

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

1. Capital Campaign for the 50th Anniversary:

- a. Besser Museum has been giving an amazing opportunity with a 1:1 matching donation of up to \$50,000 from June until November 30th.
 - i. We have secured **\$7,250** in gifts towards the match
 - ii. We have secured **\$24,300** in pledges towards the match
 - iii. Total towards match is **\$31,550**
 - iv. We need an additional **\$18,450** by November 30th for the \$50,000 match
- b. The Capital Campaign has raised **\$413,771**. The breakdown is as follows:
 - i. **\$193,650** in gifts at the CFNEM
 - ii. **\$114,750** in pledges at the CFNEM
 - iii. **\$90,000** outstanding pledge from Besser Foundation
 - iv. **\$9,750** outstanding from the MCACA grant
- c. A \$5,000 grant request was submitted to CFNEM for their July 15th cycle, we are waiting to hear if we are awarded
- d. A Youth & Rec grant was submitted for \$11,000 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. The grant recipients will be announced by September.

2. Facilities:

- a. Bliss Painting continues work on the Maltz Bank.
- b. We are waiting to hear back from other contractors to get bids on the loading dock. Zann from Zann Brothers Construction has submitted a quote for three separate projects that need to be addressed.
- c. Meridian Construction contract is being finalized and hopefully work will begin before winter, weather permitting.

3. Planetarium:

- a. Staff was trained September 27, 28, & 29. John Heath and Kat are continuing to practice with the new equipment.
- b. Representatives from ACC, APS, Star-Base, GLSI, and NOAA came for a special presentation
- c. Sandra Clark, Executive Director of the Michigan Historical Museum, a division of the DNR, visited to check out the Native American traveling exhibit project and the new planetarium.
- d. Jeff Gray would like to bring the staff from NOAA over to see the new planetarium system.
- e. We are hoping to have a presentation ready for Season of Light
- f. The grand celebration is slated for January 21st.

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. If we are unable to get the third artist/author, we will set something from our own collection. We are hoping the American Printmakers will be framed and ready to display.

- c. **Coffee with the Curator:** Danyeal Dorr finished up her presentations. Those who participated greatly appreciated her insight into the art pieces.

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 currently being developed. This year's theme is "Starry Night". We have several volunteers helping with this annual exhibit. The roster for the Community Tree exhibit is full. Judy Dawley is helping with one scene that has to do with cultural astronomy stories. DeLynn Medina and Marilyn Thom are creating starry night scenes. Judy Poli will set up the Christmas Village this year.
- c. I have been in a conversation with a family who has expressed an interest in helping update the Native American gallery.

6. Katherine V: Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.

- a. The Katherine V – Work is ongoing – Tuff Cross and his team of volunteers have the faux walls built for the fishing village. They picked up the barn board needed for the exterior, old doors and shutters. Tuffy has lined up a contractor to put on the extended roof to protect the Katherine V from rain and snow being blown in.
- b. 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.
- b. The Besser Museum was extremely active and highlighted in all the Lake Huron Discovery Tour marketing. The Museum co-hosted a lecture series for the Exploring Our Native American History event. The lectures were in Oscoda, Harrisville, Mackinaw City and at the Besser Museum

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

9. Michigan Historical Society State Conference was held in Alpena on September 23rd and 24th. The Besser Museum worked with MHS for the past several months to help coordinate this event. Danyeal Dorr, Kat Tomaszewski and Richard Clute presented a session in the conference schedule.

10. Michigan Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Conference will be held this year in Alpena. The tentative dates are November 2nd and 3rd. Details are being worked out.

11. Upcoming Events:

- a. **October 22st: Juried Art Exhibit Opening Reception**
- b. **November 19th: Season of Light Reception & Exhibit Opening**