



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

EXHIBIT DESIGN SERVICES FOR FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTER

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Madera County is making a Request for Proposals for exhibit design services to assist the project manager in the planning, design, specification, procurement, and installation of interior and exterior exhibits for a new 7,500 square foot Fossil Discovery Center. The project site is 4 acres in area and is west of Highway 99 at the intersection of Road 19 1/2 and Avenue 21 1/2 in Fairmead, California (see attachment).

DATE OF ADVERTISEMENT: February 27, 2009

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: March 16, 2009

1. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Madera County, in partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Paleontology Foundation, is in the process of developing a Fossil Discovery Center. The project will be located at the end of a new exit of State Route 99 adjacent to the Fairmead landfill in Madera County, the site of one of the largest middle-Pleistocene fossil excavations in North America. These fossils are of particular significance for California and the western United States because there are few sites known from this time period, especially with so many species present. The focus of the facility will be an interpretation of both, the paleontology activity and the landfill activity. These diverse themes will be united by showing how the world of the past became the world of the present, and how our current activities, including waste disposal, will shape the world of the future.

The facility will consist of modular buildings arranged around a central courtyard, which will also include display opportunities. The buildings will house exhibit areas, audio/visual education displays, and fossil preparation stations where volunteers clean and identify specimens in the presence of the visitors, answering questions and helping to share the excitement of pre-historical discovery. Adjacent to the facility will be a "staged dig area" with hands-on paleontology activities, such as sifting dirt for microfossils. The front elevation of the modular structure will feature a 15' high window with a full size Columbian Mammoth display that is oriented toward the freeway off ramp, providing visual identification from nearby Route 99.

The County intends the Consultant to oversee (in coordination with the project manager) the implementation of the project, providing itemized cost estimates, design and contract bidding services. The Consultant shall provide a representative during construction; provide detailed construction plans and specifications in hard copy and electronic format.

Construction financing is from multiple grant funds with explicit deadlines that must be adhered to; consideration to be given to Consultant that can begin without delay, time is of the essence because this project must be occupied by August 2009. This is a public works project and must be assessed with prevailing wage as required.

Proposals should conform to the following: Please limit your response to 10 pages per copy, not including résumés. All pages are to be numbered and shall include an index. Eight (8) copies shall be submitted.

2. **PROJECT SCOPE:**

The scope of Consultant's services shall include at least the following items. The County understands the RFP may be inadequate to fully describe the work envisioned. Consultants should include additional tasks they deem appropriate. Include written reasons why a task should be included, and an estimate of the fee required to complete the task.

The fee included in each proposal will be considered estimated until such time as a detailed scope of work is negotiated between the County and the chosen Consultant. At that time, the Consultant may demonstrate that adjustments to the estimated fees are required because of material changes in their understanding of the required or desired scope of work.

The County's intent is to be able to agree upon a scope of work that will meet the needs of the County with a fee package providing fair compensation to the Consultant.

Minimum design/work tasks will include:

Project Design:

- Outdoor Exhibit Area Plan- Mock Dig Area and Stand Alone Displays
- Indoor Exhibit Area Plan- Stand alone Displays, Audio/Visual Educational Displays, Gift Shop/Snack Bar, Fossil Preparation Stations
- Unified Signage Plan for Facility
- Electrical Outlet and Lighting Plan

Specifications: Assist in the specification of fixtures, display cases, art work (or artists) and displays.

Bidding Services: The Consultant will assist the project manager during the bid period (multiple will be required), assist in preparation of bid documents, make recommendations regarding bids, and assist during administration of the construction contract.

Exhibit Installation: Provide a representative during construction, to respond as needed and provide clarification of construction plans and specifications to ensure proper installation.

3. **CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION:**

A qualifying proposal shall address all of the following items, in the order set forth:

1. Applicant or Firm Name
2. Firm Qualifications
 - a. Type of Organization, size (local office and total firm size), professional registrations and affiliations, number of years as a firm.
 - b. Names and qualifications of personnel assigned to Project. Include project manager and all professional staff expected to take responsible roles.
 - c. Outline of recent projects completed that are similar to this project.
 - d. Client references from recent projects, including name, address and telephone of individuals to contact.

Consultant is required to demonstrate specific expertise relating to the requirements of the Project Scope.

4. **PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH**

- a. Summary of approach to be taken for the project.
- b. A definitive work program and schedule, including schedule for completion of the exhibit creation and installation. Identify and include all tasks not under Consultant's control, and provide estimated times based upon prior experience.
- c. List any information and tasks expected from the County. Any information or tasks needed but not listed is the responsibility of the winning bidder.
- d. Proposals are to be concise and include only those items that are relevant to the Project Scope.
- e. The fee proposal shall be enclosed in a separate, sealed, envelope identified as "Fee Proposal for Exhibit Services, Fossil Discovery Center."

5. **FEES AND INSURANCE**

Proposals shall include estimated fees to complete the project as described under Project Scope:

- a. Estimated fees must include all labor, materials, equipment, professional services, insurance, travel, profit, and all other costs and expenses for the proposed project.
- b. Submit an itemized fee schedule as a basis for all proposed services and any extra services not included in item (a) above, if applicable.
- c. Insurance coverage for proposed services shall include general liability and property damage insurance that shall include automobile liability insurance in a combined single limit of not less than \$1 million dollars. Professional Liability Insurance (E&O) coverage of \$1 million is also required.
- d. The selected firm shall provide within ten (10) days after the notice of award is issued a copy of their existing liability insurance certificate naming the County of Madera and its

officers and employees as an additionally named insured on said policies. Such insurance coverage shall be maintained in full force and effect for the duration of the Contract and must be in a form satisfactory to the County.

6. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL AND SELECTION

- a. All proposals must be received not later than 5:00 PM on Monday, March 16, 2009. Late proposals will not be considered.
- b. All correspondences or inquiries should be directed to:

COUNTY OF MADERA
Resource Management Agency
Department of Administrative Services
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Madera, California 93637
Lori Gardner, Director of RMA Administrative Services
(559) 661-6333
lgardner@madera-county.com
- c. All costs for preparation of proposals shall be borne by the proposer.
- d. County staff will review the proposals and select the one that they believe is most advantageous to the project, prior to opening the fee proposal envelope.
- e. The fee proposal will be used as a basis for negotiations with the selected Consultant of a final scope of work and proposed fee arrangement. If no acceptable arrangement can be negotiated, the County may terminate talks with the highest-ranked Consultant and initiate negotiations with the next-ranked Consultant, and so forth until a final agreement is reached. This agreement will then be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- f. The Board of Supervisors will make the final selection and award. The Board may or may not choose to interview the recommended Consultant prior to award.
- g. This request does not constitute an offer of employment or to contract for services.
- h. The County reserves the option to reject any or all proposals received in response to this Request for Proposals, wholly or in part.
- i. The County reserves the right to retain all proposals, whether selected or rejected.
- j. All proposals shall remain firm for sixty-one (61) working days following the closing date for receipt of proposals.
- k. The successful Consultant will be expected to enter into a contract of substantially the same format as the attached sample form.
- l. The County reserves the right to award the Consultant services contract to the firm that, in the sole judgment of the County, can best accomplish the desired results. Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, consideration of the Consultant's qualifications and experience, the Consultant's understanding of and approach to the project, and the negotiated fee for services.

FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTER

Proposed Exhibits, Displays, & Programs

• Contents	1 - 3
• Exhibits	
Fairmead Exhibits	3 - 4
Dig Site Exhibit	
Fairmead Fossils and Animals	
Fairmead Watering Hole	
How Fossils Are Recovered, Processed and Preserved	
Microfossils	
General Exhibits	4 - 5
Fossil Types and Formation	
Madera County Rocks and Minerals	
Molding and Casting Fossil Models	
Trace Fossils and Their Importance	
• Displays	
Fairmead Oriented Displays	5 - 6
Central California Geological Features	
Fairmead's Pleistocene Ecology	
Fairmead Through Time	
Local Soils & Their Provenance	
Plant Life – Then & Now	
Pliocene & Pleistocene Climate	
Rancholabrean, Irvingtonian, & Blancan Animals – Comparisons & Contrasts	
San Joaquin Valley Stratigraphy	
Significant Paleontology Sites of California	
Survivors of the Pleistocene Extinction	
The Evolution of Horses	
The San Joaquin Valley Through Time	
General Displays	6 - 10
Americas Earliest Human Inhabitants	
America's Other Elephants	
Beringia	
California's Ancient Lakes and Rivers	
California's National Parks & Monuments	
California's Official Natural Symbols	
Dinosaurs in California	
Earthquakes & California's Fault Systems	
General Displays (continued)	
Extinction Events	
Fossil Art	
Fossil Fuels and Other Useful Fossil Materials	
Fundamentals of Evolution	
Geology of California	

Geological History of California
 Geological Time Scale
 Geomagnetism
 Glacial Features of California
 Ice Ages
 Index Fossils
 Native Americans
 North American Ice Age Climate and Vegetation Patterns
 Pleistocene Hominids
 Pleistocene Extinctions
 Plate Tectonics and Continental Drift
 Relative and Radiometric Dating
 Significant People in Paleontology and the Earth Sciences
 Taphonomy
 Tertiary Animals of North America
 Tertiary and Quaternary Period Migrations
 The Last Mammoths
 Volcanoes of California
 Water and Groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley
 What Fossil Bones Tell Us

• **Education & Youth Oriented Programs**

11 - 12

Day Camps
 Educational Program Coordination
 Interactive Question and Answer
 Junior Scientists
 Mobile Discovery Center
 Peer Docents
 School Classroom Presentations and Programs
 Simulated Dig
 Student Materials
 Summer Camp
 Teacher Training and Orientation
 Youth Program Coordination

• **Discovery Center Programs & Activities**

12 - 13

Amateur Paleontologists and Geologists
 Dig Site and Fossil Preparation Volunteers
 Discovery Center Docents
 Field Trip Programs
 Fossil Discovery Center Newsletter
 Fund Raising and Special Events
 Partnerships
 Publicity and Community Outreach
 Satellite Displays
 Social Gatherings
 Special Speakers and Evening Programs

• **Misc. Contributions**

14 - 15

Animal Tracks
 Arts and Artists
 Bone & Fossil Casts
 Contributor Plaques and Wall

Museum Layout
Pleistocene Park
Self-Guided Audio Tours
Silhouettes
Video Displays

• Fossil Discovery Center - Tentative Site Plan

16

Exhibits

• Fairmead Exhibits

Dig Site Exhibit

The dig exhibit will show the layout, tools, and procedures used by paleontologists. This exhibit can be linked to the "**Simulated Dig**" activity for students.

Fairmead Fossils & Animals

Fossil and animal exhibits should occupy the largest portion of the Discovery Center. All selected Fairmead animals should be grouped by taxa. Fossils, models, and associated displays would be included for each animal in the group. Castings of complete skeletons of major Fairmead animals should be prominently displayed.

Fairmead Watering Hole

This exhibit should include native plants that may have been around at the time of the Pleistocene. Landscaping around the museum should represent a valley scene, perhaps a riparian area. The advantage of using native plants is that many are drought tolerant, and the streamside plants; such as cottonwood, willows, ash, etc. grow very quickly and will provide shade. Many, if not all, were probably around at the time, and would tie into the whole theme of the museum. A watering hole would replicate what the Madera area was like during the Pleistocene. Using native plants creates another avenue for education. Children and adults could learn about the environment that existed at the time the Fairmead animals existed. This area should contain life-size models of the major animals at the Fairmead Site.

How Fossils Are Recovered, Processed & Preserved

This extensive exhibit will show what processes and procedures are followed after the fossils are removed from a site. This exhibit could be linked to "**Diorama of a Dig**". The progress of a fossil specimen will be followed from recovery to display. **Patrons should have an opportunity to observe the operations of the fossil lab.**

Microfossils

This exhibit will feature microphotographs of pollen, diatoms, foraminifera, radiolarians and other forms of microscopic fossils. Prepared slides and user-friendly microscopes will allow the public to view these slides. Displays should accompany this exhibit explaining the importance of microfossils in paleontology, archeology, climate studies, and mineral exploration. This can be adapted to be an interactive exhibit for students to view microfossils on prepared slides.

• General Exhibits

Fossils Types & Formation

This exhibit will highlight the many types of fossilization processes and environments. This exhibit will display several examples of each type of fossil and the environments in which they may be found.

Madera County Rocks & Minerals

This will be an exhibit of "local interest" which would highlight minerals and rocks of Madera County. This exhibit may also display information on historical and current of mining activities. The exhibit should have a map showing the location of rock and mineral locations. Examples of the various rocks and minerals should be exhibited. The "Rock Cycle" should be included in this display if not included in general displays.

Molding & Casting Fossil Models

This exhibit will show the procedures used to produce models from casts of actual fossils. The exhibit should contain a variety of models using casting methods. This exhibit can involve interactive, hands-on activity for students. This display could be linked to a hands-on activity for youth.

Trace Fossils & Their Importance

The various types of trace fossils and their formation should be presented. Fairmead trace fossils should be exhibited. The importance of trace fossils in understanding ancient life should be stressed.

Displays

•Fairmead Oriented Displays

Central California Geological Features

This display should include maps, pictures, and diagrams presenting geological information on Table Mountain, Yosemite Valley, the local river systems, and other prominent local geological features.

Fairmead's Pleistocene Ecology

This display will present the relationships and interactions between living organisms of Pleistocene Fairmead and their natural environment. This should be a high priority, well –done display.

Fairmead Through Time

A comparison the of the environment, flora, and fauna of Pleistocene and the modern Fairmead area. Comparisons and contrasts of the biomes should be emphasized. This display could be incorporated with "**Fairmead's Pleistocene Ecology**".

Local Soils & Their Provenance

The origin and nature of major surface soil types found locally. An excellent example is found at U. C. Davis Agricultural display.

Plant Life – Then & Now

This display will be comparison of local native plant life to plants existing at Fairmead during the Pleistocene. Effects of biotic and abiotic factors should be stressed. This exhibit should compliment the pond and exterior landscaping.

Pliocene & Pleistocene Climate

Climate and climactic changes during the Pliocene and Pleistocene will be described with respect to the North American continent and the Fairmead region. Comparisons to current climate should be made.

Rancholabrean, Irvingtonian, & Blancan Animals – Comparisons & Contrasts

This display will offer comparisons of the fauna that characterize these 3 major land mammal ages. This display should include maps, diagrams, and pictures and/or models of representative animals from each age.

San Joaquin Valley Stratigraphy

This display will present an overview of various major strata in the valley with emphasis on their economic and hydrologic importance. This display can be linked with "**The San Joaquin Valley Through Time**".

Significant Paleontology Sites of California

California's major paleontology sites will be described using maps and pictures or models of animals. This display should emphasize the age and significance of each site.

Survivors of the Pleistocene Extinction

Identifies and describes those species of Pleistocene Fairmead that are still extant in the area. Replicas or stuffed specimens should be displayed.

The Evolution of Horses

This display may have a lot of "local interest". Similar displays are located at Buena Vista Museum and the Grand Canyon Visitors Center.

The San Joaquin Valley Through Time

Maps, diagrams, or models of the San Joaquin Valley will describe its geological history & features during the Cenozoic Era.

• General Displays

America's Earliest Human Inhabitants

Sites, evidence and theories of pre-Columbian human migrations into North America will be explained.

America's Other Elephants

This display will present an overview of the evolution of elephant species extending back 28 million years (late Oligocene). This display should provide information about the various mammoth and mastodon species, their ranges and habitats.

Beringia

Beringia was a geographical region connecting Siberia to North America. This display should show climate, flora, and fauna in the area during the last glacial maximum (LGM). Migrations during the various Periods should be presented, with Tertiary Period and Pleistocene Epoch migrations emphasized. This display could be incorporated into "**Tertiary and Quaternary Period Migrations**".

California's Ancient Lakes and Rivers

Maps should show California's large lakes and rivers of the Pleistocene Epoch. The impact of the ice ages should be emphasized. Their effects on present day geography and watercourses should be presented.

California's National Parks & Monuments

A display including a map of the National Parks and Monuments of California and the physical and geological features that make them unique.

California's Official Natural Symbols

This display would include samples of California's adopted official items. These official symbols would include:

rock	serpentine
mineral	gold
gem	benitoite
fossil	saber-tooth cat (smilodon)

Other natural adoptions, such as mammal, marine mammal, flower, bird, tree, grass etc. could be included.

Dinosaurs In California

This display will highlight the dinosaurs and other Mesozoic reptiles of California along with information on age and location of the formations in which they were found. This display should contain numerous models, pictures, and diagrams.

Earthquakes & California's Fault Systems

Maps will show California's fault systems and how they have shaped the landscape. The mechanics of earthquakes and seismology will be explained. Emphasis will be placed on California's major fault systems. This display could be incorporated with "**Geology of California**" & "**Plate Tectonics**".

Extinction Events

This display will explain the concept of extinction and present major and minor extinction events with theories for their causes.

Fossil Art

This display will include art objects fashioned from fossil materials. Carvings, ornaments, jewelry and other items may be displayed.

Fossil Fuels & Other Useful Fossil Materials

The formation and uses of various fossil fuels will be explained. Useful fossil materials such as chalk, diatomite, and limestone will be presented.

Fundamentals of Evolution

The fundamental theory and principals of evolution should be presented. Examples and applications to paleontology and the geologic history of the region will be presented.

Geology of California

This could be a large format map that may be readily available through the California Dept. of Natural Resources (the old Division of Mines). California's physical provinces should also be presented. A listing of California's 14,000-foot peaks should be contrasted with low points such as Bad Water in Death Valley.

Geological History of California

California's geological history will be explained emphasizing the formation of major physical features. The role of plate tectonics will be stressed.

Geological Time Scale

This should be a well-planned display presented in two formats. It should include a large colorful display for adults and a simple scalar display for younger people. The scalar display could be outside or inside along the length of the center. Excellent examples can be seen in the Science Building at CSUF and the California Academy of Science in San Francisco.

Geomagnetism

The roles of geomagnetism and paleomagnetism in the field of paleontology and geology will be presented. The use of these technologies in paleontology and geology will be stressed.

Glacial Features of California

This display will present the geomorphic features of California that are directly attributed to the most recent ice age glaciation. This display will also feature existing Sierra Nevada glaciers. This display could be linked with "**Ice Ages**"

Ice Ages

The causes and effects of the Ice Ages will be presented. The distribution of ice sheets and their various sectors, and glacial geomorphology will be included in the display. Emphasis should be placed on the effects of the various ice ages on California.

Index Fossils

This display will present the importance of index fossils as a method of dating formations. Some key California and global index fossils and their ages can be represented.

Native Americans

A display devoted to local Native Americans would be an educational tool. The history, customs, and technology of native peoples should be presented. Periodic presentations of arts, crafts, and ceremonies could be presented. All local Native American groups should be invited to participate.

North American Ice Age Climate & Vegetation Patterns

This will constitute maps of present and last glacial maximum (LGM) climate and vegetation patterns. The display should include western Siberia and Central America. This display could be incorporated into "**Ice Ages**".

Pleistocene Hominids

A history of humans extending back 1.8 million years will be explained. The status of human evolution and distribution during the Irvingtonian period should be emphasized.

Pleistocene Extinctions

This display will present the various major theories for the Pleistocene extinctions of large mammals in North America.

Plate Tectonics and Continental Drift

This will display maps and graphics showing the mechanics of plate tectonics and the shaping of the continental masses through time. The significance of features such as terranes and roof pendants should be explained. This display should be linked to "**Geology of California**".

Relative & Radiometric Dating

This display will explain methods of geological dating. Principles and methods of relative dating techniques will be presented. This display will introduce different radioisotopes and their ranges of measurement. Applications and limitations of dating processes will be explained.

Significant People in Paleontology and the Earth Sciences

Selected people who have made contributions to paleontology and the earth sciences will be presented. Pioneer scientists from several cultures and geographic locations should be presented.

Taphonomy

Taphonomy is the study of the change of organisms to fossils (i.e. decaying organism over time). Emphasize its importance to paleontology as a whole and applications to the Fairmead Site

Tertiary Animals of North America

This display will highlight some of the spectacular mammals and birds that inhabited North America prior to the Quaternary Period. California fossil species should be emphasized.

Tertiary and Quaternary Period Migrations

Migrations of specific animal species between North & South America and the Americas and Asia during the Tertiary and Quaternary Periods will be revealed. This would include animals such as elephants, camels, bison, horses, sloths and large cats. Human migrations should also be included.

The Last Mammoths

A history of the dwarf (pigmy) mammoth species of Wrangell Island (Chukchi Sea), the Santa Rosa Islands (California) and various Mediterranean Islands is presented. The display explains theories for their extinctions 4,000 to 6,000 years ago. This display could be incorporated into the main exhibit for Fairmead's Columbian Mammoth.

Volcanoes of California

This display should present the history and effects of volcanoes in California. Volcanic landforms and features should be highlighted. California's volcanic hazards should also be presented. Hot springs, geysers and geothermal deposits could be presented in this display. This display could be incorporated with "**Geology of California**" & "**Plate Tectonics**".

Water & Groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley

This display will have considerable "local interest" as well as some relevancy to the Fairmead site. Fundamentals of hydrology will be explained. This display could be linked to San Joaquin Valley stratigraphy.

What Fossil Bones Tell Us

Subtle information can be gleaned from fossil bones. This display emphasizes information on morphology, gender, age, diet, diseases, parasites, injuries, and predation that can be found on fossilized bones.

• **Education & Youth Oriented Programs**

Day Camps

These Saturday or weekend programs would provide interactive activities for children in an indoor/outdoor setting. It should be designed to be an activity-based program similar to **Project Wild**.

Educational Program Coordination

Youth oriented programs, exhibits and displays will be designed to coordinate with the California State Curriculum Framework and applicable state standards. Input and participation from local school districts should be encouraged.

Interactive Question & Answer

Selected displays should incorporate interactive self-quizzes relative to the display for school-age children. Electronic or mechanical quiz boards, with diagrams, pictures, or drawings, would supply immediate feedback to participants.

Junior Scientists

Junior Scientists would be a family oriented program with activities involving hands-on activities for young people. The program would provide interactive activities for children & their parents.

Mobile Discovery Center

This program will take a mobile discovery center/museum to school sites. Preliminary grant work has already been done for this program. The program needs extensive planning and preparation.

Peer Docents

This program will organize and train school age volunteers to act as assistants for docents at the museum. Local students on all grade levels should be encouraged to participate.

School Classroom Presentations & Programs

This would be an extension of the Mobile Discovery Center and would present programs to individual classrooms or small school groups. Special printings of Discovery Center Newsletters can be prepared for elementary and middle school students.

Simulated Dig

The simulated dig will be a hand-on activity which will provide children an opportunity to learn and use the techniques and tools of paleontology in a controlled setting. Students will receive instruction on tools and techniques and then be allowed to practice in a simulated dig.

Student Materials

Teaching units and study materials will be prepared to assist classroom teachers on all level to meet state standards. Units of study in appropriate areas, fossils, rocks & minerals, nature study etc., will be made available to local teachers and schools. These materials will coordinate with the California State Curriculum Framework and applicable state standards.

Summer Camp

This would be a one-week "camp", with a 6-hour, daily program of hands-on and activity-based pursuits for students. The program would provide for both indoor and outdoor science, conservation and nature activities.

Teacher Training/Orientation

This program will train teachers to use the Fossil Discovery Center as a resource. We will assist the teachers in preparing units to meet state standards and provide special interest units of study.

Youth Program Coordination

This program would coordinate Discovery Center activities with other youth programs, such as Boy Scouts and Campfire, to provide appropriate programs for advancement in those groups. Programs on fossils, rocks & minerals, nature study etc. could be prepared using a given programs organizational guidelines.

• Discovery Center Programs & Activities

Amateur Paleontologists and Geologists

The Paleontology Foundation and Fossil Discovery Center should act as a focal point for local people who are interested in fossils, minerals and lapidary. These individuals can provide invaluable support and amateur expertise. They should be encouraged to use the Discovery Center as their base of activities. Thought should be given to providing space in the Center for a display of their activities.

Dig Site & Fossil Preparation Volunteers

This program will train adults and high school age volunteers to work at the dig. It will provide extensive training in fossil recovery, cataloging, and preservation. This program could be coupled with fossil preparation.

Discovery Center Docents

This program will organize and train adults and high school age volunteers to act as guides and docents for the museum. Efforts should be made to recruit community, seniors, and service club volunteers.

Field Trip Programs

This program will provide community field trips in local geology, natural science, and nature programs. This program could coordinate with The San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Foothill Conservancy, Sierra Club, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, and various state conservation agencies.

Fossil Discovery Center Newsletter

This Newsletter will be distributed to members, sponsoring organizations, schools and other parties. It will highlight programs, exhibits and event at the Fossil Discovery Center and San Joaquin Valley Paleontology Foundation. A special printing could be done for distribution to elementary and middle schools.

Fund Raising and Special Events

This program will explore and develop fund raising activities and sources such as grants and trusts. This committee will work with Publicity & Community Outreach.

Partnerships

The Center should partner with the Math Science Nucleus the Fresno Met, Buena Vista Museum, and other local museums. The Fossil Discovery should join the California Association of Museums (CAM) as soon as possible.

Publicity & Community Outreach

This committee will be in charge of community contacts, news releases and event planning. This committee will work with fund raising. This committee will arrange presentations to civic clubs and organizations.

Satellite Displays

The Fossil Discovery Center should place displays in schools, city buildings and county buildings. These displays should be rotated on a frequent basis.

Social Gatherings

Periodic social gatherings for members, supporters, and associates will encourage a sense of community involvement and participation.

Special Speakers and Evening Programs

The Fossil Discovery Center should offer regularly scheduled programs with speakers of interest and educational programs.

• Misc. Contributions

Animal Tracks

Tracks of extinct animals can be placed in concrete outside the museum leading into the museum, as if their last walk was to the museum where their bones are today. Animals such as mammoths, camels, horses, sloths, cats, etc., could be represented. Other tracks could be placed inside the museum, allowing children to guess what they are and compare their own feet and hands to them. When using a self-guided tour, the tracks can guide the user from one display to another.

Art & Artists

The Discovery Center should have numerous paintings, sculptures, and murals appropriate to the mission of the Fossil Discovery Center. Works similar to those produced by Linda Cunningham and Margaret Hudson should be placed at various points in the Center. The possibility of having local artists gallery, with appropriate work, should be explored. Works could be presented for commission sale to support the operation of the facility.

Bone & Fossil Casts

Casts of bones, fossils and other manipulatives should be available for people to handle. Illustrations, with the particular bones highlighted, will offer a comparison to human bones (comparative anatomy).

Contributor Plaques and Wall

Plaques of uniform size should be posted to acknowledge the contributions of substantial donors. Another option may be a "Contributor's Wall" noting all significant contributors to the museum. The Center leadership should adopt guidelines for this type of thing prior to the Center's opening.

Museum Layout

The layout and positioning of exhibits and displays for the museum should include a central area near the entrance where the visitors are introduced to the major features of the museum. Design should allow for flow and continuity between major focal exhibits.

Pleistocene Park

Landscaping should reflect native trees and grasses that grew in the valley prior to European migrations. Key plants should be labeled both common and scientific names. Practical uses of native plants by Native Americans should be noted. Sources of native plants are the California Native Plant

Society and the Intermountain Nursery near Auberry, which specializes in Native Plants. The local Master Gardener Society should be invited to participate.

Self-Guided Audio Tours

Self-guided tours on CD or downloadable I-pod programs should be made available. These programs would be geared to different age and educational levels. Displays and exhibits would be explained in simple terms for school children and supplementary material would be presented on adult programs. Displays would have to be numbered and maps prepared. The programs would have to be periodically updated. This program, along with Braille signage, would offer some benefit to the visually impaired.

Silhouettes

Silhouettes of the animals (actual size) can be placed at strategic places in the center with a child/adult silhouette next to it for comparison. "Compare yourself to a Mammoth!"

Video Displays

Exhibits and displays could be enhanced with pertinent continuous video presentations. These video displays could be placed between the various exhibits to enhance the visitors understanding. Video presentations could be adapted for different age and grade levels.