





Like our cover artwork? Visit the CIC Museum where you can see the entire mural on display.



From the Director

Community is a slippery thing - it's hard to define and even harder to build, but once you feel that connection to the place you live and the people that make it special, it's hard to imagine life could be any other way!

As the Coastal Interpretive Center has worked diligently over the course of 2025 to become the community organization that our region so desperately needs, we're proud of the students we've educated, the visitors we've welcomed to our museum, the volunteers who make us successful, and above all else, the sense of belonging that we've created, echoing from the CIC Museum in Ocean Shores to all parts of Grays Harbor County.

Thank you to everyone who has embraced our vision for community stewardship. At the CIC, partnership is our strength, and we're grateful that you - yes, you! - participate actively in our mission. So in that spirit of community, and keeping in mind the CIC's many successes this year, I hope you enjoy our 2025 annual report!

Thank you for your ongoing support.



*All the best,
Jacob Baker
Executive Director*



Our Staff

Jacob Baker,
Executive Director

Bob Dunne,
Museum Docent

Tina James,
Museum Docent

Debbie LaFleiche,
Operations Coordinator

Becky Stitt,
*Community Engagement &
Education Manager*

Our Board

CJ Griffiths,
President

Amber Trent
Secretary

Beth Olszak,
Vice President

Scott Andersen

Ruth Robertson

Cathey Peterson,
Treasurer

Susan Wright

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



What Makes the CIC unique?

- *We are non-partisan and non-advocacy: we serve everyone who is interested in sharing nature and culture*
- *We will meet you where you are: we will overcome geography and finances together in service of our mission*
- *We work with your students, with your family, and with your neighbors: collaboration is key to our success*

Leading the Way

Though the tides of Washington's Pacific Coast may change, the Coastal Interpretive Center is steadfast in our commitment to the greater Grays Harbor region. And though our impact is greater than any one number, our 2025 statistics are impressive!

This year the CIC became the biggest museum and the largest educational services non-profit in Grays Harbor. We debuted new programs with the support of our many partners, including summer outreach and education at Lake Quinault (*delivered by SJ, top photo*) and our first intensive college field science internship (*completed by Miles, bottom photo*).



Community Education

We survey every class we educate: in a class of local 8th graders, 85% felt uncomfortable going outdoors before starting their CIC education program. And while that number flipped – 70% felt comfortable venturing outside after 3 sessions *with us* – *their* honest response demonstrates a clear need for our services! **Grays Harbor children deserve to be comfortable in their own backyard. Students deserve to be connected to the natural world.**

To make those connections possible, the CIC launched a rebuilt education program this year. The CIC now offers cradle-to-career educational services, visiting students in school, outdoors, and at our museum. This summer, we debuted our first paid, intensive college internships, which will now continue year-round. Our first-ever teacher training matched high school educators with the most current field science. Because our programs are free and meet state learning standards, we know we must continue expanding in 2026.

2300
students
educated
through CIC
programs in
2025

600
students
educated
in 2024



Community Stewardship

From the Grays Harbor Estuary to the highest glaciers of the Olympics, from the Pacific Ocean to the Chehalis River, from the eastern hills to the western shoreline that makes Grays Harbor such a diverse region, the CIC believes that all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can get engaged in our shared nature and culture.

To inspire future stewards, the CIC is glad for the support of our many partners. In 2025, we benefited from the expertise of 34 different federal, tribal, state, local, and nonprofit partners. Whether you enter the CIC community, through an interest in birds or microplastics, or shipwrecks, it's our partnerships that ensure that we can provide you with up-to-date resources and opportunities to get engaged.

5,450

Grays Harbor
residents and visitors
learned from our
outdoor walks, talks,
and tables this year



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 adults are proud to live in Grays Harbor, they're proud to give back to our community.

Though our region may often feel like the sum of many distinct parts, we're united by our belief that the coast is a great place to live. As a museum, as an educational institution, and as a trusted community partner, the CIC is here for you as our community builds a better future together.

2,430
volunteer hours
completed in just
the first 9 months
of this year



Students from Elma Elementary visiting the beach, many for their first time. The CIC builds connections across Grays Harbor for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



We're on a mission to educate our community about the natural and cultural resources of Washington's Pacific Coast to inspire the joy and wonder of nature. We serve 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.



2025 Award Winners



**Susan
Rittenhouse**

Rookie of the Year

A museum is only as good as the items it has on display, and thanks to Susan, one of the CIC's newest volunteers, we've inventoried our collections and catalog. Thank you Susan!



**Jeff
White**

Most Reliable
Volunteer

We're almost 50 years old. That means there's a lot of doodads that need painting and thingamajigs that need fixing. And with all the building maintenance that the CIC needs, we're thankful we can count on Jeff!



**Ann
Bower**

Volunteer of
the Year

The CIC staff and board are dedicated to our mission, but we simply couldn't be successful without volunteers like Ann. Gardening, educating, organizing and more - Ann is multi-talented and endlessly helpful!



Jean Stevens & Nancy Eldridge

Coastal Heroes

It's no understatement to say that without Jean and Nancy there wouldn't be a CIC. Over the course of our organization's history, the passion of certain people have kept us going, and this year's Coastal Heroes have poured their hearts (and time!) into the CIC. We greatly appreciate all their efforts!

Get Engaged

Where is the coast?

It's where the morning fog reaches and where the salmon swim - in short, the coast is all of Grays Harbor!

At the CIC, we have all kinds of opportunities for you to get hands-on with the biology, the geology, the ecology, and the anthropology of our region.

We're coastal.
Are you?

VISIT.... *the CIC Museum in Ocean Shores*

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

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



Working With Our Community, For Our Community

What responsibility does the CIC have to you and to our community?

It's simple: we want to share our excitement for the coast with every age, every ability, and every background. To be as welcoming as possible, we've made a lot of changes this year!

Free for All Needs

Students deserve to learn. That's why we've made the CIC's place-based, project-based educational sessions free for all Grays Harbor students. It's also why we've made CIC Museum admission free for all children and other vulnerable persons.

Resource Support

It's not just students that need a helping hand - teachers have a challenging job and benefit from partners like the CIC! This year, we co-hosted a free, three-day educator training and are working to provide ongoing connection for all teachers in Grays Harbor.



Stepping Stones

There's a deficit of qualified local candidates for natural resources jobs. So the CIC has created an intensive college internship program focused on science, science communication, and community engagement.

Waving Hello

Nature may be everywhere in Grays Harbor, but it's not always obvious how to have fun outdoors. Thankfully, the CIC can lend a helping hand! This summer, we spent 4 days every week at Lake Quinault, educating tourists about the rainforest by knitting together our museum with the nature and culture of the area.

Come Inside

This year, we've slowly rebuilt our infrastructure to ensure that you can access all the things the CIC has to offer! Check out our new website: it's playful and functional. Or stop by the museum, where we're gradually transitioning all labels into English, Spanish, and Quinault.



2025 Partners & Donors

GRAY WHALE FUNDERS



CHINOOK FUNDERS



Gray Harbor County
MARINE
Resource Committee



UNFORGETTABLE
GRAYS HARBOR
WASHINGTON

STEELHEAD FUNDERS



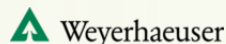
PROJECT PARTNERS

US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
Maritime Washington
National Heritage Area

Motus
Quinalt Indian Nation
WA Dept. Fish &
Wildlife
WA Dept. Natural
Resources
WA State Parks

SOCKEYE FUNDERS

1ST SECURITY BANK



SEABROOK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



COHO FUNDERS



WA Dept. of Ecology
WA State Historical Society
Grays Harbor Conservation
District
Chehalis Basin Salmon
Collaborative
Grays Harbor Marine
Resources Committee
Grays Harbor County
Grays Harbor College

Port of Grays Harbor
Twin Harbors
Waterkeeper
Grays Harbor Museum
Association
Grays Harbor Historical
Seaport
Associated Arts of
Ocean Shores
City of Ocean Shores

Read CIC financial and strategic reports by visiting:
interpretivecenter.org/about/community-accountability

*We do our best to celebrate all our supporters as they wish to be
recognized and we apologize for any inadvertent errors.*

DONORS

Brenda Ackley	Molly Lee	Sarah Guthrie	Lisa Jacobsen &	Holly Mergler	Jerry & Marcia	Matthew Sternfeld
Donna Ahron	Cheatum &	Stephanie Guthrie	Richard Qually	David Milne	Pruzan	Jean Stevens
Connie Allen	Friends	Tom Hamilton	Tina James	Montesano	Alan Rammer	Mardi Stevens
Scott Andersen	Joelle Collins	Melissa Happy	Mark & Jennifer	School District	Han Rhee	Rose Stidham
Emily Anderson	Sherry Coupe	Roselynn &	Johahnson	Dianna Moore	Shelly Riley	Henry Stockbridge
Jeannie Anderson	Kendra Crow	Camden Hardy	Anita Keeler	Cathy Nelson	John Rinehart &	Teri Tibbets
Ellen Bagley	Shari Curtright	Rich Hartman	Robert Keeney	Michael Nelson	Donna Brownlee	Elizabeth Toedt
Dee Baker	Vikki Deadrick	Jon Harwood	Jayson Kendrick	Catherine Nuno	Bruce & Susan	Amber Trent
Susan Beck	Jim Donahoe	Debora Hathaway	Bob Krueger	Ocean 1 Seafoods	Rittenhouse	James & Karen Van
Jim Beckwith	Holly Duffy	Sandra Heart	Mardi Krusemark	Ocean Shores	Jacob Ritter	Delden
Irv Berndt	Clifford Duggan III	Diane Hill	Lake City-	Community Club	Ruth Robertson	Dan & Sue Varland
Ruth & Bob Biggs	Nancy & Neil	Larry & Lois	Shoreline Emblem	Ocean Shores	Bryan & Susan	Eric Wall
Kerri Billings	Eldridge	Hinebaugh	Club 189	Pirates	Rogers	William & Susan
Cathy Bingaman	Karen Fans	Linda Hirschy	Katy Lantz	Fred O'Leary	Madeline Rose	Walters
Boeing	Jeanne Finke	Dennis & Karen	David Linn	Beth & Betty	Michal M.	Helene Wentink
Corporation	Sharon Fitzgerald	Hogan	Brenda Littleton	Olszak	Rosencrans	Jason Whittle
Les Bolton	Pete Fox	Donna Hogerhuis	Kathryn Lizik	Opal Art Glass	Sassy Sea Gals	Lynda Winge
Susan Bonallo	Laura Fredrickson	Home Depot -	Margaret	Betty Paulsen	(Red Hat Society)	Carrie Wolfson
Ann & Dick Bower	Scott Frederickson	Aberdeen Branch	Mahoney	Marlene Penry	Jim Scates	Karen Woodbeck
Jennifer Brouwer	Lia Garcia	Fred & Sarah	John & Michele	Andrea Penski	Thomas Schooley	Steve Worster
Larry Burnstad	Ty & Monica Gaub	Hope	Malgren	Cindy Perry &	& Sheila McCartan	Susan & John Wright
Gill Cambers	Bill Gericke	Hoquiam	Martin Bruni	Adam Hegewald	Jane Sepede	William Young
Allen Carlson	Brady Gordon	Elementary	Liquors	Cathey Peterson	Kim Shapiro	Karen Zink
Joe Cason	Judith Gow	School PTA	Jeannie Matthews	James Pettus	Denise Siers	
Jeni Cate	CJ & Ryan	Ann Horn	Scott Mazzone &	William Post	Snowbird Farm &	
	Griffiths	Institute of	Sudiya Welsh		Cidery	
	Donald Guthrie	Museum and	Casey McInnis		Kym Sondreson	
		Library Services				



Join / Donate

The CIC is different from other nonprofits.

We're a testament to the strength and resilience of our community.

We show the belief of Harborites in the importance of our collective history and shared future.



Give to the CIC and transform your love for Washington's Pacific Coast into direct action. Scan the QR code or visit our website to join us!

- *All donors of \$45+ receive CIC Member benefits, including free museum admission, 10% off all bookstore purchases, and discounted pricing for CIC events.*
- *Visit our website to make your gift go further: Donate monthly or request a matching gift from your employer.*
- *To include the CIC in your estate, please contact the CIC Executive Director.*



Coastal Interpretive Center



1033 Catala Ave SE Ocean Shores WA 98569

360.289.4617 | hello@interpretivecenter.org

Museum hours & admission information is on our website:

INTERPRETIVECENTER.ORG

