The Monumental Now
Report to our Community 2023
As you wander the trails of Bloedel Reserve, it’s easy to get lost—in the best sense of the word. One moment you’re shrouded in native forest so dense you might forget what’s behind you; the next, you’re greeted by sky reflected on pond, the echoing call of a kingfisher inviting you forward. Or, amid a carpet of plush, incandescent green, your thoughts drift inward before you suddenly catch your reflection in a quivering rectangle of water. Lost in each moment, you find yourself.

Wild and groomed alike, every corner of the Reserve holds the power to stop us in our tracks and root us in the present; the monumental now that, whether we notice or not, holds constantly unfolding processes of growth and struggle, decomposition and renewal. These processes apply to us, too: Maybe our awareness of this link is what sparks such a deep sense of belonging.

For the Reserve, now is a monumental time. As we embark on our new five-year strategic plan, reaching for ambitious goals in sustainable organizational growth, we’re aware that every step we take offers another unique moment—to reflect, observe, learn, and find our next path. As we convey the essence of this moment in time and share our hopes for the coming years, we invite you to let your encounters at the Reserve infuse the pages that follow. Your own Bloedel Reserve moments—of contemplation or epiphany, grief or delight—are part of this monumental now, as much as you are part of our future.
Here we Stand

Unveiling a strategic plan is like cresting a ridge on a long hike: over your shoulder is the path that brought you here; looking forward, a promise of the way ahead. Right now, standing between past and future, let’s be both reflective and inspired; let’s acknowledge insights from the past as we meet the future we collectively envision.

Where we are now is the result of immense change. In the last 10 years, we’ve experimented, grown, and improved. While our annual attendance once averaged 20,000 per year, last year we welcomed more than 78,000 visitors.
We know that to fill a bigger role in the community—enriching more lives through unique experiences in nature—we must grow thoughtfully and sustainably.

Our plan for the next five years is grounded in sustainability. The concept can mean different things to different people; the word is used so often these days that it can sometimes seem to lose resonance. But through an inclusive process, led by our Strategic Planning Committee and integrating input from staff, board, Senior Advisory Council, and volunteers, we’ve distilled the concept into three forms, thoughtfully tuned to the work and mission of Bloedel Reserve: Environmental Sustainability, Social Sustainability, and Economic Sustainability.

It’s critical that our organization remain financially stable into the future. It’s vital that we care for this beautiful land in the most responsible, forward-looking ways we can. And it’s crucial that the Reserve become an ever more open, welcoming resource for the community. Here, now, in our 2023 Community Report, let us understand what it means to be guided by these principles as we move into the next five years. Let’s dig into the inspiring, unexpected ways in which these intertwined concepts come to life at Bloedel Reserve. Then let’s move forward together.

Ed Moydell
The Richard A. Brown
President & CEO

Deborah Schenk
Chair, Board of Trustees
Stewards of the Environment

Nurturing this land is our fundamental charge. While our stewardship model relies on scientific management practices, we’re also informed by a recognition that the health and integrity of this place is linked to that of ourselves and our community. As the changing climate continues to affect us all—people, plants, and animals—our efforts in environmental sustainability take on more urgency and purpose.

Our commitment shows up in the ways we attend to the singular spaces throughout the landscape. Driven by a culture of optimal care for our landscapes and structures, we’ve prioritized projects in the Arrival Garden, Residence, and Japanese Garden. We’re implementing a climate-conscious forest management plan that will support the Reserve’s resiliency in an uncertain future. We’re bolstering our conservation and biodiversity practices and cultivating healthy soils, which promote the vigor and resiliency of individual plants and entire ecosystems alike. And we’re leveraging our new Compost Facility to become leaders in organic landscape management.
Because plant life is the foundation of a healthy wetland ecosystem, we installed floating wetlands—teeming with emergent aquatic vegetation—in the Buxton Bird Marsh.

We completed the Arrival Garden, revised the Japanese Stroll Garden so that visitors can travel the circumference of the pond, and created the Jurassic Garden near the Mid Pond stream, designed to showcase the stunning *Gunnera*, or dinosaur plant.

In partnership with Woodland Park Zoo and Bats Northwest, we began monitoring bats in the Buxton Bird Marsh as part of a regional program.

We produced customized varieties of mulch for specific garden areas—like acid-rich mulch made of shredded bark, dairy manure, compost, and cottonseed meal, specially formulated for the Rhododendron Glen and Camellia Trail.

We implemented new ways to reduce food waste at Bloedel Reserve events, including organizing our first-ever zero-waste staff and volunteer appreciation day.
Growing up in South Dakota, Philip helped his mother sell annuals, perennials, and veggie starts from her own retail nursery. On the opposite side of the state, his grandmother did the same thing. A third-generation plant specialist, Philip’s studies took him on a path toward public gardens, eventually leading to Bloedel Reserve in 2014.

Under Philip’s care, the nursery has become a magnet for volunteer activity as well as an indispensable source of plant materials at the Reserve. His propagation practices are valuable to the Reserve for five essential reasons:

**Displays:** A robust nursery ensures we always have plenty of plants for our gardens.

**Botanical diversity:** Propagating a wide variety of plants means greater resiliency against pathogens.

**Room to grow:** Young plants purchased commercially wouldn’t survive if planted directly in the gardens. In the nursery, they can grow robust enough to be planted out.

**Sharing:** Having a strong inventory means we can offer gifts of appreciation to volunteers and members, and exchange plants with peer gardens.

**Plant sales:** In a nod to the retail nurseries of his childhood, Philip is planning sustainably managed plant sales in the future, so that plants from the Reserve’s collection can be available for purchase by members and visitors.
When Philip came to work at the Reserve, he marveled at the lone Chilean myrtle that had outgrown its pot and rooted itself in a corner of the nursery. Although transplanting was out of the question, the magic of propagation allowed Philip to begin cultivating the plant, which boasts a profusion of white blossoms twice a year, followed by dark, delicious berries. Now flourishing in the Buxton Bird Marsh, the Chilean myrtle’s leaves are edible, too: Last winter, Philip used the dried leaves to add notes of juniper and bay to a batch of sugar cookies he shared with co-workers.

Mutualism is a principle that comes up often at the Reserve—the idea that benefits can derive from reciprocal dependence. Sometimes mutualism is planned, sometimes it takes place naturally. Last year, it came about through a casual conversation between two neighbors.

“My neighbor Etta was telling me about her job as Communications Manager at Bloedel Reserve,” explained Bainbridge Island beekeeper Bryan Kramer. “I asked her if anyone kept honeybees at the Reserve.” Several conversations and three weeks later, Bryan had installed around a dozen honeybee hives across the Reserve.

Each colony consists of between 5,000 and 60,000 honeybees, depending on the time of year. Hosting these pollinators provides crucial benefits to the Reserve’s plant life. And the bees are thriving here: Bryan, whose products can be found at Heyday Farm Store, estimates the insects produced 300 pounds of honey last year, some of which he bottled up for staff and volunteers in a sweet gesture of appreciation.
Keepers of Community

Time spent among plants, birds, and animals is beneficial to humans in a spectrum of ways. And the invitation to find oneself in relationship to nature shouldn’t be reserved for a few. As appreciation of nature’s healing power grows, so does our responsibility to share this special place more broadly. This invitation to the Reserve is a cornerstone of our commitment to Social Sustainability in the coming years, and our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) value system allows us to extend that invitation authentically and effectively.

Envisioning the path ahead, we see an incarnation of the Reserve where a greater diversity of guests feels at home—finding their way through the gardens with ease, taking part in programs that support well-being and creativity, and quenching their curiosity about the environment that surrounds them. Welcome Wednesdays, our new, pay-what-you-wish program, embodies this expanded identity. It signals a version of the Reserve that better fulfills our role as a valued community resource, as we continue to inspire and enrich according to our unique mission—but on a wider scale.
Social Sustainability in Action

Staff and trustees participated in two BE Culture Reimagine Equity workshops, which asked us to define, understand, and reimagine equity, and to better understand historical inequities in the U.S.

We continued developing our relationship with the Suquamish Tribe, programming a Native Residency in April this year and welcoming Tribal member Noel Purser to our IDEA Committee.

Our in-person Grief Groups returned to the Japanese Guest House for the first time since before the pandemic, and we presented a hybrid, virtual/live model of the Strolls for Well-Being program.

We offered 12 free public events through the Creative Residency program, attended (both virtually and in-person) by more than 300 people.

Responding to feedback from our visitors about their experience, we presented ten public-facing garden area pamphlets to the public that share the vision, history, design, and unique plantings of each area of the Reserve.

Imprints of Nature

Last September Bloedel Reserve had a return visit from 2021 Creative Resident Catherine Alice Michaelis, an acclaimed, Kitsap-based printmaker and creator of art books. With Bloedel Reserve staff, Catherine reprised her 2021 workshop, “Pulling Prints from Nature,” which drew 300 attendees. Her technique, developed in residency at the Reserve, uses tree rounds of varied shapes and sizes, collected from different areas of the Reserve, to create prints on paper. This time, Catherine guided Bloedel Reserve staff in creating wearable art, transferring unique images from fallen trees onto t-shirts and sweatshirts. On any given day you can see these unique prints on staff members’ shirts as they walk the paths and work in the gardens—living, moving reminders of how creativity and nature intertwine.
Robin Gaphni has been leading grief groups on Bainbridge Island since shortly after the unexpected death of her eldest son in October 2010. For Robin, nature played an indispensable part in her grieving process. So, when Ed Moydell asked her and retired psychiatrist Ted Rynearson to lead a group at the Reserve in 2019, she knew firsthand there was potential for a powerful healing experience.

Last year, Robin accepted another invitation—to become Well-Being Program Manager, overseeing the Strolls for Well-Being program as well. As we understand more about the beneficial role nature can play in emotional health, Robin believes we can find new ways to build community by supporting people experiencing loss—like Walking Widows, a program formed in 2022 that combines strolling and dialogue to provide an experience of comfort and community to individuals who have lost their spouses. Robin is considering ways to sustainably grow the Nature and Well-Being pillar, from added grief groups to offerings in mindfulness meditation or Qi Gong, so that “Bloedel Reserve can be a place where people can get their health back.”
Wollemia nobilis

While not majestic in the conventional sense, Bloedel Reserve’s resident Wollemi pine has an unmistakable presence by the Mid Pond entrance road, made poignant by the fact that less than 100 of these ancient trees are estimated to remain in the wild.

In fact, the Reserve is among just a handful of botanical gardens worldwide that has one, which means we’re actively helping conserve this distinctive, 200-million-year-old species. If you have a garden, you can, too: Native to Australia’s Blue Mountains, the Wollemi pine is amenable to cultivation and hardy in a range of climates. Here’s hoping our 12-foot specimen, having doubled in size in the last decade, reaches its full potential someday, soaring to the 100-foot heights of its ancestors.

“Every morning as I walk down to the Residence I pass the lone Wollemi pine, its unique dangling foliage putting out light green new tips in January. I’ve come to love this tree since I started working here. I greet it every morning.”

Robin Gaphni, Well-Being Program Manager
Peach pie. Cotton candy. Crème brûlée. When the heart-shaped leaves of the Katsura tree begin to drop, something strange happens: intoxicating smells fill the air. This is because the Katsura tree, native to Japan and China, contains a chemical called maltol. But the full effect doesn’t kick in until the maltol blends with sugars, and that doesn’t happen until the leaves have moved across the color spectrum from blue-green to burgundy to copper to golden yellow. On a crisp October day, if you stop by the Katsura tree, crunch a handful of dry leaves under your nose and breathe deeply, you’re in for a transportive sensory treat.

“\textit{I love that tree. I can get people so excited about that tree, whatever time of the year it is, because of whatever it’s doing. It’s doing something interesting for them to see or smell or feel. And it smells like peach pie when the leaves come off, that is special.}”

Tom Strid
Member and Volunteer
Tom Strid

It was January 1989, soon after the Bloedels made the monumental decision to open their stunning home to the public, when Tom Strid first got involved with the Reserve. The organization had five employees then; now more than 40 people work here. Then, he was one of a handful of volunteers; today, over 300 individuals donate their time each year. Tom has seen trees planted as saplings grow to towering heights; he’s even seen some of them succumb to disease or lightning, to be replaced by new saplings.

What remains unchanged over the last three decades is Tom’s role at Bloedel Reserve: Since the beginning, Tom has led children on guided tours of the Reserve, spreading his contagious delight in this unique corner of the natural world and sharing his deep expertise as a botanist and biologist. “When I meet with a school group, I try to communicate the beauty and the complexity and the wonder of this place.” In a new partnership with KiDiMu, Tom leverages his unique forté to ensure that young people have a chance to develop a relationship with nature. “I firmly believe that introducing kids to nature at an early age is so important,” Tom says. “If we’re going to preserve our natural world, they need to have a stake in it. They need to love it.”
A Culture of Abundance

In tangible ways, Economic Sustainability begins with our staff: To fulfill our role as a treasured community asset and become a leader in sustainable horticulture, the Reserve must be managed and maintained by a strong and capable team of individuals. Recruiting and retaining this team begins with competitive salary, generous benefits, and a healthy, productive organizational culture.

In the next five years our Development & Communications team will focus on building strategies for a forward-looking system of people, finances, and philanthropy. We’ll continue fundraising to advance priority capital projects and program initiatives, like the Environmental Horticulture Center, Creative Residency Endowment, and the WellFund, a flexible source of funds to care for the buildings and facilities at the Reserve. As we grow, we’ll refine our business model based on a view of our financial future that’s as holistic as it is realistic.
Economic Sustainability in Action

In a $225,000 increase from 2021, our supporters contributed nearly $1.3 million in new gifts to further budgeted work in 2022, exceeding our goals.

Thanks to our donors, grants, and other direct contributions, funding towards the Creative Residency and Strolls for Well-Being programs increased by nearly $75,000 in 2022.

We earned more than $1.2 million in admissions and memberships, surpassing the organization’s record-breaking 2021 success by more than $50,000.

We saw $300,000 from other earned revenue in 2022, through gift shop sales, weddings, and other programs.

MAINTAINING OUR FISCAL BALANCE IN 2022

True Cost of Visit

$49

Admissions account for half of our earned revenue—20% of the organizational total. On average, visitors pay less than half the true cost of a Bloedel Reserve admission ticket.
Before Carl Westphal’s cousin, Jean Fisher, died in 2016, she gave him a most extraordinary gift: She put him in charge of distributing her fortune. By that time Jean, Carl, and his wife Davonne were quite familiar with the Reserve; they’d been visiting together since 1999, each experiencing the gardens in their own way. “Jean would take forever because she’d stop and look at everything,” Carl explains, getting lost in the details while he absorbed the big picture.

For Carl, financial support is one way to participate in the life of this extraordinary place. His gifts through Jean’s foundation have bolstered the Strolls for Well-Being Program, the Creative Residency Program, and the Compost Facility. “I have a strong spiritual belief system that I’ve been put here for a reason,” he says. “I’ve been honored to be able to do this.”

But Carl gives in other ways, too. “It’s not just about the money,” he says. “Quite the contrary.” A woodworker, he was tapped last year to build nesting boxes for wood ducks in the Buxton Bird Marsh, his favorite spot in the Reserve to observe birds and animals. “If you’re outdoors long enough, things happen that seem to be random. But if you learn how to pay attention to them, opportunities happen. Especially if you can sit quietly for a while.” For Carl, the centering effect of watching this vibrant ecosystem—including the thrill of a duckling launching out of the nesting box for the first time—is more than compensation for his generosity, imbuing his relationship with the Reserve with a sense of reciprocity.

PORTRAITS IN SUSTAINABILITY
Name: Carl Westphal | Occupation: Retired psychologist, philanthropist | Favorite resident bird: Wood duck
Wood ducks are far and above the most ornate of all Pacific Northwest waterfowl: Against the iridescent green hoods of the males, vivid red eyes and bills pop, delicate white streaks glow like tracers. To avoid predators, wood ducks nest out of reach in hollow trees—or in nesting boxes like those built by donor/member Carl Westphal, in loving memory of Dr. Donald Kelly, and installed in the Buxton Bird Marsh last year. A pair of wood ducks made use of the boxes in 2022, with two hatchlings surviving to maturity. If the young are female, we may see them again—75 percent of females return to the place where they hatched.
Celebrating New Growth

2022 saw 11 new hires across all pillars of the Reserve. As we fill vacancies and create new positions, and as we welcome new members, volunteers, and Creative Residents, our team feels more and more like an interconnected ecosystem—mirroring the one that surrounds us and characterized by our collective dependence on nature.

Each staff member and volunteer at the Reserve brings an individual strength that, when combined, creates a holistic team. Everyone works together to foster the life of the community, from bacterial to fungal, plant to human.

Sonja Parker
Grounds & Facilities Associate
My favorite bench overlooks Mid Pond. It feels to me as if it is the beating center of the Reserve each time I visit. It can be a symphony of nature sounds or be the quietest alone space to sit and write. People pass by, but the antics on the pond—between the ducks, dragonflies and frogs—provide mesmerizing moments, as human sounds diminish into the backdrop.

—Kathleen Bullivant, Volunteer Docent

Sometimes we would just stop in one spot and silently let the energy soak in. There is such comfort in standing in the presence of nature...I witness the love and care that goes into tending to each plant and tree, I understand how nature gives back to us if we only take the time to be quiet and absorb the peace and beauty.

—Tracy Overturf, Assistant Guest Services Manager

The other part of community for me is the plants and animals themselves. I think that’s the heart of it. It’s important that I’m friends with the bees or the birds or the snakes.

—Catherine Alice Michaelis, Creative Resident

There is not one aspect of sustainability that resonates with why I work here. Instead it is the encapsulation of all the pieces. My drive is to provide a space for my kids and their kids to be able to connect with the nature that I see and experience.

—Audrey Harmon, Development & Communications Coordinator

There’s something special about the arrival of spring at the Reserve. After the long dark days of winter, light starts to dip its toes into February and March and our slumbering senses begin to awaken.

—Robin Gaphni, Well-Being Program Manager

My new experience working at Bloedel has confirmed what we all know deep inside: when the body or brain is out of balance, be it from the constant flow of information we receive daily and the perfectionism and striving that has become normalized in our culture, being close to the earth can offer restoration.

—Tara Wittrup-Moyer, Guest Services Associate

Humans need plants not just for food, but as part of our environment. This need is very clear in a garden like Bloedel Reserve, where people come to unwind and enjoy nature. Our mental health needs the connection with the plant world.

—Darren Strenge, Gardens West Manager
An Interconnected Ecosystem

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“Whenever my volunteers see plants from the nursery planted on the grounds, that really brings joy to them.”

Philip Bloomquist
LANDSCAPE OF GIVING

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($10,000+ pledged annually for a minimum of 5 years or equivalent gift)
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Seattle Garden Club
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Vanathi & Narendra Siddaiah
Burnley & Jim Snyder
Carla & John Stroh
Suquamish Indian Tribe
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Deirdre & Fraser Black
Robert R. Black
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Jane Crane
Virginia Davison
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Puget Sound Energy
Joanie & Bill Ransom
Jean & John Rosling
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations
Michael Stewart
Diane & Greg Sugden
Sweet Dahlia Baking, LLC
Karen & John Thomas
Jason Tichler
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Liz & Fred Walters
Rolf Watson
Whittier Trust
Mitch Wilk
Winslow Law Group
Wyman Youth Trust

**HORTICULTURISTS ($1,000–$2,499)**

Anonymous (3)
Darlene Abbott Kordonowy
Caren & Dave Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Sue Andresen & Dennis Kirkpatrick
Pheobe Andrew
Helen & John Andrews
Jacqueline & Tim Antilla
Heather & Dave Ballaine
Jane & Watson Blair
Frank Blethen
Bill Booth
Jane & Stan Brand
Virginia & Thomas Brewer
Faith & Jim Chapel
Julie Zelikowski & David Gissel
City Of Bainbridge Island
The East Bay Foundation
Elizabeth Conklin
Barbee & Jim Crutcher
Gair & Richard R Crutcher
Annie Vreeland & Stephen Dundas
Barbi Yamauchi & Kellie Eickmeyer
Jean Enersen & Bruce Carter
Flamingo Audio
Jane & Robin Fraser
Alden Garrett & Charlie Eriksen
Kathy Gerlich
Charlie Hall
Marcia & Doug Hastings
Nancy Heckler
Ann & Glen Hiner
C. David Hughbanks
Mike Immerwahr
Marjorie Sheldon & John Paul Jones
Kate Kavanaugh & Wally Hyer
Jackie & Jim Kennedy
Kitsap Community Foundation
Dan Flores & Kurt Kruckeberg
Anne & Paul Kundtz
Helen Langer Smith
Andrea & Philippe Lantin
Karyn Lazarus & Mary Kay Chess
Nancy & Michael Lewars
Dave Lindsey
Cindy Lowney & Gary Rydstrom
Anne Reusche & David Marzahl
Alan Maskin
Ryan Maxwell
Ann McCutchan
Tom Meadowcroft
Amelia Stecher & Meg Milligan

Susan & Furman Moseley
David Nakamura
Amanda Nelson
Wendy O'Connor
Susan & Ned Palmer
Emily Parsons & Steve Trimble
Gloria Pfeil
Gay & David Reynolds-Gooch
Sally Adams & Louis Richard
Dabney Rohrbach
Joseph B. Salter
Brian Schilling-George
Dwight Shappell
Robert Skotheim
Helen & Stephen Smith
Wendy Soule
Southdown Creative LLC
Judy & Jerry Spigel
Richie Steffen & Rick Peterson
Anne & John Stratton
Beverly & Dennis Stenge
James & Linda Strickler
Alex Teiche
Nancy & David Thacher
Marguerite & Nate Thomas
Barbara Thomas
Natalie Rodriguez
Caroline Vannatta & Gregory Riehm
Tour Bainbridge
Sarah & Graehm Wallace
Cynthia & David Welte
Leslie & Mike Whalen
Holly & Neal White
Janet & Fred Williams
Rosalind & Ron Williams
Tresse & Frank Williamson
Delight Willing
Suzy Wyckoff
IN MEMORIAM
Anonymous, in memory of Doug Bayley

IN MEMORIAM
Lynn & Doug Kloke, in memory of Magna Faller Borderud
Howard & Janet Emery, in memory of Mary Karen Brown
Mary McConney and Barbara Thomas, in memory of Susan Twombly Brownell
Olivia Sears & Craig Bicknell, in memory of Frank Buxton
Anonymous and Mark Levine & John Keppeler, in memory of Nugget Dunaney
Richard Dulaney, in memory of Dieter Ebeling
SUSANNE NEUMILLER, in memory of Rosalie Frasene
Carolyn Burger, in memory of Susan J. Guffey
Sean Guffey and Justine & John Milberg, in memory of John Milberg

IN MEMORIAM
Millie & Dennis Heeney, in memory of Gary Heeney
Gair & Richard Crutchner, in memory of Wylie & Marjorie Hemphill
Anne Bialous, in memory of Gary Henderickson

IN MEMORIAM
Rosalind & Ron Williams, in memory of Jocelyn Clise Horder
Todd Adams, Sandra & Bill McIver, Becky Miller, Justine & John Milberg, and Cassie & Doug Picha, in memory of Donald Kelly
Justine & John Milberg and Barbara Reis & Richard Mattei, in memory of Julie Keppeler
Anne Fleming, in memory of Paul Hayden Kirk
Janet & Steve Hunter and Jim & Anne Packard, in memory of Marian Holt McLain
Jay Roof & Margene Smaaladen, in memory of Melanie Mohler
Dwight Shappell, in memory of Leon Ottig
The Rauschl Family, in memory of Bette Rielly and Robert & Anne McKay
Dwight Shappell, in memory of Rolande Shappell
Julie Greenman, Linda, Tony, Alaina & Clara LaBagnara-Schimizzi, The Schaffner Family, Laraine & Brad Siefert, Sally Siefert, and Scott Siefert, in memory of Beryl Wanner
IN HONOR
Anne & Craig Hess, in honor of Sandra McIver
Allison Bassett, in honor of Justine Milberg
David Nakamura, in honor of Kimi Kinoshita
Cynthia Huffman & Ray Heacox, in honor of Deborah Schenk
Brian & Margaret Schilling, in honor of Alice & Don Schilling
Karen Stevenson, in honor of Gary Williams
Kristine McLean, in honor of the Volunteers at the Reserve

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network
Bainbridge Community Foundation
Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Bainbridge Performing Arts
Kids Discovery Museum
Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center
Olympic College
Puget Sound Restoration Fund
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Seattle University
West Sound Wildlife Shelter
YWCA of Kitsap County

LEGACY CIRCLE
Anonymous (2)
Sue Andresen & Dennis Kirkpatrick
Ted Andrews & Gretchen Hund
Beth Bradley
Elizabeth & Scott Coplan
Steve Davis
Elliott & Lynn Green
Suzanne Kelly
Kimi Kinoshita & Gary Nakamura
Bob Leik
Mark Levine & John Keppeler
David & George Lewis
Terri McGinnis
Justine & John Milberg
Carole A. Nelson
Shawn & Bethany O’Neill
Cassie & Doug Picha
Suzanne & Brooks Ragen
Joseph B. Salter, Jr.
Deborah & Proctor Schenk
Eulalie Schneider
Alice & David Shorette
Hope & Dick Stroble
Carla & John Stroh
Sarah & Graehm Wallace

“Everything is connected
and sometimes we are privileged to see it right in front of us.”
Carl Westphal

We have done our utmost to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Should you find any omissions or errors, please contact Dan Walker, Development Manager, so that we may correct our records. dwalker@bloedelreserve.org | 206-842-7631, x25
I’ve been Development Director since April 2022, but I’ve been coming here since I was a little girl. Relaxing on the Residence lawn with my family, staring into the Reflection Pool during a third-grade field trip, visiting here as a teenager, then bringing my own children to explore the trails...Bloedel Reserve is a beautiful, green through-line in my life and I’m grateful to walk these paths every day.

Bloedel Reserve in 2023 is an exciting place to me. So much has changed—and change is inherent in an organization like ours, which is as dynamic as nature itself. In its thoughtful, measured way, guided by our history and the expertise of all the people who have worked here over the years, the Reserve of today is open to new ideas, new ways of thinking and being.

At Bloedel Reserve, we belong to a web of community. You see this in our visitors, each drawn by their own individual experience, yet part of a multitude. You see it in the organizational partnerships that have arisen in the past year, across Bainbridge Island and across the Sound. It’s evident in the efforts we’re making to ensure this place grows more welcoming and accessible, and in the generosity of members and donors helping to support those efforts.

Welcome Wednesdays, for example, would be unimaginable without our community of supporters. On the first Wednesday of every month, this new program will let visitors decide the cost of a unique, individual experience in nature. This is the sort of innovation that excites me most about the Bloedel Reserve of now. The combined impact of every donation, whether $5, $50 or $50,000, doesn’t just keep the lights on at Bloedel Reserve. More than ever before, it opens the gate to a wider community.

Becky Walliman
Director of Development & Communications
We express deep gratitude towards the Suquamish People, People of the Clear Salt Water, for sustaining the land within which our healing landscapes thrive. Those entrusted with caring for Bloedel Reserve acknowledge that the sacred ancestral territory on which the Reserve resides flourishes because of the stewardship, since time immemorial, by the Suquamish people. We will honor and respect their legacy by nurturing this land and the waterways of the Central Salish Sea for present and future generations.