**Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review**

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| Program Name: | Museum of Culture and Environment |
| Program Manager: | Hope Amason, Lynn Bethke |
| Fiscal Year: | FY2024 |

1. In what way(s) does your program support CWU students? Please be specific and concise.

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| The Museum of Culture and Environment (MCE) provides opportunities for informal education by providing 3-6 exhibits per year. Additionally, the MCE offers a wide range of programming from lectures by experts to hands-on activities to appeal to a broad range of students. The MCE also supports the Museum Studies minor by offering opportunities for internships that develop essential practical and professional museum skills. CWU students participate in setting the direction for the MCE through participation and membership in the Museum Advisory Council, which is also comprised of CWU faculty and staff, administrators, and community members. |

1. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

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| The MCE’s mission is to provide exhibits and programs that create opportunities for lifelong learning and foster self-discovery, global citizenship, and environmental stewardship.  Our vision is to be a forum where mutual understanding, respect, and support for one another will be the outcomes of exploring our shared diversity.  We are working with the Museum Advisory Council to align our mission, vision, and values to the new CWU strategic plan by developing a strategic plan unique to the MCE.  Currently, we assess effectiveness through visitation numbers, qualitative feedback, and an annual community survey administered each spring. Once a strategic plan is in place, new indicators will be identified in order to assess progress. |

1. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
   1. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs that have similar purposes or services?

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| The mission of the MCE is to create opportunities for lifelong learning that foster self-discovery, global citizenship, and environmental stewardship by offering a variety of exhibits and programs throughout the academic year. The MCE provides an informal learning environment where students and community members can engage with a variety of topics.   1. The MCE intersects and collaborates with several university programs, including the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, the Diversity and Equity Center, academic departments, student clubs and organizations, and off-campus community partners (such as the Kittitas County Historical Museum, APOYO, the City of Ellensburg, and Gallery-one). |

1. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? “*Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education*.”

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| The MCE is highly aligned with the purpose of S&A funding. We provide exhibits and programs for all learners which challenge and enrich the educational experience. We also provide opportunities to collaborate with the MCE by co-developing programs and exhibits with students.  Exhibits: In 2022 – 2023 we worked with CWU students to develop exhibits and exhibit components. As part of a class project, CWU museum studies students developed the exhibit *Tooth + Tusk: Evolutionary Storytellers* (March 30 – Dec. 10, 2022). A student curator worked with the MCE to develop the exhibit *APOYO Means Support* (Sept. 29, 2022 – Dec. 9, 2023), which was based on their internship at APOYO. A student intern and designer developed the exhibit *Animal Model: How a Tiny Worm Helps Us Understand the Human Brain* (Feb. 15, 2023 – April 3, 2024). Finally, a graduate student curator (as part of their master’s thesis work) developed an exhibit, *We’ve Always Been Here: Queer Histories of Kittitas County* (June 2 – Dec. 9, 2023). This exhibit was also part of a class project, which provided students with the opportunity to do archival research, practice writing for the broader public, and design/implement interpretive materials. In 2023 – 2024, we plan to host two more student-curated exhibits, which were ideas developed and planned entirely by students. One exhibit (which is based on student research in the Biology department) will provide an update on the progress of the I-90 Wildlife corridor project. The second exhibit is based on the research of a History Master’s Student, *The Empress’s Wardrobe*, examining the intersections between fashion and power in turn-of-the-century imperial Russia.  Programs: Throughout 2022 – 2023, we hosted a number of student-centered events. These include our fall kick-off, “Curator’s Celebration,” which honored student curators working with the MCE (see above exhibits). We also hosted MEChA de CWU: 50 Aniversario, which celebrated the 50 year anniversary of the student organization MEChA. FangFest, which had 175 attendees, brought students together with community members in order to learn about our fanged friends (snakes, tarantulas, and other creatures). Plants 2 Plates offered students an opportunity to connect plants from the CWU greenhouse to the material culture of food. |

1. Please provide specifics on how your program supports and aligns with CWU’s strategic plan (<https://www.cwu.edu/about/mission-vision/_documents/cwu-vision-mission-values-strat-plan-bot-approved.pdf>)?

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| During the 2022 – 2023 academic year, CWU was in the midst of developing the current strategic plan. Because in the previous academic year, the new mission and vision were approved, we distributed a survey with the intent to assess the mission and vision of the MCE. We asked about the mission’s relevance to the community (including students) and also worked with the Museum Advisory Council (which includes three students) to assess the MCE mission’s alignment with the CWU new mission and vision. You can view a summary report of the findings of the survey [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S85vrruRprTCr4_P7YN54rJbLs-kHymG/view?usp=sharing) (pp. 8 – 12).  In partnership with the Museum Advisory Council, the MCE is working to develop a strategic plan that supports the new CWU strategic plan. You can see an initial draft [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VLQ6osfExov37zwCeBLurNTyrVOWDtOR/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=117708523945840546509&rtpof=true&sd=true). Because there was no campus-wide strategic plan in place in 2022 – 2023, we did not plan exhibits/programs with any strategic plan in mind. We did plan with the new CWU mission, vision, and values in mind. With hindsight, this is how we supported the current strategic plan:  The exhibits we developed with students (as curators, exhibit designers, collections assistants) were done so with high-impact practices in mind (under “Student Success” see initiative 1.5). Students were immersed in exhibit design experiences in class (ANTH 361 Museum Exhibit Design), as student curators, and as support for ongoing exhibits and collections work. This provided students with hands-on experience in a professional museum setting.  We developed exhibits and programs that spoke to CWU’s goal to become a Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI) (Under “Belonging” see initiative 2.2). As noted above, the exhibit *APOYO Means Support* was showcased a Latinx/Hispanic-serving community organization. And MEChA de CWU: 50 Aniversario was an opportunity to celebrate the history of an important student organization.  In Fall 2023, the MCE has worked to instill a sense of belonging for Native American students at CWU (under “Belonging” see Goal #3) as well as further partnerships with individuals who are enrolled members of the Yakama Nation (under “Engagement” see initiative 1.3). We featured the exhibit *Yakama Beadwork: Images in Glass.* This exhibit was curated by Miles Miller, an independent curator who is also an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation.It also was an opportunity to invite professional Yakama Nation beaders to campus in order to host a beading demonstration. Finally, we invited Native American scholars from United Indians of All Tribes and the Evergreen State College to discuss perspectives on cultural appropriation.  In Winter and Spring 2024, we will continue to support various initiatives of the new CWU strategic plan through exhibits that feature the work of student curators as well as through programs that promote sustainability. By 2024 – 2025, the new MCE strategic plan will be in place, which will be formally aligned with the CWU strategic plan. |

1. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc*.)

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| The MCE has an annual visitation of approximately 3000 people. Visitors include students, staff, and faculty from across the university. The museum also has visitors from the community including seniors and families with school age children. |

1. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
   1. How do you gather these metrics?
   2. If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

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| We do not have data on how many unique CWU students utilize the museum. While we keep track of visitors hourly and daily, we don’t have a way to track repeat visitors or to differentiate between a student and a community member. Anecdotally, about 2/3 of our visitors are CWU students. We are prevented from getting exact data because it would be disruptive to the museum experience to ask every visitor if they are a student. We do record when a faculty member brings their class to the museum, or when we become aware that a faculty member has assigned a museum visit. In this way we can make some educated guesses. |

1. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

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| no |

1. Given the budget reductions taking place, and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and included in your initial base funding request.

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| The budget reductions require the MCE to think more strategically about our use of resources. While we are still able to fulfill our primary goal of employing students, our ability to create dynamic exhibits and programming may be impacted. At this time, we have been able to absorb the cuts with minimal impact. |

1. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

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| No. |

1. What other funding does your program receive? What percentage of your program’s total funding is coming from S&A Fees?

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| We have historically received approximately $15,000 from the College of the Sciences on an annual basis. S&A funding represents about 50% of our operating budget. |

1. What growth or expense increases do you anticipate seeing in the future?

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| In addition to the regular increases in the minimum wage for our student employees, we anticipate two areas of expense increases in the future: Higher costs for the rental of traveling exhibits, and higher costs for travel and compensation to bring guest experts to campus.  Higher costs for exhibits: Exhibit costs have increased for several reasons. Shipment costs have risen along with other prices (such as fuel).  More importantly, the MCE is committed to paying professional guest curators in a manner that reflects their unique perspectives and expertise.  The MCE has intentionally sought collaboration with professional guest curators who offer much-needed perspectives from marginalized communities. Paying them fairly is a high priority for developing trusting relationships between CWU and these individuals (and, by extension, with their communities).  Higher costs for travel/compensation: Programming costs have increased along with other prices (such as associated travel costs, e.g. rising mileage reimbursement and lodging rates).  Additionally, it should be noted that the MCE works intentionally to build relationships with program participants who have expertise and lived experience that speak to themes within our featured exhibits (for example, we invited well-known Yakama beaders for our Oct. 16, 2023 beadwork demonstration, which connected to the exhibit *Yakama Beadwork: Images in Glass*). Because MCE exhibits offer perspectives on (and/or celebrate the cultures of) marginalized communities, program participants (as with professional guest curators) bring much-needed insights to our campus community.  Paying these program participants fairly is a high priority as it creates a necessary foundation for a trusting relationship between CWU and these individuals (and it is hoped that this trust extends to their communities).  In the future, our goal is to develop more equitable structures for student involvement at the MCE, which will entail compensating individual students as well as student clubs and organizations who provide curatorial consultation, planning for exhibits, or collaborations on programs. |