

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
October 2016 - November 2016

1. Capital Campaign for the 50th Anniversary:

- a. The Capital Campaign breakdown is as follows:
 - i. **\$334,327** in gifts at the CFNEM (includes the \$50,000 match pledge met)
 - ii. **\$93,231** in pledges at the CFNEM
 - iii. **\$25,000** from the George and Edith Cook Family Besser Museum Fund (designated to the Native American Research and Development Project)
 - iv. **\$54,000** outstanding pledge from Besser Foundation
 - v. **\$9,750** outstanding from the MCACA grant
 - vi. In-Kind Donations for the 50th Anniversary
 1. Bliss Painting \$6,000
 2. Omega Electric \$1,678
 3. JJs Catering & Rental \$9,000
- b. The Youth & Rec grant Committee is recommending to the Alpena County Board to award the full \$11,000 grant requested for the Shout Eureka Science program. If awarded, \$5000 of the grant would pay for up to 100 people to attend a digital planetarium as part of the Saturday science event. We will hear in January of 2017 for certain.

2. Facilities:

- a. Bliss Painting continues work on the Maltz Bank. They are almost done. There has been a few change orders due to deterioration.
- b. Zann Brothers Construction was the only contractors that submitted a bid for the back loading dock. We will pursue more bids in the spring of 2017.
- c. Meridian Construction contract was finalized and signed, but unfortunately we missed our window before the fall weather set in and they are unable to start until spring of 2017.

3. Planetarium:

- a. We will do a short presentation at the Season of Light reception
- b. We will also do short presentation for the school groups during December.
- 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 21st. JJ's will cater this event
- e. We are making plans with Jeff Gray to bring the staff from NOAA over to see the new planetarium system.

4. Art:

- a. The **Juried Art Exhibit** for 2016 will open October 22nd and run through December 31. Artist, Kim Diment juried the work on October 12th and gave a presentation/lecture in the evening.
- b. Starting in January the exhibits will focus on Michigan authors and artists.
 - i. Bob Young will have artwork included in Janet Young's book.
 - 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 Native American traveling exhibit panels for the Lake Huron Discovery Tour are on display at the Harrisville Library, the Mackinaw City Library and part of it is on exhibit at the Oscoda Library.
- b. The Season of Light exhibit is almost set and ready for the November 19th opening reception.
- 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.

6. Katherine V: Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.

- a. Besser Museum hosted the 3rd Annual Fisheries Heritage Trail Conference on November 2nd and 3rd. We had approximately 40 people from around the state of Michigan participate.
- b. The Katherine V: Work is ongoing – Tuff Cross and his team of volunteers have the faux walls built for the fishing village. Chappa Construction has put up the roof to protect the stern of the boat. Dave Robertson continues to work on the engine and is close to having it run.
- c. Chinook – Jim Johnson is outlining a plan for pursuing grants.

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. **Public Outreach:** On October 18th I gave a presentation to the Lions Club. On November 10th I gave a presentation to the Michigan Retired School Personnel, and on December 1st I will be presenting to the Presque Isle Association members.

9. **Reaccreditation:** Staff is currently working on the application for reaccreditation. The due date is March 1, 2017.

10. **Audit:** Straley, Lamp and Kraenzlein are almost done with the audit. They have been working on it for the past couple of weeks.

11. **Gift Store:** New items have been ordered for the gift store. We purchased new shelving units from Kmart. The new layout has received rave reviews. Bruno Hirzel has published a book of his paints he exhibited at the Museum last January. Bruno has donated 48 copies to the Besser Museum to sell in the gift store. The recommended price is \$35, for a total of \$1,680 donation.

12. Upcoming Events:

- a. Besser Museum is hosting the Northern Michigan Museum Consortium meeting Saturday, November 12th
- b. **November 19th: Season of Light Reception & Exhibit Opening**
- c. **January 21st Donor Recognition Reception**