

# SHARKBITES

FALL- WINTER 2024

Buena Vista  
**MUSEUM**  
of Natural History & Science

2018 Chester Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 324-6350  
[buenavistamuseum.org](http://buenavistamuseum.org)



Kidsfest 2024



BVM Volunteers



Junior Rockhounds



Reptile Club

*Pictured: Brittanie Smith and Carol Bowman after experiencing our new tornado experience*



## EXPERIENCE THE STORM: INTRODUCING OUR NEW TORNADO MACHINE!

More on Page 1

Upcoming Events:

**Fall Gala: Dining with the Dinosaurs** *page 4*

Museum Hours: Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm.





## Board of Directors

**Cori Kitchen**

*President*

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*Vice President*

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**Kaitlin Hulsy**

**Jaime Viveros**

**Valerie Perez**

**Koral Hancharick**

*Executive Director*

**Fall - Winter 2024**



**Koral Hancharick**  
Executive Director

## *A Note From the Director...*

*In October of 2004, I accepted the position of Executive Director at BVM. I had been a volunteer and board member helping with marketing and writing grants. I could see huge potential and vision for the museum's future. There were so many unique specimens, so many wonderful volunteers, and so much to learn. The more I learned about the museum, the more I found myself falling in love with my job!*

*The museum has presented many challenges, many adventures, and a nonstop learning experience. I have met and worked with some very fascinating and thought-provoking scientists, many generous and kind donors who have enabled the museum to survive, grow, and move forward, countless volunteers who help in so many areas, the Board of Directors who have assisted in the museum's formation, and the staff who are awesome and truly my right hand. It is with all of these friends that the museum has grown enormously. The mission and vision are now more defined, and there is continuous planning for the future including an endowment fund. The museum has become an excellent science resource for our community. It has been my pleasure to have been able to serve our community through the museum for the past 20 years. I look forward to the many more years and what the future holds.*

*With Sincere Gratitude,  
Koral Hancharick*

**Our new wild interactive experience will  
blow you away!**

**Wild Winds Tornado is now at BVM!**

**Enter the wind zone and experience winds  
up to 78 miles per hour!**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends of the Museum,

As the recently elected President of the Board of Directors for the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science, it's my privilege to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us. Your passion fuels our mission to educate, engage, and inspire our community to explore the wonders of science. From our diverse exhibits featuring paleontology, geology, and anthropology to our popular programs like Science Saturdays, School Tours, and Meet the Expert, we strive to bring science to life for all ages.

This past year has been a time of incredible development for the museum. We have welcomed hundreds of new visitors, expanded our collections, and partnered with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools on new programs that bring the wonders of our natural world to life. From our detailed fossil displays, Preparing for Eternity our Egyptian exhibit, or our popular hands-on Oh Zone for children, we're constantly growing to better serve our community. You won't want to miss our Fall Gala, Dining with Dinosaurs on November 16th. Featuring a delicious dinner, a lively auction, and an intimate museum tour, it's sure to be a night for the history books!

As we continue to grow, we face new challenges in meeting the financial operating demands. To sustain our non-profit museum, we rely on the generosity of community members like you. We need your support now more than ever as we cope with increased costs, decreased grant opportunities, and continue to recover from the effects of the global pandemic and shut down that changed our world nearly five years ago. Your tax-deductible donations help us maintain our exhibits, expand our collections, and fund programs that make a difference in our community. Contributions ensure that we can continue offering affordable access through events like \$2 Days, Senior Day and Family Day. Donations quite literally bring the museum to life and we can't operate without them.

Making a donation, becoming a museum member, and shopping in our gift shop helps preserve the treasures of our natural world, educates our community, and keeps our museum growing. Together, we can continue inspiring curiosity and love for history and science right here in Bakersfield.

Thank you for supporting us, your generosity makes all the difference. We are excited about what the future holds and look forward to welcoming you, your family, and friends through our doors soon.

With sincere appreciation,

Cori Kitchen

President of the Board of Directors

Buena Vista Museum of Natural History and Science

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Buena Vista Museum strives to provide a wonderful and educational experience for our visitors, and we know that starts with our volunteers. Our volunteers are what keep us going, and we would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation.

## By Alexia Hutchins



**Griffin Kitchen**

**Junior Volunteer/Docent**

Meet Griffin Kitchen, a 16-year-old volunteer whose passion for learning and sharing knowledge shines through in everything he does. As a dedicated docent, Griffin leads engaging events and tours, captivating visitors with stories and insights that bring our community to life. Balancing the demands of school with his commitment to volunteering is no small feat, yet Griffin manages it with grace and enthusiasm. He believes that every interaction is an opportunity to inspire others and foster a love for discovery. Griffin's spirit of service and leadership at such a young age is a testament to his character and vision for a brighter future. We are incredibly fortunate to have him as part of our team. Thank you, Griffin, for making a meaningful difference in our community!

### What inspired you to start volunteering with the museum?

"I first started volunteering with the goal to get a head start in my future career of paleontology and to learn how to work in a museum. I've also always loved the natural world and nature and wanted to share that love with others in any way I could. "

### What has been the most rewarding part of your volunteer experience?

"The most rewarding part of working with the museum is getting to teach people about science and history. Knowing that people learned something new and gained a new passion for natural history is enough for me."



### How do you balance your volunteering with other responsibilities?

"I learned early on that school and college was going to effect how I worked at the museum for a number of reasons, like how much time I could spend there. I always make time for the museum by doing my homework before, during, and after my work day there. "

Volunteers are key to the museums success. If you are interested in supporting the museums mission with your time and skills, please consider applying at [buenavistamuseum.org/volunteer](http://buenavistamuseum.org/volunteer)



# EVENTS

For more info on upcoming events, please visit: [buenavistamuseum.org](http://buenavistamuseum.org)

## Special Admission Days!

**Family Day** - First Saturday of each month  
2 adults and up to 6 children are only \$20!

**Senior Day** - Second Saturday of each month  
Admission for Seniors (60+) is only \$2!

**\$2 Day** - Every third Thursday. All day, all ages  
admission is only \$2!

## SCHOOL & GROUP TOURS

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL OR GROUP TOURS

TODAY AT

[BUENAVISTAMUSEUM.ORG/SCHOOL-TOURS](http://BUENAVISTAMUSEUM.ORG/SCHOOL-TOURS)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



### November

■ **11/2 - JUST FOR KIDS PROGRAM**

10:30am-11:30am

■ **11/16 - Fall Gala: Dining with Dinosaurs**

6 pm - 9 pm Appetizers, Dinner, and Dessert

Silent Auction, Tour of the Museum, and Live Music

\$75 for members, \$85 for non-members

■ **11/28 - THANKSGIVING**

**CLOSED**

### December

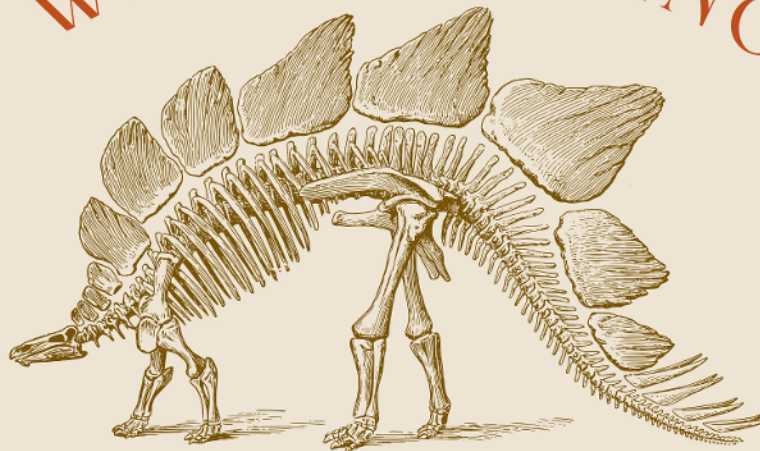
■ **12/7 - JUST FOR KIDS PROGRAM**

10:30am-11:30am



The mission of the Buena Vista Museum is to educate, engage and inspire our community to explore the wonders of science through enrichment activities, exhibits, and special programs.

# DINING WITH THE DINOSAURS



SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 16TH, 2024  
AT 6:00 PM

# CONSIDER A DONATION

BVM is looking ahead to the exciting goals and growth that we have planned, and we want you to be a part of our future! BVM's average year operating expenses are about \$22,500 a month, or approximately \$740 per day. No donation is too small; in the end it all adds up! Your continued support is what enables the museum to serve our community as an Educational Science Resource.

\*\*\*\*\*cut and detach\*\*\*\*\*

Name\_\_\_\_\_E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_Cell:\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_Enclosed is my donation for the general operations in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_Enclosed is my donation to BVM's endowment fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_Enclosed is my donation in support of many educational programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_Please charge the above amount to my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me at Ph # \_\_\_\_\_Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to BVM, 2018 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 USA

You can also call **661-324-6350** or donate online at the link below.

**Donate Online**

**[buenavistamuseum.org/donate](http://buenavistamuseum.org/donate)**



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Free** admission to BVM as long as you are a member!
- **Free admission to Bakersfield Museum of Art, Kern County Museum and CALM!** as well as **hundreds of other ASTC museums outside your local area!**
- **Free** entry to our regular-admission priced educational programs like our "Just for Kids" events and monthly science talks.
- **Free** admission to over 600 ASTC participating museums outside your local area! ([www.astc.org](http://www.astc.org))
- **Discounts** on other museum events and a 10% discount in our museum store.



Did you know? Your membership now includes access to Bakersfield Museum of Art, Kern County Museum & CALM plus hundreds of other museums and science centers.

**ASTC**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY CENTERS  
For the full list, visit [ASTC.org](http://ASTC.org)



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## DIAMOND

Tim & Pat Elam  
Jeff Johnson

Carol Bowman

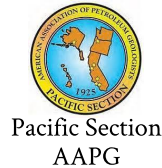
Trichell Family Foundation  
Scott Rosenlieb

## GOLD

Peter & Michelle Leveroni

## SILVER

The Wonderful Company  
Foundation Inc.  
Lazzerini Family  
Foundation



Robert and Heidi  
Allison  
David and Laura  
Fiddler

## BRONZE

Sam & Sheryl  
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Stephen and Joyce  
Montgomery

Mark & Randi  
Hodson

Jon and Jennifer  
Sampson

Estate of Robert  
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Gilbert and Elena  
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## SUPPORTERS



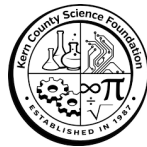
Laura Stockton  
Gregg Wilkerson  
Leonard Sanoian

Melissa  
Danforth

Jack & Mary  
Lou Thomson

Bakersfield  
Hyundai

Ortega's Pest  
Control Solution



Kern County Science  
Foundation



Valley Oaks Charter School  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools



## GRANTS



Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation



## MUSEUM HOURS

THURSDAY - SATURDAY

10:00am - 4:00pm

SUNDAY

12:00pm - 4:00pm

[www.buenavistamuseum.org](http://www.buenavistamuseum.org)

COME LEARN WITH  
OUR AUGMENTED  
REALITY SANDBOX!

# EXPLORE TODAY

2018 CHESTER AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

Blue Star  
Museums

MUSEUMS for ALL

ASSOCIATION OF  
SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY CENTERS  
**ASTC**



EMAIL: [INFO@BUENAVISTAMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:INFO@BUENAVISTAMUSEUM.ORG)

PHONE: 661-324-6350

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

2018 CHESTER AVENUE

Buena Vista  
**MUSEUM**  
of Natural History & Science

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