

# The Museum Light

Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society & Museum

June 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Exciting Happenings!	2
From our President	3
From our VP/Executive Director	4
The Museum Summer Market	5
Storing and Caring for Our Collection	6
Our Collection's New Home	7
Our Intern Program	8
Our Recent Events	9
From our Curator and Collections Manager	10
Looking Back	11
Major Thanks	12

**an  
immigrant  
history  
of  
edmonds**

An exhibit showcasing the stories of immigrants to Edmonds and South Snohomish County

**Opening May 24, 2025  
9am-2pm**

Edmonds Historical Museum  
118 5th Ave N  
historicedmonds.org

### Our Curator Extraordinaire and Humanities Washington Fellow, Polly Yorioka, has created a multi-faceted experience in our new exhibit.

Join the Edmonds Historical Museum to celebrate the opening of "An Immigrant History of Edmonds." Curated by Humanities Washington Fellow Polly Yorioka, the exhibit honors the diverse cultural heritage of Edmonds and the significant contributions immigrants have made to shape the community into what it is today.

From the early settlers who arrived from Scandinavia and Japan to more recent immigrants from Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, "An Immigrant History of Edmonds" highlights how these communities have enriched the cultural, economic, and social fabric of the city.

Visitors will hear first-hand accounts from local residents about their experiences immigrating to Edmonds, the challenges they faced, the traditions they brought with them, and the impact they've had on shaping the city's character through interactive displays, video kiosks, and QR codes to watch interviews on smartphones. Attendees are also encouraged to share their own immigration stories or those of their families.



"An Immigrant History of Edmonds" will be on display at the Edmonds Historical Museum from May 24 through August 23, 2025. The exhibit will also be available online as a virtual exhibit at [www.animmigranthistoryofedmonds.com](http://www.animmigranthistoryofedmonds.com).



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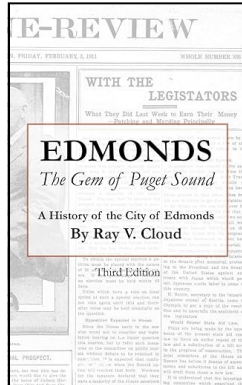
**LOSCHO Representative:**  
 Jim Landers

Follow us! @EdmondsMuseum



**Exciting Happenings**

**The Ace Hardware Store round-up promotion is underway during the month of June and the Edmonds Historical Museum is the beneficiary! Just tell the cashier you want to “round up” your purchase and the extra \$\$ are donated to the Edmonds Historical Museum. Buy all your gardening, camping, picnic, and home repair supplies now and please urge your friends and family to stock up as well.**



There is now a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of book Edmonds: The Gem of the Puget Sound by Ray Cloud. It is available in the gift shop of the Edmonds Historical Museum and you can get a copy for \$15 or \$13.50—10% off— if you are a Museum member.

# EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<b>Board Game Night</b> 5 PM - 8 PM Friday 6	<b>Fourth Celebration</b> Friday 4	<b>Board Game Night</b> 5 PM - 8 PM Friday 1
<b>Train Exhibit Opening</b> 9 AM - 2 PM <b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 14	<b>Wine Walk</b> 5 PM - 8 PM Saturday 5	<b>Wine Walk</b> 5 PM - 8 PM Saturday 2
<b>Artist Talk</b> 1 PM - 2 PM Saturday 21	<b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 12	<b>Old Settlers picnic</b> (Civic Park Shelter 2) 3 PM - 9 PM <b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 9
<b>Pride Pop-Up</b> 9 AM - 2 PM <b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 28	<b>Porch Fest</b> Sunday 13	<b>Oral History Screening</b> Edmonds Theater 10 AM - 12 PM Saturday 16
	<b>Historic Homes Tour</b> 11 AM - 4 pm Sunday 20	<b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 23
	<b>KIDS CRAFT</b> 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 26	

To Learn more about our events please follow us on social media or visit our EventBrite Page!

## From our Board President, Barb Fahey

Ten years ago, in 2015, when I joined the Board, my frame of reference was my memories of the Edmonds Museum in the early days, when everything donated was displayed in the building or stored there. Records were kept about what items were in the collection, but not much information was documented about the donor or the significance of the item to Edmonds history. That was the norm in the 1970's.



1975

North Gallery

Lower Level

Storage in South Gallery

However, the last 50 plus years have brought great changes to the way museums operate and the way Collections are cared for. The standard of today is to tell the stories associated with items on display in exhibits for the purposes of education as well as visual enjoyment. This requires many additional hours of documentation when acquiring an item. And with ever evolving technology and growing knowledge of good collection care it is now essential to house items correctly and hire staff with the training to implement these standards. Additionally, modern museums offer experiences in addition to exhibits.

After a full evaluation, to determine how to accommodate these changes, we embarked on an ambitious effort to address the things that needed improvement. Throughout this Newsletter you will see examples of some of the exciting new initiatives that have been implemented. I am thrilled to report that we have:

**Changed our exhibit standards.** We now have smaller exhibition sections that are ever changing and tell stories, making it fun to visit the Museum often.

**Placed** a high emphasis on displays, hands on experiences, and craft projects that are of interest to families and young people to build a love of and appreciation for history.

**Invested** in the digital Past Perfect program and transferred all our records from the outdated program we bought in 2005. This program will ultimately provide online, read only, access to all our documents.

**Implemented** communication technologies like QR Codes for easier access to things on our website.

**Moved** to electronic communications for our newsletter, and other communications saving enormous mailing costs. Our email contact list has grown from around 300 to over 600 and is increasing every day.

**Better utilized** our numerous Social Media connections, making a much larger audience aware of our Museum and our many projects and activities with greater frequency.

**Established** a new effort to offer internships to students in Museology and capstone programs. See pages 8 and 12.

**AND in April we embarked on our newest and *most important initiative*. "The Collection" has been brought home to Edmonds to a much better storage location and environment! Please visit pages 6 and 7 to read more about this.**



## Message from our VP/Executive Director, Arnold Lund

Spring is the time for renewal and new life. That is true for the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society as well. Part of our vision to engage, educate, and inspire is connecting more people with more of our ever-growing collection of artifacts and stories. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the many wonderful volunteers and interns who helped our staff move our collection to its new location at Harbor Square. But the bigger story is that this is the result of reflecting on how we can better serve our community by creating a Collections, Education, and Research Center.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the design concepts for a Museum expansion created by Johnson Oaklief Architecture & Planning. That expansion may take a while, but we aren't waiting. We are using all the input we received from our community during the process to transform the Museum and its operations today. I'm sure you have seen all the exciting exhibits and programs in our eNews and on our social media. The thing to notice is not just the amazing stories of our diverse heritage, but how they are being told. We are collaborating with other community groups and local businesses. We are also trying out innovative ways to engage people in our history through a wider variety of events and experiences.



*The Marsh Life sculpture at the Edmonds Historical Museum*

One project that illustrates this is that we were excited to learn that we have received a grant from State of Washington Tourism to create a permanent Coast Salish Tribes exhibit. This will be the first new exhibit in the lower level of the Museum in many years. We are working with the Tulalip tribes, the Duwamish, and others on the best way to share how the marsh, shore, and forests in this area supported the needs of the tribes that lived here for thousands of years. Those tribes used the resources here for food, medicine, clothing, ornaments, art, and housing while also interacting with one another, marriage, and ceremonies. We are also part of Diana White's team creating an Indigenous Walking Tour of Edmonds, and the plan is that one of the stops will include the Ty Juvenil sculpture in front of the Museum and also the new exhibit.

With all the changes and activities that are going on, we have also decided that it is time for a brand that represents and unifies all the Edmonds Historical Society's initiatives and programs. A brand is not just a logo; it is the overall perception and identity that an organization like ours creates in the minds of our community. It goes beyond just a name or logo, or even a website design. It includes every experience the community has with us, and should represent our vision, values, reputation, and how we want to be perceived.



*At the branding workshop*

To help us, we reached out to the University of Washington's Division of Design. Four of their Masters of Design graduates formed a team to work with us. They all have day jobs but are graciously donating their time to us. They have immersed themselves in our vision, strategy, and history. They ran a workshop with us to better understand our wishes and requirements. We are currently iterating with them on options until we get to a final design. So, keep your eyes out for our new branding!

Finally, the vision we have for the future of the Historical Society, Museum, and Collections Center is only possible through the efforts and leadership of our volunteers. We would love to have your help, and we have many opportunities from the Museum and Market to the Board and its Committees! Reach out to us if you might be able to help and let's talk! You can reach me at [vicepresident@historicedmonds.org](mailto:vicepresident@historicedmonds.org).

# The Museum Summer Market

## OUR SATURDAY MARKETS ARE IN FULL SWING



Our numerous vendors line 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Bell St. offering fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers and unique, one of a kind craft items every Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM



Most people don't realize the Summer Markets are orchestrated by the Edmonds Historical Society as a fundraiser to cover the costs of operating the Museum. It depends on volunteers to make it happen and more volunteers are needed. If you would like to be a part of this fun event visit our information booth to learn more or visit our website: [www.historicedmonds.org](http://www.historicedmonds.org)



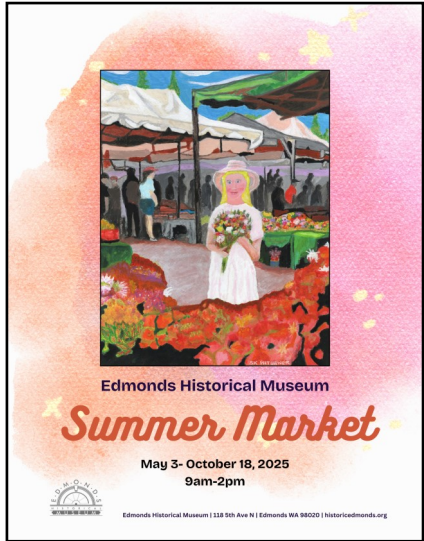
**Local Businesses... Weekly Sponsorships of the Market are now being offered. Contact [director@historicedmonds.org](mailto:director@historicedmonds.org) for more information.**

Available at the info booth and Museum Gift Shop

Created by Local Artists

A beautiful Picture of our Market scene by popular artist Bear Carpenter \$20

Back by popular demand, Our 2025 Market Poster created from a painting by Stu Hitchner after he won our contest for new local artists \$15



## Storing and Caring for Our Collection

While our museum might be full of fun artifacts, few people know that we also house thousands of items in our offsite storage. Since the museum began collecting items in 1973, our collection has grown to hold more than 30,000 objects, books, photographs, and archives. These objects are what allow us to create exhibits, host programs, and preserve the history of our community, but they take up a lot more space than what the museum could possibly hold.



Because of limited financial resources, as the collection grew, the museum had to find creative, inexpensive ways to store object overflow. First things were stored in an exterior shed. When that was no longer adequate, space underneath school bleachers, including those at Civic field, were utilized. Finally, classrooms in unused schools were rented from the school district for several years.



In 2015 the Edmonds School District reclaimed the classrooms we were using and the Society was forced to rent space at retail prices. The only affordable location available was a warehouse in Mukilteo and so the Collection was moved out of Edmonds. While the space was plenty large to house our collection, it lacked some of the fundamental needs for a museum collection—namely, the space was not climate controlled (which contributes to object degradation) and it was too far from the Museum to be able to provide convenient access.

*Left: the upper and lower levels of our Mukilteo storage where the collection had been held for the last 10 years*



*Right: a bird's-eye view of the lower level in Mukilteo*



### THE TIME HAD ARRIVED TO BRING THE COLLECTION HOME TO EDMONDS



*Left: Volunteers working to help pack the library collection for the move*

*Right: first load from Mukilteo arriving at Harbor Square*



Our staff, interns, and volunteers spent the beginning of this year carefully packing and preparing all of the artifacts for transit. As you can imagine, this was a time consuming process and the relocation itself was far from easy. To ensure the objects arrived at their destination safely, we contracted with Hansen Brothers to move all 30,000 objects to their new home.

## Our Collection's New Home

The week of April 14<sup>th</sup> saw the arrival of the entire Collection to its Harbor Square home.



The physical move is just the start of a long process. Every item in the collection will now have to be unpacked, inventoried and cross-referenced to its new specific storage location and the information entered in our database. However, the result will be a storage location that is miles ahead of anywhere else we have been! We will have dedicated, climate-controlled rooms for our various categories of items. They are already residing in their assigned areas, just waiting to be processed.



### **THE GRAND VISION AND PLAN**

But there is more to this story. The new location will be so much more than a storage location. It will be open to the public featuring additional exhibits, a research center, and tours to learn about the behind the scenes operations of a working museum. Currently, we have a team of four interns and three volunteers helping our Collections Manager get the collection in order! Our goal is to have the space open for all of you by the beginning of 2026!

Needless to say, all this comes with increases to our budget. To cover the added cost, we are turning to the community for help. In July we will be announcing a fundraising effort that will offer the community the opportunity to adopt an item or a whole category of our collections—think toys, dolls, games, tools and so on, for a year. We will also be seeking sponsors to help fund the location.

**Coming soon: please watch our social media sites for more information about how to contribute to the care of the collection.**

## Our Intern Program

The Museum is honored to currently host eleven interns from three different institutions and five different disciplines to give them hands-on learning experiences prior to receiving their degrees. This enables us to expand our program offering. Since the beginning of 2024, we have worked with over a dozen interns from UW and other universities, building important relationships with those institutions. For this summer newsletter, we would love to highlight a few of them who have been doing exceptional work that you should all be sure to enjoy!

Those of you who visited the museum in May may have noticed something new—The Victorian Sitting Room exhibit has been updated to reflect Victorian Fashion! That is all thanks to Erin Grove, who is pursuing an online MA in Museum Studies from The University of Oklahoma. In addition to her work on the Victorian exhibit, Erin has helped with field trips, interactive activities, the Steeped in History Exhibit, and so much more! Be sure to check out more of her work during the Home and Gardens tour on July 20, as Erin also conducted a lot of research on local homes that will be shown during the event.

Erin is not the only student who has been working on our exhibits. Many of you know that the train was out of order on and off this year. As portions of the track are more than 60 years old, it has needed a bit of a revamp. Intern Annie Hicks of UW Museology, has been working with long-time volunteer Jim Landers and a team of experts to get the track up and running and create tools to help keep it in working order long-term. Beyond the train itself, they are reimagining the plaques and objects surrounding the train to tell a more complete story of how our model came to be.

Beyond our collections move, we have also spent the beginning of this year working to move some of our archive and photo collections online. Becca Chiaravalle is currently working on her Masters in Library Sciences at the University of Washington and has spent this school year working on her capstone with us. She, and a few other MLIS interns, digitized hundreds of pages of our archival collection and are currently working to get them online! We expect for the collections to go live by mid-June and we will be adding links to our website to access them. Be sure to keep an eye out for when they go live!



*Interns Becca (left) and EJ working on the archives*

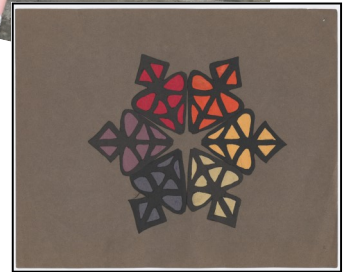
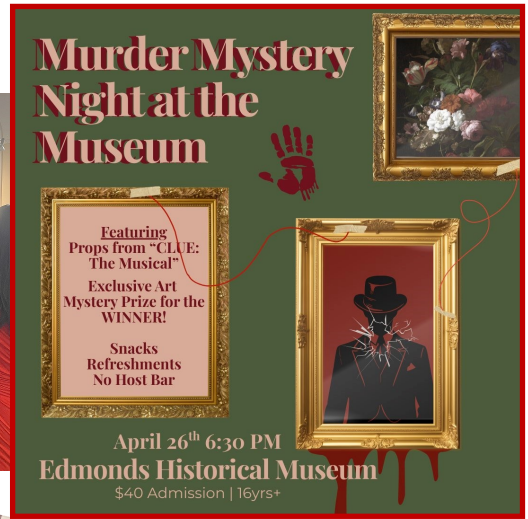


*Intern Olivia at the Edmonds Museum Summer Market*



*Intern Erin with her new exhibit on Victorian Women's Fashion*

# So Much Has Been Happening at the Museum!



Kids Crafts in the Museum



## From our Museum Curator, Polly Yorioka

On May 24th, the new exhibit, "An Immigrant History of Edmonds" opened at the museum. The grand opening event for the exhibit was a huge success! Over 250 visitors were in line to view it! This exhibit featured the stories of immigrants past and present and celebrated the ways that immigrants have shaped Edmonds and South Snohomish County. This exhibit was created by a Community Advisory Team made up of Marjie Bowker, Richard Chung, Larry Fuell and Nancy Leson. Over the last five months, the team interviewed 14 immigrants from a variety of backgrounds, including restaurant owners, artists, musicians, students, medical professionals and politicians. The opening was catered by Theresa Lam and Tony Mann of T&T Seafood and Rise and Mai Tran of Shine Bakery, all of whom were oral history interviewees whose stories were shared in the exhibit. Local singer-songwriter Jess Pillay performed her heartfelt music reflecting on her identity as an Indo-Fijian woman. Kenyan Artist James Kiare shared about his art, created during the pandemic while he was awaiting asylum. This exhibit was made possible by a generous grant from Humanities Washington ([www.humanities.org](http://www.humanities.org)). The exhibit will be on display through August 23rd.

New exhibits have been popping up all spring and summer, thanks to student interns! In March, interns created a pop-up for Women's History Month, featuring historic women in Edmonds. On May 10th, intern Erin Grove opened an exhibit on Victorian women's fashion, followed by the Victorian high tea. Coming up soon, on June 14th, intern Annie Hicks will open a refreshed interpretation of the beloved train exhibit after working with volunteer Jim Landers and others from the model train community. Over the summer, the museum will host a new crop of exhibit interns: Zoe Velie, Thomas McNulty, and Zhiyue Chin, all current UW Museology Masters students, who will be supporting the preparation of the next temporary exhibit (opening Sept. 6) about the arts in Edmonds, in partnership with the Arts Commission, as well as smaller pop-ups for Pride Month (June 28), the Historic Homes and Gardens Tours (July 20), and the Old Settlers Picnic (Aug 9).



Waiting to see "An Immigrant History of Edmonds"

## From our Collections Manager, Allyson Alvis

The museum has been busy the last few months! I want to thank everyone who participated in our exhibits or events and helped make everything we did a success! I would also like to offer a special thanks to all of the board members, volunteers, and interns who have given us so much help this past quarter.

First, I would like to talk a bit about what we have been doing these last few months and then I will look ahead to what is coming next. My biggest project this year has certainly been the collections move to Harbor Square Business Complex. This move is one of the reasons I was so excited to join the museum last year and I am so excited that we are halfway there! I first decided to study Museology because I love making history accessible and interesting for the public, and I am so excited that this is a step toward having our entire collection open to our community! We are also working to make some of our collection available online as well by mid-summer. If you have any requests or queries related to our collection, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Victorian Tea Party



Murder Mystery Night at the Museum

Beyond the collections move, I have overseen a number of events and fundraisers at the museum as well. Since March, we hosted Coffee and a Movie, Steep and Greet, our first Murder Mystery, a Board Game Night, another Victorian Tea Party, and more. While the events themselves are a blast, the best part is by far getting to meet so many of you and building relationships with you all and our local businesses. None of this would have been remotely possible without all of you!

For the coming months, I am excited to announce that bi-weekly kids crafts will continue! We will also be making Board Game Nights at the Museum a monthly event: come see us the first Friday of every month for games and history fun. While we will have a few staples, games and activities will rotate every month. Be sure to stay tuned to our calendar for rotating events, new exhibits, and activities happening every month! Otherwise, I hope to keep the museum as involved in the community as we can be and will keep working to get the new Collections space open as soon as possible! If you ever have suggestions for how our museum can better serve you or our community please feel free to contact us!

## Looking Back

### GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS, PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS

#### HISTORY CONSTANTLY REPEATS ITSELF

For several years, Kathie Hall (wife of Board Member and President, Jack Hall) wrote articles for our Research Corner. In December 2013 she did a brief look back to 1913. She ended the article with the comment "When I started reading the 1913 issues of the Tribune-Review, I was amazed to see how similar our problems are to those of 100 years ago. It makes you wonder what will be the important issues in 2113." Now, just an additional 12 years later, it seems some of the aspects of the items featured are back in the news for one reason or another. Can you pick them out?

#### NATIONAL NEWS:

- Woodrow Wilson became the seventh President of the United States.
- The population of the US as of July 1, 2013 was 97,225,000.
- The Sixteenth Amendment which created the Federal Income Tax system was passed. The average income for the year based on the first 1040 forms ever filed was \$3,900.
- The Seventeenth Amendment providing for the election of Senators by popular vote was passed.
- The Federal Reserve was signed into Law.
- The excavation of the Panama Canal started in December.
- Delivery by parcel post began.
- Immigration challenges the US. An article in the February 6th edition of the Tribune-Review reported on Immigration problems, stating that an influx of 2,000,000 people arriving annually presented several problems: they settle in over-populated urban areas; they are from eastern and southern Europe and don't speak English; they are illiterate, and because they have been so impoverished they have no idea how to improve themselves.

#### LOCALLY:

- In 1913 the Mayor was Jacob D. Sherrick.
- The City was in debt and the City Council proposed a plan that would save the City \$4,070 annually; however, it required some people to work without pay and it requested the Edmonds Electric Co. to reduce their rates. Eventually, street lighting was eliminated for two years due to lack of funds.
- Edmonds was constantly looking for ways to create more jobs and enhance the tax base. Two national companies expressed interest in locating here but never came, much to the disappointment of the community.
- Automobile sales arrived in Edmonds when Allan Yost and his sons opened the Yost Auto Company and built a concrete building at Fifth and Dayton (currently the location of Old Milltown). They sold cars and provided automotive services.
- Rural mail delivery began with Day Dewey traveling 24 miles each day by horse and wagon to deliver mail to 24 patrons.



## Major Thanks—Heartfelt Appreciation

*The Edmonds Historical Society is a non-profit organization completely dependent on the support of the community for its existence. While we do fundraise to help cover the cost of operations, it is only with the financial support of generous donors that we are able to balance our budget and continue to serve the people of Edmonds and the neighboring locals. We wish to express our gratitude to the following people for their recent generosity in support of our mission and service.*

**Diamond Plus Major Donors:** Diana and Steve White

**Diamond Donors:** Danna and Kermit Anderson

**Platinum Donors:** Ron and Michele Clybourne  
Barbara Steller

**Patron Level Membership supporters:**

- Larry and Wendy Carpenter
- Ron and Michelle Clybourne
- Kevin Fagerstrom
- Barb and Pat Fahey
- Dorothy Linstrom

The Edmonds Historical Society first and foremost is dedicated to the preservation and sharing of our local history and heritage. It maintains a museum for the community and collects and preserves artifacts reflecting the past to inform and educate current and future generations, but it also endeavors to provide enjoyable, enriching, fun experiences for the community. The articles in this newsletter showcase some of the events we have offered so far this year. And there are more to come like our traditional Scarecrow Festival and our Haunted Museum. We feel we contribute a great deal to the City of Edmonds and its citizens. If you value these things, please consider supporting us by:

- ⇒ **Becoming a Member**
- ⇒ **Making a donation**
- ⇒ **Volunteering as a docent or helper for the Market or special projects and events**

To learn more or donate, please visit our website [www. Historicedmonds.com](http://www.Historicedmonds.com)

To join the Museum, scan this code:



## A Dream for the Future

### Capstone Project

The two individuals in the picture are members of a four person team that did their capstone project for their MA degree working with the Museum’s Board Secretary, Larry Fuell, and the Museum’s Executive Director, Arnold Lund, to develop a way to make our oral histories available at the museum in an encapsulated environment.

The device they are standing next to has a screen to view the recordings and the overhead white device is a speaker to hear what is being said in the video. You can hear it when standing under it, but the sound does not carry beyond a limited space. They were testing it out at the opening of the new exhibit by asking visitors to try it out and give their opinions. The remarks will be part of their final report on their project.

The two people in the picture are Daniel Teramoto and Alix Medler. Ally Tsao and Chloe Yu are the other two team members.



A dream for the future if funding becomes available!