



Cortes Island

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

reflect imagine celebrate

REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2022

Cortes Island Museum & Archives (CIMAS) respectfully acknowledges the toq qaymix^w (Klahoose), t̓əʔamen qaymix^w (Tla'amin) and ʔop qaymix^w (Homalco) First Nations upon whose traditional, ancestral territories its programs and activities take place. CIMAS is committed to building the foundation for mutual understanding and positive relations.

In 2022, as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and precautions were reduced or removed, CIMAS finally moved to a more “normal” state of operation and forward on many initiatives. Highlights of the year include:

- **New programming model implemented** – First proposed in 2019 (but delayed due to COVID-19), this model – to contract a Programs and Event Coordinator from June through September – was designed to address capacity challenges felt by Board and volunteers. It also acknowledged that many local artists and presenters are not in the position to volunteer their time and services. Everyone who delivered programming was compensated with honorariums using *BC Arts Council Resiliency Funding*. This programming model was very successful, helping to create new energy and excitement around the Museum.
- **Installation of four new exhibitions** – *Reflecting Light*, *The Suitcase Project*, *Another Day Begins from Here*, and *Climate Crisis: The Cascade Effect* – with the assistance of local photographers, artists and curators.
- **Approval of updated *Strategic Plan 2022 through 2024*** – This identifies the direction and values of our Society; assists us to focus on our goals and monitor our progress; helps us to prioritize new projects and initiatives; and aids us in communicating our mission and goals to our community partners (members, funders, volunteers and other community organizations).



Origami and Haiku workshop

This whole program this year, of bringing artists and practitioners together, to the Garden and now in the cozy comfort of your beautiful Gallery, is absolutely inspiring. There is so much ‘buzz’ about it and tremendous interest. This is exactly the outreach that an inspired local Museum can do! and you are doing it so well.

– Yvonne Kipp

Our generous Operational Funders in 2022 include:



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



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BOARD FOCUS

In 2022, the Board identified the following priorities and initiatives:

- New programming model to decrease the workload of Directors, ensuring sustainability
- Community involvement in programming and curation
- Volunteer training
- Board succession planning
- Commitment to reconciliation and repatriation
- Exhibit Committee development
- Wild Cortes support
- Expanding fundraising and membership
- Website redesign

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

President: N. Kendel
 Treasurer: N. Disney
 Secretary: C. London
 Directors: L. Bohart, D. Collins, I. Disney, D. Dragseth, B. Ellingsen, R. Hanson, D. Manson, B. MacDonald D. McLaren, J. Milton

STAFF FOCUS

Melanie Boyle, our new CIMAS Managing Director/Curator, brought her skills to school visits, exhibitions, programming and grant writing in addition to office management. Melanie will continue to work closely with the Board, community and staff in 2023.

Gina Trzesicka is a vital part of the CIMAS team, assisting with hosting, while lending her technical expertise to ensure our smooth operation and increased online presence. In October 2022, Gina and Melanie started the redesign of the CIMAS website.

STAFF 2022

Managing Director/Curator: Melanie Boyle
 Administration/Host/Website: Gina Trzesicka
 Museum Host/Interpreter: Lauren Ordeman
 Wild Cortes Curatorial Assistant: Sean Nightingale
 Program & Events Coordinator: Laura Balducci

In 2022, CIMAS received ESDC funding to hire an additional summer host, Sean Nightingale, who worked as a Host/Curatorial Assistant at Wild Cortes. At the Museum, Lauren Ordeman provided exhibition interpretation, visitor information and program support.

Laura Balducci, as Program & Events Coordinator, cast an energetic spell over the summer season as she organized, delivered and coordinated a host of dynamic and engaging community events.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- BC Arts Council Operating Assistance – funds the position of Managing Director/Curator (MDC)
- BC Arts Council Resiliency Funding – used to train new MDC, contract Events & Program Coordinator, and other wages
- BC Community Gaming Grant – supports the Public Education and Archives Programs
- Employment and Social Development Canada – covers a portion of the summer host’s wages

CIMAS FUNDRAISING

CIMAS generates income through programming, donations, memberships, the Museum Shop, and Misty Isles Historic Cruises.

TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

CIMAS provides in-house staff and volunteer training as required, including the following webinars and workshops in 2022:

- Creating Archival Exhibits – Archives Association of BC
- Land Acknowledgement – Destination BC
- Finding Your Next Board Member – Boardable
- Home On Native Land – RAVEN & Sentinel Education Foundation
- Ethics and Legal Issues in Writing and Publishing – SFU
- Indexing: An Essential Art and Science – SFU
- Document Design and Production for Editors – SFU
- Leadership & Governance – Heritage BC & BCMA

MEMBERSHIPS

We had 207 members in 2022

VOLUNTEERS

99 volunteers donated 4278 hours. Thank you!

TOURIST VISITOR INFO BOOTH

CIMAS is the official Tourist/Visitor Information Booth for Cortes Island. Located at the Museum, we welcome visitors and locals, providing maps, brochures, and information on business, activities, events, organizations, services, accommodation options, and more. Information can also be accessed 24/7 via our covered porch. An additional advertising service is available to local businesses through our ferry card rack. New in 2022 is a recently installed e-bike charging station, free or by donation.

EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS AND TOURS

Last year we offered a full slate of in-person, diverse and inclusive public programming: exhibitions, special events, and tours. We welcomed **2324** visitors to the Museum & Wild Cortes.

Exhibitions

- *Listening to Bees* – curators Nancy Kendel & Jane Newman, continued until November 2022
- *Climate Crisis: The Cascade Effect* – curators Donna Collins and Laurel Bohart, Wild Cortes
- *Reflecting Light: Portraits of Beauty, Cortes Island 2012–2022*. Photography by Anne Rosenberg – curators Anne Rosenberg and Laura Balducci, Museum Gallery
- *The Suitcase Project* by Kayla Isomura, travelling exhibition from the Nikkei National Museum, Burnaby, BC, Museum Gallery – curator Melanie Boyle
- *Another Day Begins from Here* – curators Suzu Matsuda and Ayami Stryck, and contributions from Yori Ikoma and Michael Speier, Main Gallery



The Suitcase Project Exhibition

Public Programs/Events

- 2 birding events
- *Out of the Archives: The Early Films (1976-1981) of George Sirk*, Manson's Hall
- 2 *Japanese Sashiko Workshops* with Ayami Stryck, Heritage Garden
- *Worldwide Spin in Public Day*, Heritage Garden
- *Japanese Heritage Cooking Class* with Suzu Matsuda and Michael Speier, Manson's Hall
- 4 *Spin & Knit* gatherings
- *Origami and Haiku* workshop with Soma Feldmar, Museum Gallery
- *Card Making* workshop, with Jane Newman, Museum Gallery
- 2 *Literary Afternoons*

Events for Children and Families

- *All About Bees Story Telling*, with Jane Newman, in the Heritage Garden
- *Mossarium Building*, Family Day Event at Wild Cortes
- 3 *Haiku* workshops with Soma Feldmar, Cortes School
- School visits and tours (354 students), from preschool to high school

Speaker Series

- *Falling Boundaries*, presentation by photographer David Ellingsen, Manson's Hall
- *Is There Hope for Bees?* presentation by Dr. Steve Sheppard, (Dept. of Entomology, Washington State University), Manson's Hall

Art in the Garden Series – held in the Heritage Garden

- Jane Newman, *Assemblage*
- Kristen Scholfield-Sweet, *Drum Painting*
- Donna Naven, *Stone Sculptures*
- Kathleen Pemberton, *Painting*
- Filipe Figueira, *Painting*
- Meinsje Vlaming, *Painting*
- Bobbie-Gene Hanson, *Wood Flower Painting*

Book Launches – in partnership with Marnie's Books

- *The Geography of Belonging: A Love Story*, Oriane Lee Johnston, Heritage Garden
- *The Eyes of the Leopard*, Brian D. Hayden, and *Mad Honey*, Katie Welch, Co-op courtyard



Book Launch in Heritage Garden

Guided Tours

Historic Cruises – in partnership with Misty Isles Adventures

- Mitlenatch Island Cruise, with George Sirk
- Low Tide Reef Exploration Cruise, with George Sirk
- Háthayim/Von Donop Cruise, with Bruce Ellingsen
- 2 *Gumbooting the Lagoon* – in partnership with Friends of Cortes Island, led by Deb Cowper, Jane Newman and Donna Collins.

**WILD CORTES
NATURAL
HISTORY CENTRE**

Wild Cortes Natural History Centre is housed in the Linnaea Education building. Programming, participation and direction are provided through the collaboration of five organizations (CIMAS, Linnaea Farm Society, Friends of Cortes Island, Children's Forest Trust, and Discovery Islands Ecosystem Mapping Project) collectively known as the Cortes Wild! partnership.

**ARTIFACT
COLLECTION**

By meeting weekly in 2022, members of the Artifacts Committee (Ian Disney, Donna Manson, Debbie Dragseth, Bruce Ellingsen, Ann Dewar and Bonnie MacDonald) were able to accession 90 pieces into the collection. This has helped to deal with the backlog that was lingering in storage and facilitated the acquisition of many new donations. For example, two complete Mate's uniforms, used by Alan Todd on the Ministry of Highways and BC Ferries ships, were donated by Brian Cant. One is featured in the *Wayfinding* exhibition.

For the first time, CIMAS was named as a beneficiary in a will. Karl Triller bequeathed his King Karl cape and crown to the Museum. We now have quite a few items of clothing in the collection. Time for a fashion show!

**HERITAGE
GARDEN**

The gardening year began with a late and wet spring, improved with summer, and then on to a warm fall, when it was possible to enjoy the garden well into October. A number of events were held in the garden during summer and fall, including seven Art in the Garden workshops, an evening book launch, two Japanese Sashiko Stitching workshops associated with the exhibit in the main Gallery, one children's bee storytelling event, and a Worldwide Spin in Public Day.

The three heritage apple trees in the garden were again pruned by volunteer Murray Rae. The drip irrigation system in the garden was designed and has been maintained for fifteen years by Lloyd Yendall, who retired in 2022 with much appreciation for his work. Inga Schumann, who specializes in drip irrigation systems on Cortes, will now maintain this very important part of the garden.

Long periods of spring rain resulted in an abundance of growth. Steph Asbeck and her crew were hired to prune and clean up areas of the garden. Volunteers Nancy and Ray Kendel and Joe Grassi removed invasive plants and rebuilt the garden fence; Debbie and Chris Dragseth mowed the lawn.

**ONLINE
PRESENCE**

The Online Presence Committee was established to analyze the CIMAS website and our social media accounts and make recommendations for additions and improvements.

Website (www.cortesmuseum.ca and www.wildcortes.ca)

Our website is close to 10 years old and required redevelopment. A grant from the Regional District helped initiate our new website project. Xavier Barbot of The Web Smith (Campbell River) is designing the site to be launched before the summer of 2023.

In 2022, six new blogs were added on topics of natural history, birding, and land ownership history; website pages on diverse topics, such as the Butterfly Sightings page, continue to be updated.

Online Archives (collections.cortesmuseum.com)

Users can search our archival database, view photographs, browse History Albums, stream audio interviews, send feedback, make requests, or share records.

Facebook (www.facebook.com/CimasCortes)

Steady growth of audience with 618 followers, post reach 1,203, with 5 to 10 posts each month, and sharing to *We Heart Cortes* and *Cortes Island Is Home*.

Instagram (www.instagram.com/cortesislandmuseum)

Instagram account was created in 2021 to promote our Online Archives. We now use it for advertising events, exhibits, and images from the Museum and Wild Cortes. We have now over 208 posts, with 435 followers and 97 Instagram accounts following us.

Tideline (www.cortesisland.com and [Cortes Museum & Wild Cortes](#))

Tideline remains our main advertising platform. We've changed the name of our Tideline page from "Cortes Museum Special Events" to "Cortes Museum and Wild Cortes" to better advertise Wild Cortes.

MemoryBC (www.memorybc.ca/cortes-island-museum-and-archives)

A description of all CIMAS archival holdings is available on this provincial website hosted by the Archives Association of British Columbia.

Google Maps and Google Business Profile

Cortes Island Museum (957 Beasley Road) and Wild Cortes (1255 Seaford Road) have markers on Google Maps, and Google Business Profiles with up-to-date information (available via Google search).

**ARCHIVES
COLLECTION**

The Archives Collection consists of unique and original documents, photographs, maps, recorded interviews, digitized films, and ephemera dating from the 1880s to the present day. This year, the Archives Committee:

- Accessioned 13 new donations, including films of George Sirk digitized by Doug McCaffry, Cortes Walking Group records, Cortes Island Playschool photos, and photo albums from Bob Hayes.
- Added new records, digitized photos and oral history recordings to the Online Archives.
- Edited information on 35 photographs based on Online Archives feedback.
- Fielded 26 research requests.
- Provided exhibition research and sourced ten historic maps, never before displayed, for the new Wayfinding exhibit.
- Cortes Family Trees project, led by Bernice McGowan, completed research on 20 families, using information from interviews, archives records and genealogical websites.
- Interviewed three island Elders as part of an ongoing oral history project.

imagine *Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.*

– Albert Einstein

Igniting the imagination of patrons as they browse an exhibition is crucial to making their experience both enjoyable and meaningful. The photograph of a historical signpost sparks memories in the minds in those who recall places long since gone and can inspire others to create their own mental image of what might have once existed. A pair of skis standing up beside a woodstove leads us to imagine the life of the woman who used them, who might have settled down in a green chair – with her cup of tea and feet propped up on the oven door. In our 2023 exhibition, *Wayfinding: Stories of Maps and Place* we hope you will encounter much to spark your imagination as you wind your way through the gallery.



At the end of 2022, the Main gallery was emptied, painted and reconfigured to house a new exhibition, *Wayfinding: Stories of Maps and Place*. Melanie Boyle, wearing her curator hat, was supported by the revitalized Exhibition Committee to direct the installation.

CIMAS aspires to accomplish the following goals in 2023 and beyond:

- create a new CIMAS website
- create a coordinated statistical collection system
- develop a respectful working relationship with Klahoose First Nation
- restart the *Creative Spaces – Gardens, Studio & Workshops Tour*, an important fundraiser
- explore new fundraising activities for CIMAS & Wild Cortes
- continue to expand our online presence
- continue and refine our new programming model
- process artifact backlog and digitization using the new collection management software
- explore more collaboration opportunities with other Cortes Island organizations

Goals for Wild Cortes include:

- expand exhibit space
- open new exhibition, *Forest and Its Inhabitants*, on World Earth Day
- mount twelve new exhibits including the *Mother Tree*, *Forest Mapping* and *Screech Owl Study*

celebrate

Last June, as the island slowly warmed, the freeze on social gatherings also began to thaw. While acknowledging the hardships and uncertainty still being experienced by so many in the world, Cortes residents and visitors alike were ready to embrace this island (and one another!) and the ways in which our programs, events and exhibitions explore the richness of this place. There was gratitude and celebration in the air, and we inhaled deeply.

Thank you to all who supported us in 2022 and continue to support what we do. We are so fortunate to have a generous membership and volunteers who give back to this island community by donating their resources, time and ideas to CIMAS. Many thanks, and an armful of June roses to you all!



von Donop Logger's Workshop – Photo credits Tayu Hayward/BC Museum Portraits, 2022



Wild Cortes – Photo credits Tayu Hayward/BC Museum Portraits, 2022