



# SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM of natural history

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***FUNGUS FEBRUARY* BRINGS MONTH OF MUSHROOM EVENTS TO SANTA CRUZ**

*SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND FUNGUS FEDERATION OF SANTA  
CRUZ PARTNER ON EVENT SERIES INCLUDING FUNGUS FAIR*

**SANTA CRUZ, CA — February 1, 2022 —** The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz have partnered to bring the community *Fungus February*, a series of events celebrating and examining the mushrooms of the region. Events include guided walks with experts, art workshops, programs for youth, and a *Mini Fungus Fair* featuring displays of fungal diversity from throughout the County.

“Santa Cruzans love fungi. Not only do we have some of the best mushroom diversity in the State, we also have some of the most enthusiastic *fungiphiles*. We receive requests for mushroom programs year-round and we are so excited to offer a variety of options for our community to learn about these amazing organisms,” said Marisa Gomez, the Museum’s Public Programs Manager.

The *Mini Fungus Fair*, to be held outside the Museum in Tyrrell Park on Saturday, February 19, 2022, harkens back to the beginning of the Fungus Federation in Santa Cruz. The first-ever Santa Cruz Fungus Fair was held at the Museum in 1974, where the annual event continued for many years. More recently the event has taken place at the London Nelson Community Center, but this year it returns to its original home at the Museum for an intimate outdoor display.

“The Fungus Federation is pleased to continue a long-lasting relationship with the Museum by supporting *Fungus February*. The principal charter of the Federation is education about fungi and mushrooms, so what better way for us to help further that goal than to participate in the Museum’s efforts to introduce more of the public to the magic of mushrooms,” said Richard Rammer, Fungus Federation Prime Minister.

October through December brought much needed rain to the region, leading to promising mushroom displays throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains. While January has been much drier, mushrooms are here

year-round. Late season mushrooms will continue to delight those who turn their attention to the duff and dirt around them.

“Fungi are essential and vital to the health of the ecology of the world. It has been shown repeatedly that plants with fungal associates are healthier and grow better than those without. Mushrooms come in a myriad of sizes, shapes, and colors. It is rewarding to watch people discover the beauty and diversity of mushrooms. Besides being pretty and the important role they play in nature, there are many culinary delights to be experienced by eating mushrooms,” said Phil Carpenter, science advisor for the Fungus Federation.

***For a full line-up of Fungus February events, visit***  
***<https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/fungus-february-2022/>***

### **About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature to inspire stewardship of the natural world. Founded on the collection of naturalist Laura Hecox, it is the oldest public museum in Santa Cruz, founded in 1905. The Museum features hands-on educational exhibits and events indoors, outdoors, and online for people of all ages to discover and learn about the natural history of this region. Children are often seen climbing on the life-size gray whale model outside the Museum, a cherished Santa Cruz landmark created in 1982.

Learn more about the Museum and plan your visit at [santacruzmuseum.org](https://www.santacruzmuseum.org). We invite you to follow us on social media to see updates on current events, fun facts about nature, science, and local nature sightings.

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