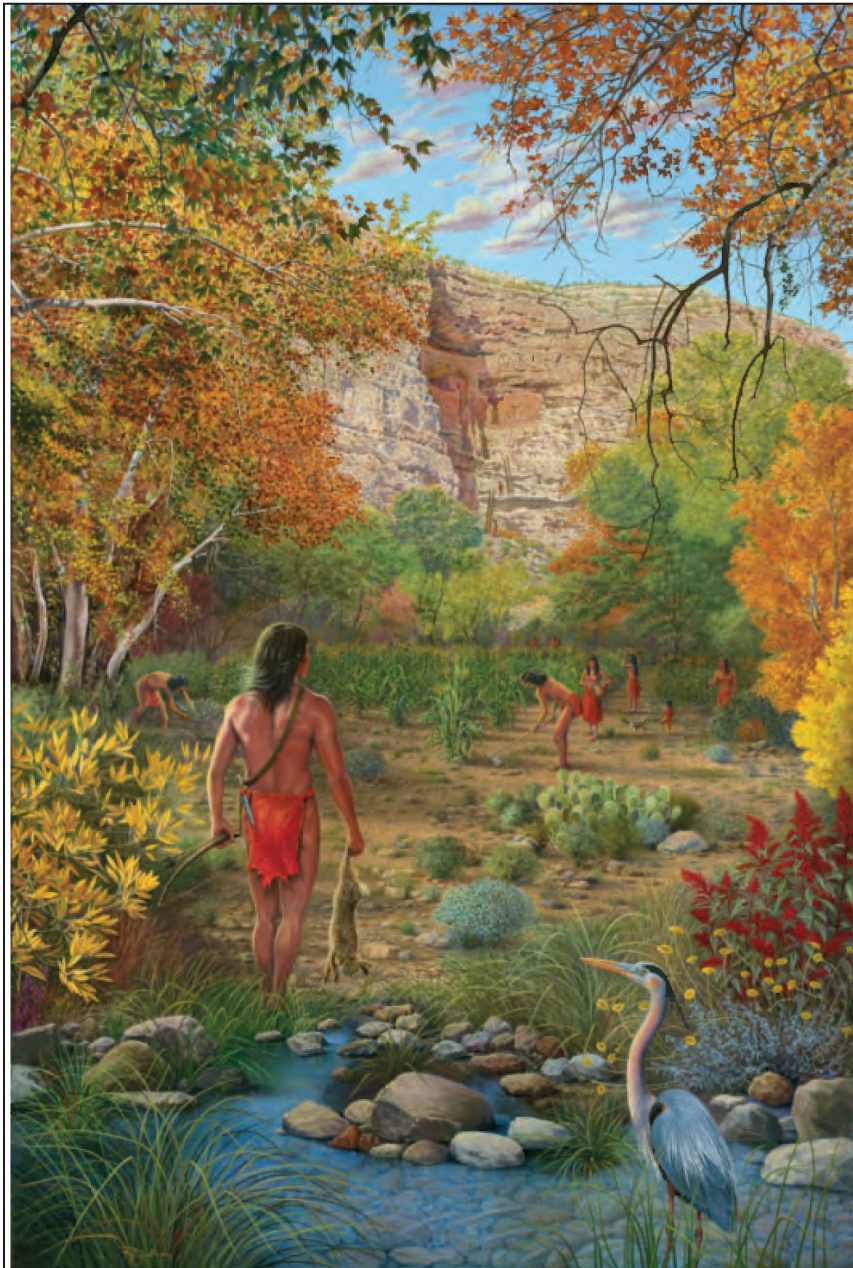


VERDE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER AND MUSEUM
CONSERVATION • PRESERVATION • EDUCATION

Embracing the Past - Shaping the Future



15th
ANNIVERSARY
HISTORY EDITION

2010 - 2024 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center has been able to show steady progress in its development thanks in large measure to the leadership of the many members of its Board of Directors and staff.

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Steve Ayers - President	Sandra Lynch - Board Member
Renee Bartlett-Webber - Secretary	Elizabeth McFarland -General Counsel
Nancy Bihler - Board Member	Cheri Meyerhofer - President
Todd Bostwick - Archaeologist	Joseph Montedonico - General Counsel
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Ron Krug - Board Member	Ken Zoll - Executive Director

Impetus for the Center

The Verde Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) was established in 1975. In 2009, archaeologist Stewart Deats of EnviroSystems Management in Flagstaff, was invited to give a talk on their recent excavation of the Grey Fox Ridge Development in Cottonwood. Stewart described the process and the discovery of one of the oldest pit house villages ever found and dated in the Verde Valley. He recounted the recovery of thousands of artifacts.



During the Q&A, he was asked about the disposition of the artifacts. He reported that the artifacts were to be sent to the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott as the closest accredited repository for such collections. Sharlot Hall Museum was contacted and it was confirmed that they expected to receive the collection but would not place any artifacts on display since the collection was not “from their service area.” They would be retained for researchers.

It was known that artifacts had been sent out of the Verde Valley since the 1860s, but the fact that artifacts were still being recovered and sent out of the area concerned many in the Chapter. Current and past officers of the Chapter met to discuss this and decided that the development of a local repository should be investigated.

Why A New Organization?

The bylaws of the Arizona Archaeological Society were reviewed to determine if the concept of a local curation facility could be developed within that framework. It became clear that it would not for two reasons:

1. A Chapter is an affiliate of the State organization so assets of the Chapter ultimately belong to the State organization. This could ultimately result in assets potentially leaving the Chapter’s original geographic area, thus negating the goal to retain artifacts locally.
2. As an affiliate organization, the State’s Internal Revenue Service and Dun & Bradstreet numbers applied to all chapters and consolidated financial reports were submitted. This would have prevented the Center from applying for grants since individual IRS and D&B numbers and financial statements would be required.

Primarily for these reason it was decided that a separate nonprofit organization would be required to meet the goals and objectives of a repository for local artifacts.

Early Organization

In 2009, the AAS Verde Valley Chapter began to sponsor an annual Festival of American Indian Arts with the goal of raising funds to start the Center. A separate account was maintained by the Chapter for these funds. By the summer of 2010, that account totaled \$3,160.92. This amount was transferred to the new Center in September 2010 to cover costs of incorporation.



When discussion began to form the Center, Steve Ayers (a chapter member and then a reporter with the *Camp Verde Bugle* newspaper) suggested that the Town of Camp Verde be considered as an initial location for the Center. Since the chapter had been meeting in Sedona since 1975, possible locations in Sedona were explored but no suitable or reasonably-priced location could be found. Steve Ayers brought Linda Buchanan, a Camp Verde resident and employee of Yavapai College, to a meeting to speak in favor of locating in Camp Verde. The fledgling organization was offered free meeting space at the Yavapai College Camp Verde Campus (since then closed) for meetings. The offer was accepted and Camp Verde became our “home.”

Articles of Incorporation (2010)

The Center’s Articles of Incorporation were prepared in August 2010 and were approved by the State of Arizona with a date of incorporation established as **September 2, 2010**. The initial Board of Directors named in the Articles was Steve Ayers, Linda Buchanan, James Graceffa, Sharon Olsen and Ken Zoll. Attorney Elizabeth McFarland, in the Village of Oak Creek, offered her services as our first General Counsel and as our statutory agent with the State of Arizona. Ms. McFarland drafted the Articles and the initial set of by-laws.

The organizational meeting of the Center was held by the initial Board of Directors on September 14, 2010, at the Yavapai College Camp Verde Campus. Directors present at the meeting were: Dr. James Graceffa, who served as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Ken Zoll, who served as Secretary of the meeting, Steve Ayers, Linda Buchanan, Sharon Olsen, Bud Henderson and Dr. Ronald Krug. The first order of business was the nomination and election of the initial directors of the Corporation. Dr. Ronald Krug, Linda Buchanan and Bud Henderson were elected to two-year terms as directors, while Dr. James Graceffa, Ken Zoll, Sharon Olsen and Steve Ayers were elected to one-year terms. The first officers of the Corporation were then elected: James Graceffa - President, Sharon Olsen - Vice- President, Bud Henderson - Secretary, Ken Zoll - Treasurer, and Steve Ayers, Keith Greiner and Ron Krug as directors.

IRS Nonprofit Approval

An application for tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service was prepared and submitted by Attorney McFarland after receipt of the approved Articles of Incorporation and minutes of the organizational meeting. Approval of the Center as a Public Charity under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) with Federal income tax exemption under 501(c)(3) was approved in an IRS determination letter dated October 28, 2010, with the exemption date of September 2, 2010.

Selection of a Logo

One of the early decisions was to develop a logo for the Center. Since our mission is to preserve and tell the stories of the people who have made the Verde Valley their home for over 12,000 years, it seemed appropriate to incorporate an image that would express this. The image of the line of people, either walking or dancing, at the Palatki Heritage Site in the agave roasting pit area seemed to be an appropriate image.



Yavapai College Space (2011)

The first project undertaken by Center volunteers was to analyze artifacts provided by the U.S. Forest Service from years of surface surveys. The artifacts were analyzed and recorded in a database. They were then transferred to the Museum of Northern Arizona. Volunteers worked on most Thursdays and Fridays in classrooms of Yavapai College, Camp Verde Campus. The campus was to be closed on June 30, 2011, so new space had to be found.



Bud Henderson, Diane Graceffa and Gary Hellums examine pottery sherds at the Yavapai College location.

NPS Displays

At about this time, Kathy Davis, Superintendent of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot national monuments called to advise that the Tuzigoot museum was being remodeled and that five of the historic display cases were going to be declared surplus and sent to the National Park Service (NPS) storage facility in Tucson. The cases were offered to the Center on a “long-term loan.” In order to not miss such an opportunity, even before any office



space was rented, the Center rented a storage unit to hold these displays until needed. Three other NPS display cases were being discarded, along with some front desk furniture. All of those items were given to the Center and taken to storage.

The First Location (2011)

The Center located its first space in Camp Verde and signed a month-to-month lease in the Fort Verde Shopping Plaza at **348 S. Main St., Suite 6B**, effective April 1, 2011. The 650 sq. ft. space was rented for \$200 per month, plus utilities. The space was repainted and a new water heater, toilet and sink were installed by volunteers.

The Grand Opening was held on **May 6, 2011**. The event was attended by the Camp Verde Town Council members as well as over 350 individuals, even

though our membership at the time was less than 50. The large crowd drew the attention of the Camp Verde Major and other officials, who commented that they usually only see about 20 people at other business grand opening ceremonies.

Contact was made with the Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN) to discuss our plans and to request their support and participation on our Advisory Council. The Nation approved of our intentions and agreed to be on the Advisory Council. We were taken to a storage room with several large boxes. We were told that they contained many artifacts



that individuals and estates had given to the YAN. However, since they were neither Yavapai nor Apache items, they were offered to the Center as long as an inventory was provided. The YAN also provided three upright display cases that were no longer needed. The inventory was completed and these items became the start of the Center's collections.



The space allowed us to bring four of the Tuzigoot displays and two of the YAN displays out of storage. The cases were set up with artifacts from the YAN collection. Behind some of the Tuzigoot front desk furniture was room for two tables used for meetings and for artifact analysis. It became clear at an early stage that this space was not going to be sufficient for too long.

Main Street Location (2012)

In early 2012, the Center was approached by the Town of Camp Verde manager concerning a town-owned building at 385 S. Main St. The space was leased to the Chamber of Commerce to operate the Town's Visitor Center. The Town wanted to take over the responsibility of managing the Visitor Center and move it to the building housing the historical society. However, the Town did not want to terminate the Chamber's lease if the building would be left vacant. After consultation with the Board of Director, it was decided to pursue a lease for this space that would eventually total 3,300 sq.ft.

On May 2, 2012, the Camp Verde Mayor and Town Council voted unanimously to enter into a 10-year lease with the VVAC for the town-owned building. This vote and lease provided the Center with a much larger facility, a Main Street location, as well as a sense of permanency. It also demonstrated the Center's commitment to the Town of Camp Verde. The partnership between the Town and the VVAC permitted the Center to work together to not only enhance its mission, but to help expand business and tourism opportunities.



Under the terms of the existing lease, the VVAC could not move into the building until the Chamber of Commerce either voluntarily terminated its lease or when their lease expired in May 2013. The Center held several negotiation sessions with the Chamber of Commerce to accommodate the Visitor Center and allow the VVAC to move in before May 2013. It was agreed to consolidate the Visitor Center operations into a 400 sq. ft. portion of the building until the lease expired in May 2013. The agreement permitted the VVAC to occupy the balance of the building. The space at 348 S. Main Street was closed in July 2012 and VVAC began to remodel the new space.

The new building required extensive modifications. The VVAC had to remove four doors and doorframes and replace them with steel frames and solid core doors for added security. An alarm system was installed. A second restroom was added. The Children's Archaeology Discovery Area was built as well as a space for a video presentation. The entire interior was repainted and the carpets cleaned. All of this work was accomplished with volunteer contributions and labor.



The new space permitted additional displays. Member Conrad Khin designed the displays and color scheme. On November 2, 2012, the VVAC officially opened its new and expanded facility with a members-only preview. The gift shop was initially operated by the Arizona Natural History Association under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provided for the staffing of the Center to keep the building open for the extended hours.



Todd Bostwick and Ken Zoll Named to Positions (2012)

Dr. Todd Bostwick is one of the most respected names in Southwest archaeology, holding both a Masters in Anthropology-Archaeology and a Ph.D. in History from Arizona State University. He served for 21 years as the City Archaeologist for the

City of Phoenix at Pueblo Grande Museum. Shortly after his retirement from the City of Phoenix, Dr. Bostwick was contacted to join the Advisory Council. He readily agreed and he was later offered the position of Director of Archaeology which he also accepted.

At the same time, Ken Zoll was offered the position of Executive Director. Ken had served as Treasurer from VVAC's inception.

VVAC Hosts Arizona Archaeological Council (2012)

The Fall 2015 issue of the *Journal of Arizona Archaeology* is a collection of selected papers presented on the archaeology of the Verde Valley at the Arizona Archaeological Council Fall Conference held on October 18 to 20, 2012, at the Cliff Castle Casino Conference Center in Camp Verde and hosted by the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and the Arizona Archaeological Council. Todd Bostwick and Ken Zoll organized the conference to further show that the VVAC was the driving force for this important conference on Verde Valley archaeology. The title of the conference was Verde Valley Patterns, Problems, and Possibilities. The Verde Valley contains numerous archaeological sites, several of which have been declared National Monuments (Tuzigoot, Montezuma Castle, and Montezuma Well), yet the archaeology of this region has not received the same attention as other areas of the Southwest. The goal of the 2012 conference was to assemble a group of papers summarizing what is currently known about the ancient history of this fascinating region. This conference brought the VVAC to the attention of all of the professional archaeologists who work in Arizona.



Museum Gift Shop and Laboratory (2013)

Eventually the Center was able to obtain its own staff and the MOU with the Arizona Natural History Association was terminated in March 2013 with the Center taking over the management of the gift shop.

At the expiration of the Chamber's lease in May 2013, the Center was able to occupy the Visitor Center space. This area was turned into the research lab (image below) after repainting, carpet cleaning and building the wall and observation window.



Director of Arizona State Parks presents award to Todd Bostwick and Jim Graceffa

Governor's Award (2014)

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission is a statutory board that advises the State Historic Preservation Officer on issues of relevance to Arizona archaeology. The Commission presents annual "Awards in Public Archaeology" to individuals, organizations, and/or programs that have significantly contributed to the protection and preservation of, and education about, archaeological resources.

The 2014 winner of the Governor's Award in the non-profit category was the Verde Valley Archaeology Center. The Center was recognized for its work in artifact preservation, site preservation with the Archaeology Conservancy and for providing support for volunteer efforts and public education programming that aids in the preservation of Arizona's heritage resources. Dr. Todd Bostwick and President James Graceffa accepted the award.

Conservation Assessment (2014)

In 2014, the Center received a grant from the National Institute for Conservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to conduct a “conservation assessment” of its facilities, policies and practices in the treatment of artifacts and museum management. Dr. Nancy Odegaard (second from left in back row) was contracted to conduct this assessment. Dr. Odegaard was the lead conservator and head of the preservation division at Arizona State Museum in Tucson. She was also a professor in the University of Arizona's School of Anthropology and Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Dr. Odegaard was accompanied by Arizona State Museum Conservation Lab Coordinator Gina Watkinson, a Post Graduate Fellow from the University of Delaware and a Graduate Intern from the University of California – Getty. This team spent two days with the Center's team (shown right) conducting a general conservation assessment of the Center's collection, environmental conditions, policies and practices.



The final report of the assessment was received on August 15. Dr. Odegaard noted that the “professionalism in the activities of the museum staff is very evident.” The report concludes that the Center “is well qualified to be an archaeological collections repository for Federal, State, Town or private collections in Arizona.” This was a major accomplishment for such a new organization, in large part thanks to the efforts of the team.

Members of the team were: Todd Bostwick, Ken Zoll, Jeanne and R.J. Smith, Diane and Jim Graceffa, Mary Kearney, Keith and Jeannie Greiner, Jo Parish and Bud Henderson.

Dr. Art E. Fact (2014 & 2019)

In 2014, VVAC became aware of two booklets for children that had been written and illustrated, many years before, by volunteers at Montezuma Castle National Monument. Neither had not been reprinted. One booklet, entitled *Stories of Early Arizona*, was written by Margaret Hensley with illustrations by Babs Monroe, a Camp Verde resident. It was a series of fictional stories about Sinagua children. The second was an accompanying booklet of puzzles and drawings. We also became aware of a booklet of archaeology puzzles created by Emily Long, who was then an intern in the Heritage Department of the Coconino National Forest. This also had not been printed in several years. The Forest Service booklet was combined with the earlier puzzle booklet. VVAC received permission from the Coconino National Forest and Babs Monroe to reproduce the booklets.

To tie these booklets to the Kid's Discovery Area in the new building, member Conrad Khin was asked to create a cartoon character of an archaeologist. Members who were working on the children's area named the figure Dr. Art E. Fact. Conrad also created a dog companion named “Digger.” To print the two booklets for free distribution to visiting children, two grants were received. In 2014, a grant was received from the Arizona Lottery, and in 2019 a grant from the Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County allowed for a reprint.



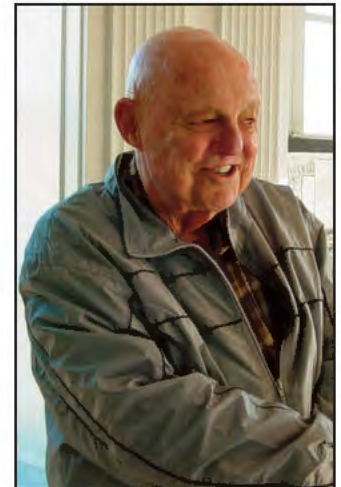
The Paul Dyck Rockshelter Collection (2014)

In 1960, Dr. Charles Rozaire of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles was invited by artist Paul Dyck (1917-2006) to excavate a rock shelter site on his Rimrock property. Excavations took place in 1962, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 by Dr. Rozaire with college students and volunteers. More than 20,000 well-preserved artifacts were recovered including pottery,

textiles, wooden objects, stone tools and a wide variety of plant and animal remains. The Dyck family contacted the Center in April 2014 concerning the items collected during this excavation. Since 1962, the items had been in a storage unit in Paul Dyck's studio in Rimrock. President Jim Graceffa and others visited the collection to assess their condition. After several discussions, the Dyck family offered the entire collection to the Center for storage, study and exhibition. The items were catalogued and moved to the Center.



John Dyck and Todd Bostwick at the Dyck Cliff Dwelling after the transfer of artifacts



Dr. Rozaire during his 2016 visit to the Center

Grey Fox Collection Arrives (2015)

As described earlier, the excavation of the Grey Fox Development, and the resulting artifact collection, was the impetus to start the Center. With the receipt of the “qualified” report from Dr. Odegaard, EnviroSystems was contacted to determine the status of this collection. The collection was still at EnviroSystems but ready to go to Sharlot Hall. EnviroSystems and Sharlot Hall agreed to release the collection to the Center in May 2015. This marked a major milestone in the Center's development and a recognition what we had achieved in our short history.



Simonton Ranch (2013-2015)

In addition to the Grey Fox Ridge Development, EnviroSystems also investigated property in Camp Verde known as the Simonton Ranch prior to a planned residential development. During the investigation two prehistoric burial sites were discovered. Both sites were excavated and the remains removed and reburied. In the final report, EnviroSystems noted that within the Whitehawke Parcel, north of the proposed Homestead Parkway, were six relatively undisturbed pit houses and another feature of unknown type that would benefit from additional study. This site was recorded with Arizona State Museum as AZ 0:5:155.

In early 2013, Scott Simonton, the owner of the property, was contacted to seek permission to excavate the features before any development was undertaken. Over the ensuing months, a legal document was developed to cover the excavation and to ensure that there would be no costs or liability for Mr. Simonton. In October 2013, Mr. Simonton visited the Center to discuss the document. During the visit, Mr. Simonton offered to donate “up to six acres” of the property to the Center that contained most of the features. To pursue this possible donation however, Mr. Simonton asked for a “conceptual document” as to what the Center would do with the property. The document was developed with the help of the Design Group Architects of Sedona who had donated their services. A conceptual plan for the six acres, plus the adjoining 9.28 acres to house a future archaeology campus, was developed and submitted to Mr. Simonton. At first he was taken aback by the plan that exceeded his initial offer but he eventually realized the potential of the plan and negotiations began for the entire 15.28 acres.

Negotiations with Mr. Simonton and the Town of Camp Verde proceeded through much of 2014 including meetings with the surrounding property owners. Meetings and hearings were also held with the Town's Planning and Zoning to change the zoning from residential to commercial to accommodate the Center. As negotiations continued, Mr. Simonton agreed to donate Parcel A (9.28 acres appraised at \$800,000) and to donate/sell Parcel B (6.0 acres appraised at \$570,000) for \$250,000 with Mr. Simonton carrying the note for this amount for five years. The title transfer papers were prepared and title was received on **July 16, 2015**.

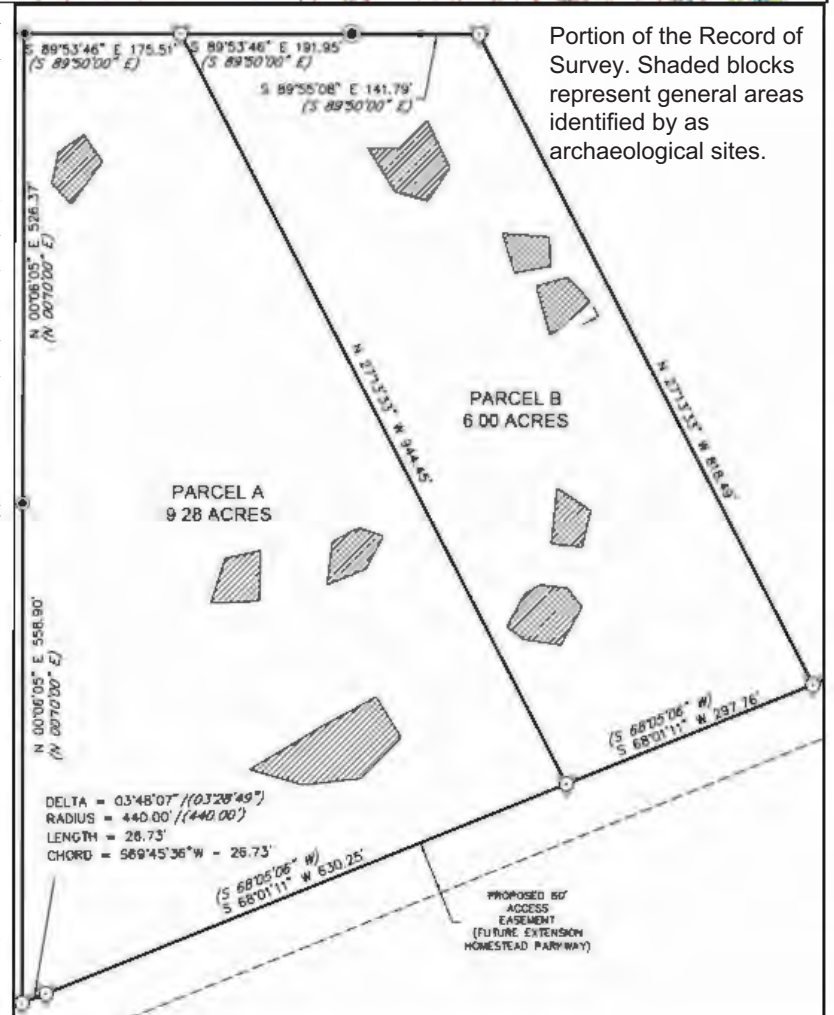
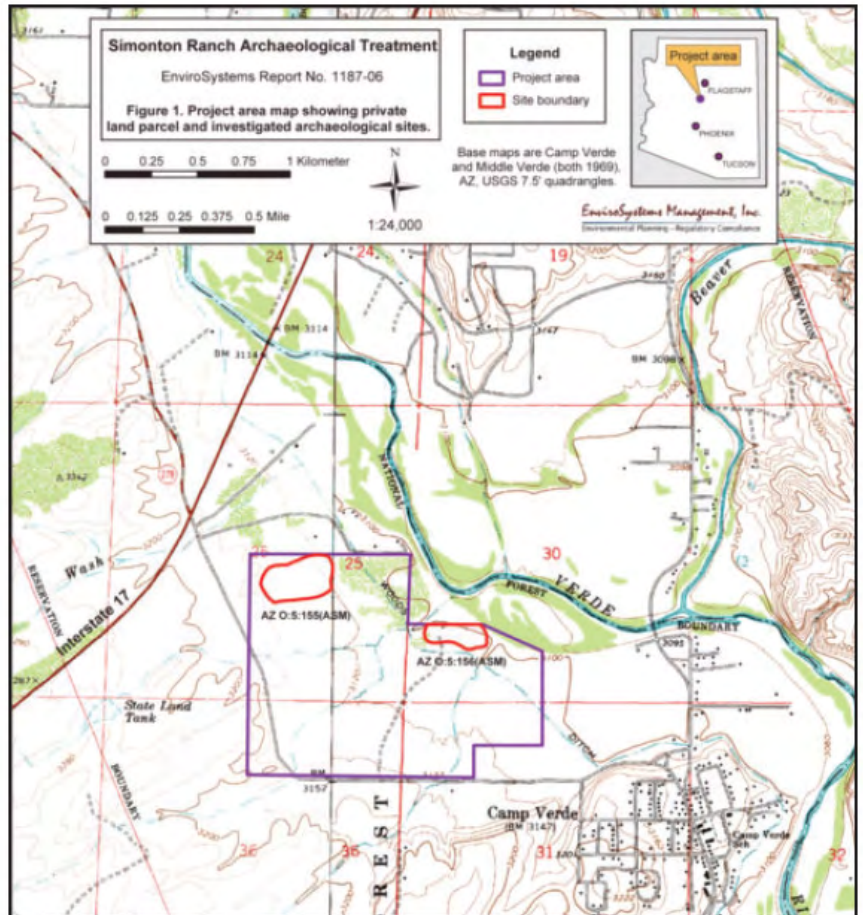
Native American Heritage Preserve (2015)

The initial investigation by EnviroSystems identified eight to ten pit house structures. Subsequent surveys by the VVAC revealed that there are twenty archaeological features, mostly pit houses but extramural hearths (fire pits outside a dwelling) as well. They are arranged in an arching pattern along the east and north end of the property. One pit house was excavated by EnviroSystems. The Center decided to leave the majority of the property undeveloped and designated as a Native American Heritage Preserve with an educational pathway and traditional use garden.

Pathway (2016-2017)

The Center received a service grant from the National Park Service River, Trails and Conservation Program in 2016. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) is a collaborative program that helps communities and public land managers with conservation and outdoor recreation projects. NPS-RTCA provided professional services, such as planning, design, and technical expertise, to help with projects. The Pathway Project vision was for the project is to develop an educational trail that will encompass the 6-8 pit house village structures that have been estimated to date from AD 650, highlighting the lifestyles of the people, the native horticulture of the area, and the connection of the village to the nearby Verde River. After several planning meetings with the National Park Service team, the trail was staked in the Spring of 2017.

Hopi Artist Gerry Quotskuyva, then of Rimrock, offered to design the first garden with Kayo Parsons-Korn. Since it was known that there had been burials on the property, before work on the trail or garden began, Gerry brought a "seer" elder from Hopi to the property. He walked the proposed trail to be sure the



spirits were “harmonious and tranquil” with the trail and garden. The seer advised that he only received feelings of “appreciation and gratitude.” Trail work began shortly thereafter.

Trail work was done by volunteers and with the “Camp Verde Old Guys.” The Old Guys was an informal group of Camp Verde retirees who enjoyed working on outdoor projects for any nonprofit, such as schools and libraries. They offered to help and brought much of the equipment need. The top four images on the next page show some of the work on trail preparation. Those are followed by work on developing the garden, the water line to the garden and the iron work gate to the garden. The garden development was funded with a donation from Donalyn Mikles, Kling Family Foundation.

Work continued with the design and printing of nine interpretive signs along the trail, based on a design provided by the NPS. After the Welcome sign were signs on the pit house, village life, wildlife, hunting, Yavapai-Apache wickiups, garden plantings and tools. Trail benches were also developed and purchased with donor contributions. Each sign and bench shows the donor’s name.

You may note that the welcome signs identifies the site as part of the “Verde River String of Pearls.” Similar signage is slated for many of the "pearls" along the Verde River. These pearls are special places where people can enjoy the river and all it has to offer. Upon Gerry Quotskuyva departure, Rob Estrada became the archaeobotanist for the gardens.



Gerry Quotskuyva examines first corn crop



Concrete sculptures of a desert tortoise, horned lizard and javelina were donated for along the trail.



Rob Estrada examines a squash crop



Pathway development



Pathway development



Pathway development



Pathway development



Garden development



Garden development



Garden waterline



Garden development

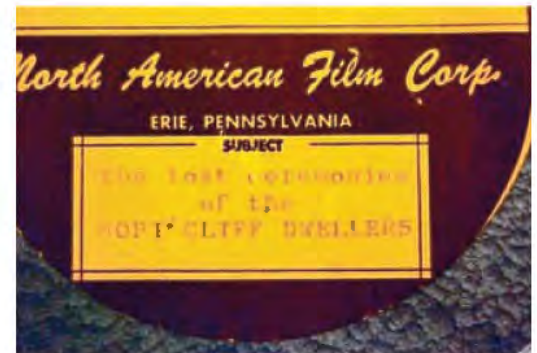


Garden entrance gate

The VVAC, Hopi, BBC and PBS (2012 - 2017)

In 2012, shortly after moving into the new space at 385 Main Street, a Camp Verde resident came into the Center with an unusual offer. He had been an antique dealer years earlier in Apache Junction. A woman came in to offer an inheritance to him. She had been the housekeeper of Milo Billingsley. Billingsley had been a teacher on Second Mesa in the 1920s, and eventually had a trading post in Apache Junction. Upon his death in 1982, he left his entire estate to her since he had no relatives. Most of the items were Native American artworks and antiques.

He purchased the lot and quickly sold everything except for three canisters of 16 mm film. He brought them with him when he retired to Camp Verde and offered to donate them to the Center. The label on one of the canisters read “The Lost Ceremonies of the Hopi Cliff Dwellers” from the 1950s. Intrigued, the offer was accepted.



To be able to assess the content and condition of the films, a donation was received to convert the three canisters of film to DVDs. Once the DVDs were received, an appointment was made with the Cultural Preservation Office of the Hopi Tribe. The films were shown to Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, and Stewart Koyiyumptewa. They were aware of the films but had never seen them. It was agreed that the VVAC and the Hopi Tribe should submit a joint grant request to preserve the films. A quote for the work was received from the Film Technology Company, Inc., Hollywood, CA, for \$6,540. A grant request was submitted to the National Film Preservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress to help save America's film heritage. The grant was approved and received in October 2012.

During 2013, the films underwent cleaning, audio enhancement and color corrections. They were returned with DVD copies as well as archival betacam videotapes. The original films and a DVD were given to the Hopi Tribe archivist. The VVAC retained the archival tape and DVD copies.

In 2014, the VVAC received a call from London concerning the films. A filmmaker was in the midst of a project to document the earliest musical recordings in America. Executive producers included Robert Redford and T. Bone Burnett. They had read an article about the films and were interested in visiting and using portions of the films in the documentary since the dancers and chanters in the film had also recorded the first Native American music at the El Tovar Hotel at the Grand Canyon for RCA records. They also requested our assistance in visiting the Hopi Mesas.

In June 2014, Ken Zoll accompanied the BBC film crew to Hopi for background shots and interviews. The documentary, *American Epic*, premiered at film festival around the world in 2016 and aired in three episodes in 2017 on BBC and PBS stations. The clips from the VVAC films appeared in Episode 3. The VVAC is shown in the credits of the films as well as in the companion book to the PBS series.



BBC film crew at Hopi reservation. Film director Bernard MacMahon standing in black.



National Park Service Agreement (2017)

In 2017, the VVAC entered into a General Agreement for Interpretation and Education Services with the National Park Service (NPS). The objective of this Interpretation and Education Services Agreement between NPS and VVAC was to establish a partnership to provide the public with interpretation and education services consistent with the standards established by the NPS Director; to define the role of VVAC; and to encourage through training opportunities for VVAC and NPS staff, an increased understanding and appreciation of park resources. This agreement recognizes the VVAC as the “official nonprofit partner” of the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot national monuments.



Development of Homestead Parkway (2017 - 2018)

Part of the agreement with Scott Simonton was that the Center would participate in installing the water main and other utilities along Homestead Parkway. The Town of Camp Verde received a grant from the Arizona Corporate Commission for curbs and paving of Homestead Parkway. VVAC committed \$75,000 to install the waterline. For the next 10 years, as other businesses or homes are attached to the water line, the VVAC would receive a portion of their water bills to compensate for the installation costs. Part of VVAC costs were met with donations in the form of \$50 per foot of water line. The Camp Verde water company changed their plans and increased the size of the main that they would require. This raised the cost to \$98,000. Scott Simonton donated the difference to complete the project.

In order to install the water line, there was concern that another pit house, possibly with a burial, would be encountered. To anticipate this possibility, the VVAC applied for a burial agreement with Arizona State Museum. Absent a burial agreement prior to construction, all construction would have to halt if a burial was discovered. There was a \$1,000 per day penalty for construction delay. A burial agreement was required as part of the 1990 Arizona burial law (A.R.S. 41-865).



Homestead utility work begins with VVAC crews monitoring the excavation for any archaeological indications.

Fortunately, no burials were discovered, although an additional pit house was identified. The image below left is of VVAC volunteers recording the pit house that was revealed during the installation.

The waterline installation included pipes for fiber optics and electricity. Upon completion of these utilities, construction of Homestead Parkway proceeded with completion in late 2018.



Work is suspended on the discovery of a pithouse. VVAC crews record the site so work can continue.



Utilities included the water main as well as conduit for fiber optic cables and electricity.



Homestead Parkway before construction



Homestead Parkway construction begins



Homestead Parkway curbs



Homestead Parkway completed

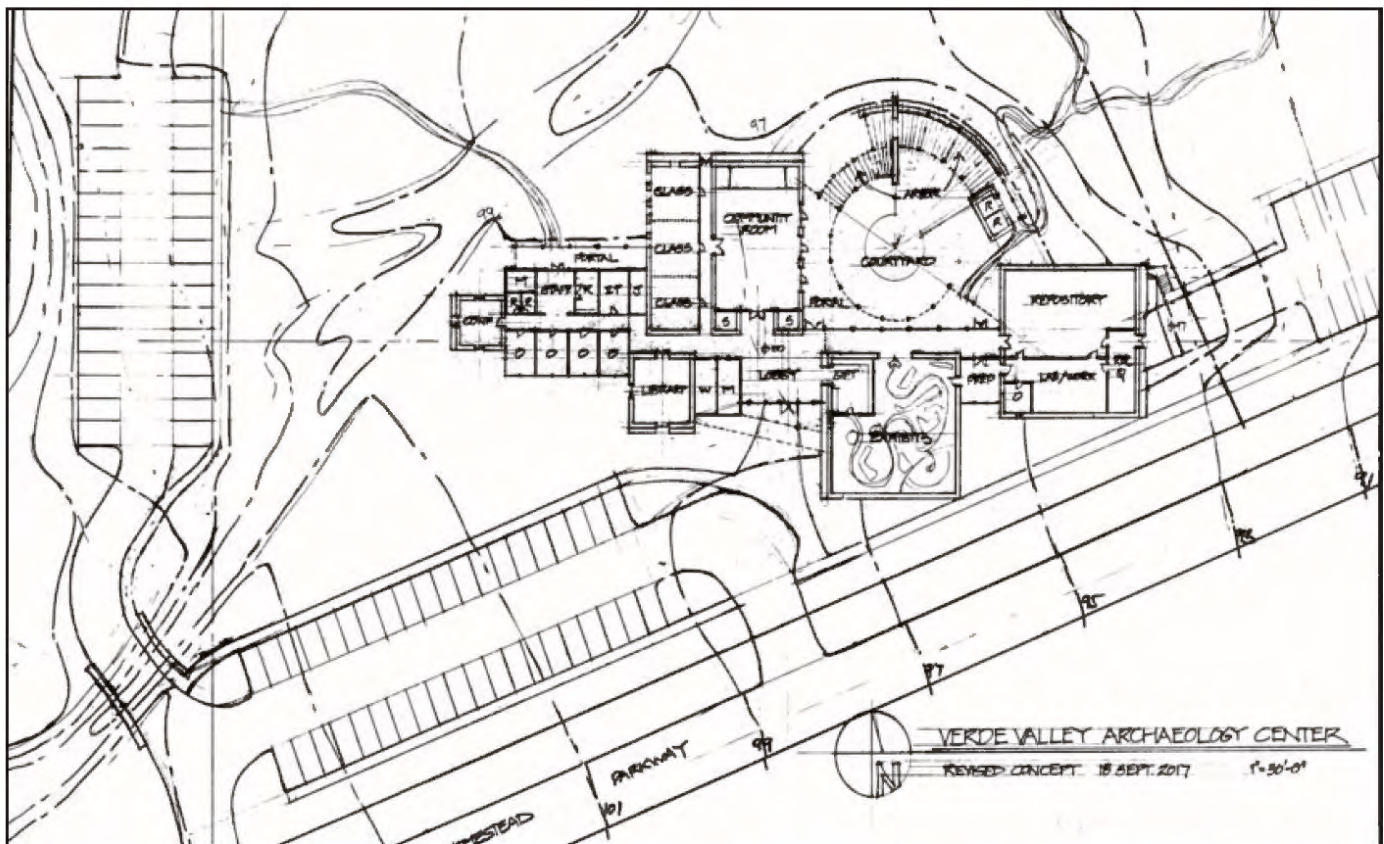
First Mortgage (2018)

As described earlier, the agreement with Scott Simonton for the Homestead Parkway property included a payment of \$250,000, plus interest, for Parcel B. Simonton carried the loan. In addition, the agreement required that construction of a museum building on the property would begun within five years (2020). It became clear to the Board that construction was unlikely to start in 2020. It was decided to secure a loan on the property in order to liquidate the obligation to Mr. Simonton. The pay-off included a release from the construction requirement.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Program (2019)

The VVAC became aware of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Economic Development Program. One program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses. Within the definition of an “essential community facility” are educational services as provided by a museum.

After several Board and USDA meetings, it was decided to pursue the construction of a museum campus with USDA funding. The architectural firm Design Group Architects of Sedona offered their services, mostly on a pro bono basis. Max Licher lead the project. The Board appointed an Ad hoc Development Committee to work with Max to develop the ideal structure. Kinney Construction of Flagstaff offered their services free of charge to develop the estimated construction costs. The facility would be constructed on part of the Homestead Parkway property that did not have any archaeological features. The final design was approved by the Board in June 2019. A model of the facility was developed to be used as part of the Capital Campaign. An application was filed with USDA for \$4,700,000 on July 14, 2019.

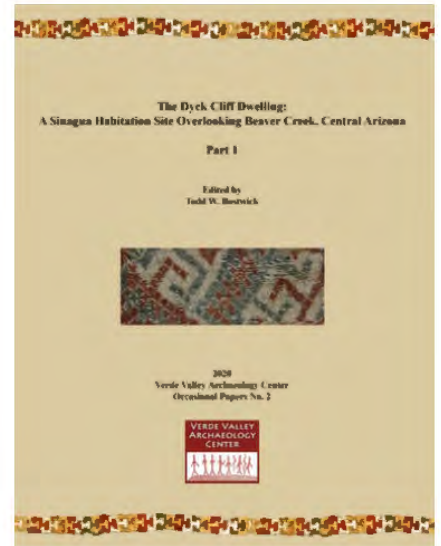


Covid-19 Pandemic Impact (2020)

Covid-19 began to be seen in December 2019. It was declared a pandemic in March 2020. The revenue projections provided to the USDA estimated the bulk of revenue to repay the loan would come from admission fees. In early 2020, museum and other public facilities began to shut down. USDA noted this trend and advised VVAC that they could not approve a loan in the amount requested out of concern that any future shutdowns would materially impact our ability to repay the loan. They did, however, suggest a smaller loan of about half the amount requested. After consultations with the architect, builder and the Board, it was decided to “shelve” any new construction.

Dyck Cliff Dwelling Study Published (2020)

After five years of research and editing, Dr. Bostwick completed and published *The Dyck Cliff Dwelling: A Sinagua Habitation Site Overlooking Beaver Creek, Central Arizona*, in July 2020. This two-volume report presents a history of excavations and recent analysis of thousands of well-preserved artifacts from a Sinagua cliff dwelling located on private land northwest of Montezuma Castle National Monument. The report is more than 700 pages in length and includes 111 tables, numerous black and white photographs taken during excavations in the 1960s and early 1970s, and over 300 color photographs of the artifacts and architecture. This was a monumental undertaking by Dr. Bostwick and the results show. The initial supply of books and CD version sold out rapidly. The VVAC recently converted the book to print-on-demand that is available on Amazon. Additional CDs were also ordered and are available in the museum store.



Hope for Hopi (2020)

The Hopi are a peaceful and creative people, spiritually-rich, in contrast with the abject poverty in which they live. To reduce the virus spread, their community ceremonies for rain and peace were cancelled. The villages were closed to visitors, so tourist income halted. Many Hopi were unable to get to the large stores in Winslow or Tuba City. They were unable to work or earn money for supplies and were stretched to their limit to purchase foods from the small local market -- if they could even get to it, and if there were any goods left on the shelves. Members Dale Bellisfield and Gerry Eaton were in contact with the Hopi Emergency Management people and Shungopavi Security. A call went out to members for donations of funds and food items. At the end of the drive on May 3, many bags of food items were donated, and cash donations totalled \$17,074. Items from their wish-list were purchased with these funds and delivered on May 5. There was also had sufficient funds to purchase two commercial refrigerators at their request.

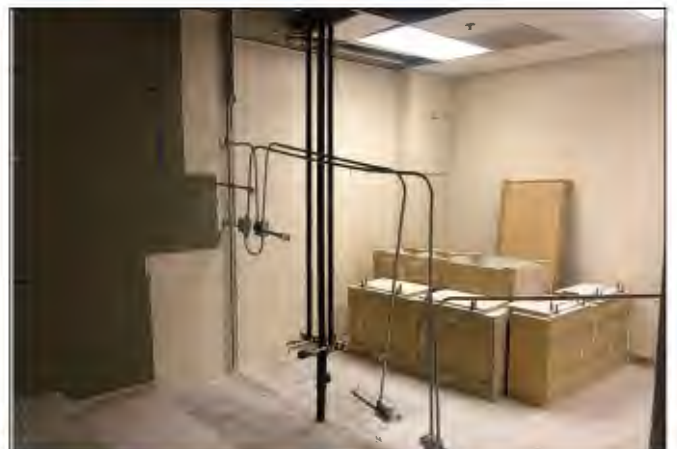


Search for a New Home (2020 - 2021)

Despite the loss of the USDA loan, and the high cost of construction, the need for more space was still a major concern. A search began for a possible existing structure that could meet our current and future needs. There were few options available but just down the road from the Main Street location was an abandoned building for lease at 460 W. Finnie Flat Road that had been the former Verde Valley Medical Center. The owner advised that he would consider selling the property. The location was visited several times by the Development Committee, Board Members and major donors. The USDA advised that they could reopen our previous application and provide a loan of up to \$1,000,000 to complete the purchase and for renovations. A Letter of Intent to Purchase was prepared in January 2021.

The appraised value of the building was \$1,500,000. It was explained to the owner that a “bargain sale” to a charitable organization reduces the tax liability of the donating party because it is considered a tax-deductible sale. The owner agreed to lower the price to \$1,250,000. The site was shown to the Paul Dyck Foundation as a potential repository for their significant artifact donation. They endorsed the purchase with a significant donation toward the purchase. The owner then approached VVAC inquiring about the possible exchange of part of the Homestead property toward the purchase price. A 6-acre portion of the property was partitioned and exchanged for \$675,000 toward the purchase price.

The USDA loan assumed the existing loan on the property mentioned earlier, covered the balance of the purchase price, and provided \$500,000 toward renovations. Upon completion of the renovations, closing on the USDA mortgage of \$993,000 took place on July 26, 2021, with terms of 2.250% for 35 years. Todd Bostwick said: “I remember a conversation we [Ken and Todd] had many years ago when you told me you were determined to create a high class professional museum, and by golly, under your leadership and with the help of numerous volunteers and others, it has been done.” The VVAC Board of Directors decided to name the museum building the Ken and Nancy Zoll Building for their many years of work to make this a reality.



Deputy Director Hired (2021)

After the purchase of the new building, Monica Buckle was recruited and joined the VVAC as Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Curator of Fine Arts. Monica’s arrival and art business background was fortuitous as she participated extensively in the remodeling of the new building including structural layout, interior design, exhibit design, and co-management of the total renovations. Monica assumed the position of Executive Director on May 2, 2022, after the retirement of Executive Director and VVAC Founder, Ken Zoll. after the retirement of Executive Director Ken Zoll.



Monica Buckle is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. Monica holds a Master’s Degree in Art Business from Sotheby’s Institute of Art in New York and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. She provides a Native dialogue for the representation of Indigenous subject matter with her cultural knowledge and inter-tribal sensitivity. She is an advocate for the sustainability and cultural continuity of Native communities and tribal sovereign nations.

Monica is also affiliated with the Tucson Museum of Art and serves as an Arizona Humanities Scholar and a Guest Curator. She is on the Board of Directors with the Mesa Verde Foundation in Colorado. The Mesa Verde Foundation is the official philanthropic partner to Mesa Verde National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ribbon Cutting (2021)

The “official” Grand Opening ceremonies were held on March 19-20, 2021. It is estimated that almost 300 people attended on March 19 and another 150 on Sunday.



Repository and Repatriation

As mentioned earlier, one of the driving forces to secure additional space was the growing collection of artifacts. With USDA and private funding, we were to install state-of-the-art museum storage cabinetry. Funds also permitted the development of a clean, comfortable and professional laboratory for staff and volunteers.



The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) established protocols for museums and other institutions to return human remains, funerary objects and other holdings to tribes. The VVAC museum has worked hard to be in full compliance with NAGPRA from its inception in 2010. Before VVAC was formed, it consulted with the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the Hopi Tribe to explain its mission and to seek their advice. Both the Yavapai-Apache Nation and Hopi Tribe cultural preservation offices have been members of the VVAC Advisory Council since 2011. According to Executive Director Monica Buckle, cultural representatives have visited the museum exhibits and approved the displays. The VVAC set aside a separately secured room to hold any potential sensitive objects subject to return to the tribes. Under the VVAC repatriation program, it has returned objects to the Hopi Tribe and to the Zuni Tribe in New Mexico. The VVAC covers all costs related to the repatriation, including tribal representative travel expenses.

Repository services have grown to offer curation services, laboratory analysis, and excavations on a contract-basis.

Children's Adventure Room and Library

The expanded space allowed for the development of two additional features: a room dedicated to educating children, and a library for researchers. The Children's room includes tables and chairs for artwork, weaving or reading. There is also a Virtual Excavation sandbox that allows children to "find" virtual artifacts as they work through the sand. The library, part of the Yavapai County Library Network, includes an adjoining reading room.



Tom and Janet Taylor cut the ribbon to open the Taylor Children's Adventure Room, funded with their generous donation.



The library has over 3,300 items in its inventory. The library and the reading room have been funded through the generosity of Robert and Estelle Jonas.

VVAC Relationships

The VVAC has expanded its footprint as a state-of-the-art cultural institution with a robust schedule of exhibits, events, speaker series, educational programming, community outreach, excursions, and hikes. In addition, the new building and collection center has afforded VVAC the opportunity to enhance key partnerships with the National Park Service, Forest Service, Tribal Nations, Northern Arizona University, regional non-profit organizations, visiting school and tourism groups.

Due to the new facility, organizational growth, inter-institutional collaborations, and reputation in the archaeological and scientific communities the VVAC has received significant archaeological collections that enhance VVAC's stewardship. As well as, the museum's narrative to the general public regarding the Ancestral Hopi and Ancestral Puebloan world of the Verde Valley and Sedona region. In addition to the museum's Yavapai-Apache Nation Gallery contemporary Native American perspectives, art, and oral stories are represented in the museum space.

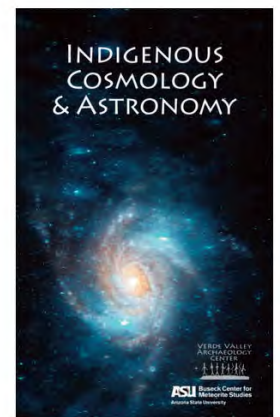
Grand Canyon Exhibit (2023)

In September 2023 VVAC opened a new exhibit containing of artifacts from the Grand Canyon Museum Collection at Grand Canyon National Park. *One Canyon – Three Worlds: Inside the Grand Canyon National Park Collections* is a comprehensive exhibition that features artifacts, cultural items and interpretation from three time periods of human experience in the Grand Canyon. The exhibit is in partnership with the Grand Canyon Museum Collection. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum is the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. The Grand Canyon Museum Collection has been most gracious to entrust VVAC with this one-of-a-kind opportunity that brings the incredibly rich ethnographic and archaeological history of the Grand Canyon to the Verde Valley community. VVAC will serve as stewards to this exhibit that will run until February 2025.



Indigenous Cosmology and Astronomy Exhibit (2023)

In 2023, the VVAC opened an exhibit covering the astronomical discoveries made in the Sedona and Verde Valley area. It is the only archaeoastronomy museum exhibit in the country. Archaeoastronomy is the multi-disciplinary study of how people in the past have understood the phenomena in the sky, how they used these phenomena, and what role the sky played in their cultures. The exhibit includes three meteorites that were found in the Verde Valley, in or near Sinagua sites. The meteorites are on a three-year loan from the Buseck Center for Meteorite Studies at Arizona State University.

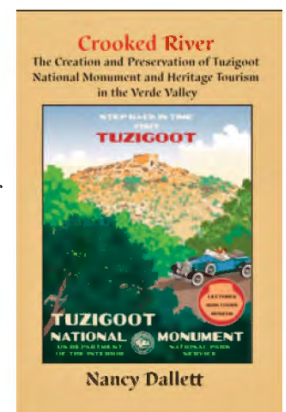


Monica Buckle Appointed to Commission (2023)

In 2023, Arizona Governor Katty Hobbs appointed Monica as a Commissioner on the Arizona Commission on the Arts. The Commission is an agency of the State of Arizona whose mission is to create funding and opportunities for all Arizonans to participate in and experience the arts.

Tuzigoot National Monument Publication (2024)

In May 2024, the VVAC published the first book ever written on the historical development of the Tuzigoot National Monument. *Crooked River: The Creation and Preservation of Tuzigoot National Monument and Heritage Tourism in the Verde Valley*, was written by Nancy Dallett, under contract with the National Park Service. As part of the VVAC partnership with the National Park Service, VVAC provided design and publication services to print this book that had been in development for many years.



Projects

During the past 15 years, the VVAC has been involved in several projects for the Archaeological Conservancy, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and universities. Some of these are shown below.



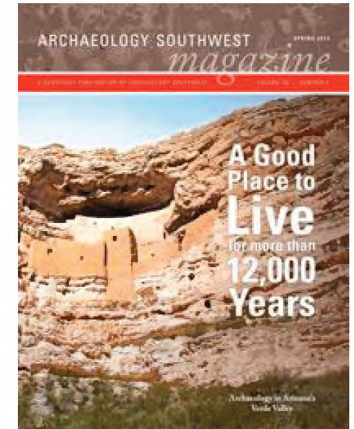
2011 VVAC arranged for scaffolding at the then V-bar-V to examine the boulders that produce calendar effects



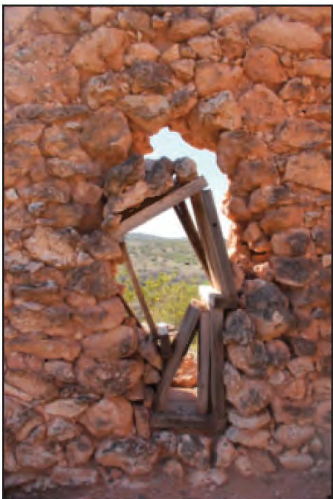
2012 VVAC excavates areas for telephone poles on a site owned by the Archaeological Conservancy



2015 Working with Arizona State University, the Camp Verde meteorite was put on display for the first time



2014 Working with Archaeology Southwest, the entire Spring magazine was devoted to Verde Valley archaeology



2017 VVAC stabilized the Archaeological Conservancy's Atkeson Pueblo ruins



2012 - 2024 VVAC has conducted numerous field surveys for the Forest Service



2021-2022 VVAC received a grant to digitize a portion of the textiles from the Dyck Collection



2015 VVAC hosted the Arizona Archaeological Council's Fall Conference on projectile point analysis



2013 and 2017 VVAC assisted the Prescott National Forest on the Hayfield project that started in 2013 as a recovery project. Excavations were done in 2017.



2023 VVAC provided sample coprolites from the Dyck Cliff Dwelling for a study of the diet of its inhabitants



The Verde Valley Archaeology Center could not exist without the financial support of its members and donors. All donors of at least \$1,000 are shown on plaques on the Honoring Philanthropy wall in the Center. Major donors are recognized below.

Naming Rights Donations for the Verde Valley Archaeology Center & Museum

Collection Center - Paul Dyck Foundation Research Institution of American Indian Culture

Lobby - Larry Watkins

Children's Adventure Room - Tom and Janet Taylor

Meeting Room - Jim and Diana Kemper

Library - Robert and Estelle Jonas

Executive Director's Office - Robert and Estelle Jonas

Archaeologist's Office - Robert and Estelle Jonas

Curator's Office - Linda and Roger Holtom

Board Room - Linda and Buck Buchanan

Courtyard Landscaping - Tom and Janet Taylor

Lobby Hopi Mural - Amy and Greg Welden

Donor Patio - Jim and Diana Kemper

Hisatsinom Exhibit 1 - Elaine Marstad

Hisatsinom Exhibit 2 - Roger and Linda Holtom

Local Ceramics Exhibit - Janet and Jerry Walters

Tradeware Ceramics Exhibit - Kathy Davis

Verde Salt Mine Exhibit - Kathy Davis

Geology Exhibit - RJ and Jeanne Smith

Indigenous Cosmology & Astronomy Exhibit - Anne Bingaman

Farming and Gathering Exhibit - Bashas

Weaving tools and Cotton Textile Exhibit - Kathy Davis

Yucca and Agave Weaving Exhibit - Kathy Davis

Philanthropic Partners

\$250,000 +

Scott and Bonnie Simonton

Paul Dyck Foundation Research Institution of American Indian Culture

Donalyn Mikles - Kling Family Foundation

Archaeologist's Circle

\$50,000 - \$249,000

Robert and Estelle Jonas

Ken and Marcia Lee

Tom and Janet Taylor

Larry Watkins

President's Circle

\$10,000 - \$49,000

Rex and Karen Adams

Anne Bingaman

Linda and Buck Buchanan

Glenna Carline

Margaret Gay Chanler

Kathy Davis

James and Diane Graceffa

Roger and Linda Holtom

Jim and Diana Kemper

Donna Rae Larson

Dean and Kathy Olson

Jo Parish

Jon and Terri Petrescu

Dennis and Janet Shaw

Rj and Jeanne Smith

Todd and Mary Jane Stell

Joy Thon

Gerald and Janet Walters

Robert Whiting

George and Pat Witteman

Ken and Nancy Zoll

