# REFLECTIONS Report to our Community 2022



1.183

For many, 2021 was a time to reflect, adapt, and evolve. To reconnect with what's essential as we imagine what's possible. The passages of our land acknowledgement that appear on these pages are an example of the kind of reflection and growth that occurred at the Reserve last year: Translated into Lushootseed then back into English, this version of our land acknowledgement leads us toward new appreciation of our essential relationship with this place—and continues our ongoing dialogue with the Suquamish Tribe, who have called this land home for millennia.

2021 also brought milestones across our pillars of focus— Horticulture & Design, Conservation & Stewardship, Creativity & Inspiration, and Nature & Well-Being. It saw the completion of our composting facility, marking a stride toward



our sustainability goals and closing out the Comprehensive Campaign that began in 2016. And, in our ongoing commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA), we began putting into practice what we learned during our Listening Tour of 2020.

2021 saw us welcoming thousands more visitors than we thought

possible, each of them seeking, in their own way, to connect with nature. It took adaptation, resilience and passion to provide that experience to so many people. But doing so showed us what's possible, and reminded us that this special place—what it is and what it gives—may be more resonant now than ever.

dibəł čəł ti Bloedel Reserve / We are the Bloedel Reserve



## Welcome to Bloedel Reserve

A guest arriving here embarks on a journey, following paths that unspool like trains of thought leading to unexpected insight. Visitors are enveloped by native forests and moved by designed spaces as they are struck by an unfamiliar blossom or comforted by a favorite tree.

This journey of contemplation is the fruit of determination and hard work on the part of the staff and volunteers at the Reserve. The work was especially hard in 2021, as the pandemic changed and challenged us in new ways. More than ever, we were grateful for the dedication of our employees—and for the responsiveness of the leadership team to staff needs. Generous donor contributions enabled us to maintain staff, raise pay, and provide bonuses. And the Reserve closed for our first-ever Staff Appreciation Week in November, providing a week of paid vacation for our employees. We are so appreciative of everyone working together as a team to maintain high standards under challenging circumstances.

This year, I invite you to travel through 2021 by contemplating the distinct garden spaces of the Reserve. My hope is that by joining us in reflecting on each area—the big stories and the little details, the plants and the people you'll come away with a unique, multifaceted perspective on life at the Reserve last year.

Debrah H Scheuch

Deborah Schenk Chair, Board of Trustees

Kimberly Trowbridge, Nymph and Skunk Cabbage, Oil on Paper on Panel, 36" x 48", 2020

Hun Rile

"Bloedel is not a moment in time. In its timelessness it continues to meet people, to meet whatever the need is. There is a plasticity here, an ability to move, to grow, to sway, to adapt.'

> Erin Hill, Landscape Designer & Project Manager

You've arrived. Worry loses its grip on you; your tempo slows. When we see

you again in an hour or so,

something will have changed.

### The Journey

we'd planned for this area choosing new plants. Although it would take longer, space. Now the invisible but vital work of planning

# Proof of Life





#### As a

value, sustainability runs through our veins. And while we've composted for more than two decades, last year we took a big leap toward our waste-reduction goals when we got our new composting facility up and running. Through a rigorous process incorporating Aerated Static Pile (ASP) technology, we now generate "black gold" from the organic waste of the Reservehigh quality, nutrient-rich compost that supports both the work of our nursery and horticultural efforts across the Reserve.

#### The

use of ASP technology was an innovation of Michael Bryan-Brown, president of Green Mountain Technologies and a Bloedel Reserve Trustee. He also spearheaded a more efficient building design. His leadership and expertise on this project reduced the facility's footprint by 40 percent and lowered its cost from original construction estimates by half. "A vital organ of the garden," in the words

Made possible with generous leadership support by Pauline and Edgar Stern Foundation, Sandra & Bill McIver, Lady Foundation, Susie Ragen—in memory of Brooks Ragen, and Virginia Wright. Grounds & Horticulture Associate Sean Peterson, the facility simultaneously signals the completion of the Comprehensive Campaign and represents the first phase of creating a holistic new Environmental Horticulture Center.

"Compost is proof that there's life after death."

> Ragen Family, in memory of Brooks Ragen

Scan the QR code or visit the link to see the far-reaching impacts of the Reserve's five-year, \$25 million Comprehensive Campaign and celebrate the people who made all this progress possible. bloedelreserve.org/community-report



## Ripples and Reflections

All across the Reserve we find stories of mutualism, the kind of symbiosis in which each party benefits from the relationship. Take the Buxton Bird Marsh. In October, when the water level in the pond was low, we planted a variety of emergent aquatics in the margins—an idea that arose last summer, when members of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust toured the area and shared recommendations with our staff. By providing a food source for insects and a place for amphibians to lay their eggs, these wetland plants will attract waterfowl to the pond and help this part of the Reserve thrive with the robust bird and wildlife populations it was designed to support.

Made possible with generous leadership support by Susan Guffey, the Sears-Bicknell Family, and the Sears-LeDorze Family. in the meadow— Pollen ripples pond surface and still, I've only seen the heron in flight, and the red-wing and sparrow in song.

> CMarie Fuhrman, writer, poet, teacher Creative Resident, April 2021

## Seeds

Of all the landscapes at the Reserve, the Pollinator Meadow is among the newest—as such, for some of us it holds the most potential. Another outcome of the Comprehensive Campaign, conversion of the pasture into a wildflower meadow is at an exciting stage: "You have to understand it's a process," said Haley Wiggins, Gardens South Manager, who managed our first attempt at a controlled burn in the meadow last summer. Replacing pasture grasses with wildflower species such as lupine, yarrow, and goldenrod is painstaking work, but it's rewarding, too. "These things take time. Look for the moments you can find joy in. Because they're everywhere, especially when you have dozens of species out there. Each time you see the first one blooming, you're so excited.'





## Community

Making authentic, durable change from within an organization takes time—even when the desire is there, as it is at the Reserve. Progress toward greater inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) takes patient commitment and readiness to listen. Following our 2020 listening tour, the Reserve's IDEA Advisory Council continues to identify the blind spots within our organization and remove barriers that still keep people from enjoying the Reserve's unique magic.

Last year we began to implement what we heard in 2020. We added benches along the trails. Maps to the Reserve are now available in five languages. New accessibility maps help people of varying levels of mobility determine which garden areas they can safely and comfortably experience. Our IDEA goals will increasingly extend to our recruiting and hiring practices, too, as we cast wider nets to fill new openings. As part of an ongoing process, we continue to reflect and listen, building toward a more welcoming and inclusive community.

> "Here, the indigenous people's values are so much a part of the land. I love the fact that we're making an effort to all listen to each other about the land, and the love of the land." Ann Eklund, Volunteer, IDEA Advisory Council

We express deep gratitude towards the Suquamish People

## To be Alone in Nature

It may sound like a gift: being left alone in nature for three weeks, ensconced in a beautiful, cozy home tucked off the trail, with complete freedom to pursue one's creative vision. In fact, the Creative Residency Program is a gift—but it's a gift of reciprocity. In another example of mutualistic symbiosis, what we received back from our 10 Creative Residents last year was immeasurable. Working across five areas visual art, performance, poetry, prose, and design—these artists expanded our world with their unique lenses and reflected back to us what the Reserve can be. Our 2021 Creative Residents also helped us expand our community by way of new experiences and entry points. Live and virtual programming. such as Suguamish artist Ed Carriere's basket weaving demonstration, brought more than 2,000 people into contact with the Reserve last yeara number we could never have imagined. No doubt some of these attendees will begin, like our residents, to see nature as an impetus for their own creative thinking.

As we look to what's possible in the years ahead, the program has also given us insights about our approach to IDEA. Our 2021 selection jury was a more diverse cross-section of artists than ever, as was our cohort of Creative Residents. We offered financial aid for the application process and began to study the feasibility of stipends for future residents. And the Suguamish Tribe accepted our invitation to design and curate an annual Native Residency, set to unfold for the first time in 2022.

?a ti Bloedel Reserve ?al ti swatix"təd ?ə ti suq'"abš | Bloedel Reserve is on Suquamish Land

"My time here has been very fulfilling, very comfortable. Felt at home to tread the land my ancestors lived on and trod, and to have this time among the trees and the cedars, making clam baskets."

> Ed Carriere Basket Weaver, Suquamish Elder, 2021 Creative Resident

> > "My time as Creative Resident/ Fellow at Bloedel Reserve was the single most pivotal experience in my artistic development. The focused time to live and work within the gardens transformed my creative process into a deep, poetic excavation of my environment. I was able to perceive and realize the deep connection between external, natural forms and the forms of my imaginative mind.

> > Kimberly Trowbridge 2019 Creative Resident, 2020 Creative Fellow

## Connection

No one at the Reserve knows the principle of mutualistic symbiosis better than our horticultural staff. Not only do our gardeners see it in action every day, but in the care they bring to their work, they're active partners with the land. As they tend the gardens, they each invest sweat, brainpower,

*Xutixdubuł ti swatix <sup>w</sup>təd* | This land takes care of us

and love—yes, love—into helping each place reach its full potential. In return, they reap the reward of healthy plants and thriving ecosystems.

And maybe the reward to our gardeners—and to all of us humans—is even greater. In a residency at the Reserve in November 2021, journalist Zoë Schlanger worked on *The Light Eaters*, her upcoming non-fiction book about plant behavior. During a virtual talk, she reminded audiences that "plants signal to one another using gases that they manufacture inside their own bodies, with absolutely astonishing specificity." As scientists research the health benefits of these aerosols to people—reducing stress, strengthening immune systems, and more—we can frame new ways of considering just what it is that plants give us.

"I keep dreaming of Bloedel—and came to the realization that for me, being there is not only being inspired by nature (which is big in itself) but being embraced by nature. It's a different feeling. I felt those trees, rocks, blooms and moss speaking to me in a way that I haven't felt anywhere else."

> Andrea Clearfield 2019 Creative Resident, 2022 Fellow



"Humans base everything on months, and nature bases everything on seasons. So I basically let the garden tell me each season: Okay, what do you need? I'll take care of it."

> Bob Braid Caretaker, Japanese Garden Specialist

# Clarify your Spirit



Nature heals. And while free Strolls for Well-Being facilitated sessions and curated reflect and decompress as they



Released from everyday cares, you are present in a new way. Present in the company of these trees. Present with your feelings, with your own soul.

> "This place is so renewing. I call it a rebirth for the mind, the soul, and the spirit."

> > Alana Broom, Member

## The Heart and the Hands



#### **GROUNDS & FACILITIES**

Joe Piecuch Interim Director of Grounds & Facilities

Dave Amos Turf Specialist

Philip Bloomquist Propagation & Nursery Specialist

Bob Braid Caretaker, Japanese Garden Specialist

Ben Buchanan Facilities Manager

Erin Hill Landscape Designer & Project Manager

Ken Little Arborist

Gunda Lunde Facilities Manager Don McKinney Trails Specialist

Andy Moss Gardens East Manage

Sean Peterson Grounds & Horticulture Associate

Darren Strenge Gardens West Manager

Alex Tracy Facilities Associate

Tobin Tripp Grounds & Horticulture Associate

Fen Vitello Grounds & Horticulture Associate

Haley Wiggins Gardens South Manager

"The gardeners are like the heart and hands of Bloedel. It's not just their hands that are working. It's their heart and soul."

Martha Rogers, Volunteer

#### **GUEST SERVICES**

Andrea Mercado Guest Services & Gift Shop Manager

#### ASSOCIATES

Samantha Burgh Amy McKay Christine McLain Megan Ronald Abner Senires Ethan Soltanzadeh Steven Starlund Trevor Williams

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Mike Davison Events Manager

Meg Fraser Volunteer Coordinator

Susan Grelock-Yusem Well-Being Program Manager

Anna Teiche Operations Assistant

Amy Weber Creative Residency Manager

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Jitka Pilar Development & Communications Coordinator

Dan Walker Development & Communications Coordinator

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Renee Kok Director of Finance

Kristin Dalhoff Membership & Data Entry Coordinator

Kim Pitre Accounting & Payroll Manager

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ed Moydell The Richard A. Brown President & CEO

Sina Irving Executive Administrative Manager

Alyson Olson Human Resource Manager

"You're weeding down here, and you can't help but listen to people's conversations up there. When they come around the corner and see the pond and just—'Oh, my god!' You can hear the emotion in their voice, it's really doing something for them."

> Bob Braid - Caretaker, Japanese Garden Specialist

#### **BOARD OFFICERS**

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## The Heart and the Hands

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Susan Beecham Johanna Caslander Kimi Kinoshita Hall Ross Tom Strid Necie Toohey

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Alison Andrews \*+ John F. Hall + Bob Karr Brooks Ragen + Roy L. Taylor \*+ Kate Webster C. Bagley Wright \*+ Virginia Bloedel Wright \*+

\* Former Board Chair

+ Emeritus Trustee

"There's a tree in the meadow.

it's my favorite tree in the whole world, I think. It's a big cedar, it sits right on the meadow, and when the wind blows it's like a giant muppet. Like the whole tree moves in this really fluid manner. I would be out in the meadow on windy days, watching that tree. It just moves like water. It's beautiful."

> Erin Hill Landscape Designer & Project Manager



# Greet and guide, plant and pull. The gift of your time is imprinted on this place, its magic is imprinted on your heart.

#### VOLUNTEERS

Jill Aesoph Anne Air Alexa Allen Joseph Alonso Karen Anderson Sue Andreson Julie Armitage Susannah Arntson Jovce Aurelius Karl Baer Cathy Ballard Chervl Barber Jesse Barber Emily Barrows Kathy Bates Terri Beckett Susan Beecham Patty Bell Rebecca Benny Christie Berlin Margaret Bernheisel Keiki Bianchi Bill Biscomb Liza Biscomb Tony Bleakmore Arni Blomauist Jan Bloomquist Anne Booth Marv A. Booth Mary E. Booth Peggy Booth

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"The volunteers have a direct impact on achieving our missions and goals. But they also know the importance, during these unprecedented times, of these forests and gardens as a constant renewal of joy and nourishment of the soul."

Meg Fraser, Volunteer Coordinator

Photography generously donated by: Randy Allbritton, Sara Brickman, Keith Brofsky, Tammy Fujihara, Elliott Green, Pete Kelsey, Deanna Leon Guerrero, Etta Lilienthal, Andy Navage, Martha Rogers, Zoë Schlanger, and Darren Strenge

"2016 was a hard year, I was in need, and from a hospital bed I received an invitation to the Strolls for Well-Being program. Just reading about it was like water for a parched soul, so I signed up. Strolling gave me more than help along my healing journey; through it I developed a relationship with this place. Every time I came to the gardens, I left feeling restored. I still do.

When I became a member I had no idea what was being offered to me, but strolling left me humbly grateful to people I had never met, whom I could never meet, people who had created this place for purposes like these. So I give to sustain this place because it continues to sustain me, and I hope it will offer its healing beauty to many more people I will likely never meet."

> Erin Banasik Board Member

#### LANDSCAPE OF GIVING

#### SUSTAINER AMBASSADORS

(\$10,000+ pledged for each of a minimum of 5 years)

Anonymous (2) Susan Guffey Marie & Jamie Jamieson Johnna & Fred Kleisner Lady Foundation Fred Pakis Suzanne Ragen

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Anonymous (4) Caroline Adams Engs & Kramer Daniels Connie & Dick\* Albrecht Ted Andrews & Gretchen Hund Bainbridge Community Foundation Frin & Bob Banasik Carol Bell Tanice & Vince Corti Wendy & Jeff Dahlgren Patti & Gary Fenchuk Deb & Thomas Fenwick M. Jean Fisher Living Trust Fletcher Bay Foundation Shi Gong & Qimeng Li Nancy & Glenn Haber Pamela Johnson & Carl Haefling Judy Karr Suzanne & Robert Karr **Richard Mahoney & Lois Hartman** Sandra & Bill McIver Leslie Meadowcroft-Schipper & Frank Schipper Justine & John Milberg

Becky Miller Mary Lynn & Glenn Mounger Nancy Nordhoff Molly Nordstrom Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Charitable Foundation Alice & David Shorett Katie & Bob Strong Whittier Trust

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(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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\* Deceased

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Sue Andresen & Dennis Kirkpatrick, in honor of Pat Dawson

Melissa Crawford, in honor of Tim Crawford

Jane & Chuck Cummings, in honor of Peter Bang-Knudsen Sr.

Hope Garrett, in honor of Hope & Dick Stroble

Shelby and Thomas Goodrum, in honor of Pat Fearey

Bunny Gowen, in honor of Bing Wright

Cynthia Huffman & Ray Heacox, in honor of Deborah Schenk

Anne Humphrey, in honor of Johnathan Carney

Emily & Craig Kehrberg, in honor of Deb & Thomas Fenwick

Richard Monkman, in honor of Forest & Marilyn Monkman

David & Ngoc Nakamura, in honor of Kimi Kinoshita

Donald Rooks, in honor of Harold Redfield Rooks & Harriet Fisken Rooks

Margaret & Brian Schilling, in honor of Alice & Don Schilling Jane Stone, in honor of Peter Emau Maryellen Vander Sluis, in honor of Rick & Kim Beller

Linda & Bob Wohlsen, in honor of Becky Miller "All we do is in service to the land."

Renee Kok Director of Finance

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Todd Adams, Paula Chuka, Judy & Brian Corcoran, Gwen & Ken Jonas, Kasey McCarrhy, Maureen Taylor, and Sarah & Graehm Wallace, in memory of Yaroslavna Adams

Justine & John Milberg, in memory of Frank Anderson

Sue Andresen & Dennis Kirkpatrick, and Justine & John Milberg, in memory of Jim Andresen

Ann & George Rohrbacher, in memory of Alison Andrews Cathy Ballard, in memory of Greg Ballard

Carol Bell, in memory of Warren Bell William Ladusaw & Kenneth Christopher, in memory of Barbara Bonjour

Cathy Ballard, in memory of Jodie Frye

Walter Parsons, in memory of Linda Gerrard

Todd Adams, Mary Barker, Jan & Matt Fick, Thomas & Cestjon Goodlin, Genell Lemley, Mark Levine & John Keppeler, the Merritt family, & Monica Westerlund, in memory of Christine Goessman

Gloria Kuzner, in memory of Ann G. Hahn

Anne Fleming, in memory of Paul Hayden Kirk

Gair & Richard Crutcher, in memory of Alexa & Wylie Hemphill

Kathy and Michael Currie, in memory of Marilyn Jenkins

Justine & John Milberg, in memory of Jack Keppeler



Douglas King, in memory of Brenda Lewis King

Beth Bradley, Ernie & Kathy Lockwood, Mary Machulda, Terry & Debbie Miller, Eric Person, Linda & Howard Reimer, Jerome & Sue Streit, Carl Westphal, Nikki Winterhelt-Brown, in memory of Davonne Loup

Todd Adams, in memory of Gale McDonald

Betsy Burrow, in memory of Marian H. McLain

Tom & Paula Strid, in memory of Ken Montgomery

Carole A. Nelson, in memory of James Nelson

Brent & Jill Carson, in memory of Ann E. Powel Denise Thomson, in memory of Bonnie Powers

Susie Ragen, in memory of Brooks Ragen

Ann & Robert McKay, in memory of Elizabeth Rielly

Cathy Ballard, in memory of Ann Russell

Lee Dicks Guice, in memory of Nathalie Scandiuzzi

Robert Skotheim, in memory of Nadine Skotheim

Jack Nickels, in memory of Robert Sullivan

Phyllis & Mark Griggs, in memory of Eulalie Merrill Wagner

Nancy Nordhoff, in memory of Kate B. Webster

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Anonymous (5) Sue Andresen & Dennis Kirkpatrick Ted Andrews & Gretchen Hund Patricia & Charles Bell Beth Bradlev Elizabeth & Scott Coplan Steve Davis Kimi Kinoshita & Garv Nakamura Mark Levine & John Keppeler Bob Leik David & George Lewis Terri McGinnis Justine & John Milberg Shawn O'Neill Carole A. Nelson Cassie & Doug Picha Joseph B. Salter, Jr. Deborah & Proctor Schenk Eulalie Schneider Alice & David Shorett Carla & John Stroh

#### FOUNDING BUSINESS PARTNERS

Asics

Bainbridge Community Foundation Fairbank Construction Puget Sound Energy Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Whittier Trust

We have done our utmost to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Should you find any omissions or errors, please contact Dan Walke Development & Communications Coordinator so that we may correct our records. dwalker@bloedelreserve.org | 206-842-7631, x2 For a complete list of campaign donors for 2016-2021, please visit bloedelreserve.org/community-repo



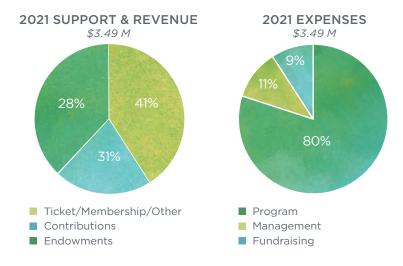
# Coming Together Again



- We offered 942 complimentary admissions and memberships to the community
- We received 686 donations totalling \$1,785,420
- We served a record number of visitors—over 82,500
- On average, visitors pay less than half the true cost of a Bloedel Reserve admission ticket, \$42.23
- 60 people joined our Volunteer Program in 2021 and volunteer hours increased by nearly 50%

THE BIG PICTURE	2021	2020	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,487,598	\$3,053,797	
REVENUE			
TICKETING/MEMBERSHIP/ OTHER	\$1,442,771	\$773,04	
# of Tickets/Memberships	82,584/3,699	49,750 / 2,748	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,064,053	\$1,225,064	2
# of Donors	542	653	1
ENDOWMENT	\$980,774	\$1,055,684	5
TOTAL ASSETS	\$36,624,480	\$34,159,822	

#### MAINTAINING OUR FISCAL BALANCE



COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN SUMMARY	2016-2021	GOAL
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$5.12M	\$6M
ANNUAL FUND FOR MISSION SUPPORT	\$7.33M	\$7M
ENDOWMENT & LEGACY	\$12.82M	\$12M
FINAL	\$25.27M	\$25M



Scan the QR code or visit the link to learn the full story of the Reserve's five-year, \$25 million Comprehensive Campaign. bloedelreserve.org/community-report

## This place takes a lot of work.

As we consider 2021, I'm reflecting on the perpetual labor that keeps this place vibrant, thriving, and whole. I'm wowed by the intensive, meticulous manual work required to keep our gardens healthy, and how much effort it takes to make things look natural. I'm reminded of the creative work undertaken by Bloedel Reserve resident artists and thinkers last year, visible too in the programs and materials created by our staff. I'm struck by the endless work of the intellect, so crucial in the planning and problem-solving our organization needs in order to flourish. There's also the work of observation, of asking questions, of listening, of celebrating progress and victories. Of noting the small epiphanies, knowing big innovation is nearby.

Underneath it all I can't help but reflect on the perpetual work of the natural world that surrounds us at the Reserve. Plants make oxygen and sugar out of light, decomposing allies do their part to create new soil. This ceaseless work not only overlaps with ours, but makes it possible—makes life itself possible.

What the Reserve offers—the ability to connect with nature, with others, and with yourself—appears simple. But the combined efforts behind this offering take place on a symphonic scale, every last task interconnected. And there is a large orchestra of people involved in this work—from our talented staff to our nearly 300 volunteers, to our dedicated board of trustees, to a supportive community of thousands of members and donors. 2021 was defined by great success while navigating through challenge, and we did it all together. And what we did collectively in 2021 combines to position us exactly where we need to be now: readier than ever to meet the moments of change and possibility ahead of us.

With gratitude for your support,

Moydell

Ed Moydell The Richard A. Brown President & CEO Bloedel Reserve

?ug wiitubułəd čəł ?ug wabitubuł / We invite you to join us

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