

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT



## 2013



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***“We celebrated our 100th anniversary. But we didn’t just look back at our incredible history — we looked forward...transforming the museum into a fun, beautiful, indoor/outdoor destination.”***

I want to first thank the residents of Los Angeles County for helping the Natural History Family of Museums have a truly extraordinary year. A million people visited the Natural History Family — and there’s so much to explore that they keep coming back.

At NHM, we celebrated our 100th anniversary. But we didn’t just look back at our incredible history — we looked forward. We went to work transforming the museum into a fun, beautiful indoor/outdoor destination — with five new exhibits and three and a half acres of Nature Gardens for Los Angeles County’s schoolchildren, families, and adults.

In NHM’s new Nature Gardens, visitors can learn to garden, spot butterflies and birds, take nature walks with our staff, and engage in citizen science projects that investigate Southern California wildlife. Inside, things are just as exciting. The new Nature Lab is an incredibly fun, incredibly interactive exhibit that sheds new light on the plants and animals of LA. You’ll see nature in a whole new way.

We also opened the new exhibit *Becoming Los Angeles*, which tells the story of LA in a unique way. It explores the ways that nature and people interacted as Los Angeles transformed from a tiny pueblo into a metropolis. This is all in addition, of course, to our award-winning Dinosaur Hall and Age of Mammals exhibits, our beloved diorama halls, and our gems and minerals.

Just a few miles away at the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, we reached another centennial milestone, marking 100 years of fossil excavation by our staff. LA County is home to a true scientific treasure — the La Brea Tar Pits are the only active Ice Age excavation site in the world! Visitors can watch paleontology live and in person every day on Wilshire Boulevard. Outside, there is live excavation and inside, we explore the stories and the science behind the fossils.

In the Newhall/Santa Clarita area, the third member of the Museum family, also provides an indoor/outdoor experience at the William S Hart Museum located in Hart Park.

It’s an exciting time at these indoor/outdoor museums. I invite all of you to stop by to see how we are making science, history, and nature fun for all ages.