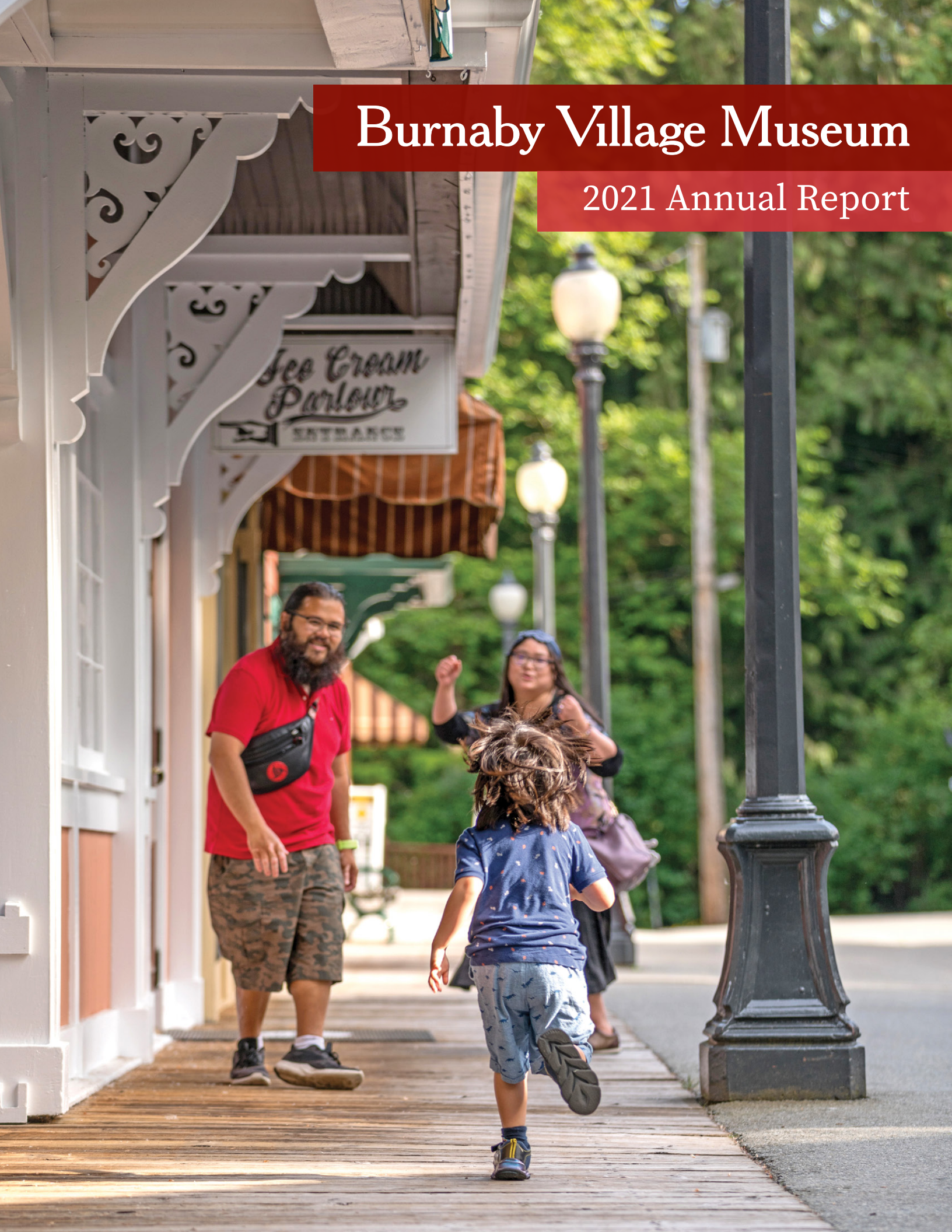


Burnaby Village Museum

2021 Annual Report



2021 Year in Review

With COVID-19 still lingering, 2021 saw a gradual return to public openings, and by the fall, events were running at full capacity. Staff and volunteers were beginning to return. Virtual work continued with the popular Neighborhood Speaker Series and a school program featuring the museum’s Herbalist shop was piloted. QR codes provided performance experiences until live events could take place in the fall. QR codes were also used to share details about some of the museum’s favorite artifacts including the 1912 C.W. Parker Carousel’s history and Skwxwú7mesh weaving demonstration.

50th Anniversary planning work was in full swing that resulted in a beautiful coffee-table book titled, *Our Stories at 50: Fifty Years at the Burnaby Village Museum*. The book highlights the museum’s evolution from a Centennial Commemorative project in 1971 to today’s free, diverse and inclusive operation. Work also continued with our Indigenous Educators and the museum provided an opportunity for visitors to remember the lives lost after the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Collaborating with the City of Burnaby Festival Office, the Burnaby Village Museum hosted a new kind of Halloween initiative: *Eerie Illusions*. This state of the art production included lighting projections, soundscapes and special effects. This event ran for 10 days and brought in over 17,000 visitors. Working with Tourism Burnaby on a marketing campaign, the event was sold out before opening day.

Heritage Christmas returned after the site was closed the previous year due to the pandemic. This event was a huge success and surpassed pre-COVID-19 attendance with nearly 75,000 visitors coming to the museum. Concord Pacific returned as presenting sponsor for another 3-year term. The season kicked off with the return of the tree lighting ceremony which resulted in the donation of all the Carousel ticket sales to the Burnaby Christmas Bureau during this special lighting event.

Looking forward to celebrating the Museum’s 50th anniversary in 2022.

Deborah Tuytens
Cultural Heritage Manager

Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples.



2021 Highlights COVID-19 effects still in place

- » Twelve volunteers contributed 221 hours in the Curatorial Department.
- » School programs attendance was 1,119.
- » Registered public program attendance was 303.
- » On-site attendance was 146,189.
- » Sponsorships and in-kind donations were not collected due to site closures.
- » Neighbourhood Speaker Series | October 2-14, 4,668 virtual views

2021 Openings

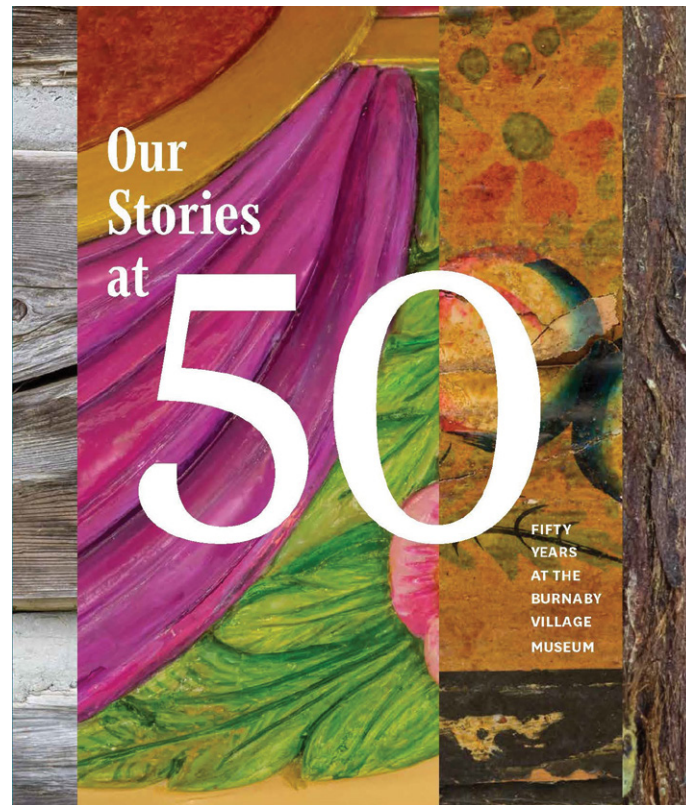
- » **Spring Break** | March 15-26
- » **Summer Season** | May 1-September 6
- » **Eerie Illusions** | October 22-October 31
- » **Heritage Christmas** | November 27-January 3

Curatorial

2021 provided opportunities to continue working towards greater representation of historically marginalized communities and a chance to document and highlight the museum's 50th anniversary. This work helped address several components of the City's Corporate Strategic Plan including celebrating diversity, creating an inclusive community, and providing a connected community.

Celebrating 50 Years

In 2021 the museum celebrated its history through the production of a beautiful coffee-table book titled, *Our Stories at 50: Fifty Years at the Burnaby Village Museum*. The book is available for sale at the gift shop. The book highlights the museum's evolution from a Centennial Commemorative project in 1971 to the free, immensely popular museum it is today, now focused on inclusivity and interaction.



(above) Book cover image of *Our Stories at 50: Fifty Years at the Burnaby Village Museum*

Contributing to an Inclusive Community

Researching and sharing stories that represent Burnaby's diverse history is a priority for the museum, and addresses the City's goal to be an inclusive community.

Since 2018, students at the University of British Columbia's Asian Canadian & Asian Migration Studies program have participated in a research partnership with the museum. This study focuses on learning more about the stories of Asian Canadians who lived in Burnaby. In 2021, two groups of students worked on research projects that connected marginalized communities to the museum's exhibits. Students Rose Wu and Wei Yan Yeong built a backyard garden and accompanying interpretation to showcase the role of Chinese Canadians in Burnaby's local food distribution network. Students Celine Co and Kareena Shamdasani created a survey to test how visitors moved around the museum.



A virtual reality exhibit based on the museum's award-winning exhibition, *Across the Pacific*, is now available on the museum's website in English, simplified and traditional Chinese, and includes audio components in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.



Research began on a multi-year project with Burnaby's South Asian Canadian community. Researchers Joty Gill and James Binks joined the team to document the history and legacy of the community and work with community members to share their stories. Future exhibits and interpretation upgrades will be available soon.

The museum's curatorial and programming departments successfully co-hosted another Neighbourhood Speaker Series with the Burnaby Public Library. For the first time, the series was held twice: Indigenous knowledge keepers and elders hosted the spring series, while the Japanese Canadian community hosted the fall series. The series was again held digitally over Zoom and Facebook Live and broke all previous records for viewership with collective views of almost 5,000. You can view the films on HeritageBurnaby.ca.

The Spring Series included:

- » **Bringing Visibility to the Land: A Tsleil-Waututh Perspective on Community Building** with Michelle George
- » **Traditional, Ancestral & Unceded: A Conversation on Territorial Acknowledgements** with Fancy Poitras and Rebekah Mahaffey
- » **The Legend of Deer Lake and Indigenous Histories of Burnaby** with John Preissl
- » **Creating Visibility in Wood Working** with Xwalacktun
- » **Weaving & Learning through Art** with Nicole Preissl
- » **Are We Really Changing? Reflections on Reconciliation** with Brandon Gabriel

The Fall Series included:

- » **Architectural Tour of Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre** with Kenneth Takeuchi
- » **From Fuki to Ofuro: Japanese Canadians in Burnaby** with Raymond Nakamura
- » **Celebrations of Life & Love: Ceramic Works of Thomas Kakinuma** with Debra Sloan
- » **Timeless Spaces: Japanese Gardens of the West Coast** with members of the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association

A Connected Community

Protecting the City's assets, information, and services helps the City meet its goal to be a connected community through digital connections. The museum provides access to its extensive collection of assets through digitization efforts on HeritageBurnaby.ca which provides a record of Burnaby's history.

The collection at the museum consists of 55,000 artifacts, 8,800 photographs, over 1,000 maps, 4,500 books, and 1,200 archival records. More than 40% of the collection is on exhibit at the museum. This year, staff have spent a considerable amount of time cleaning up the information contained in our collection database software to create a better experience for researchers on HeritageBurnaby.ca.

Staff received several significant donations in 2021, including a large collection of photographs of the opening day of Sears at Metrotown in 1954 and other Sears highlights throughout the 1950s.

Other Highlights

- » **Ooi family crib mobile**
The family moved from Malaysia to Burnaby in the 1970s and raised two sons.
- » **Speaker set used by Edward Fountain, Burnaby Civil Defense Coordinator in the 1950s**
The Burnaby Civil Defense Department was established to guide the public in the event of nuclear war during the Cold War. This education centered primarily on evacuation, as the public was expected to prepare and fend for themselves in the event of a nuclear attack.



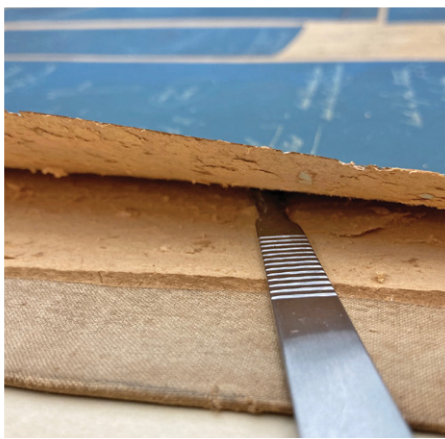
(other page top left) UBC ACAM student research on display in the Market Garden
(other page bottom left) BVM's Across the Pacific Virtual Reality exhibit
(above) Audio-amplified set used by the Burnaby Civil Defense Department during the 1950s.

Conservation

2021 presented opportunities for conservation work to be shared via social media. These media postings supported the City of Burnaby's Strategic Plan by increasing community connections when it was hard to gather in person.

How to manage many objects at once?

The museum's archival collection houses many New Westminster District subdivision plans created by Provincial Land Surveyors Albert J. Hill and George K. Burnett. These hand-drawn maps and blueprints are pasted onto both sides of large boards. To simplify storage and improve preservation and access for individual plans, water and steam were used to soften the paste and remove the plans from the boards. But the paste was resistant, so a mechanical treatment was tried. A scalpel was used to cut partway into the board and under the full extent of each plan. The plans were then washed on a support, and the remaining board layers eased away. A more targeted water treatment was innovated to speed up the slow treatment and frequent checks on the softening paste allowed the saturated plans to be peeled off the board at just the right moment.



(top to bottom)
Hill and Burnet Fonds:
Plans on boards
Mechanical removal
of plan by scalpel

How to know when a treatment is finished?

This group photo of a Girl Guides of Canada conference at Hotel Vancouver in 1950 had been taped together many times. The aged tape strips came off easily but left unsightly adhesive patches behind. The residue was removable with solvent applied with small swabs. Under UV light, it was easy to see the remaining adhesive, which fluoresced yellow on the otherwise blue image.



(top to bottom)
Photo of Girl Guides of
Canada under normal light
Photo of Girl Guides of
Canada under UV light

How to make time for a multi-step treatment?

2021 was the year to improve the condition of this delicate handmade and hand-illustrated booklet. The booklet was carefully unbound, each page photographed and paints and inks used for text and illustrations tested for solubility. Most of the pages were washed but some were cleaned using dry methods only because their inks were soluble in water. The missing areas of the front cover were filled with Japanese paper and toned to blend. The fragile original binding ribbons were saved and replaced with new silk ribbons.

(clockwise top left) Observations from Nature before treatment, cover washing, cover repair, after treatment



Love Farmhouse Crawlspace Drainage Improvement

Conservation capital projects regularly improve safety in our heritage and exhibit buildings. Persistent high water conditions in the crawlspace below the Love Farmhouse were improved by installing a permanent sump and pump. The gravel floor was sealed with a skim coat of cement to simplify access and maintenance for utilities and the fire sprinkler system.

Emergency Response for the Museum Collection

Enhancing emergency plans and procedures is another of the City's strategic goals for a safer community. This year, many artifacts with strong local history received storage improvements to simplify retrieval and salvage by staff or first responders during an emergency. Curatorial staff have grab-and-go backpacks with the supplies needed to protect themselves and get salvage tasks started. During regular emergency preparedness meetings, staff worked through possible scenarios and learned how to support each other and use resources effectively.

It was a fun experience with my hus[band] and friends. We had fun riding the Carousel too although we were the only adults there (but kids at heart).

Christine

Eerie Illusions

This year, the museum partnered with the City of Burnaby Festival Office, and Tourism Burnaby to host a premiere family-friendly Halloween event, *Eerie Illusions*. This was a new kind of Halloween experience for registered visitors that utilized state-of-the-art animation, lighting and projections, and spooky soundscapes. Visitors experienced exciting interactivities, photo stops, dancing pumpkins and more.

Many visitors took to social media to share images, videos and comments on their experiences. The *Eerie Illusions* web page was also the most popular page on the museum's website from September 22 to November 1.

This inaugural 10-day event sold out and brought in over 17,000 visitors and was well-enjoyed by many.

Since this was family friendly,
it's the perfect place to visit
if you're a big chicken like me! 🤪👻

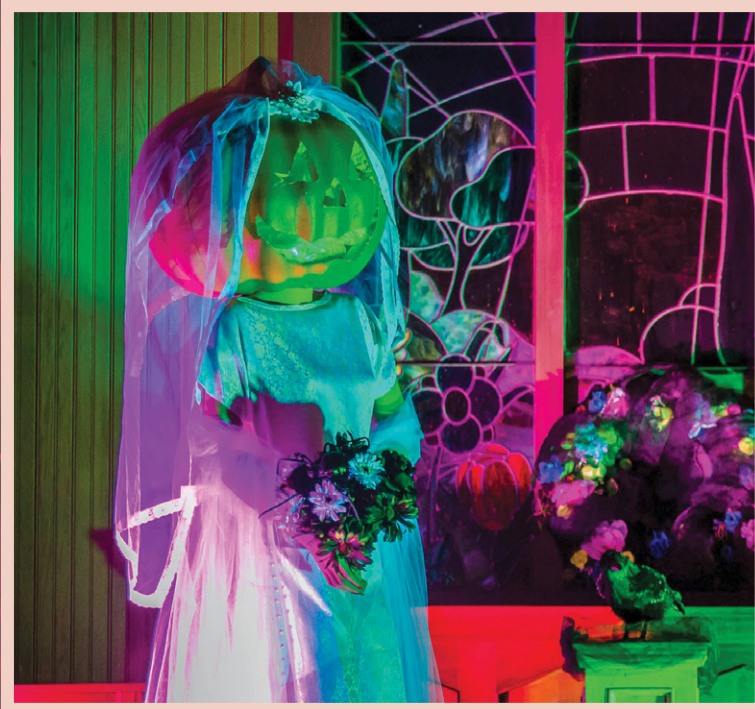
dailylifewithhanna on Instagram

All of the immersive/interactive light
and sound displays were fabulous!

sgnocato on Instagram

Lots of pumpkins, light shows, and
spooky decorations to get us
in the mood for Halloween! 🎃👻💀

rachelina_83 on Instagram



Exhibits



Temporary Exhibits

Summer exhibits included a scavenger hunt on product packaging, an exhibit highlighting those who promoted social justice in Burnaby, a QR Code exhibit and a vigil for the victims of the residential school system. A feature exhibit in the Stride Studios exhibition gallery looked at the history and legacy of Chinese Canadians in Burnaby.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC

May 2019-December 2021 | Stride Studios exhibition gallery
The gallery featured an exhibit on the long history of Chinese Canadians in Burnaby. The tri-lingual exhibit collaborated with the descendants of some of Burnaby's Chinese farm families, including those who continue to farm in the City's Big Bend area. The exhibit won the 2020 CCHSBC Larry Wong Prize for Chinese Canadian Community and Public History.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

May-September | Carousel Plaza
The temporary exhibit explored those who have promoted or supported social justice in Burnaby. The exhibit used audio recordings and life-sized historical imagery to tell these important stories.

'LEARN MORE' QR CODES

May-September | Village
This exhibit shared details about some of the museum's favourite artifacts with the public through QR codes. This included the 1912 C.W. Parker Carousel's history and Skwxwú7mesh weaving demonstrations.

215

June-September | Cedar Grove & Church
The museum provided an opportunity for everyone to remember the lives lost after the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School.



(top) Agents of change temporary exhibit at the carousel plaza
(right above) "Learn More" QR Code interactive signage was available throughout the summer.
(bottom) A space to remember the victims of the residential school system.

Marketing & Corporate Communications

This year, the museum found more opportunities to collaborate with the City's Marketing and Corporate Communications team.

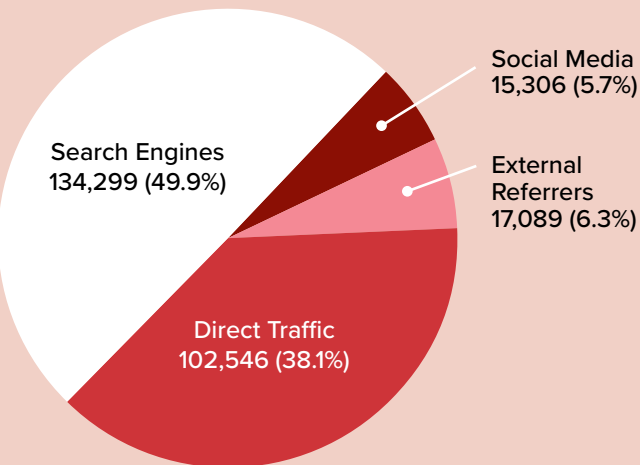
The Corporate Communications team promoted the museum's seasonal offerings through website and online campaigns that incorporated organic and boosted social media posts, e-newsletters and videos. Digital messages communicated the offerings while also keeping the museum's audiences updated on the easing COVID-19 restrictions set by the provincial health organizations and closures due to extreme weather conditions.



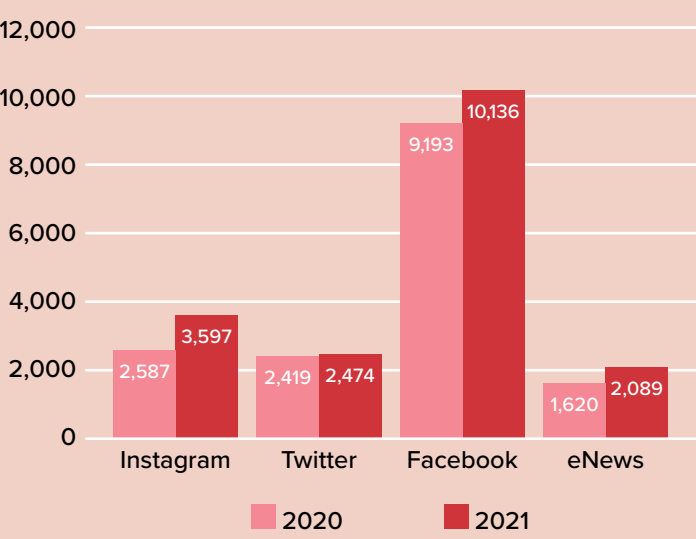
Website Update

The updated Burnaby Village Museum website saw an increase in mobile traffic by 12.3%. In 2021, 73.8% of people who visited the website accessed the site through their mobile devices, while 24% used their desktop computers and 2.2% of the traffic came from tablet users.

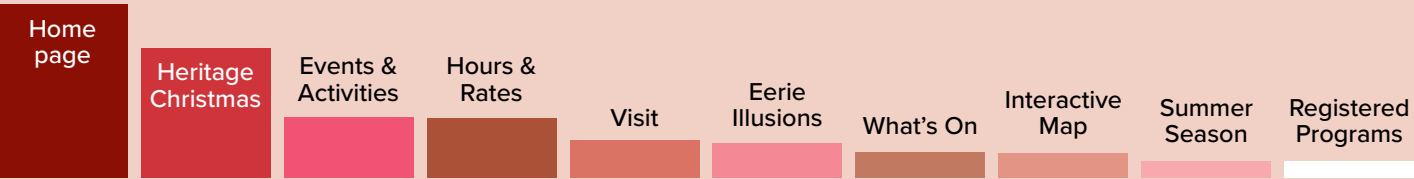
TRAFFIC SOURCES



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



TOP 10 VISITED PAGES



Programming & Education

Museum programs play an active role in celebrating diversity, inclusivity and maintaining a connection to the community. This is achieved through seasonal openings, public and school programs, performances and onsite events.

The best place in Burnaby,
thank you to all that help this lovely beautiful
tranquil spot be so very special...

Gabrielle, July 8, 2021

Seasonal Openings



Burnaby Village re-opened its doors for in-person visits during the first two weeks of Spring Break, a first after a year of the COVID-19 pandemic. With safety guidelines in place, visitors enjoyed the gardens, explored exhibits and engaged with

Museum Interpreters. The seasonal scavenger hunt on period-specific advertising and packaging had visitors searching the 10-acre site to tick the products off their lists.

With the lifting of public health orders over the summer season, the museum gradually transitioned from a reservation system to one allowing visitors to drop-in as they used to. Staffing expanded into the Steam Shed, Tinsmith Shop, Burnaby Postmarking, returning to trade-specific demonstrations.

The museum finished a bustling Heritage Christmas with record breaking visitation. Guests experienced a new animal-themed scavenger hunt; various period-specific Christmas displays; rides on the carousel; dazzling festive lights and clever window displays; and cedar weaving and leatherwork in the Learning House. The museum continues to build and maintain relationships with local Indigenous community members. The museum is honoured and humbled to have skilled Educators onsite who share their cultural knowledge with staff and visitors. Delmar Williams (Skwxwú7mesh) shared his hide preparing skills and multiple leather projects and Victoria Fraser (Skwxwú7mesh) shared stories, language and cedar weaving.

Public Programs

Patrons welcomed the return of favoured public programs such as blacksmithing - offered in the summer and fall; a seasonal wreath-making workshops; and Pro-D day camps for children. A new family-friendly Bat Box Workshop ran during International Bat Week - just in time for Halloween!

Despite safety adjustments to the summer camps, the programs ran for nine weeks from July through early September. Camps were well attended and loved by participants, who enjoyed a variety of programming each week. In recognition of the discovery of the the undocumented remains of 215 Indigenous children found on the grounds of former Kamloops Indian Residential School, on the traditional and unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, campers engaged in a feather decorating art project which was displayed on site. This project was inspired by Michelle Stoney (Gitxsan) and created as an act of allyship with Indigenous communities.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

- » **Total number of camps**
11 camps
- » **Total number of campers**
185 campers
- » **Total number of public programs**
22 programs
- » **Total number of public program participants**
118 participants



(above) Meagan Innes processing salmon skin.
(right) Indigenous Educator, Victoria Fraser, in the Learning House.

School Programs

The museum developed and piloted a new virtual school program, Museum Detectives, for grade 5 students. The curriculum-connected school program is designed on the Chinese Canadian experience in Burnaby and BC. Resources to create this program were drawn from the Chinese Herbalist shop on site and the *Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby Resource Guide*, developed by the Heritage Planning department.

For the first time in two years, the museum welcomed students back to the site during Heritage Christmas. Self-guided school programs ran for two weeks with 782 students in attendance.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

- » **Total Number of Self-guided School Group Visits**
28 groups
- » **Total Number of Students, Teachers & Chaperones**
982 visitors



In-Person Events

The events team switched gears too, as a way virtually to accommodate social distancing and public health orders and to enhance the visitor experience onsite. QR codes were created and featured five video-recorded stage performances that visitors could access using smart phones. These codes, placed on sandwich boards and set up in strategic locations throughout the site, enabled visitors to enjoy musical performances and entertainment in a safe way.

In-person entertainment returned to the site for the first time in two years on BC Day in August. Visitors were content to take in the musical performances on the Vorce Tram Station stage. Children and parents enjoyed dancing and singing along. Younger visitors to the site were treated to a custom-designed summer craft to take home and make.

Celebrating Burnaby and BC's labour history was the focus of the museum's last long weekend of the summer season. A stroll through the site provided opportunities to enjoy a Barbershop quartet in the bandstand; Celtic labour songs on the stage at the Vorce Tram Station; and Japanese storytelling in the orchard at the Love Farmhouse. Extra activities onsite included an exhibit-based trade-related scavenger hunt and a documentary on the working lives of people in British Columbia from 1700 to 1983.

(left) Shirley McGrew demonstrates blacksmithing techniques.

Heritage Christmas

The museum welcomed the return of Heritage Christmas. Conford Pacific has returned as presenting sponsor for another 3 year term.

As an outdoor venue, the Burnaby Village Museum became a safe option for many to attend with family and friends. The re-opening of the carousel was a large draw for families looking for activities to do during the winter break.

In addition to the new scavenger hunt, featuring winter animals and Christmas-themed window displays, visitors were entertained by holiday carolers, juggling acts, Japanese and Syrian stories of winter celebrations, and roving costumed characters. The community's engagement was captured via many social media channels with hundreds of likes, comments and shares, organically promoting the return of this holiday event.

Nearly, 75,000 visitors visited the site over 36 days, with the busiest day reaching a high of 6,638 visitors.

It is such a great place; I will now do regular visits.

Thank you!

Grant from Vancouver, 2021

One of our favorite annual traditions
Heritage Christmas is always a treat!

Sgnacato on Instagram

... the museum was so beautiful all done up
in the Christmas lights and decorations.

I always love a trip to the Burnaby Village Museum.

Monica, December 15, 2021

Volunteers

**CHINESE CANADIAN
HISTORY RESEARCH
PROJECT**

Josephine Hong
Kevin Huang
Christina Lee
Julie Lee
Ed Leong
Sarah Ling
Richard Liu
Daphne Woo
Gail Yip
Ken Yip
Henry Yu

**EMERITUS
VOLUNTEERS**

Kehar Singh Aujla
Natalie Battista
Bob Farrow
Ruby Johnson
LesLee Lowe
Carol Rush
Barbara Stewart
Roy Yeo

**ADDITIONAL
VOLUNTEER**

Kathy Tietjen

Volunteers Statistics

- » 12 volunteers plus 8 Emeritus status
- » 220.75 hours contributed by Conservation and Curatorial volunteers
- » Programming volunteers were not scheduled due to COVID restrictions

Community Groups & Partners

Community Groups

Burnaby Art Gallery
Burnaby Christmas Bureau
Burnaby Civic Employees Union CUPE 23
Burnaby Eco Sculptures Program
Burnaby Planning Department
Deer Lake United Church
Shadbolt Sound, Box Office and Burnaby Festivals office
Burnaby School District

Sponsorships

Concord Pacific

Grants

Department of Canadian Heritage



Snow covered eco-sculpture.

I just want to take a moment to
thank all the staff and volunteers...
we felt very safe and (as always) welcomed today.

Beth, March 25, 2021



Staff



Due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, not all staff are pictured.

Regular Staff

Deborah Tuytens, Cultural Heritage Manager
Jane Lemke, Curator
Kate Petrusa, Assistant Curator
Elisabeth Czerwinski, Conservator
Amy Willson, Design Supervisor
Catharine McPherson, Museum Registrar
Francis Santos, Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator
Christina Froschauer, Museum Community Engagement Coordinator
Ashley Jones, Museum Education Programmer
Nicole Preissl, Indigenous Education Programmer
Lisa Langlet, Special Events Officer
Dianne McLeod, Museum Staff & Volunteer Coordinator
Orlanda Batista, Office Supervisor
Crystal Ueno, Booking Clerk
Jonathan Lupien, School Bookings Clerk
Suzana Lew, Reception
Jas Atwal, Maintenance Supervisor
Ettore Abbruzzese, Museum Janitor
Chris Amond, Museum Janitor
Ted Barber, Museum Janitor
Rongerard Gaanan, Museum Janitor
Dan Morrison, Museum Janitor
Sean Jamieson, Museum Janitor
Keith Thompson, Gardener

Auxiliary Staff*

* Many staff work in multiple areas. The area where the majority of hours are accrued is where they are listed.

Preparators

Carly Bouwman
Jennifer Chernecki
Barb Choit
Elaine Garrett
Doug Hitchen
Margaret Kolpin
Albert Woods

Display Technicians

Alison Brown
Heather MacKay
Penny Philipps

Curatorial Aide

Maya Gray

Conservation Aide

Anne Desplanches

Registrar

James Binks
Denise Fong
Joty Gill
Kennedy Neumann
Jenn Wong

Carousel Operators

Amir Ali
Jackson Barwise
Arthur Buffie
Max Chang
Michael DesMazes
Soren Ibbetson-Lyon
George Karpel
Andrew Leow
Robert McBean
Jessica Nelson
Edward Phan
Kate Procopio
Elwin Xie

Interpreter Lead

Eric Damer
Michelle Harrison
Andrew Hildred
Ann-Marie Kehoe
Jennifer Moysa
Maria Peradenic
Diana Pirritano
Kate Procopio

Museum Interpreters

Brendan Boylan
Annalee Chow-wone
Wendy Morrow
Donaldson
Ryan Fletcher
Janet Glassford
Lorne Gray
Sing Ho Hay
Kelsey Johnson
Kirin Lamb
Wilf Lim
Faythe Lou

Shirley McGrew
Alodia Mulingtapang
Ryan Mutama
Audra Picco
Brian Ross
Ross Saare
Natalia Sharma
Marilyn Sheehan
Amanda Sittrop
Angela Skidmore
Lenard Stanga
Emily Stepto
Sabrina Tonolli
Brian Williams
Elwin Xie

Indigenous Educators

Candace Curr
Victoria Fraser
Meagan Innes
Delmar Williams
T'uy't'ananat-Cease Wyss
Senaqwila Wyss

Program Leader

Victoria Bui
Angela Essak
Sampson Fang
Vera Kharitonova
Meredith Miller
Caterina Murdocco
Kyle Rampuri
Vanessa Salzano
Emily Svetic
Jenica Wong

Gift Shop Assistant

Camelia Andrei

Recreation Clerk 1

Patricia Ajiko
Pabin Bopanrai
Yvonne Brabander
Connie Chung
Jo Cumigad
Kathy Datsky

Lisa Dolinski
Lisa Goebel
Andra Jurzyniec
Jen Kang
Alina Koval
Omeed Lakhani
Vanessa Laron
Alyssa Leyba
Milly Milani
Nash Milani
Karen Nguyen
Christine Paterson
Tessa Patterson
Violetta Przeworski
Kiran Rampuri
Carol Shepherd
Braden Shewchuk
Travis Simpson
Brad Smith
Carlene Stott
Shally U
Keshav Wadehra
Mavis Wen
Jamane Wong

Recreation Facility Attendant


Jeannie Castellanos
Mickey Ng

Janitor

Edward Aranzanso
Mohit Arora
Nicomedes Biteng
Gino Bterrani
Marino DiMarco
Mickael Filain
Sean Jamieson
Roy Malanday
Brian Williams

Maintenance Grounds

Kevin Ortnr
Sean Murphy
John Gauthier



If you're looking for a free family event
check out @burnabyvillage where you'll experience
the unique intersection of old history
and new innovation colliding.

adventureawaits.ca on Instagram

The restored tram was a great highlight of the
museum. To top it all off, the very affordable
antique carousel ride was so iconic.

Maggie L, December 6, 2021