SEASON OF CHANGE

2022 Annual Report

PACIFIC
bonsai
MUSEUM
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Cover photo: Creeping Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis) originally created by Umenori Hatanaka in 1940.
SEASON OF CHANGE

One year after taking the reins, we acknowledge and thank Pacific Bonsai Museum’s former Executive Director, Kathy McCabe, and Board Chair, Kit Severson, who very ably saw us through the formative years of the Museum. We’re honored to lead Pacific Bonsai Museum through its next phase of development and reconfirm our commitment to our mission of connecting people to nature through the living art of bonsai.

2022 was an exciting year at Pacific Bonsai Museum, starting with the opening of our “greatest hits” exhibition, A Gallery of Trees, showcasing 30 of the most exquisite, iconic bonsai in our collection. We also mounted a stunning retrospective exhibition featuring bonsai created by our first Curator, David De Groot, and were proud to witness his trees receive worldwide acclaim. Stopping by to appreciate these exhibitions of living art, were more than 53,000 friends—our highest number of annual visitors to date. We also welcomed more than 6,000 community members at our free events. And to invite even more friends to the bonsai community, we began offering education scholarships to BIPOC and LGBTQIA individuals to participate in our Bonsai Basics classes.

We hope you enjoy this look back at 2022 and personally encourage you to visit in 2023. Each season brings change and more beauty, from spring blossoms and summer warmth, to fall foliage and winter silhouettes. May you find your own connections and discover new wonders to behold all year round.

Pat Rauzi
Chair, Board of Directors

Pat Bako
Executive Director

Sweetgum (Liquidambar orientalis) a bonsai since: 1967; original artist: John Yoshio Naka
PACIFIC BONSAI MUSEUM IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE THROUGH THE LIVING ART OF BONSAI.

IN 2022, WE WELCOMED 53,000 VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM.
ACCESS FOR ALL

Pacific Bonsai Museum believes that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the power and energy of our collection. We ensure that we welcome every member of our community by donation, turning away no one.

EVOLVING THE ART

We push the boundaries of the art, design, craft and culture of bonsai: an ancient tradition that is evolving as a contemporary art practice as relevant to modern life as ever.

GROUNDBREAKING EXHIBITIONS

We mount at least one major special exhibit annually complete with interpretation, associated educational materials, public programming, and documentation. The commitment we make to high-quality exhibitions sets us apart as a leader among the world’s public bonsai collections.
With *A Gallery of Trees*, Pacific Bonsai Museum reflects on our unique institution as we look back over the last 30 years while looking toward the next three decades. From our origins as the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection established by the Weyerhaeuser Company in 1989, to our transition to being an independent, non-profit art museum, bonsai in our collection have weathered every season and flourished under expert, loving care. Since then Pacific Bonsai Museum has grown into its position as an institution that offers groundbreaking interpretative exhibitions and educational programs pushing the art of bonsai into innovative turns. *A Gallery of Trees* not only looks back but also forward. We honor the past by pushing for its evolution.
A Gallery of Trees: Living Art of Pacific Bonsai Museum
MAY 2021 TO OCT 2023
David De Groot was the first Curator of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection (now Pacific Bonsai Museum) where he explored the intersection of bonsai, art, and education. Since he first encountered bonsai in 1969, De Groot has had a passion for the arts. His love of art paired well with his natural teaching ability and he quickly rose in reputation as an exceptional presenter of bonsai information.

For the length of his 25-year tenure, De Groot actively sought to elevate the public’s appreciation of bonsai. His creativity and pursuit of quality established the PRBC as one of the top public collections and set the standard for other bonsai curators to follow. Today, De Groot continues to expand bonsai art through his work with students and his own bonsai. Pacific Bonsai Museum and the bonsai from his personal collection exhibited in this retrospective, represent the breadth of his technical ability, artistry, and talent for turning something with humble origins into a beautiful work of art.

RIGHT: This Hinoki Cypress bonsai wowed everyone with its stark right angles. De Groot’s styling was inspired by a penjing form called “Square Turns.”

EXHIBITIONS

David De Groot: A Retrospective
MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2022
Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) styled by De Groot to create a “trunk” reminiscent of a landform with a grove of small trees on it.
In 2022, a new bonsai exposition made its debut in a converted streetcar maintenance facility in Oakland, California. Curator Aarin Packard, compelled by the opportunity to push his practice of bonsai display creatively and conceptually, created an art installation for the Expo spotlighting bonsai materials and textures in *Bonsai Deconstructed*.

The LAB Limber Pine composition sat at its center. Packard incorporated both glass and paper art in the installation. The composition’s concrete stand housed a glass ‘bubble’ and ‘ripple’ huddled in the void space below. Both were crafted by our own Courtney Branam which he blew during an all-day event in the public arena of the Museum of Glass (MOG)’s top-notch Hot Shop facility in Tacoma, WA.

The final component—intricately cut paper panels created by California-based artist Tahiti Pehrson—both framed the room-like display space and provided a viewing portal into it. The paper panels added another element of fragility to the composition in contrast to the sturdiness of the bonsai elements. It is also a nod to the traditional shoji screen, so often used to frame bonsai displays.
Five, Washington-native coniferous bonsai from our collection were on view at Amazon's Seattle Spheres in 2022. Accompanying the five bonsai were several small *kusamono* displaying ferns and grasses representing the understory of each Champion’s environment. Presented together, the bonsai and *kusamono* suggest a distillation of a larger landscape in miniature.

This was the second temporary exhibition we held in the Seattle Spheres. An Amazon representative said, “We appreciate the quality and botanic diversity of Pacific Bonsai Museum’s collection and wanted to help support Pacific Bonsai Museum’s mission with this opportunity to exhibit pieces in this unique setting.”
In March 2022, we welcomed donors and other special friends to Repot & Reconnect: a social gathering featuring a live repotting of this Stewartia bonsai.
A free, community event and celebrating World Bonsai Day, welcoming 3,000+ bonsai fans!

Thank You to 4Culture and ArtsWA for making this event possible.

Photos by Logan Hickle.
A SUMMER BONSAI SOLSTICE

New in 2022, we stayed open late on Saturday, June 18 to celebrate the summer solstice in the evening light—one of only two nights during the year that the Museum is open. Joining us in the Museum were a group of en plein air painters organized by local artist-teacher Kimberly Trowbridge. Visitors peered over their shoulders and watched them create as they strolled through the Museum and listened to ukulele player Arden Fujiwara.
Our annual signature fundraising event, *Branch Out*, was a phenomenal success in 2022 raising over $175,000 for Pacific Bonsai Museum. Held in the iconic former Weyerhaeuser Headquarters building, *Branch Out* honored the late George Weyerhaeuser and his legacy as a leader who spurred our collection.

Guests mingled with fellow bonsai appreciators, had delicious food and beverages, viewed a curated selection of bonsai chosen for display in this architecturally-inspiring setting, enjoyed live entertainment, bid on curated kusamono creations, and savored dessert during a short-but-spectacular raise the paddle to support Pacific Bonsai Museum.
BONSAI BASICS CLASSES

Our popular Bonsai Basics classes continued in 2022 with monthly classes from March to October. Classes continued to sell out, thanks to instructor Tony Fajarillo. Thanks also to Kent East Hill Nursery for their sponsorship.

TOURS

We offered 27 group, Docent-led tours to visitors, both in-person and virtual.
A WINTER BONSAI SOLSTICE

More than 600 people braved a cold, rainy evening to enjoy the beauty of bonsai by soft lights. But the cold was no match for our visitors’ warmth. One of only two nights a year the Museum is open to visitors, A Winter Bonsai Solstice has been a community tradition since 2015.
IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING GEORGE

We were saddened by the passing of George H. Weyerhaeuser on June 11, 2022. George was 95.
George H. Weyerhaeuser, great-grandson of the Weyerhaeuser Company’s founder, became Chief Executive Officer of the company in 1966. During his tenure as CEO, he transformed the Weyerhaeuser Company. He pioneered a model of rigorous forest management and continued to nurture the Company’s trading partnerships, particularly in Japan.

As Japanese companies became true partners, George led the company to recognize their shared connection through a meaningful, cultural offering. That’s how the bonsai collection started. In October 1989, as part of Washington State’s centennial celebration, the Weyerhaeuser Company opened the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection to the local and world community (top photo, left).

In 2013, the Weyerhaeuser Company gifted our entire collection, in partnership with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, to form a new non-profit organization known as the Pacific Bonsai Museum.

George continued to support Pacific Bonsai Museum during our first decade, serving as an Honorary Member of our Board of Directors and visiting the Museum as frequently as he could. He loved visiting the bonsai (bottom photo, left) and receiving updates about our collection. We will all miss his kind presence and will continue to honor his grand legacy as we care for the bonsai in the collection he helped found.
VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!

2022 DOCENTS
Docents interacted with visitors on 168 days in 2022.

Brock Arvesen  Dick Benbow  Chase Davis  Elsa Durham  Gary Gemar  Carol Grimes  Gina Grover  Ingrid Hansen  Logan Hickle  Winnie Hou  Ken Martin
Michelle McAlister  Jose Morales  J. Overton  Victrinia Ridgeway  Joel Schwarz  Iris Tio-Matos  Tyrone Travis  Vern Van Houten  Randy Willett  Bruce Williams  Shirlee Yeager

2022 BONSAI CAREGIVERS
12 highly-skilled bonsai caregivers committed 1,765 hours of their time to Pacific Bonsai Museum in 2022.

Brock Arvesen  Wayne Burns  Marie Hartford*  Ann Hobson  John Mork  Pat Negron  Lynn Paietta**  Millie Russell  John Schimied*  Joel Schwarz  Tim Taylor  Ken Wassum

* Pictured, left

**A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

to Lynn Paietta who retired from volunteering in 2022. She started caring for our bonsai in 2016.
COLLECTIONS

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

148 bonsai in the permanent collection
0 deaccessions
0 accessions
OUR DONORS

PACIFIC BONSAI MUSEUM THANKS EVERYONE
WHO SUPPORTED LIVING ART IN 2022.

CHAMPIONS | $100,000+
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

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Silent Knight Productions
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Jennifer Anderson
Puget Sound Bonsai Association
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Jody and Wayne Burns
Robin Callahan
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Hana by Herb Bryce  
Dwight “Dick” Dudley by Nancy, Toni and Craig Draper  
Emeterio E. Flores by Paulette Juarez  
Chris Charvez by Steven Goldberg and Pat Kozu  
Minoru Uchimura by Margaret Mizumoto  
Karen VanZee by Margaret Mizumoto  
Bruce Ota by Margaret Mizumoto  
Otto the cat by Julie Moylan

GIFTS IN HONOR

John Muth by Ingrid Hansen  
Stephen Branca by Carolyn and Joe

GIFTS IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF GEORGE WEYERHAEUSER

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Phyllis Griggs  
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Susan Messina  
Julie McKinley  
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Kyle Reiter and Rohre Titcomb  
Kit and Gary Severson  
Gail Stickney  
Judy Wagner  
Elizabeth Weyerhaeuser  
Leilee Weyerhaeuser  
Merrill Weyerhaeuser  
Wyman Youth Trust
Pacific Bonsai Museum is located on land leased from Industrial Realty Group, LLC at a cost of $1/year. The land lease is valued at $296,563.
LEFT: Trident Maple (Acer buergeranium); A bonsai since 1979; Originally created by Toichi Domoto.