next Jean-Michel Cousteau.

I’m also proud of the incredible exhibits we continue to bring to our community, from the Point Conception Lighthouse Fresnel Lens to beautiful artwork and photography by Kevin Short, Ralph Clevenger, Thomas Van Stein, Dan Merkel, and so many others. In addition, these exhibits often tie into education opportunities, such as the recovery of our island foxes or the effects of climate change on polar bears.

I am proud of all SBMM has accomplished in its first 25 years, and I can’t wait to see where the museum goes in the next 25 years. Thank you for being a part of the voyage.

With gratitude,

Greg Gorga, Executive Director

History and Legacy



The Chumash Tomol



The Chumash people have a maritime culture, as they were originally based on both the mainland and on the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. In addition to plant foods such as acorns, marine resources provided much of the subsistence base for Chumash food procurement. Two specific strategies were involved in obtaining marine food sources. The first involved taking advantage of low tides, when mussels, abalone, and other shellfish are often exposed and can be gathered. Seals and sea lions were also hunted on or near the shore. The second strategy focused on offshore fishing. While in plank canoes called tomols, the Chumash people utilized hook and line, nets, and harpoons to catch fish.

Estimated to be in use for more than 1,000 years, tomols are frameless canoes with no internal ribs, made mainly from redwood that washed up on the beaches of the mainland and Santa Barbara Channel Islands. *Wima*, the Chumash word for Santa Rosa Island, means “redwood driftwood.” The word tomol in the Chumash language meant both “canoe” and “pine” because the tomol was often made from pine planks. The best tomols, however, were made of redwood, which is softer and easier to craft than pine. It also swells and prevents leaks when wet. The Chumash split the wood logs into planks using wedges and deer antlers. The planks were carefully shaped, trimmed, leveled with scrapers, adzes (like an ax), and chert knives, and then finished with sharkskin sandpaper.

Holes were bored into the planks of tomols using hand drills tipped with chert or bone. The planks were then fastened together with tok (dogbane or milkweed fiber). Once fitted and lashed, caulking tule (bulrush abundant in marshy areas) was forced into the cracks on the outside of the canoe hull. For waterproofing, yop, a mixture of pine pitch and hard asphaltum (which came from Santa Barbara’s natural oil seeps), was poured along the edge where the planks came together and into the holes where the cords were tied.

Tomols were also used for trade between the mainland and the islands as well as for ceremonial voyages. Powered with double-ended paddles, tomols can transport five to eight people at a time or more than 2,000 pounds of fish or other cargo. Only one other civilization—located in Southern Chile—built plank canoes. Everyone else used dugouts or birch-bark canoes.

The tomol at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum was constructed by (and is on loan from) the present-day Chumash Maritime Association.

Sturdy construction of the tomol allowed the Chumash to navigate the Santa Barbara Channel. Today, the Chumash build tomols using modern tools and methods, as they continue a very important seafaring tradition.

Board Member Chad Makela Feels the Spark of Engagement for SBMM

Chad Makela has always loved the ocean. As a youth, he was a competitive surfer and a certified lifeguard. On weekends, his family would spend time on their boat in the harbor – cruising out to the Santa Barbara Channel Islands and spearfishing in the ocean. Chad has seen SBMM grow and evolve – engaging with the museum through youth programs when he was young and now that he is an adult, serving as a legacy board member. “The experience of coming through the museum really changed me,” said Chad. “I know the impact SBMM had on me personally, and I see the benefits of getting involved. The museum’s mission is tangible to me as I have lived my life in and around the ocean.”



Chad was around 10-years old when construction began on the museum and he remembers walking up the stairs to take a peek. Once the doors opened, he loved all the interactive exhibits, especially *Sport Fishing*. As he got older, he often volunteered with his brother Cody, serving as a docent for the Tall Ship program. “As a volunteer, I saw kids who were hesitant to get on a boat. And then, at the end of a two-hour program, didn’t want to leave,” said Chad. “Once participants go through something like the Tall Ship program, it lights a spark that really changes them.”

As a youth, Chad became aware of the Jason Project, which was put on by National Geographic. Dr. Bob Ballard (who discovered the *Titanic*) would go to different locations across the globe to highlight specific environmental problems and issues in these regions. As part of the project, he would bring a select group of students to conduct research with him. These expeditions would then be broadcast around the world. When the Jason Project came to Santa Barbara (to conduct research on the Anacapa Island fox), Chad was selected to be a local argonaut, which meant he was an ambassador in his community. “To participate, I needed a sponsor, and locally, the maritime museum was one of those sponsorship organizations helping kids get involved,” said Chad. “Two years later, I became one of two individuals selected from the United States to be a national argonaut. The museum gladly sponsored me again in addition to becoming a local hub for the public to view the expedition’s live broadcast.”

After the Jason Project, SBMM continued as a touchstone for the Makela family, with Chad’s mother Cindy serving on committees and as a long-time board member. “It was especially nice for my family to be able to give back to the organization both individually and as a family,” said Chad. “Watching my mom run businesses and then seeing her volunteerism at the maritime museum, I could see her passion for this work. It was nice to have my mom guide me when I became a board member at SBMM.”

For Chad, maritime history remains an important part of the fabric of Santa Barbara. He has seen the museum evolve – really from the ground up – growing in its community outreach and educational programming. “Being a kid who grew up in and around the museum, I can tell you this facility is really something special,” said Chad. “Out of all the museums locally, there is something about the maritime museum. I don’t know if it is the visual experience or the hands-on experience, but the museum is alive for me. Because of this I stayed involved, and plan to stay involved forever.”

Diving Monument Honors the Birthplace of Deepwater Diving

In the 1960s, local abalone divers transitioned to deepwater oxy-helium diving, revolutionizing commercial and military diving by enabling safe exploration of much deeper waters. This transformation was ignited by Hugh “Dan” Wilson’s historic 400-foot dive off Santa Cruz Island on November 3, 1962. Conducted in secrecy, Wilson’s groundbreaking achievement, using mixed gas instead of air, launched what became known as the “Santa Barbara Helium Rush.”

Santa Barbara quickly became a hub for innovation in diving technology. Companies like DIVCON, California Divers (Cal Dive), and Oceaneering International emerged, with Santa Barbara Harbor serving as their operational base. These pioneers, along with Santa Barbara-based Kirby Morgan Dive Systems®, whose helmets have become the international standard, cemented the city’s global impact on the diving industry.

On April 5, 2025, a monument was unveiled as a tribute to Santa Barbara’s rich heritage as the birthplace of deepwater diving. The monument depicts a professional diver from 1982, wearing a Kirby Morgan® Superlite® 17 Diving Helmet. The project was funded by the sale of limited edition, certified, fine-art bronze statuettes sculpted by California-based artist Greg Polutanovich and by charitable donations through SBMM.

“This stunning and highly detailed public-art sculpture will educate both residents and visitors to our city about the importance of commercial diving to society and the substantial infrastructure that began here decades ago,” said SBMM Past President and Co-Chair of the Deepwater Diving Monument Committee Don Barthelmess. “This dream was brought to reality thanks to the support of hundreds of donors and SBMM.”

“This magnificent monument will be a worthy and lasting testament to the on-going vision and

ingenuity of the Santa Barbara diving community whose revolutionary contributions have been vital to the advancement of international deep-water exploration,” said SBMM Founding Trustee and Co-Chair of the Deepwater Diving Monument Committee Leslie Leaney. “It is an inspirational sculpture for the whole maritime community.”

The Deepwater Diving Monument is a gift from the local and international diving communities to honor the visionaries who transformed diving into the sophisticated practice it is today. It will serve as a reminder of Santa Barbara’s legacy and its ongoing influence on the maritime world. For more information, please visit deepwaterdivingmonument.com.



SBMM Volunteer Diane Kirchner Loves Sharing Santa Barbara’s Rich Maritime History

Diane Kirchner started volunteering at SBMM during the COVID-19 pandemic and never looked back! Now in her third year as a docent, she discusses her favorite memories, interacting with visitors on the fourth floor, and how she continues to learn about Santa Barbara’s interesting and complex history.

SBMM: What inspired you to become a volunteer at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and what initially drew you to the mission?

Diane: I am a long-time volunteer with the Channel Islands National Park. I received an email saying SBMM was looking for volunteers, and even though I had never been to the museum before, I decided to volunteer at the Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center located on SBMM’s fourth floor. When I started docent training a short time later, I realized how much synergy there is with the volunteer work I do at the Channel Islands National Park and the Trails and Rails program. Volunteering at the museum gives me an opportunity to continue to learn and to help educate others.

SBMM: Can you share a favorite memory or moment during your time volunteering here that stands out for you?

Diane: There are so many I’m not sure I have just one. On the fourth floor, it was the first time the elevator doors opened, and the visitors said “oh wow!” Or the shift when I had 115 visitors. In the museum, it must be the kids’ events – like making whales or lighthouses. And of course, fishing or “getting a tattoo” at the tattoo exhibit.

SBMM: What has been the most rewarding aspect of working with visitors and sharing the museum’s maritime history?

Diane: Getting a chance to share what a big role Santa Barbara has played. Until I started volunteering here, I didn’t realize how pivotal Santa Barbara was in commercial diving, deep sea diving, and offshore oil. I didn’t realize Santa Barbara’s influence on surfing. The folks who come in have a genuine interest and it is fun to share tidbits of information with them. And frequently, they share information with me.

SBMM: How has your experience as a volunteer at SBMM shaped your perspective on the Santa Barbara Channel and its rich heritage?

Diane: I have learned so much. I pay a lot more attention to environmental concerns from container and cruise ships, to whales, commercial fishing, marine protection areas, and offshore oil. We have a complex history.

SBMM: If you could encourage someone to join SBMM as a volunteer, what would you tell them about the experience and impact?

Diane: This is one of my favorite volunteer activities. The staff, docents, and visitors are terrific. I learn something every time I am in the museum!



Community



SBMM’s Programs Go Beyond Walls to Provide Amazing Educational Experiences

A cool breeze blows as a group of students walk through the Carpinteria salt marsh and down to the beach. It is a sunny day – perfect for exploring the shore. The group has just come from the seal rookery and will now dig in the sand to see what they can find. For youth participating in SBMM’s national award-winning Maritime on the Move program, this is a typical experience – and one that is remembered for a lifetime. “We had a young person participating in a program, and she had never seen the ocean. At one point, she turned to one of our staff members and asked, ‘Can I touch the water?’” said SBMM Executive Director Greg Gorga.



Maritime on the Move is one of several programs that reach broadly into the community to deliver educational opportunities. Just last year, SBMM provided 183 programs to nearly 5,000 students in 14 cities. Through scholarships and discounts, SBMM programming brings equity and access to locally underserved students, creating social change by reducing historic barriers to coastal access and experiences. “SBMM goes beyond walls to provide youth with experiences they would not otherwise receive in the classroom,” said Gorga. “We work with naturalists, artists, and educators, and have amazing community partnerships. None of these opportunities would be possible without donor support.”

Marine Science takes students out to sea for a two-hour floating lab aboard a local vessel while the Tall Ship program teaches students what it was like for merchant sailors of the 1800s. Science Nights engage youth with interactive maritime-themed activities as part of a larger school event and Maritime Arts and Language gives students the opportunity to create artwork and poetry. The museum’s annual Girls in Ocean Science Conference connects female ocean experts and scientists with young women looking to explore ocean science-based fields of study and careers. SBMM’s full complement of programs offer experiential activities that build teamwork, provide STEM and STEAM education, and integrate current environmental/ecological topics into classroom learning. “For many students in our community, life is defined by their immediate neighborhood,” said SBMM Deputy Director Jessica Tade. “For some, an SBMM program is the first time they’ve been in a museum, and for others, it is the first time they have seen the ocean.”

Thank you to the following donors for making SBMM’s educational programs possible!

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Art Program Fosters Strong Connection to Maritime World and the Arts

Quiet chatter fills the room as a group of students work on creating pastel oceanscapes. Museum Art Educator Sondra Weiss moves between the tables, offering encouragement and guidance as the art pieces begin to take shape. Weiss reminds the students to look at their inspiration cards as they determine the time of day they will depict and the type of mood they will create. Is it a stormy day? Is it sunny? Is it nighttime with a full moon creating reflections on the waves? The students consider all these options as they build up their images with pastel crayons.



"Art enhances how young people perceive and engage with the world by sharpening their ability to observe details, such as the nuances of a whale, the design of a sailing vessel, or the composition of an ocean landscape," said Weiss. "Beyond visual perception, it encourages them to slow down, engage their senses, and process emotions. This practice fosters self-expression, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to both their environment and their own experiences."

Through SBMM’s Maritime Arts Program, youth engage in the creation of artwork, translating their observations and emotions into artistic expressions. As a result, a strong sense of connection is fostered to both the maritime world and the arts. The creation of oceanscapes is one of many projects offered. Often Weiss works with SBMM staff and naturalists to tailor projects to marine science specific content. On this day, the students rotated through a two-hour Marine Science class (where they were out on the ocean conducting experiments) and a museum tour before settling in for the Maritime Arts class.



"It is amazing to see the students out on the water conducting science experiments – an experience they remember in part due to the creative expression that comes later," said SBMM Education Director Lis Perry. "Through our Maritime Arts program, students are able to express themselves artistically, growing their creativity while reinforcing the learning and bond they just developed in the field."

Infusing art into the school day can be challenging. SBMM works with schools and teachers so that youth receive immersive and meaningful experiences. "Creativity is so important. When we tap into the creative side of our brains, we can find solutions to challenges in our personal lives, professionally, and with broader community issues," said SBMM Deputy Director Jessica Tade. "SBMM’s Maritime Arts program encourages youth to be creative, providing them with resources that can become powerful tools for lifelong learning and impact."

Marine Science: Diving Into Santa Barbara's Coastal Ecology

SBMM's Marine Science program immerses students in the fascinating world of coastal ecology. Led by seasoned marine educators, students explore Santa Barbara's marine ecosystems, from kelp forests to tide pools, learning about the diverse species that inhabit these waters, and the delicate balance required to maintain healthy marine environments. Through guided exploration, students conduct fieldwork, gather data, and analyze the impact of human activity on ocean health.



"Marine Science is more than just a field trip—it's a transformative learning experience," said SBMM Education Director Lis Perry. "We're giving students the tools to think like scientists and act like stewards of the ocean. When they see a kelp forest up close or analyze water samples in real time, it sparks a connection that textbooks alone can't create."

For the tenth year in a row, SBMM partnered with local vessels – *Stardust* and *Coral Sea* – to offer interactive Marine Science classes to Santa Barbara County students. During the class, students explore the Santa Barbara Channel, enjoying a brief voyage out at sea, discussing charting and navigation, observing local sea life, and working together in groups to experience coastal California as hands-on scientists.

"This program brings science to life in the best way possible," said Pine Grove Elementary School Teacher Ron Maderas. "My students come away with a deeper respect for the ocean and a real understanding of how their actions matter. You can see the lightbulb moments happen when they realize they're part of a bigger environmental story."



Through the Marine Science program, emphasis is also placed on the importance of environmental stewardship. By understanding how everyday actions—like reducing plastic use and supporting conservation efforts—can positively affect the ocean, students gain a sense of responsibility for protecting the environment. Marine Science cultivates both scientific curiosity and environmental advocacy, empowering the next generation to become ocean stewards. Just this year, SBMM held 26 classes for 618 students (3rd to 12th grade) coming to the harbor from throughout Santa Barbara County, and beyond.

"I would describe this experience as interactive, engaging, and encouraging teambuilding skills. Students can fully participate and feel a connection with science and the ocean that they may have never experienced before," said SBMM Education Coordinator Jason Statucki. "The Marine Science program seeks to instill in students a love of the ocean and shows how care and respect for our Santa Barbara Channel is important for everyone's future."

Navigating Futures: How One Educator's SBMM Partnership Transformed Lives

Ron Maderas, a passionate educator for more than 30 years, and dedicated advocate for enriching student experiences, has a long-standing connection to SBMM that has profoundly impacted his students and his community. His story reveals the transformative power of maritime education and the enduring relationship between a small-town school and a cultural institution.

A Serendipitous Start

Ron first encountered SBMM while serving as a dean of students at Olga Reed School, a K-8 school located in Los Alamos, California. His principal handed him a brochure about an educational program offering students the chance to spend a night on a tall ship. Intrigued, Ron reached out to SBMM, forging a partnership that would become a cornerstone of his school's 4th-grade social studies curriculum. "From the very beginning, it was clear this was no ordinary field trip," Ron shared. "The tall ship experience was immersive. Students spent the night on the ship, took part in watches, and truly felt like sailors. It wasn't just educational—it was transformative."

A Growing Bond

Over the years, Ron nurtured his relationship with SBMM. He worked closely with museum staff, ensuring his students would benefit from SBMM's many programs. The Tall Ship program was just the beginning. Ron's students also participate in Marine Science, where they learn about the local harbor ecosystem. "Having had the unique privilege and distinct pleasure of bringing hundreds of my students to share in the exceptional educational opportunities provided us by SBMM has been one of the personal highlights of my 30+ years teaching career," said Ron. "To this day, both parents and former students visit to share with me their warm remembrances of these once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Each of us participating teachers owes a debt of gratitude to the truly wonderful folks at SBMM, for all they've done to support our teaching of both California history and the vast resources off our coast through their marine science program."

Looking Ahead

As Ron approaches the end of his teaching career, he hopes the programs he helped champion will continue to thrive. He remains a steadfast supporter of SBMM, grateful for the memories it has created for his students and their families. "The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum isn't just a museum," Ron said. "It's a beacon of learning, creativity, and community—a place where lifelong memories are made."



Happenings and Events

SBMM is a hub of exciting happenings and events - everything from the Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series to unique film screenings and book signings. For 25 years, the museum has provided hands-on learning opportunities for all ages, serving as a place where the public can experience maritime culture – all without leaving the harbor.

Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series

Every third Thursday, SBMM holds its Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series. The monthly lecture hosts a variety of leading experts speaking on diverse topics ranging from California’s maritime history to the rich ecosystem in the Santa Barbara Channel. Recent speakers included Dr. Tom Keffer who spoke about the historic *Western Flyer* – a legendary vessel made famous by John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts; Fish Reef Founder and CEO Chris Goldblatt, who shared an update on his Sea Cave® project; Ralph Clevenger, who explored the habitats of polar bears and Kermode bears – emphasizing the fragility of the ecosystems upon which they are dependent; and Dr. Raymond Ashley who showcased the narrative surrounding the beloved sailboat *Butcher Boy*.

Curated Cocktails

A special experience just for SBMM members, Curated Cocktails pairs a specialty cocktail with delicious bites for guests to enjoy during beautiful summer evenings. A featured speaker often describes a museum artifact or showcases the latest exhibition for the group. Throughout the evening, the museum brings stories and history to life while members enjoy the harbor atmosphere from SBMM’s waterfront patio.

Mah Jongg Invitational

SBMM held its first-ever Mah Jongg Invitational to rave reviews! In early September of last year, Mah Jongg enthusiasts gathered for an afternoon of exciting game play – enjoying a nice lunch and taking home fun raffle prizes.



Love Boat ~ Sailing to the Caribbean

In March of this year, SBMM held its annual fundraiser with guests “sailing to the Caribbean” to enjoy refreshing cocktails and a delightful dinner provided by Pure Joy Catering. Upon arrival, attendees were greeted with the sound of steel drums provided by Pan Man Ross while Mark Collier delighted with his incredible magic and sleight of hand. The 2025 gala honored Hiroko Benko and Sigrid Toye, who both received the museum's prestigious Admiral's Award for their immeasurable contributions to the museum.



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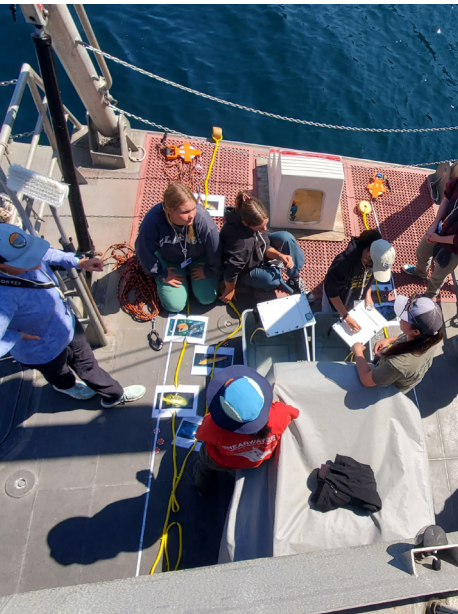


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Flagship Society



Flagship Society members have created a promising future and legacy through a bequest or other planned gift to the museum. Planned gifts have a lasting impact on the community, and for future generations.

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Joseph Zebrosky
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*Deceased

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM
Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2024
(With Summarized Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
			2024	2023
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 174,479	\$ 129,515	\$ 303,994	\$ 570,424
Grants receivable	33,712	--	33,712	--
Pledges receivable	--	1,250	1,250	31,620
Inventory for resale	--	--	--	24,749
Prepaid expenses	72,960	--	72,960	48,419
Deposits	2,153	--	2,153	2,154
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	283,304	130,765	414,069	677,366
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Present value of future receivable on charitable remainder trust	--	457,076	457,076	487,327
Investments	1,614,144	379,180	1,993,324	1,920,676
Property and equipment, net	1,588,757	--	1,588,757	1,519,342
Right of use assets, net	355,585	--	355,585	386,587
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	3,558,486	836,256	4,394,742	4,313,932
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,841,790	\$ 967,021	\$ 4,808,811	\$ 4,991,298
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ 55,235	\$ --	\$ 55,235	\$ 81,700
Funds held as fiscal agent	261,417	--	261,417	127,740
Rental deposits	3,870	--	3,870	2,800
Lease liability	9,582	--	9,582	16,582
Accrued expenses	83,856	--	83,856	79,236
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	413,960	--	413,960	308,058
LONG TERM LIABILITIES				
Lease liability, net of current portion	210,826	--	210,826	220,409
TOTAL LONG TERM LIABILITIES	210,826	--	210,826	220,409
TOTAL LIABILITIES	624,786	--	624,786	528,467
NET ASSETS				
Without donor restrictions				
Undesignated	1,983,955	--	1,983,955	1,862,775
Board designated:	--	--	--	--
Endowment	1,047,715	--	1,047,715	909,206
Other designated	185,334	--	185,334	563,897
Total board designated	1,233,049	--	1,233,049	1,473,103
With donor restrictions	--	967,021	967,021	1,126,953
TOTAL NET ASSETS	3,217,004	967,021	4,184,025	4,462,831
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 3,841,790	\$ 967,021	\$ 4,808,811	\$ 4,991,298

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM
Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2024
(With Summarized Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
			2024	2023
SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$ 950,308	\$ 337,456	\$ 1,287,764	\$ 1,105,569
Grants	38,500	95,701	134,201	91,000
Bequests	10,619	--	10,619	1,004,129
In-kind services	670	--	670	--
Net assets released from restrictions	562,838	(562,838)	--	--
TOTAL SUPPORT	1,562,935	(129,681)	1,433,254	2,200,698
REVENUES, GAINS AND LOSSES				
Memberships	76,598	--	76,598	40,685
Admissions	96,887	--	96,887	82,240
Retail sales	20,575	--	20,575	72,440
Education programs	2,065	--	2,065	1,515
Rental income	45,843	--	45,843	(3,010)
Investment gain, net	177,357	--	177,357	32,593
Change in value of charitable remainder trust	-	(30,251)	(30,251)	33,252
Special events:				
Special events - gross	159,114	--	159,114	130,422
Direct special events expenses	(90,119)	--	(90,119)	(84,365)
Net special event proceeds	68,995	--	68,995	46,057
Other income	69,160	--	69,160	7,708
TOTAL REVENUES AND GAINS	557,480	(30,251)	527,229	313,480
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	2,120,415	(159,932)	1,960,483	2,514,178
EXPENSES				
Program services	1,585,192	--	1,585,192	1,281,491
Management and general	395,562	--	395,562	429,400
Fundraising	258,535	--	258,535	327,115
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,239,289	--	2,239,289	2,038,006
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(118,874)	(159,932)	(278,806)	476,172
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,335,878	1,126,953	4,462,831	3,986,659
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 3,217,004	967,021	\$ 4,184,025	\$ 4,462,831

SBMM is committed to fiscal responsibility, ensuring best practices are utilized for financial management and that funding is disbursed in a responsible, sustainable, and transparent manner. These are selected pages from the audit of SBMM's financial statements, of which the full version is available at sbmm.org.

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM

Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2024
(With Summarized Comparative Totals for 2023)

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	
				2024	2023
Operating expenses					
Salaries and benefits	\$ 714,608	\$ 219,879	\$ 164,910	\$ 1,099,397	\$ 1,017,402
Payroll taxes	51,620	15,883	11,912	79,415	74,241
Total salaries and benefits	766,228	235,762	176,822	1,178,812	1,091,643
Other operating expenses					
Cost of goods sold	25,667	--	--	25,667	42,722
Contract services	25,629	89,703	12,815	128,147	113,395
Computer operations	38,652	4,547	2,274	45,473	66,060
Office operations	19,303	2,217	4,538	26,058	23,624
Rent	125,338	14,746	7,372	147,456	105,390
Utilities	25,578	3,009	1,505	30,092	29,916
Insurance	29,781	3,504	1,752	35,037	26,237
Advertising and promotion	9,383	--	9,383	18,766	36,785
Repairs and maintenance	21,434	2,679	2,679	26,792	35,490
Operating supplies and services	164,417	20,552	20,552	205,521	217,330
Special events - food	--	--	19,735	19,735	--
Special events - other	--	--	70,384	70,384	--
Educational program supplies and services	183,039	--	--	183,039	140,637
Total other operating expenses	668,221	140,957	152,989	962,167	837,586
Total operating expenses	1,434,449	376,719	329,811	2,140,979	1,929,229
Non operating expenses					
Depreciation and amortization	150,743	18,843	18,843	188,429	193,142
Less: Expenses included with revenues on the statement of activities					
Special events expenses	--	--	(90,119)	(90,119)	(84,365)
Total expenses by function	\$ 1,585,192	\$ 395,562	\$ 258,535	\$ 2,239,289	\$ 2,038,006

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended June 30, 2024
(With Summarized Comparative Totals for 2023)

	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Changes in net assets	\$ (278,806)	\$ 476,172
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	188,429	193,142
Change in value of charitable remainder trust	30,251	(33,252)
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	(132,420)	(6,238)
Net change in realized (gain) loss on investments	15	(21,249)
Donated securities	(50,719)	(72)
Contributions restricted for long term purposes	(235,000)	(116,381)
Decrease (increase) in:		
Grants and pledge receivable	(3,342)	30,130
Bequest receivable	--	305,554
Inventory for resale	24,749	4,804
Prepaid expenses	(14,409)	(16,398)
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(26,465)	8,572
Advance deposits	133,677	100,000
Lease liability	4,288	3,208
Rental deposit	1,070	--
Accrued salaries	4,620	430
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(354,062)	928,422
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property and equipment	(275,854)	(871,566)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,411,237	--
Increase in cash held for investment purposes	(244,564)	(301,805)
Increase in short-term investments	--	(24,160)
Decrease in cash restricted for exhibits	--	10,009
Purchase of investments	(1,038,187)	(109,762)
Net cash used by investing activities	(147,368)	(1,297,284)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash restricted for endowment	10,000	35,000
Cash restricted for exhibits	125,000	--
Cash restricted for coffee shop construction	100,000	81,381
Net cash provided by financing activities	235,000	116,381
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(266,430)	(252,481)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	570,424	734,525
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	\$ 303,994	\$ 482,044

Collaboration and Preservation



SBMM – Recent Exhibits

When you walk through the doors of the museum, you embark on a journey of discovery, interacting with exhibits that engage your curiosity around local maritime history and human interactions with the sea. Serving as a hub for Santa Barbara's coastal heritage, the museum highlights 13,000 years of maritime history – from Chumash culture to surfing and environmental movements. Recent exhibitions included both local and international artists and works of art showcasing coastal landscapes, piers, and ocean themes.

Coastal Moments

Plein air painters capture a moment or impression of the landscape, immersing themselves in their surroundings to paint what they see before them. First popularized by the Impressionists, this technique allows the artist to utilize changing light effects, shadow, and brilliant color palettes to achieve the ever-changing wild and natural world.

Coastal Moments was an exhibition featuring 10 local plein air artists and their works incorporating coastal landscapes and ocean themes. The exhibit kindled a sense of calm, serenity, and meditation while celebrating the awe-inspiring beauty of the coastline. Featured artists included Ann Shelton Beth, Nancy Davidson, Camille Dellar, Rick Garcia, Derek Harrison, Wyllis Heaton, Ray Hunter, Ann Sanders, Thomas Van Stein, and Ralph Waterhouse.



Majestic California Piers

In the mid-19th century, cities grew from goods carried across the ocean on massive ships. Piers were developed out of necessity, allowing vessels to dock closer to shore to load and unload travelers, cargo, and livestock. Today, many piers remain along California's coastline. Locally three piers can be found in Santa Barbara County: Stearns Wharf; Goleta Pier; and Gaviota Pier. Stearns Wharf is a bit of a misnomer as it is actually a pier. Wharfs are platforms built parallel to shore while piers extend perpendicularly out into and over the water.

The exhibition featured 31 photographs showcasing iconic piers throughout California (spanning from San Simeon to Imperial Beach). The piers were seen through the lenses of acclaimed photographers Bill Dewey and Dan Merkel whose breathtaking aerial views and intimate details provided unique vantage points of these coastal landmarks.



Above Your Dreams – An Exhibition of Oil Paintings by Kevin A. Short

Kevin Short's masterful use of light and color brings life to everyday moments, creating a deep connection between viewers and the natural world. This exhibition invited art enthusiasts to explore how the magnetism of light transforms ordinary experiences into extraordinary memories while showcasing Short's ability to capture the fleeting beauty and power of sunlight through vibrant, impressionist brushstrokes and rich color palettes.

"Kevin Short's work beautifully captures the essence of light in a way that evokes emotion and reflection. His paintings remind us of the simple yet profound beauty in the world around us," said SBMM Curator Emily Falke. "We were thrilled to showcase his collection as visitors discovered deep connections to these scenes – especially those visitors familiar with the Pacific Coast."



The Swiftest Recovery, Island Fox Chronicles

The Swiftest Recovery, Island Fox Chronicles – Photography by Chuck Graham is a collection featuring 30 stunning photographs of island foxes, captured during Graham's kayaking adventure across the Santa Barbara Channel to Santa Cruz Island. The exhibition highlights the remarkable conservation success story of the island fox, showcasing recovery and the restoration of natural balance on the island. Each photograph portrays the beauty and resilience of these unique animals and underscores the importance of ongoing conservation.



Bring Maritime History to Your Community

SBMM is pleased to provide traveling exhibitions to enhance and support a museum or gallery's community offerings. Nine exhibits are available covering everything from Santa Barbara harbor history to ocean life, and even mermaids.

Learn more at sbmm.org/traveling-exhibitions.

Thank You to Our Exhibition Sponsors!

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Collection Highlight – Admiralty Anchors

“As we navigate the currents of change and innovation, let us never forget the timeless wisdom embodied by the ship anchor; that in the ebb and flow of life, true strength lies in staying grounded amidst the waves.”¹

From ancient to modern maritime industries, the ship’s anchor has played a role in navigating waters around the globe. The first anchors were made of stone, followed by wood, iron, and cast steel, as a device to secure a vessel in a body of water, which would then prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current. Some anchors include chains that often weigh more than the anchor itself, critical to holding the vessel in place. Beyond their practical use, ship anchors have a symbolic importance in maritime culture. Rooted in ancient mythology and folklore, the anchor has come to represent stability, hope, and steadfastness in the face of adversity.

Anchors on view in the new exhibition *Anchored in the Community ~ SBMM Celebrates 25 Years*, are all fabricated in an Admiralty pattern known as “Fishermen.” Consisting of a center shank with a ring or shackle, these anchors are models of maritime engineering. They perform well in most sea bottoms as the design of the hook allows the anchor to lodge in and securely take hold of the mud, rock, or coral. While this pattern was adopted by the British Admiralty in 1852, similarities in shape can be found in anchors dating to as early as the fourth century BC.



“With the museum celebrating its 25th anniversary, it remains a beloved treasure rooted in both its rich maritime history and ability to provide meaningful, immersive experiences,” said SBMM Curator Emily Falke. “SBMM is a vibrant touchstone along the Santa Barbara waterfront, building a legacy that continues to be anchored in the community.”

The anchors on view are from SBMM’s permanent collection and are gifts from Dallas Clark, Walter Douglas, Bob Kieding, and William Wood.

¹ From *Unveiling the Mysteries of Ship Anchors: Navigating the Depths of Maritime History*, February 12, 2024.

Ranger: A Century of Maritime Evolution



For over a century, the *Ranger* has sailed through time, transforming from a cutting-edge sport fishing yacht into a cherished historical artifact at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Built in 1917 by the renowned Wilmington Boat Works, *Ranger* was designed as a high-performance fishing vessel, setting records in early sportfishing competitions along the Pacific Coast.

During the mid-20th century, she adapted to changing maritime demands, serving in various capacities, including supporting scientific research and marine exploration. Despite her evolving roles, *Ranger* maintained her sleek wooden hull and classic lines, a testament to the craftsmanship of her builders.

For many years, *Ranger* served as the flagship of the Catalina Island Tuna Club. The Tuna Club was formed by a group of sportfishing enthusiasts to establish a competition based on the size and variety of fish caught on various strengths of line and type of lure. Twenty-six trophy-winning fish were caught from *Ranger*. Two of the light tackle records still stand – the largest tuna and the largest broadbill swordfish. Over the years, celebrities such as Humphrey Bogart, Zane Grey, John Wayne, and Errol Flynn fished from *Ranger* and, more recently, the vessel has been used for photoshoots by Lands’ End and Kevin Costner.

In the 1980s, *Ranger*’s then owner Jack Morehart spent many years restoring her including coating the hull with ferro-cement to protect the wooden core. In 1988, Morehart took the newly restored *Ranger* to Avalon for the 90th anniversary of the Tuna Club; and in 1997, he donated the boat to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. *Ranger* now serves as a centerpiece at SBMM, where visitors can explore her legacy through interactive exhibits and firsthand accounts of her storied past. Her transformation from an elite sportfishing yacht to an educational showpiece mirrors the evolution of maritime industries along the California coast.

As she proudly holds her place in maritime history, *Ranger* continues to inspire new generations of sailors, historians, and ocean enthusiasts.



Support *Ranger*’s
preservation.

Whale Heritage Area Looks Toward the Future of Ocean Conservation



Recently celebrating its one-year anniversary, the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area supports responsible eco-tourism in the channel while furthering youth educational opportunities and ocean conservation research. The organization's Co-Directors Hiroko Benko and Holly Lohuis discuss their current goals as well as their hope for the future.

SBMM: How did the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area begin?

Hiroko: When Dana Point became a Whale Heritage Area, conversations began around the possibility of the same status happening here in Santa Barbara.

Holly: The maritime museum agreed to become the fiscal sponsor, and it was Executive Director Greg Gorga who recommended Hiroko and I as co-directors for the project. Since the application process takes time, and requires financial support, the museum was the perfect home for our fledgling organization. We were influenced by Jean-Michel Cousteau, whose lifelong dedication to ocean conservation and involvement as the honorary president of the World Cetacean Alliance was a real inspiration for us.

SBMM: What was the application process like?

Holly: We received candidate status quickly as the pillars for what constitutes a Whale Heritage Area were already well established here in Santa Barbara including responsible ecotourism; great educational opportunities; conservation initiatives; responsible guidelines for whale watching; and cultural connections. It took two years to go through the application process, build a Steering Committee, and gain community support before we received Whale Heritage Area status in October 2023.

SBMM: What are your current goals for the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area?

Holly: Our initial goal was awareness around conservation, and to get people to have their own emotional connection to fall in love with whales. Now, thanks to the support of the *Condor Express*, Island Packers, and all our sponsors and donors, we are getting kids out on the water. Recently, we had 200 fifth and sixth graders from a Title I school in Lompoc out on the ocean, which was a collaboration with SBMM and its education staff. Additionally, we have donated more than \$6,000 to research in support of local ocean conservation.

SBMM: What is your hope for the future?

Hiroko: I saw my first whale when I was 18-years old off the coast of Siberia. And because I was born in Japan, which is an island, I have seen whales there as well. My hope is that we begin to see more whales at the same time as we are getting more children in contact with the ocean as it is imperative that we provide these experiences for the next generation.

Holly: Whales teach us about empathy and compassion. We want to see more whales off our coast while instilling a sense of responsibility to ensure that their habitat thrives. We are investing in youth now as they are the future scientists and conservationists in our community.



Let your curiosity set sail at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Catch a sailfish – steer a ship from the Channel Islands to the Santa Barbara Harbor – create an exciting art project – learn about maritime history, and more – all year long!

Fun for all ages. Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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