

# Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County

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Jessica Hougen, Museum Director/Curator

# A brief history...

**Norma and Howard Harter in front of the Museum shortly before opening**



**Current façade**



# Organization

- Department of Sutter County
  - Salaries & benefits for 2 FTE
  - Utilities
  - Building Maintenance
  - Basic business expenses
- Museum Association
  - Temporary Exhibits
  - Replacing permanent exhibits
  - Education programs
  - Gift Shop
  - Marketing



# Permanent Exhibits

- Sutter Buttes
- Nisenan Maidu
- John Sutter
- History of Agriculture
- Multi-Cultural Gallery
- Early days in Yuba-Sutter



# Temporary Exhibits

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- Local or regional connection
- Variety of topics
- Contemporary connections





### TATTOOED and TENACIOUS

Injured Women in California's History

These women suffered from severe, long-term injuries. Many were injured during the 19th-century gold rush, but their stories are often overlooked. This exhibit highlights their resilience and the challenges they faced.



## GOLD FEVER!

UNTOLD STORIES OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

Known as CALIFORNIA'S GOLD RUSH, the California Gold Rush was the largest migration in the history of California, commencing in 1848 and peaking in 1849. It led to the discovery of gold in California and the subsequent influx of people from all over the world. This exhibit tells the stories of the men, women, and children who sought their fortune in California, and the impact of the gold rush on the state and the nation.



# Education Programs

## Children's Programs

- Night at the Museum
- West Coast Falconry
- Storytelling



## Adult Programs

- Lectures
- Gallery Talks
- New Book Presentations





ANNUAL GALA

# Trees AND Traditions

Saturday  
December 2, 2017  
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Champagne and Hors d'oeuvres**  
\$45 PER PERSON

To Benefit  
**COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM**  
1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City, California  
(530) 822-7141 • [www.suttercountymuseum.org](http://www.suttercountymuseum.org)







## Revitalization

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County shares local stories to strengthen community bonds, to inspire celebration of our diverse cultural heritage, and to demonstrate how understanding the past prepares us for the future.

# Institutional Assessments: Museum Assessment Program



## Collections Assessment for Preservation



# Strategic Plan:

1. Develop a comprehensive development plan to identify and initiate ongoing fundraising operations.
2. Continue to build staff to meet growing institutional needs.
3. Initiate a plan for ongoing improvements to the Museum's facilities.
4. Review all exhibits, assessing relevance, redesign opportunities, and audience appeal.
5. Increase marketing and visibility through a comprehensive approach.



# Marketing-Rebranding

[www.suttercountymuseum.org](http://www.suttercountymuseum.org)



## Brochure



# Visitation

Total visitation- 2016: 6800      2017: 7800      2018 (to date): 5163

## **July-Dec. 2017**

Total: 3540

79.92% from Sutter County

72.49% from Yuba City

## **Jan.-June 2018**

Total: 5163

83.54% from Sutter County

80.21% from Yuba City

# Partnerships

- Yuba Sutter Arts
- Sutter County Children & Families Commission
- Sutter County Superintendent of Schools
- Sutter County Library
- Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes



# Gift Shop

Books, books, books!

Local, regional and state history

Subjects related to exhibits in the museum

Children's books, focus on multi-cultural

'Made in California'

'Made on the West Coast'





New Addition

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Installed in Spring 2018





# California Cultural and Historical Endowment Grant

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Further  
facilities  
upgrades

New hard-surface flooring

New HVAC system for storage building

Upgrades to security system

Painting the entire interior

New exterior signage

New flexible wall system

# Exhibit Projects

## Nisenan Maidu Exhibit



## African American Exhibit



# Current Flood Exhibit



## The Flow of History Floods in Sutter County



To live in the Sutter County area is to live with the threat of flood. From the time of Native Indian villages to the present settlements of housing, farms and shopping malls, living in close proximity to these rivers – the Sacramento, the Feather and the Bear – has always meant dealing with the hazardous flood season cycle.

Yuba City began on the site of the Yuba Indian village, located on high ground near the Feather River, from being a natural levee formed by all deposits during earlier outflows. It was protected on the north by a natural barrier, now known as Colusa Slough, through which access water was managed when the river was in flood. This highway was built during the general reclamation of the land and disrupted the the experience with flood which surrounded the settlements of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers in southern Sutter County.

Several options occurred at every stage in the valley floor system. A large one ran through the head of what is now Marysville. All that remains of it now is Elko Lake and the long area east of the railroad.

Flooding is a part of the natural history of the area, but after 1850, floods became more of a problem. As the population of the county grew and pushed out onto the flood plain, the potential for damage increased. At the same time, hydraulic mining in the foothills resulted in large quantities of debris clogging river channels, raising channels and raising the level of the river beds.

Some measures were taken to reduce the problem, in 1911 a state flood control project was adopted to straighten levees, and a federal project called for the building of levees to open and close. During the time, watermaster districts were created to run flood basins that agricultural use. One such district was the Sutter-Buchanan Project which drained the Sutter area.

The demand for land in the 1850s, due to migration to California during the Depression and again in the 1920s with the automobile explosion, caused reclamation and industrial development to move into the flood-prone areas surrounding Yuba City.

As the demand for land continued, so did the struggle. Sutter County residents are aware of the threat with the anticipation of living on a flood plain.

### Chronology of Local Floods

- 1807 - According to information, early miners probably had some knowledge of the river cycle. They were aware of the fact that the river would rise and flood, but they were not sure of the exact time and extent of the flood. They were not sure of the exact time and extent of the flood.
- 1809-10 - A draining party was contracted to work in the Sutter Basin with high water. The Basin was reported to be full of water, with much of the water being held back in the Basin.
- 1816-17 - One of the other parties of those years, there were great floods.
- 1824-25 - During the winter, most of the water was contained by the winter water. The river crossed at Yuba, Sacramento and Feather through the Basin. The water was not high and the Basin was not full. The water was not high and the Basin was not full.
- 1826 - The water was not high and the Basin was not full. The water was not high and the Basin was not full.
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- 1900 - The water was not high and the Basin was not full. The water was not high and the Basin was not full.

1807 - This is the first of many years, especially in the early years, that the river was in flood. The river was in flood, and the water was high. The river was in flood, and the water was high.

"At the time the morning had been successful, the river was in flood. The river was in flood, and the water was high. The river was in flood, and the water was high."

1807 - In December the river broke at Elko Ridge and water poured down the river into the Basin. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1808 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1809 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1810 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1811 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1812 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1813 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1814 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1815 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

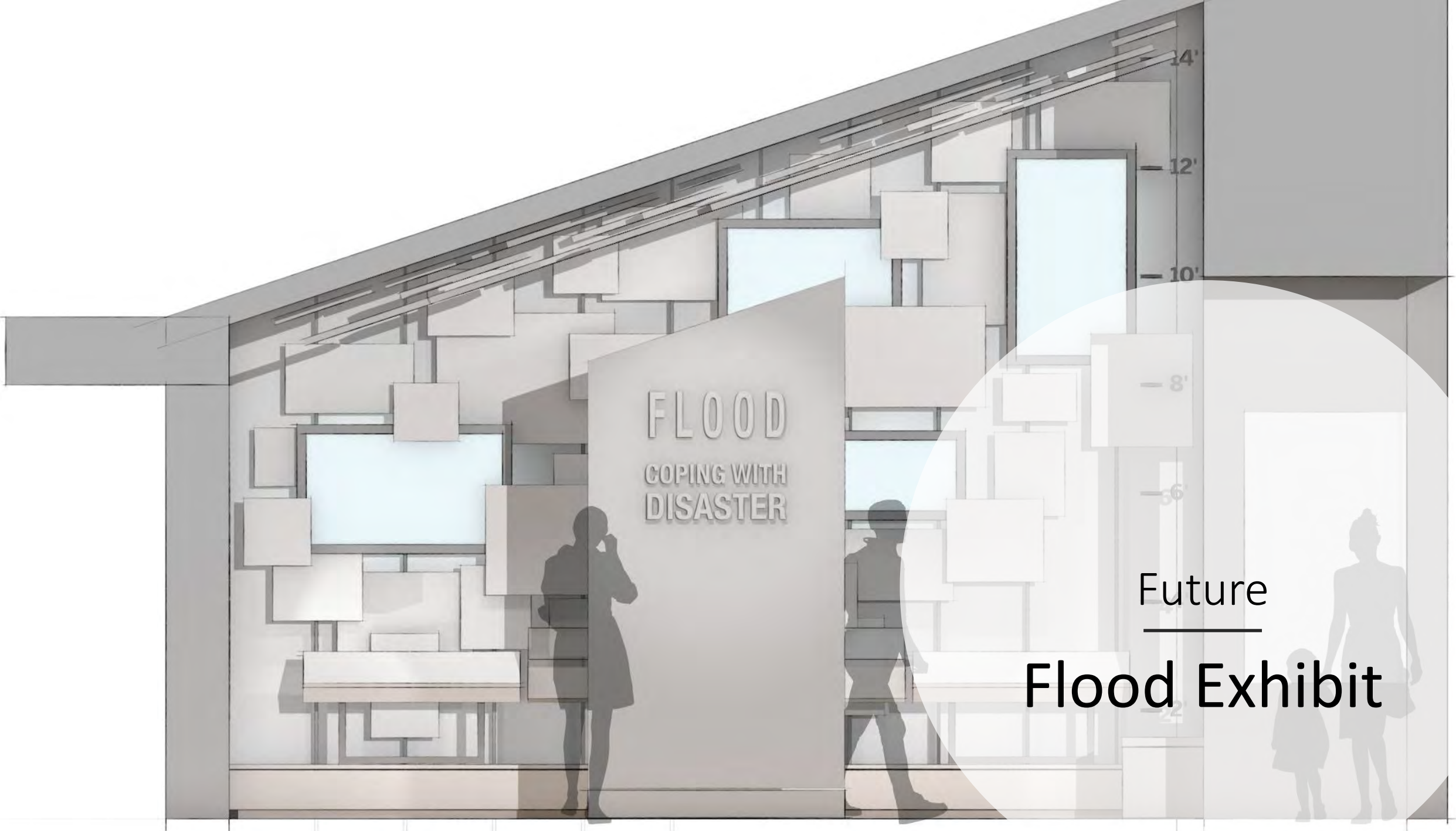
1816 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1817 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1818 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.

1819 - Flood at Yuba City from the Feather River. The water was in flood, and the water was high.





FLOOD  
COPING WITH  
DISASTER

Future

                      
Flood Exhibit

# FLOOD

COPING WITH  
DISASTER

WORST FLOOD  
CALIFORNIA'S HISTO



YEAR	LOCATION
1942	...
1943	...
1944	...
1945	...
1946	...
1947	...
1948	...
1949	...
1950	...
1951	...
1952	...
1953	...
1954	...
1955	...

