The Cave Creek Museum

From horse soldiers to resort developments, the desert foothills have been a spectacle of historic and prehistoric dimensions.

Set in the shadow of majestic Black Mountain, the Cave Creek Museum offers a view to the past.

Thousands of years ago, Hohokam farmers dug 2,000 miles of irrigation canals to water their crops. Tools, pottery, jewelry, and other artifacts in the Museum collection give insight into these productive, innovative people.

In the late 1800s, people returned again to farm, ranch and prospect for gold, silver, copper, jasper and other mineral riches. See the implements, home goods and special exhibits describing the lives and experiences of our most recent predecessors.

The first church of Cave Creek and the last original tubercular cabin in Arizona, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, are among the outside exhibits. An impressive ten-stamp ore crushing mill, reconstructed and revitalized to its original use, is operational and runs on specific dates during the year.

Cave Creek Museum Docents share anecdotes and additional information to enrich the extensive exhibits and your experience — or enjoy the Museum on your own.

The spectacular history of the Desert Foothills is yours to see and enjoy at the Cave Creek Museum.

Museum hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.; early opening on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Closed holidays.

Admission: $10 adults; $8 super adults and students. Children under 12 admitted free.

The Museum is open for the season from the first Wednesday in October to the last Sunday in May.

For more information: Call 480 - 488 - 2764 or visit www.cavecreekmuseum.org

Cave Creek Museum

Annual Report

2025—2026



Marking 25 years since the establishment of the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.

6140 East Skyline Drive

P.O. Box 1

Cave Creek, Arizona 85327-0001

Phone: 480-488-2764

Email: info@cavecreekmuseum.com

Website: cavecreekmuseum.org

The Cave Creek Museum is a 501 (c) (3) organization

Federal Identification: 94-2404270

CAVE CREEK MUSEUM

Mission Statement of the Cave Creek Museum

The Mission of the Cave Creek Museum is to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek Mining District and the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research, and interpretative exhibits.

Annual Report Editing and Layout: Stephanie Bradley





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2026-2027

PRESIDENT
PATRICK O'BRIEN

VICE PRESIDENT
MARCIA D'ALESSANDRO

TREASURER
KEITH OTSUKA

SECRETARY
TAMMY CAUSEY

BOARD MEMBERS
DAVID ACKERMAN
DAVID GRIFFITHS
LARRY ROSS
TAMSIN WOLFF

STAFF

JO ANN STUCKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BUCK COLUMNA, OPERATIONS MANAGER*+
GENE BOULDIN, STORE MANAGER*
MOLLY TUFTS, BOOKKEEPER*

PROJECT STAFF

JO NOVELLI-BLASKO, DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST*+

(+Contract; *Part time;)

★GRANTORS★
Johnson Historical Museum of the Southwest
Kiwanis Club of Carefree
Town of Cave Creek

★AFFILIATIONS★
American Association of Museums
American Association of State and Local History
Central Arizona Museum Association
Carefree/Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce
Museum Association of Arizona

★WEB-BASED COLLABORATIONS★
Arizona State Library and Archives:
Arizona Memory Project

Remembering Friends Who Have Passed…

❁Hank Smith, who left us March 3, 2026

❁Reg Monachino, who left us March 21, 2026



few more friendly faces to our team. We will continue to recruit through the end of the season and during the summer as there most likely will be an off-season GIG offered.

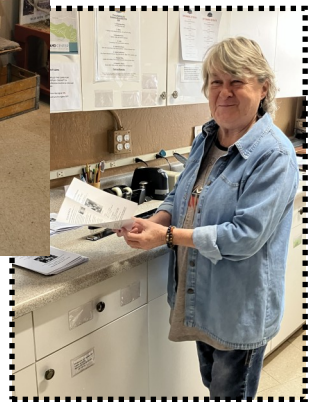
As of March 31, 2026, Volunteers totaled 6,500 hours and Dream Team members volunteered 2,000 hours















Cave Creek Museum
Proposed Budget 2026-2027

INCOME	
Administration of Local Landmarks	$3,000
Admissions	$16,000
All Donations/Contributions	$17,500
Fundraiser	$24,000
All Restricted Funds	$26,500
Interest Income	$13,000
Memberships	$13,000
Museum Store	$10,155
All Programs and Events	$12,350
Church Income	$6,000
TOTAL INCOME	**$141,505**
EXPENSE	
Collections Expense	$2,650
Insurance	$13,350
All Office Functions	$23,514
Merchant Fees	$3,100
Donorperfect Software	$1,800.
Lightspeed Contract	$2,400
Past Perfect Software Annual Fee	$432
Quickbooks Software	$1,500
Fundraising Expenses	$12,000
Membership Expenses	$840
Museum Store Expense	$6,450
Payroll Expenses	$192,300
Utilities	$7,100
Exhibits	$250
Grounds and Buildings	$19,025
Programs	$450
All Restricted Funds	$18,600
TOTAL EXPENSE	**$305,761**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PATRICK O'BRIEN



This year has been busy and not without its challenges. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it a good one. Special thanks go to **Jo Ann Stuckey**, our Executive Director, who has been an important part of our organization. Jo Ann has dedicated many hours to making the museum shine. Of course, it takes many people working behind the scenes to make the Cave Creek Museum such a special place and we appreciate ALL of their hard work. Together, we share the story of our past and help teach our young people that there is more to our history than meets the eye.

Like many non-profits, we faced financial challenges this year and are still working toward greater stability. To help us move forward, we have brought on **Jo Novelli-Blasko** part-time to share her expertise in nonprofit fundraising and to provide much-needed focus to our efforts to achieve financial stability.

This year, we also made an important addition to our facility by building a new storage facility. In the past, we have had to rent offsite storage for items not on display, which has been costly. Now, with this new building, we can bring those items onsite. This will also give us the chance to inventory and catalog everything, making it easier to manage and display our collection.

Both the hiring of a fundraising specialist and the construction of the storage facility are a part of the Museum's Strategic Plan. Your Board will continue to move forward with a plan to remain a valuable addition to our community. It has been an honor to serve as your Board President, and I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the coming fiscal year. Thank you for being part of our journey. Please say hello when we next cross paths at the Museum!

VOLUNTEERS

DEBBIE CLEMENT

We currently have approximately 42 active volunteers, including docents. Last September we offered two new Orientation Sessions for new and returning Volunteers and had 13 new volunteers join. During the course of the season, we have added two more volunteers. Of these 42, many only show up once a month.

For the first time ever we held a Volunteer Pre-Season Opener which served primarily as a social time for the volunteers to come together with new and returning faces and to view the new exhibits that had been installed during the summer.

We are missing our teen volunteers who are involved in school activities and sports.

We have implemented a recognition plan for all volunteers and hopefully we can begin to take steps to initiate this soon.

New this year was the addition of lanyards with card holders for name tags. These are printed with the CCM logo. This was the first year to fully implement the use of the lanyards and to begin the new process of presenting a new pin to honor the year of service at the end of the season. These were presented at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 14. This year's pins will honor America 250 and special years of service pins will be presented to the corresponding recipients.

To celebrate all of our volunteers, we also held a Christmas Luncheon in December that also included our traditional white elephant gift exchange.

This season we have partnered with the Desert Foothills Volunteers Group and have attended several GIG (Get Involved Gatherings) locally, most often at the Holland Center. The objective of the group, spearheaded by Tech 4 Life, is to offer a centralized gathering of the local nonprofits to recruit new volunteers. Three of our new volunteers attended the first GIG in July of 2025 and subsequently came to a September Orientation session.

Docents have been happier this year with the addition of Gene Bouldin as the store manager. They no longer are responsible for opening the museum or operating any of the audio-visual equipment, which was very stressful for many of them.

CCM was part of the GIG on March 31 and hopefully we will add a

BCI prepared and disseminated promotions for the Local Landmarks program, featuring past landmarks and focusing on the three designated for 2025-2026: Rancho Manana, Cave Creek Building Supply and the Wagon Wheel. BCI provided the texts, photos and news for the Landmarks profiles.

Worked closely with various committee chairs to push internal and external exhibits planned activities in the most effective way possible. Being able to meet one-on-one often with museum leaders and volunteers helps me serve the museum better.

BCI also helped garner donations for the 2026 Miners' Dinner and is bringing the ol' miner to entertain the crowds.



VETERANS MEMORY GARDEN

JO ANN STUCKEY AND PATTY KELBLEY

The VMG continues to slowly move forward with Phase 2. All gabions are in place and filled with rock. We are in process of receiving a donated tree from Moon Valley Nursery to be installed near the front entrance. When that is finalized, High Desert Design will commence with installation of several trees and plants in key locations with irrigation set for this new vegetation. Lastly, the "aprons" to each gabion and the pathways will be finalized.

FY27 Budget Veterans Memory Garden	
	Budget totals
Parkway Bank Balance	$ 95,966.47
Edward Jones Money Market Accout Balanc	$ 110,136.21
Total Funds Available	**$ 206,102.68**
Expense	
Expected Expenses for FY27	$ 50,000.00
$ -	**$ 50,000.00**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JO ANN STUCKEY



Dear Friends,
I am so pleased to be writing this letter at the conclusion of our fifty-sixth year. Cave Creek Museum proudly preserves the memories, treasures and stories of more than 1500 years of life in the foothills. Each season we add a few more pages to that historic narrative.

Our little history museum has achieved important milestones during this past year.

The first, and most significant for our docents, was the creation and hiring of our first part-time Store Manager, **Gene Bouldin** . As our museum and programming calendar expand the need for a front-of-house staff person became apparent. The museum determined the responsibility for our museum campus security and daily accounting should not be a docent expectation. With this new position our docents can focus their full attention on what they enjoy most– telling the story of Cave Creek Museum.

The second is our new Collections Storage Wing! Bringing our collections onsite was a long hoped-for dream and a primary goal of our Strategic Plan. After 30 years of offsite storage, at considerable cost, a capital campaign was launched in October. The community generously responded and our building goal was met by the end of January. In March our Collection Storage Wing received its final coat of paint is now set to house collections items. Proof of what patience, a supportive community and a couple of guardian angel donors can achieve!

The third, brings a new face around the museum. **Jo Novelli-Blasko** is our new Development Specialist, The addition of a fundraising professional was a key component to achieving our goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. For the organizational health and fiscal sustainability of Cave Creek Museum a development strategy and a staff person is essential as we create our museum's future.

This year highlighted what is possible for our museum. If we dream about it and work hard towards it, Cave Creek Museum can achieve it. Thanks to everyone who joined us this year and I look forward to the amazing history we can create next season.

ADMISSIONS REPORT and VISITORS COUNT
MOLLY TUFTS

TOTAL ADMISSIONS = $14,824,
AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

VISITORS: NEW FRIENDS FROM NEAR AND FAR
LINDA VAREHA

The following data is from October 2025 through March 2026:

Each day during the season Cave Creek Museum plays host and guide to the fascinating history and stories of our desert foothills community. A total of 3,500 guests entered our doors from 48 states (where have you been Connecticut and West Virginia?) and nine countries: **Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Scotland.**

Every visitor was greeted in true "Creeker" style by our dedicated docents and charming shop manager.



COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE
GWEN HARWOOD AND KATHY TULEY



The activity in Collections continued with updating research records. Many are without location or pictures in the archaeology records. Search terms are vital for all records and many in archaeology without complete computer entries.

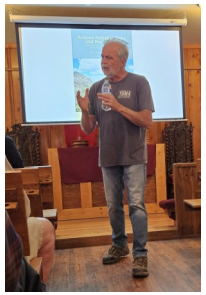


Artifacts from CCM were loaned to the Cave Creek tourist office this year.

We also are planning for the new collection storage area and the review of items to be returned from offsite storage will be starting soon.











PUBLICITY (MEDIA RELATIONS) AND MARKETING
FRAN BOOTH, BOOTH COMMUNICATIONS

Cave Creek Museum experienced a great year in the news as it continued to brand its name and reach out to the public, locally and regionally, with current and upcoming news, events, workshops, people and growth plans.

During 2025, the museum was in the news more than 200 times (news items that were seen/caught) in both print and broadcast media. Last year also saw more television coverage than in the past and many features were published multiple times. Key media outlets included: AllEvents, Entertainer Magazine, the Carefree/Cave Creek Independent, CitySun Times, NewsBreak, Foothills Focus, the Town Prospector, the Town Corner, Scottsdale newspapers, KPNX and KSAZ, among others. In addition, the museum was featured weekly in social media throughout the Valley. On numerous occasions, Cave Creek Museum activities were promoted in media statewide. Numerous events and workshops were sold out.

Booth shot many photos and videos for the museum's use in promoting activities current and future. In addition, two new brochures were designed and printed as part of the museum's community outreach.

This wonderful talented group of men keep the campus functioning without anyone really understanding what it takes. And, yes, they even change out the light bulbs!







PROGRAMS: CCM PRESENTS
Linda Vareha

We have had a very successful season with the majority of our programs selling out.

A very exciting addition to our calendar was writer **Roger Naylor** at the Holland Center. We are hoping that this is the start of a very beneficial partnership between our local organizations. The change of event venue allowed the museum to expand our audience numbers from 49 in our historic church to 170, a sold-out crowd. We received $750 in split revenue for this one-time event.

We are already busy planning our next year's calendar and in discussions with other local organizations to collaborate on future off-site museum sponsored events.

General programming generated $3,570; AZGME $4,270; and Gold Fever Tour $2,445.

DESERT AWARENESS COMMITTEE (DAC) PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW
DIANE VASZILY



Desert Awareness Committee presented the family fun day program **Wildlife Watchers** for children and their parents. We were also happy to participate in archaeology expo day with our sandpainting station.

In the Ansbaugh Auditorium our continuing desert collection remains a popular attraction along with the touch baskets. And who can resist matching babies with their moms at the **tic tac babyo** wall!

We continue to enjoy sharing natural desert experiences with all.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT
JO NOVELLI-BLASKO



Development at the Cave Creek Museum is well underway. Since arriving in February, I have been learning the lay of the land, attended Board meetings, conducted individual meetings with Board members, met stakeholders, volunteers, and local government and non profit leaders.

I've attended programming from the AZGME and the Kiwanis Preschool Pioneers, to lectures and demonstrations. In April, I represented the museum at the Town Council meeting and the GIG Volunteer gathering at the Holland Center. I really enjoyed the legendary Miner's Dinner and witnessing the incredible dedication of volunteers and staff to supporting the museum.

Initial surveys of the Board and Volunteers were created and implemented to identify gaps and opportunities for organizational development. An initial members' survey is planned for next season.

To help prepare the museum to receive Federal funding, the SAMs (System for Award Management) account was renewed. A grant pipeline is developing to track prospects to support the museum's capacity building and programing.

Board and Executive leadership are collaborating to form a Board-led Development Committee. The committee's first priority will be creating and launching an Annual Fund Drive (AFD) to support our operations. This initiative will generate contributed income to the budget. A production calendar is taking shape. The launch will be an all-hands-on-deck endeavor, and it will repeat each year.

EDUCATION
TAMSIN WOLFF

The **CCM Family Learning Program** provides learning that is shared in meaningful ways and enjoyed by learners of all ages, including traditional school tours.

Generous support by our members, donors and organizations like the **Kiwanis Club of Carefree** continue to provide these experiences FREE of admission charges for children. We see adults of all ages share memories at the Schoolhouse, test their desert knowledge at the "Tic Tac Toes" activity and even take selfies on the History Wing saddle. Our museum programs and exhibits lay a foundation for intergenerational families to explore objects together, creating future museum goers, supporters and lifelong learners of all ages.



Aligned with the Strategic Plan, the **2025-26 Kiwanis Family Learning Program** grant enables CCM to achieve targeted program development and build new audiences. Monthly **Kiwanis Family Fun Days** continue to be supported. New this year, walk-in family visitors now receive a **"Kiwanis Passport"** and a museum branded string bag to guide their visit. Open-ended engagement by children, teens and adults is on their own terms: sparking conversations, new discoveries, and exploring objects together.



A museum donkey "mascot" posted throughout the campus calls out areas where touching IS celebrated. **Kiwanis Preschool Pioneers** is a new literacy-based program for ages 3-5 with an accompanying "grown up" - sometimes it's "grandma" - sometimes it's dad - but always its learning together on Thursday

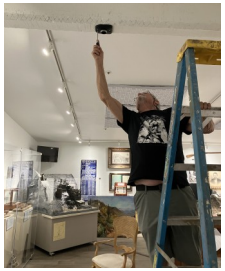
OUTDOOR CAMPUS, MINING, CHURCH, TB CABIN
DREAM TEAM



Working about half a day every week, starting at pretty much daybreak, The Dream Team coddles our entire campus as though it was their own property!



This past year saw a couple of major renovations to the stamp mill. The complete deck, railings and hopper boxes required replacement. As with most work on the mining campus, this was arduous work as the deck is about 12 feet above ground and it is very hot even in early morning in the summer months. General maintenance was conducted on all machinery and stations. The Fairbanks engine was maintained and watched for potential issues. Six new benches were constructed for the mine station. Over the summer we need to look into removable sail shades for the mine station. Visitors are there a good 20 minutes sitting in the sun during the one hour they are outside for the program.





The Dream Team donated considerable expertise and hours to finishing out the new Collections Storage Wing, which included painting inside and out, pouring a cement step and outside entry way, installing shelving, and transporting the collection items from storage facility to their new home!



Dream Team supported docents and exhibit team with new indoor displays and exhibits. Replaced pumps in mine and mill trough. Rebuilt the mine detonator. Set up display of cams and camshaft by Fairbanks Engine. Maintained outside landscaping for the year. Positioned and filled gabions for Veterans Memory Garden. Gated the storage area behind the shed. Constructed steps from LDS parking lot to museum grounds. Installed instant on demand water heater in kitchen. Removed water heater and made shelves for north utility closet. Installed new church doors. Strung outside Christmas lights during season.

NUGGETS NEWSLETTER / OTHER EDITORIAL

STEPHANIE BRADLEY

The *Nuggets* newsletter continues to be a lively source of information, calendars, and history for readers, with direct links to event details and reservations.

The digital version is now the sole version of the newsletter, utilizing Constant Contact for distribution. Back issues are available on the museum's website.

The digital gives readers convenient access to Museum news, upcoming events, and articles on any electronic device, with easy links to additional information. The digital method of communication also provides data to the museum on readership and subscriber interests.

The newsletter would present a blank screen were it not for our editorial and photographic contributors to the newsletter. Our thanks to **Fran Booth, Debbie Clement, Buck Columna, Steve Greenberg, Gwen Harwood, Judith Hatsell, Kraig Nelson, Pat O'Brien, Jo Ann Stuckey, Kathy Tuley, and Stephanie Bradley.**

Gallery Guide

Stephanie has photographed and written the gallery guide, which docents distribute to visitors. The guide provides a narrative that highlights many of the ongoing and special exhibits for the Museum year. We print the guides in-house. In addition to the cost savings of printing in-house, we enjoy the convenience of immediate response to diminished supplies and to making changes as exhibits evolve over the museum year.

Annual Report

Stephanie has provided editorial and/or layout for this Annual Report and other writing needs of the Museum.

Other Editorial

Stephanie has also assisted staff and volunteers as needed.

Working with Museum staff and volunteers continues to bring me great pleasure, and serving our Museum is a source of great pride.



mornings. Characters in popular books come to life using exhibits, hands on teaching props, and interactive demonstrations – for example, watching as a nail is forged at the anvil like the one from "Nail Soup."



Many walk-in visitors identify themselves as teachers and the museum is available for research by appointment with flexibility outside regular public hours. While we continue to work closely with area educators, we are now Official Program Partners, Girl Scouts AZ Cactus Pine. The collaboration helps leaders connect with us and we are promoted on the GSAZCP Website area, "**More Stuff to Do."** Plans for a customized Patch Program for the 2026-27 season are underway.

Tucked behind the museum building since 1991 is the 1968 Gazebo built as a promotional gimmick and known as *"Neary's Village Square at the Gazebo-Cave Creek."* It stood at the corner of Cave Creek Road and Hidden Valley Drive marking eight prominent businesses. In the 1970s it was the town focal point, either as a gazebo or for serving food. The fall 2026 season will bring back both! Plans are underway for a community-wide "Porch Party" - a CCM gazebo block party event like none other - from the new Veterans Memory Garden "porch" entrance to the gazebo**.**



The Cave Creek Museum is the only community resource of its kind within 20-45 minutes of the Kiwanis zip code service areas. Children, parents, grandparents and other caretakers learn together in ways that no other kid-centric nonprofit within about a 40 -minutes drive can replicate. Grant funds from Kiwanis of Carefree are enabling CCM to maximize the educational value of exhibits, forge new relationships, and bring the museum to a broader community to foster trust and involve diverse voices.

Recently a first time CCM visitor, a young mom with three children attending **Kiwanis Family Fun Days** Archaeology Expo exclaimed *"This was SO worth the 45-minute drive from Glendale!"* THAT is who we are - that is the CCM Family Learning Program.

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE BRADLEY

Thanks to our History and Auditorium Exhibits Team: **Gene Bouldin, Stephanie Bradley, Devin Earley, Gwen Harwood, Judith Hatsell, Evelyn Johnson, Patty Kelbley, Kathy Tuley, Tom Warren, Linda Vareha and members of the Dream Team, whose talents, patience and creativity made installation of exhibits possible.**

HISTORY WING

The History Wing is a timeline, beginning with "the cave" followed by the arrival of the military, prospectors, ranchers (featuring the **Cartwright** family), and settlers. A section on tuberculosis ties in with the museum's TB cabin.

Dude ranch photos capture chipper cowgirl and cowboy wannabes from around the world who stayed at **Sierra Vista, Spur Cross or Rancho Mañana Dude Ranches**.

In the early days of Cave Creek, **the Mother's Club** was the de facto government, starting kindergarten and publishing ***the Vacuum Cleaner*** **(**later ***Black Mountain News*** and now ***Foothills Focus)***. Amusing excerpts are part of the exhibit along with a dial phone that is always a hit with young and old.



Faces of Cave Creek features the story of **ErnaMarie,** the Parade Lady. Framed photos of previous year's "faces," **Catherine Jones, George Mileham,** and **Hube Yates, Lon Megargee** and **John Wade Hampton** remain on view as well.



Anniversaries are marked as Cave Creek celebrates 40 years since incorporation and Spur Cross celebrates 25 years since becoming a conservation area instead of a massive development.

The popular toy exhibit in the "cube" includes fun new items.

THE ANSBAUGH AUDITORIUM

The remarkable Sonoran Desert critters and plants are in the **Desert Awareness Committee (DAC)** cubes**,** part of the natural history exhibit. Nearby, the **Desert Awareness Committee's** "Who's My Mom" is a fun identification scheme for young and old.

MUSEUM STORE

GENE BOULDIN, STORE MANAGER

The Cave Creek Museum (CCM) Store sales have been keeping up with Year To Date statistics for most categories. I have decreased the inventory of some of the "souvenir" items and replaced them with a more museum-centric mix.

Book inventory has been expanded to include autographed copies of local authors, **Bob Boze Bell** and **Roger Naylor**.

CCM logo products (stickers, glasses, hats, ornaments) are prominent in the store.

Polished rocks, geodes, arrowheads and coins continue to be popular.

The museum has a large inventory of tumbled stones that we add to the kids Passport to History gift items. The kids really enjoy picking out a polished stone for their very own and the parents appreciate the added attention.

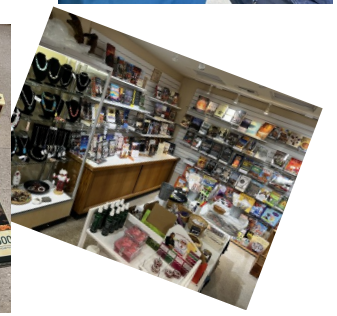
Store Revenue (March) - $1,464
Cost Of Goods - $736
Gross Profit - $727
Margin – 50%



Year To Date Store Sales (October thru March) - $8,557
Cost Of Goods - $4,354
Gross Profit - $4,203
Margin – 49%







only available at the Museum and the Tourist Bureau. Once completed, the participant can turn the Passport into either the Museum or Tourist Bureau for Local Landmark swag.

The committee is currently discussing new sites for next year. If you have any recommendations, please go to

https://cavecreekmuseum.org/local-landmarks/

and let us know your suggestion. Criteria used to determine the designation: the location must have public access and the building/area must have shaped the Town's vibrant character.



❋ ❋ ❋ ❋

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

LEVEL	NO.
Agave	18
Charter	2
Cholla	36
Lifetime	19
Ocotillo	4
Sage	37
Saguaro	4
Total	**120**



Museum collections were raided for **Say Cheese**, a display of early cameras and stereoscopes, on view on the south wall. Several items are on loan as well.



The north wall has an exciting array of mining equipment, focusing on lighting and headgear. Items are from Museum collections and on loan.

FEATURED EXHIBIT
— Adventure of America —
Rediscovering America's Historic Adventure
Patty Kelbley

As the United States prepares for our 250th birthday celebration on July 4, 2026, the *Adventure of America* exhibit is an ongoing story from the past 250 years.

Reading through 250 years of American history to select significant details to present in an area less than seven feet by nine feet is challenging. Identifying, consolidating, and presenting these events by century are featured in the *Adventure of America* exhibit.



1700s: Forging Freedom – Events leading up to the Revolutionary War and creation of the *Declaration of Independence*.

1800s: Exploration and Expansion – Navigating new territory and developing modes of transportation to get us there.

1900s: Further, Faster, and Firsts – Americans hit the road, take off in the air, and land on the moon.

2000s: **Happy 250th Birthday America** – Currently featuring the celebration of 250 years with artwork, flags, and other expressions of patriotism.

MINI WING



The mini wing features "Chow Time in the Mine," lunch pails and sundries used by miners.

The Carefree exhibit now includes the diary of **KT Palmer**. On the north wall is a colorful, oversized birds-eye view of downtown Carefree and Cave Creek, on loan from the town of Carefree.

FUND RAISING: MINERS' DINNER

LINDA VAREHA



This was the first time our spring fundraiser was held off the museum grounds. The move proved very successful, with all event logistics, event staffing, and catering handled by Harold's staff. This was a great improvement for our staff and volunteers who previously took on the physical requirements of set up and break down of our event. **Harold's Cave Creek Corral** was also a generous event sponsor, waiving a number of venue rental costs. Additionally, we secured a record $4,500 in sponsorships. The event netted $15,000.



For next year's event I suggest we secure more sponsorship funding to offset event costs. This goal will need the assistance of the full Board.



A Big Thanks to:
Debbie Clement, for handling all of the social media;
Jo Ann Stuckey, for her expert record keeping;
Buck Columna, for designing our event collateral;
Audra Botwin and **Merridi Haskell,** for doing a superb job with the Volunteers Bake Sale;
Stacy Holland and Debbie Clement, for the beautiful table decorations and the swag bags;
Our amazing volunteers who pitched in with anything that needed to be done;
My three awesome friends who came to my rescue as non-CCM volunteers!

Miners' Dinner requires months of planning, meetings and HARD WORK. All of that happened for it to run as smoothly as it did. Volunteers, staff, and BOARD need to start work now to pull off a successful 2027 Miners Dinner.

This event *was* my first Rodeo. I'm not sure if I would commit to chairing it again. BUT, God willing, with stronger teamwork and continued good health, I may reconsider.

And THANK YOU all for the lovely flowers!

LOCAL LANDMARKS

MARCIA D'ALESSANDRO



The Local Landmarks Program was originally started by the Town of Cave Creek and is now managed by the Cave Creek Museum. The program recognizes iconic buildings and locations that have shaped the town's history and heritage. Each landmark receives a bronze plaque to commemorate the designation. In addition, they are recognized on the Museum's website with a dedicated story page, historical pictures pertinent to the site, and a place on our interactive Local Landmarks map.



This year the committee, made up of **Fran Booth, Marcia D'Alessandro, Luke Kautzman, Jen Miles, and MariaElena Rizzo,** recognized three well-known establishments;

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- **Rancho Manana (November, 2025),**
- **Cave Creek Building Supply (January, 2026), and the**
- **Wagon Wheel (March, 2026).**

To date, 23 establishments/locations have been recognized. They are:

American Legion Post #34
Big Earl's Greasy Eats
Black Mountain Feed
Black Mountain Summit
Buffalo Chip Saloon
Carpenter's Trading Post – Coyote Creek
Cave Creek Building Supply
Cave Creek Inn – Oregano's
Cave Creek Memorial Arena
Cave Creek Museum
Cave Creek Regional Park
Dairy Queen
Desert Awareness Park
Desert Foothills Library
El Encanto
Harold's Cave Creek Corral
Indian Village
Le Sans Souci
Rancho Manana
Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
The Hideaway
The Horny Toad
Wagon Wheel

As a way to entice visitors to visit these iconic locations, the committee introduced the Local Landmarks Passport program. The Passport, which contains questions about 10 of the 23 Local Landmarks, are