

Museum staff profile: Sunmiet Maben ~

Sunmiet Maben is the Facility and Operations Director at the Museum at Warm Springs. Sunmiet holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from the University of Washington. She has been on staff at the museum since 2010, and was recently promoted from her longtime position of Operations Manager to Facility and Operations Director.

Question: What initially drew you to the Museum at Warm Springs?
Answer: I have always loved museums, so when I was ready for a change in careers, I decided to look at the museum. It has been a great fit and I have been with the museum ever since.

How did you land in operations as a career path at the museum?
I have always been good with numbers and been able to work on multiple projects at one time, so the position was a good fit, and having experience as a manager and supervisor was a big help.

What are the most important aspects of your job?
The most important aspect is management. I have to be able to manage time, budgets and people.

What does a normal workday look like for you?

I first sit down see if I have any messages and check emails and prioritize responses, because some are better off in the hands of someone else. I then make a list of everything that I need to work on. I many have meetings that I need to participate in and whenever one of the employees needs something, we try to take care of it right away. I make sure payments are taken care of and place any orders that may need to be done. I do a lot of checking in with the gift shop and maintenance to make sure everything with the building is okay and they are doing



Sunmiet Maben is also a former Miss Warm Springs.

okay.
What do you enjoy the most about your work at the Museum at Warm Springs?

I love the variety of what I work on, and the people I get to work with. I don't just work with those in the museum, I also get to work with others from different museums. My days are busy and always go by really fast.

What do you find special about the Museum at Warm Springs, in general?

I love the museum. First, it is such an amazing building. It is definitely a museum that the people of Warm Springs can be proud of.

I love the sense of peace when you walk in the doors and you are just able to enjoy the space. There was so much thought that was put into the museum that it still speaks to people today, the way it did over 30 years ago. It is hard to express exactly how special the museum is.

What has been your most challenging project to date?

My most challenging project to date, has been the replacement of the HVAC system in the museum. There were several layers to it and we had to make sure everything would fit where it

needed to, as well as work together. It was more than just purchasing 16 new heat

pumps and installing them. We had to upgrade and make sure the control panel would work with the new heat pumps and upgrade all of the electrical so it was also compatible. That meant working with several different companies and getting them to work together.

What's your newest project?

I am currently working on the upgrade to the Permanent Exhibit. We will upgrade the technology in the exhibit and look and see what changes may need to be made. We do want it to feel fresh and new in the Permanent Exhibit but still have the same experience.

What do you feel most proud of when you think about all of the special projects, exhibitions and programs that you've been

involved in over the years? Does any moment (or moments) stand out for you in your memory?

For the size of the museum, we have been able to do some great things. We have held some great fundraising events and brought in special guests, such as Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills and Captain and former NASA astronaut John Herrington, the first enrolled citizen of a Native tribe to fly in space. The most special may have been the Treaty Conference in 2018. It was a lot of hard work but turned out great. There were many great speakers and brought many wonderful people together.

I love the feeling of accomplishment when something has been completed. It can be hard to get through projects, especially when we have not really had the staff, but we manage to pull it off.

Roof project

This spring it became apparent that the museum desperately needs a new roof. The roof has not been replaced since the museum was constructed more than 30 years ago.

Longtime Board of Directors member and current Vice President Bill Nicholson came forward with a \$10,000 challenge donation, followed by other contributors.

Individuals are invited to add to the contributions for the new roof. A donation box will be at the museum. Donations can also be mailed to The Museum at PO Box 909, Warm Springs OR 97761 (please note that the donation is for the roof) or made online at: museum.atwarmsprings.org



Warm Springs
Commissary
Project

CALL
For Artist

- Outdoor permanent sculptured display
- Native American artist
- Related to Commissary project or CTWS



If interested in more information, submit email by May 20 to Starla@wscat.org



Contact Us!  541-553-3148  starla@wscat.org



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION CRITFC IS HIRING!

Be part of the intertribal work to protect salmon and treaty fishing rights!



Applying is fast & easy.
Visit critfc.org/jobs or scan the QR code for full position details and application materials.

Law Enforcement Positions

(based in **Hood River, OR**)
• Police Officer • \$67-80K

Site Maintenance Positions

(based in **The Dalles, OR**)
• Maintenance Worker • \$19 - \$20/hour

Fish Genetics Lab Positions

(based in **Hagerman, ID**)
• Genetics Lab Technician • \$23 - \$27/hour

Coming Soon!

• Manager, Policy Development & Litigation Support