

# 2021

Annual Report



CITY *by the* SEA  
MUSEUM

PALACIOS, TEXAS



Dear Members and Friends,

Pandemics are no one's friend, and for an organization that depends on shared experiences of visitors, members, and donors within our building, it has especially been hard. With shutdowns, social distancing, and the public's concerns about venturing out into their own communities, our museum saw a huge struggle and uphill battle to maintain our funding.

But 2021 has shown that our community does indeed care about this museum. As our doors opened back up and programming started, we saw that people began to return to our symposium series, our newly established family programming, and we saw donors who see the value in what we're doing here - not just preserving the history of the Palacios area, but building community as well - give to our organization for one of our best years yet.

Because of our donors and members, our doors were kept open when many small museums had to close. Because of generous volunteers, we were able to begin holding children's and family programming. And because of the dedication of our board, we have been able to begin construction on our upstairs permanent exhibit - no small feat!

Was 2021 a challenging year? Absolutely. But it has also been one of the most inspiring years I believe we've ever had.

In gratitude,  
Esmeralda Salinas  
*Board President 2021*

# *Our Visitors by the Numbers*

1501

Total Number of Visitors  
Highest number on record!

65

Cities Represented

20

States Represented

2

Countries Represented





# Family Programming by the Numbers

4

Children's Events

3

Family Events

~35

Families Served

~60

Children Served





# Exhibitions

In an effort to begin diversifying our programming and exhibits, we began our year with "Our Journey to Palacios: The Vietnamese Immigration Story" which was on exhibit from February 9th - May 21st.

We also brought "Images of Valor: U.S. Latinos and Latinas of WWII" which was on view from September 28th - October 22nd and drew people from all over the area and south Texas. It was organized and funded through Humanities Texas.

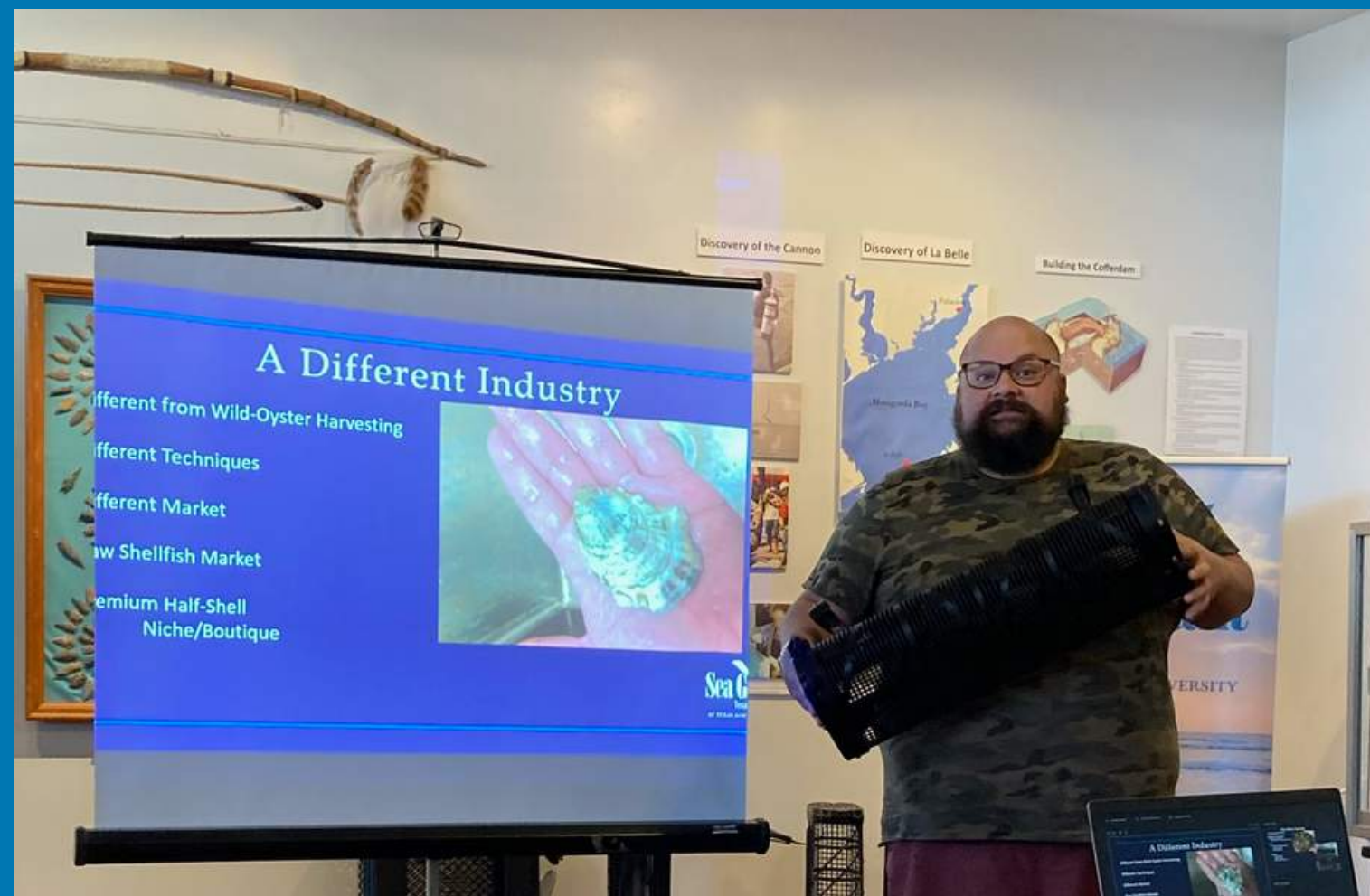




# Programs

Our Guy and Colleen Claybourn Symposium Series started back up late in the year with the Palacios Marine Agricultural Research Center visiting us in November and informing our residents about what they're doing and why our bay is the perfect place for oyster farming.

And in December, we brought Andy Shaffer to speak with us about 17th century shipbuilding and his journey in building model ships. It was a fascinating talk in which we were happily surprised to be gifted with two model ships: *Triumphant*, a 17th century ship built around the time of *La Belle*, and the Texas Navy ship, *Invincible*, which sailed along the Texas coast line.





# Permanent Exhibit Updates

Over the last year, we have also begun to shift our exhibits around so that they are much more thematic, and Katie has been diving into research to create more context for our visitors. We have also added more Tidehaven paraphernalia to our schools exhibit.

Our upstairs storage area is also in the process of being cleaned up. We are finding lots of interesting things that we didn't know we had, and deaccessioning objects as well. All of this to make room for a proper storage area and our upstairs exhibit space!

# 20

Accessioned Objects including the piano from the original Palacios Hotel (now Luther Hotel)





# Other Updates

It has been a long time coming, but we were finally able to have a dehumidification system put in as well as replaced one of our air conditioning units. Both of these things were needed so that we could proceed with the upstairs exhibit space. We also started clearing out some much needed space for our new exhibit space. Take a look at what it looked like before on the left, and just before construction on the right!

We also rebranded in 2021 with a new color scheme and set of logos which now includes our pride and joy, La Petite Belle. We hope you like our new look!



**CITY** *by the* **SEA**  
MUSEUM  
PALACIOS - TEXAS





# 2021 Donors

Ed Rachel Foundation

Dorothy Emmott

Bruce and Cara Herlin

Humanities Texas

Shirley Linville

Linda Moncrief

Montgomery Family Trust

Mike Reagan

The Trull Foundation

**Thank you to all of our partners who help advance our mission to share and preserve the history and natural history of the Palacios area. We cherish you!**



# 2021 Members

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Frank and Laurie Beck

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Paula Whitney

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Mark Mote

Markus Sandy

Darlene Tresselt

# *Our Mission*

The mission of the Palacios Area Historical Association is to operate a museum as a functional resource center for visitors to experience and learn from the region's diverse cultures and history. The Museum collects, conserves and interprets the material evidence of the prehistory, history and natural history of Palacios, Texas and the surrounding region; including along the shores of and in the adjoining waters, with emphasis on the social and cultural history of this area. This serves to preserve the past, record the present, and provide perspective for the future.