

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 2016 - January 2017

**1. Capital Campaign 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Donor Recognition Reception:**

- a. Jon Benson is donating the food and bar. Benson is making arrangements with Jimmie Garrant's
- b. The Museum obtained the liquor license
- c. We will need to hire professional bar tenders
- d. Jim LaCross has a four piece band that will play in the Wilson Gallery
- e. The donor wall will not be complete by the time of the reception. We are still working with Omega on finalizing the design.

**2. Facilities:**

- a. All following projects have been put on hold until spring: Bliss Painting finishing the Maltz Bank; back loading dock repairs; Meridian Construction repairing back patio.
- b. Thanks to a donation of shelving from the Besser Company, the Museum staff has been working extremely hard to reorganize several areas of the museum. Matt led a group of volunteers (and staff) over the past several weeks to accomplish this task. The new layout utilizes the space more effectively.

**3. Planetarium:**

- a. Spitz sent two new projectors and Mike Sims was at the Museum January 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> installing and making sure everything aligns properly.
- b. The new digital dome was a major hit with December school groups.
- c. The admission price has been changed to \$5 per seat for general admission and \$2 per student for field trips.
- d. The grand celebration is slated for January 21<sup>st</sup>. JJ's will cater this event
- e. The job description for a Digital Dome Program Director was developed and approved. The Board will vote on approving a budget to support this new position. Once approved, the Museum will seek qualified applicants for consideration.

**4. Art:**

- a. Starting in January the exhibits will focus on Michigan authors and artists.
  - i. Bob Young will have artwork included in Janet Young's book. Opening January 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Mary Stewart Adams, from Emmet County International Dark Sky will have artwork
  - iii. The American Printmakers will be framed and ready to display in the Wilson Gallery. We have had seven private donors adopt a piece. The Candace Smith Endowment Fund will cover the rest of the cost of framing.

**5. Exhibits:**

- a. The 2017 Exhibit schedule has been set. We are working on 2018.
- b. The Native American traveling exhibit panels for the Lake Huron Discovery Tour that were out on display at the Harrisville Library, the Mackinaw City Library and Oscoda Library will be picked up this month. NOAA and the Library expressed an interest in hosting the exhibits.
- c. The George and Edith Cook Family Besser Museum Fund has been established. \$25,000 dollars has been designated for the research and development of the Native American Gallery renovation. Anne Belanger will chair this new project.

6. **Katherine V:** Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.
  - a. The November 29<sup>th</sup> Giving Tuesday “Finish Our Fish Tug” was a great success and netted \$10,000 for the Katherine V Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage exhibit.
  - b. Dave Robertson continues to work on the engine. He wants to wait until Richard Clute returns from China before firing it up with diesel fuel for the first time.
  - c. Chinook – Jim Johnson successfully submitted the Great Lakes Fishery Trust grant.
  
7. **Marketing:**
  - a. Kat keeps the website and face-book page updated. Other staff also contributes to the face-book page. Kat is keeping the media up to-date on museum happenings.
  
8. **Reaccreditation:** Staff is currently working on the application for reaccreditation. The due date is March 1, 2017.
  
9. **Audit:** Straley, Lamp and Kraenzlein completed the audit. Jim Kraenzlein will present the final audit at January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  
10. **Gift Store:** We had a good December in the store compared to last year with \$2,107 in sales.
  
11. **Miscellaneous:** Over the holidays Jonathan Bluck was working through Star Staffing. Jessica Peck, who was working through Star Staffing finish working the last week of December. Starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, Sami Allen will start part-time as a museum assistant. Sami is a graduate from East Carolina University and has experience working in the museum field.
  
12. **Upcoming Events:**
  - a. **January 21<sup>st</sup> Donor Recognition Reception**