

Happy holidays from the Clarke Museum, my name is Ben Brown and I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on all the accomplishments we had this last year and to encourage you to renew or become a member today. There are three ways for you to get a full copy of our annual report, contact me and I'll mail it to you, visit the museum, or download a digital version from our website at [clarkemuseum.org](http://clarkemuseum.org).

It's been an exciting year with many accomplishments, helping to renew our position as the cultural, historical, and visitor services hub for the region. The partnership with Humboldt Made in creating the visitor center has been incredible, combining the museum's trusted position with the energy and drive of Humboldt Made. Combined, we bring all segments of the community together under one roof.

And what a roof it is! We're proud to announce that we've installed and paid for a new roof this year on the 1911 Bank of Eureka building. This project cost over \$50,000, thank you to the Benbow Historic Inn, Alves Roofing, the Lytel and McLean Foundations, and our members and supporters for helping make this important project happen and keeping our shared history dry and safe for generations to come.

Clarke by the numbers include: 20,000 visitors, including docent-led tours to 1,000 students, though this doesn't include all those who attended outdoor events like the Friday Night Market. Our incredible volunteers logged 815 hours, 26 new exhibits were installed, 11 educational events, and 6 fundraisers hosted.

While we have a tremendous amount of momentum, we still need to focus on growing our membership as we have many pressing issues. Our goals for 2019 include further expanding our hours of operation, expanding our exhibit space, replacing the overhead lighting with replica chandeliers like the Bank of Eureka once had, replacing the 40 year old flooring, and creating new exhibits and programs important to this community.

As we say goodbye and thank you to our outgoing board president Gene Brundin for his leadership and vision, we welcome Shirley Laos as our incoming president. Under the supervision of our outstanding board of directors, the museum looks forward to meeting these challenges and continuing to serve this incredible community.

We take our role as a cultural and educational hub for the community seriously by providing a safe place where ideas and knowledge are shared, honoring and learning from previous generations, while teaching today's youths as they become tomorrow's leaders. At our core, the Clarke is an educational facility dedicated to fostering lifelong learning opportunities for all ages. The Museum has a unique role in crossing the boundaries between research, learning and the public.

Please consider renewing or purchasing a membership today to help keep history alive and available to everyone in the community. For those museum goers who like to travel, I encourage you to consider a patron level membership at the \$100 level as you'll automatically be included in a nation-wide program allowing you to enter thousands of museums free of charge, including the de Young, Legion of Honor, Asian Art Museum, Oakland Museum, and many, many more. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

This is Ben Brown with Community Comment.