First name:	Burke Museum of			
	Natural History and culture			
What I collect				
My collection is special because:				
•	bject has a story stories to tell			

BURKE MUSEUM 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT

What's in a number?

Last year, the Burke Museum collections grew to more than 16 million objects—a number both impressive and inscrutable. How is it possible to have 16 million things? The number is partly explained by the enormity of the fish collection, which, with the recent addition of scales from 800,000 salmon, now totals more than 11 million specimens.



Each object in the Burke collection—whether rare or numerous, big or small—is unique and irreplaceable. But the Burke Museum is not only about objects. First and foremost, it is about stories. In 2014, we demonstrated this with our *Imagine That* exhibit, which featured 2,056 objects and their stories. We also asked visitors, "What

do you collect?" To date, more than 1,600 people have shared what makes their collections unique, carefully clipping their cards to the gallery wall. This report is inspired by those cards—and the stories just waiting to be discovered in each.



ONE IN A MILLION

A mammoth discovery in downtown Seattle

Picture a construction site spanning half a city block on each side, 45 feet below street level. Now imagine you're a backhoe operator digging a trench at the bottom of that hole, in the last section not yet covered by concrete, and you hit something that does NOT feel like dirt and DOES look very much like an elephant tusk. Then envision Columbian mammoths, 12 feet high at the shoulder, roaming a vast expanse of grassland where high-rise buildings now soar.



In February 2014, an 8 ½-foot mammoth tusk discovered at a construction site in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood captured the local imagination and garnered international media attention by reminding us that history is, quite literally, just beneath our feet. More than 8,000 people visited the Burke in March to see the

tusk, and 1,000 entries flooded our "Mammoth Naming Contest" inbox. The winner: LuLu, the Lucky Lake Union Mammoth. Serendipitous, indeed.

Visitors and Community

292,000

People reached through offsite programs and traveling exhibits

Neighborhood farmers markets visited by LuLu (and her friends at the Burke)

115,000 Visitors to the Burke last year



BY THE NUMBERS

Burke Education

Target age group for new pre-K
BurkeMobile initiative supported
by Thrive by Five Washington

107/600

WA K-20 students served by Burke education programs—more than in any previous year!



70%

Students served through outreach programs across the state



4,700

158 MILES EACH WAY

The wheels on BurkeMobile go 'round—and round-trip

Last fall, Burke Museum Executive Director Julie Stein stood in the hallway of Red Rock Elementary in Royal City, Washington, with Principal Theresa Eilers. As a small boy in a backpack zoomed past, Principal Eilers called out, "Where are you going?" "To the museum!" he replied. In the gym, Burke staff members stood ready with tables full of objects and activities. Thanks to support from local donors, BurkeMobile brought hands-on museum experiences to all of Red Rock's 796 students in just three days.



After the Burke's visit, the students and their families wanted to see the Burke Museum in Seattle. Soon 100 parents and children were boarding buses, on their way to the Burke for a day of exploration and fun. A grant from the Washington Women's Foundation helped BurkeMobile double the number of students served this

year, bringing the State Museum to communities across Washington. Next year, that pace of growth is expected to continue. Oh, the places we'll go!



13 GOING ON 30

Inspiring girls to pursue their passion for science

On a rainy spring day, Curator of Paleobotany Caroline Strömberg and collections manager Regan Dunn are huddled in the Burke basement with a gaggle of preteen girls, using nail polish to conduct science experiments. The girls are part of an after-school program led by Strömberg, who is hoping the experience will give them a whole new appreciation for beauty products—and science.

Strömberg's mother, a devoted feminist who worked her way through medical school while raising her child alone, inspired Strömberg's confidence and career. But she and Dunn are uncommon: only 27% of U.S. scientists are women.



The Burke's Girls in Science programs target middleschool girls at a critical juncture, connecting them with female scientist role models at the UW, engaging them in hands-on research, and building their confidence at an age when studies show a drop in participation and performance in STEM subjects. Next year, a grant from

the Chevron Corporation will help triple the reach of the program.



IT STARTED WITH TWO, THEN IT GREW

Building cultural knowledge and a culture of strength

"So, what do you want to do?" That's the question Holly Barker, curator of Pacific and Asian ethnology, asks her students at the beginning of each independent study course. When she joined the Burke last year, Barker marveled at the sizable Oceania collection and, as a community-based anthropologist, promptly set about finding new ways to share it.



Pacific Islanders make up only 0.9% of students on UW's Seattle campus, but comprise almost 20% of the Husky football team. Barker invited two student-athletes to study the collection with her. They pulled piece after piece from the shelves, sending photos to relatives to learn more about the objects' symbolism. In the winter,

14 student-athletes developed an exhibit featuring their work. By the end of the year, 25 Micronesian and Polynesian students were conducting cultural research at the Burke. This fall, they want to learn grantwriting and develop outreach programs for local Pacific Islander youth. Says Barker, "They want to do it all!"

BY THE NUMBERS <u>University of Washington</u>

UW serv year

UW students served last year

13 UW faculty members are Burke Museum curators

Students in the new Young Naturalists club at the Burke





BY THE NUMBERS

Washington State

Number of years as the
State Museum of Natural
History and Culture

Specimens from Mt.
St. Helens repopulation tracking studies held by the Burke

956

Fish specimens from Dept. of Ecology study of 50 WA watershed sites



45,371

Reference photos of WA plants in the Burke Herbarium database



A TWO-POD SALUTE

Orca whales welcome Old Man House collection home

After a sixty-year absence, the Old Man House collection was finally headed home. Removed from the site of Chief Sealth's ancestral home during a UW excavation in the 1950s, the 500 artifacts were held in trust by the Burke-first on behalf of Washington State Parks, who owned the land at the time of the excavation, then for the Suquamish Tribe after State Parks returned ownership to the Tribe in 2004. After opening a new museum in 2013, the Tribe was ready to bring the collection home.



The sun shone brightly as Burke Museum staff carefully loaded boxes filled with artifacts into their cars and boarded a ferry bound for Bainbridge Island. Suddenly, dozens of orca whales from Puget Sound resident J and K pods surrounded the boat, splashing off the bow as it approached the terminal. The whales' welcome was the

perfect end to the collection's decades-long journey. As Tribal Chair Leonard Forsman said, "They put a blessing on the day."





A SINGULAR RESOURCE

Burke tissue collection helps unlock mysteries of rare birds

"There's not a person in the world studying bird genetics who doesn't go through Sharon," said Adam Leaché, curator of genetic resources and herpetology. Leaché was referring to Sharon Birks, manager of the Burke's genetic resource collection—one of the world's largest, internationally known for its bird tissues.



Birks herself is an ornithologist with a Ph.D. from Cornell University, whose research focuses on megapodes: birds native to Australia and south Asia that are unique in the world for incubating their eggs using environmental sources of heat. Unfortunately, their eggs taste delicious; hunting and habitat loss now threaten many species.

For 10 years, Birks used her international connections to gather megapode tissue samples whenever they become available. Last spring, she and UW graduate student Rebecca Harris published a study that used this rare collection to settle long-standing debates about megapode evolution and nesting behavior, offering new information that could help protect endangered species.

11.3

Specimens in the Burke fish collection, the largest in North America

Model angyaat boats built by Sugpiat youth using traditional methods, based on an historic model—one of only a dozen still in existence—from the Burke collection

New species identified by Burke researchers last year, including one lizard, eight fish, and 10 arachnids



With the support of museum donors, members, visitors, institutional partners, the University of Washington, and the State of Washington, the museum's financial health remained strong in fiscal year 2014.

Burke Museum Fiscal Year 2014 Period ending 6/30/2014

	10		

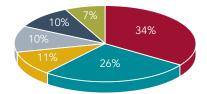
Total		8,718,300
	Endowment	651,200
	Gifts	830,900
	Restricted Funds Released	849,000
	Earned Income	970,500
	UW In-Kind Support	2,298,000
	University of Washington	3,118,700

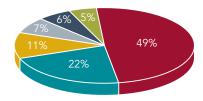
Expenses

Research & Collections	4,292,000
Exhibits & Programs	1,957,200
 Administration 	947,800
Education	605,200
Fundraising	577,900
Communications	428,800
Total	8,808,900

Change in Net Assets

(90,600)







THE POWER OF 12

Mask that inspired original Seahawks logo coming to the Burke

In the lead-up to the 2014 Super Bowl, Curator of Native American Art Robin K. Wright's art history students were curious about the design influence for the Seattle Seahawks' original logo. When Wright broached the subject with Curator Emeritus Bill Holm, he confidently pulled a book from his shelf and flipped to a specific page. There, in Robert Bruce Inverarity's 1950 survey, *Art of the Northwest Coast Indians*, was an illustration of a Kwakwaka'wakw eagle mask bearing an undeniable resemblance to the 1976 logo.



Shared widely by both football and Native art fans, Wright's blog post on the discovery made its way to staff at the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine, who alerted the Burke to the mask's location in their collection

and offered to loan it to the Burke. Now the mask is making its way to Seattle—thanks to the power of crowdfunding and the 12th Man!



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NEW BURKE MOVES TO A1

Plans for new museum building begin to take shape

The New Burke is front-page news. As plans for a new facility continue to progress, a recent *Seattle Times* cover story lent increased visibility to the Burke's urgent need for a new building: both to protect its invaluable collections and share them with the people they are intended to serve.

In September, Olson Kundig Architects' schematic design for a new building along 15th Avenue NE between NE 43rd and NE 45th was approved by the UW's architectural review commissions, and the University's board of Regents approved selection of a general contractor to consult on the next phase of design. The museum has raised \$12.7 million for the campaign to-date.



In the coming year, an allocation from the Washington State Legislature will be a critical component of the effort to construct a new building and properly house the State collection of natural history and culture. The museum will also continue to consult with Tribes, educators, and community members on plans for the New Burke.

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