



## May Center Report – Sept/Oct 2021

### Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



#### May Arboretum Report

#### HIGHLIGHTS.

- ◆ Horticulturist prepared the annual report for the May Foundation and met with the May Foundation in September.
- ◆ May Arboretum Society held two concerts in the arboretum, “Picnic at the Piano” and “Symphony Under the Trees” by UNR Symphony Wind Orchestra. Over 600 people attended the piano concert and over 1,000 in for wind symphony. Both concerts were free and held in Kleiner Oak Grove.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society and May Arboretum staff prepared for their annual fall bulb festival.

#### **May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs**

- ◆ “The Gnome Scavenger Hunt” ended August 27th. May Arboretum volunteers and Denise Evans Volunteer Coordinator managed the program.
- ◆ Rachel Dunn accepted the position for the AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator and began in September. She launched the popular “Little Sprouts” series, to be held once a week through the season. She also developed the “Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt” that will be held during Halloween week.

#### **Reservations**

- ◆ Several of the gardens were used for weddings without Covid restrictions.

#### **Arboretum Upgrades and Projects**

- ◆ The North Arboretum Fence line project began Labor Day weekend and was completed the first week in October. The improvement replaces a 25-year-old drip irrigation system with overhead low gallon spray head and nozzles (Rainbird VANS/RVANS). Applying water to the entire root zone of mature trees slowly and over longer sprinkler times will increase the health and vigor of the collection. Thank you to the May Arboretum Society for generous support for this project (\$19,710.00).

#### **Arboretum Operations**

- ◆ The Arboretum reduced staff by 2.5 seasonal workers and the remaining 3 will term out in mid-October.
- ◆ Irrigation issues continue in the arboretum and GBA. Staff continues to spend time on major irrigation line mainline breaks. Leaks are showing up in weak or fatigue connections. The arboretum irrigation system is between 25 -35 years old as compared to Rancho’s 4 year old system.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues to meet with new and active donors. The horticulturist also maintains the Arboretum donor data base and donor records.



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- ◆ The horticulturist continues to maintain plant records, accession, and plant mapping and recently attended a webinar or hosted by Iris BG on “Healthy Plant Records”. This workshop discussed plant records policy, interoperable, longitudinally, standardization, accurate and complete accessions. In addition speakers discuss public access to the data and global sharing. The workshop will assist the horticulturist with prioritizing and managing the collection and assist with a new data collection policy for plant records management.

#### **Visitor Data**

- ◆ The number of visitors was 9,669.5 people per month, for August and September of 2021. The arboretum uses TRAFX pedestrian counters at the west and south entrances. Data is collected using a portable data logger which connects to the site counters.

#### **Volunteers**

- ◆ Volunteers continue play a major role in the maintenance and operation of the Arboretum. The number of hours logged for August and September was 187 hours which has a service value of \$4,233.68. Volunteers have provided on average annually over \$110,000.00 in service to the arboretum.

#### **Memorials**

- ◆ One memorial bench was placed in the Arboretum for the former director and founder of the May Arboretum, Dr. Ed Kleiner.



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#### **May Museum**

##### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ The Museum offered free admission during the Great Reno Balloon Race. Nearly 400 people visited the museum during the three day event.
- ◆ The Museum participated in the annual Ask A Curator Day event online. We answered questions from the public on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook about the museum world.
- ◆ The Museum participated in Museum Day with Smithsonian Magazine. This annual event gives one day of free admission to people who sign up through the Smithsonian website. About 40 people visited the museum with passes.
- ◆ The Museum had a booth at the Reno Bridal & Beauty Expo at GSR. This was the first in-person wedding fair since early 2020. The event was small but well attended. We promoted the museum and arboretum as venue space for weddings.
- ◆ The Museum hosted a watch party for the Nevada Museums Association’s hybrid annual meeting. Sessions were streamed and members could watch on-site.
- ◆ The Museum kicked off its annual holiday collection drive. This year the museum is collecting new and unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots. The drive ends on December 12.

##### **UPCOMING**

- ◆ Sierra Watercolor Society’s winter show and sale – “A Celebration of Color” – opens at the Museum on November 3. It will be on display through December 5.
- ◆ The Museum will host the Art Angels Workshop with Sierra Watercolor Society. This popular event offers free watercolor painting instruction to children.
- ◆ The Museum will take part in Museum Store Sunday on November 28.