

Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens
November 2020 Update
by Yanna Kruse

I am delighted to report —all is well at the Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens as we patiently await news of reopening. The Arizona Historical Society recently reopened two large museums in Tucson and Tempe, but smaller historic sites remain closed to the public. Time is being invested in a variety of projects to continue positive, forward momentum at the Sanguinetti House Museum. Here are highlights!

- **Museum Activities:**
 - The Arizona Historical Society's exhibition team continues preparations for the fall 2021 unveiling of a new, permanent exhibit at the Sanguinetti House Museum chronicling the life's work of E. F. Sanguinetti.
 - Special thanks to State of Arizona Board Member, Lorna Brooks, and RCC Board Member, Betsy Gottspooner, for supporting the **Peak-a-Boo** event on Halloween, attended by 68 slightly-scared guests.
 - Our first **Children's Bedtime Story** recording from the museum was posted to social media in October. Sponsorship opportunities for a series of Children's Bedtime Stories may be announced in the coming months.
 - Fresh-air **Historic Yuma Walking Tours** will begin again in December. Tickets will be priced at \$20. Masks will be required and group sizes will be reduced to 10 tour-goers. We are thrilled to be back in business celebrating Yuma's history!

- **Sanguinetti House Museum Business Plan (Draft):**
 - The Arizona Historical Society set annual financial goals for the Sanguinetti House Museum, but restrictions due to Covid-19 continue to make reaching goals a challenge. In an effort to better understand and plan activities necessary to meet goals, a Sanguinetti House Museum Business Plan was drafted in September and will continue to be refreshed with new ideas as the situation changes. AHS predicts a museum reopen date no earlier than February 2021.

- **Garden and Facility Enhancements:**
 - Thanks to support from Donna Johnson and YCHS, the Sanguinetti gardens are receiving loving care! Reseeded lawns will present a vibrant green carpet this winter. A tree that loses leaves in the winter was removed, which will delight future brides! Roses in the gardens are blooming and beautiful.

 - Year after year, roof replacement at the Sanguinetti House Museum is submitted to the State of Arizona as a capital improvement initiative. At last, it may be approved! A representative of the State recently visited the museum to collect bids from local contractors. While walking on the roof, one contractor's foot broke through the roof, enhancing our chance for full roof replacement in the months ahead. A budget of \$45,000 was set by the State of Arizona for the roof project.

- **Grant Submissions:**
 - **History Mysteries of Yuma Tour Booklet Project: (\$5000)**

A grant proposal was submitted to the Arizona Community Foundation to fund printing of a one-of-a-kind booklet that celebrates stories of historic buildings in Yuma's downtown district. The project's uniqueness is that it blends a traditional, printed booklet with modern-day QR code links to short videos. Each video includes a theatrical presentation of a mystery, curiosity, or unknown point of interest about each building...presented in the form of a riddle. Revenue from sales of *History Mysteries of Yuma Tour Books* would have provided sustaining revenue while the museum is closed. Unfortunately, the project was not approved for funding by the Arizona Community Foundation. Alternative funding sources are being researched.
 - **"I Love this Museum" Youth Activity Project (\$1,000)**

Children are always welcome at AHS museums, but exhibits often are designed for adult audiences. We want to hear kids say, "I Love this Museum!" As part of my work in Guest Experience, each museum will host a youth activity to offer when families with children come for a visit. A proposal was submitted to Albertsons to fund items for these youth activities. The project was sadly not approved for funding. Once again, alternative funding sources are being sought.
- **Jack Mellon Mercantile Opens:**
 - Chloe Tran-Hopson is a welcome addition at the Jack Mellon Mercantile. Her love for local history and kind-hearted personality made her a perfect pick!
- **Thank You!**
 - Thank you for your continued support during this challenging and ever-changing time. Our plan is to be flexible, inventive, and dedicated to seeing the Sanguinetti House Museum through to brighter days.