

SHORTCUTS AT LARGE



Photo: Kelli Udall

PG Museum Puts Science on Center Stage

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Bree Machuca (with dog Obi), a community science specialist at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, has created science videos to engage the community.

It's not unusual to see Bree Machuca around her neighborhood, phone in hand, filming ants on the sidewalk or watching worms wiggle across exposed soil.

The community science specialist at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History is one of several staffers behind Museum to You, a free, science-themed video series. Pacific Grove Museum educators launched the project in March, two weeks after COVID-19 closed the venue's doors.

While initial videos were geared toward students and teachers, audience response has expanded that focus.

"We're now creating for the general public, including both young students and adults interested in museum exhibits and the outside

world," says Machuca.

Currently scheduled to air through March 2021, the series features weekly releases in one of four categories. "Exploring the Coast" looks at marine ecosystems in Monterey and beyond. "Create With Us" guides viewers through nature-themed art and craft projects. "A Closer Look" studies museum artifacts and their unique history, and "Bug Out with Bree" spotlights what Machuca calls "the creepy crawlers."

"Our videos aren't David Attenborough quality," she laughs, "but it's exciting to see how many people are watching and engaging with each new release."

Museum to You videos are posted to the museum's YouTube and Facebook pages on Thursdays at 11 a.m. Learn more at www.pgmuseum.org.