

Besser Museum Fine Arts Project:

Besser Museum's fine art collection includes watercolor, oil, pastel, acrylic and collage paintings, prints, art pottery, and sculpture. The Museum's extensive collection contains art works by regional artists such as Robert Adomeit, Erv Lewandowski, and Mayme Allison. Midwestern artists such as Charles Clewell, Percival Ives, George Adomiet, and Frederick Church. Nationally renowned artists include Thomas Hart Benton, Philip Evergood, Robert Motherwell, Andy Warhol, Richard Estes and one Dale Chihuly glass sculpture. The collection also extends to an international level with artists like Renoir, Cezanne, Diego Rivera, and even M.C. Escher represented.

Currently, the Besser Museum dedicates two, often 3 gallery spaces to exhibit art. The art exhibits are rotated throughout the year showcasing the museum's collections along with works from local artists. Annual exhibits include the Northeast Michigan Artists Guild exhibit, the Besser Museum Juried Art Exhibit, the winner of the Juried Art Exhibit, and Winter Blues a non-juried art exhibit.

Fine Arts Committee: Ann Diamond reported that she is pursuing a pilot program, "Besser Downtown", which would give the Museum a presence in Downtown Alpena at the Centennial Building. The hope is for Friday, Saturday, Sunday hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day and possibly Thanksgiving through Christmas. The one-time gift of \$25,000 from Besser Foundation celebrating their 75th Anniversary will be used to fund this project. Gary Dawley, President of Besser Foundation, is very supportive of the proposed project. ED Witulski is working on a business plan and checking into insurances, security, etc.