



From the Director

At the edge of the continent, in ever-changing conditions, the Coastal Interpretive Center showcases life on the edge of new ideas. Whether it's in our museum or out in the estuary, the CIC takes pride in having educated generations of residents and visitors since our founding in 1977.

Now this year, the CIC has begun some big changes ourself: after joining as executive director in April, I'm proud to have reaffirmed our commitment to community. We're working to more fully embrace all of Grays Harbor County. Because our region is so rich in natural and cultural resources, they should be the beginning of every conversation - and those conversations should end with a sense of greater community.

That's why, although we've long expected that people would come

to us (to our museum), the CIC is working hard to meet students and adults where they are: where they are physically, as well as socially, economically, and culturally across Grays Harbor. And with more opportunities for more people, we're ready to welcome you into our community.

This annual report - our first - is a small part of that effort. I encourage you to read about our 2024 successes and to participate in our 2025 plans. Thank you for your ongoing support.



*All the best,
Jacob Baker
Executive Director*





Our Staff

Margaret Borron,
Museum Docent

Bob Dunne,
Museum Docent

Tina James,
Museum Docent

Debbie LaFleiche,
Operations Coordinator

Becky Stitt,
Education Manager

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Gill Cambers

Pete Fox

Cathy Nelson

*Annual Report illustrations and design
by Pacific Northwest artist Jill Carter*



The Chow-Chow bridge no longer stands near Taholah, but visitors to the CIC museum can find a copy in our forestry exhibit.



“We know that there’s an overwhelming need for local programs that integrate community education with community stewardship for the purpose of creating a greater sense of community belonging with a changing world.

Providing these services won’t be easy. But they are necessary. And that’s why we’re further developing the CIC into an institution that utilizes cultural and natural history to inspire creative engagement with a changing world.”

- CIC Board

History and Ambitions

Although the CIC is 47 years old, we’re still very much in our infancy. Because of the many disconnections in our rural region, the CIC is reenvisioning our biology, ecology, and anthropology programs as the means to an end. Our goal is a reconnected community. Together, we’ll create a more dynamic organization that leads a more dynamic region.

*We are a non-partisan, non-advocacy organization.
We are an honest broker and trusted partner
between government and community.*

**There are 0 other
interpretive centers
on Washington’s
Pacific Coast**

**91 percent of
Grays Harbor
schools qualify
for Title 1
benefits**

**214 miles
of highway
connect our
rural service
area**

Community Education

As the natural world grows more extreme, solutions must come from the extremes. Whether it's out on the water or up in the mountains, our region is at the forefront of those changes – and the CIC wants to galvanize students and adults to get involved in our shared outdoors. As much as we teach, we also listen, because learning is a collective endeavor.

Even though all students who participate in CIC programs are from Grays Harbor, many have never been to the coast before.

Integrated and field trip programs reconnect students to our shared outdoors.

600
students educated
through CIC
programs in
2024



Otters live all throughout our watershed. Sally the Sea Otter greets visitors as they enter the CIC museum.

Community Stewardship

By forming partnerships that highlight the importance of collaboration, the CIC equips residents and visitors alike to care for the place we collectively care about - Grays Harbor. As we promote active engagement in our natural and cultural resources, we expand the Interpretive Center community and motivate more people to join us in our efforts.

From many areas in the county, it can take one hour to drive to the nearest public lands. The number of boat ramps has shrunk in the past two decades. People are most interested in conserving what they tangibly know.

We energize shared responsibility through shared awareness.

2,243
volunteer hours
completed in just the
first nine months of
this year

20
different
stewardship
partners in
2024





Community Belonging

When the CIC can make children and college students proud to grow up here, they'll be proud to live here as adults. When we can make adults proud to live here, they'll be proud to give back to our community.

We have ~ 1500 objects in our museum collections, and are actively expanding our temporary exhibit and loan programs.

This winter, we're renovating specific exhibits to increase interactivity with a focus on changing environmental conditions across our region.

Shipwrecks feature prominently in the history of Washington. You'll find displays about the wrecks of Ocean Shores in the CIC museum.



2024 Award Winners



Gill Cambers

Most Enthusiastic

There's always more to learn about Grays Harbor, and Gill never stops! Her eagerness to listen, to think actively, and to engage learners of all ages has been a delight for visitors, students, and CIC staff. Thank you Gill for completing the most volunteer hours this year.



Dennis Hogan

Coastal Hero

Some volunteers energize the spirit of the CIC; others have helped build the organization in a more physical sense. Dennis, over the course of decades of service, has used his hands and his head - and his heart - to make our museum a place that delights everyone who enters the door. Thank you Dennis for your many contributions to the CIC. We're grateful not just for your own service but for the many volunteers you've inspired as well.



Cathy Nelson

Rookie of the Year

Although she only joined the CIC volunteer crew in June of this year, Cathy's already made a big impact! Whether it's lending her skills to educational programs - or donating her expertise (you can buy a selection of her postcards in our bookstore) - Cathy's desire to work with staff, volunteers, and visitors to improve the CIC is invaluable. Thank you Cathy for joining the CIC.



Bob Kreuger

Most Reliable

Bob has contributed countless hours to all things CIC throughout the years, and whether you see him out pushing a lawn mower or putting up our latest piece of equipment, Bob always has a can-do attitude, works hard, and makes everyone around him feel good about being part of the CIC team. Thank you Bob for your consistency and humility.

2024 Successes

Directed 80 cents of every dollar donated to programs.

Welcomed 20% more visitors to the CIC museum than last year, the highest number ever.

Created new integrated student programs by working with partners across Grays Harbor: K-12 education is creating a new generation of the CIC community.

“My son couldn't join our school's field trip to the CIC museum, but his friends were so enthusiastic, we decided to come out as a family. It's such a fantastic place for kids. We planned to stay an hour but stayed for 3 instead! We live in Hoquiam and we'd never been to the museum before, but we'll definitely be coming back!”



Cradle-to-Career: *A Comprehensive Approach to Education*

We will expand our educational services into a comprehensive program for elementary, middle, high school, and higher education, providing substantive natural and cultural resource programs that lead into high school and college internship opportunities. **Grays Harbor suffers from brain drain. The CIC is taking steps to change that.**

On-the-Ground: *Getting Wet and Dirty*

We will deepen our education and volunteer programs to grow our stewardship initiatives: we're adding restoration, community science, and data gathering field activities. By adding more sites around Grays Harbor County, we can get more people outside. **Many Harborites are not stakeholders in the success of our natural resources. The CIC is creating new modes of engagement.**

Partnerships: *Stronger Together*

We will define our success by the quality of our partnerships. By strengthening new and existing relationships with government, foundation, corporate, and non-profit partners, we will actively collaborate on projects large and small. **We work with, not for, the people we serve. The CIC prioritize projects that increase community participation and create durable outcomes.**



Internal Development: *Self-Reflection Reflects Outwards*

We will revisit aspects of CIC administration, technology, museum systems, and professional development to more efficiently and effectively accomplish our mission. We believe that, by building a strong organization internally, we can model success to the broader community.

We can make a difference in our community simply by being the change we wish to see.



Get Engaged

What can we do together?

Our museum is important to our identity, but as we seek to inspire students and adults across Grays Harbor, you'll find the CIC everywhere from schools to streams across our region.

There are opportunities for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to get involved.

We hope you'll join us soon!

VISIT.... *our museum in Ocean Shores*

LEARN.... *with us indoors and outdoors across the region*

VOLUNTEER.... *to support our education, museum, and science programs*



ORCA FUNDERS



CHINOOK FUNDERS



STEELHEAD FUNDERS



SOCKEYE FUNDERS



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 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
 Olympic National Marine Sanctuary
 Quinault Indian Nation
 Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
 Washington Department of Natural Resources
 Washington State Parks
 Washington Sea Grant
 Washington State Historical Society
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 Westport Aquarium
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 Coast Salmon Partnership
 Grays Harbor Museum Association
 Grays Harbor Historical Seaport

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Melissa Murphy	Richard Schubert	
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Read CIC financial and strategic reports by visiting
www.interpretivecenter.org/community-accountability

Donate

How can you help the CIC?

The Pacific may change with the tides, but the CIC remains steadfast: we'll always be committed to our community. Giving to the CIC transforms your love for Washington's Pacific Coast into direct action.

Join & Give

MEMBERSHIP: Members make our mission a success. Give annually and support our growing youth education program. If you'd like to give through our website and join the monthly Sand Dollar Society, visit: INTERPRETIVECENTER.ORG/GIVE or scan the QR code.



PLANNED GIVING: Your leadership guides the CIC as we expand our stewardship practices, increase the number of students we educate, and invigorate the full spectrum of our programs. Consider including the Coastal Interpretive Center in your planning giving to help us conserve the coastal places you love.

WE'RE ON A MISSION

The Coastal Interpretive Center utilizes the cultural and natural resources of Washington's Pacific Coast to inspire creative engagement with a changing world.

Our service area includes all of Grays Harbor County but we draw upon the partners and histories of the entire coastline that stretches from the Columbia River northward to Cape Flattery and which drains into the Pacific Ocean.

Coastal Interpretive Center



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Museum hours and admission information on
our website: INTERPRETIVECENTER.ORG