

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting  
October - November 2018

**1. Reaccreditation:**

**Creating Action Plan to Submit to AAM Reaccreditation Board by December 14, 2108.  
Reading through the AASLH STEPs program. Focusing on the Collections section.**

**2. Facilities:**

- a. Susan Edwards from R.S. Scott Associates is continuing to work on the architectural drawings for the renovation of space and to address exterior concerns.
- b. The pastor at the Spratt Methodist Church sent Rob from RH Painting and Decorating to inspect the old Spratt Church and give them an estimate on what it would cost to have the exterior painted.
- c. See Facility Report submitted by Matt Klimczak

**3. Native American Exhibit Project:**

- a. Good Design Group has provided two conceptual exhibit drafts for the Native American gallery to date.
- b. Charlee Brissett and Calvin Hartwig from the **Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians** visited the Besser Museum on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the exhibit. Albert LaBlanc, a Native American commercial fisherman, and David Joseph, Edith Bondie's nephew, were also present at this meeting.
- c. Richard Cook, Matt McCormack (genealogist) and David Joseph (Hubbard Lake native and Edna Joseph's son) and I meet this past month to talk about the exhibit and about David's family history. Matt McCormack will spend more time interviewing David about his family. Matt McCormack will create a family tree showing the connection of several Indian families throughout the region. This tree/diagram will be incorporated into the exhibit.
- d. The Native American Collection: Collections Manager, Maggie Malone is working with Richard Clute to inventory and catalogue the Native American artifacts. This work will take Richard a few weeks, if not months to complete. All the work will be merged into PastPefect.

**4. Fisheries Exhibit:** Work is ongoing.

- a. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant is due December 2018. Jim Johnson is starting to work on revising the original grant application to include the progress that has been made since first submitting it. The progress includes the Good Design Group exhibit renders.
- b. Both Tuffy and Jim hosted hundreds of visitors at the Katherine V during Fall Harvest.

## 5. Art:

- a. **Juried Art Exhibit** is scheduled for October. Brochures will be mailed out at the end of May. Erv Lewandowski will be this year's juror. The opening reception is set for October 27<sup>th</sup> and the exhibit will run through December 31, 2018.
- b. **Erv Lewandowski:** Erv and Mark Beins will be exhibiting in the Wilson Gallery in January through April.
- c. **Winter Blues:** Plans to hold another non-juried art exhibit in January are underway. The Winter Blues theme was very popular last year, and we will do that again this year.

## 6. Special Events:

- a. **Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run November 23, 2018.**
  - i. The Besser Museum is in communication with Wayne Calkins, Joe Gentry, Chamber of Commerce, and City of Alpena to host the first, and hopefully, annual Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run. This is a fundraiser for the museum. This event will be an entry in the Christmas Parade. The participants will be the first to leave the parade staging parking lot on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and run/walk the parade route in front of the parade.
- b. **Mindful Movement at the Museum: Yoga**
  - i. Paige Edwards Trisko will continue to hold yoga sessions at the museum after the July. The sessions will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for \$10 per person.
- c. **GIVING TUESDAY: November 27, 2018.**
  - i. This year's campaign will be for our collection needs. An announcement was included in the Besser Museum newsletter. More marketing will take place leading up to the CFNEM Giving Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> online event.
- d. **Season of Light – Christmas Exhibit:** Planning has begun.
  - i. **Season of Light reception is tentatively planned for Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## 7. Collections:

- a. Maggie Malone will be reconvening the Collections Committee. There are several new documents/policies to review and approve.
- b. Maggie is working on creating an exhibit that will be installed in the front gallery space sometime in 2019. This exhibit will also be used to educate the public on the museum's mission, purpose, the care and preservation of artifacts, and general museum's manners.

## 8. Education:

- a. Amanda Kucharek, did a fabulous job organizing this year's Fall Harvest Fossil Fest. We hosted over 500 visitors.

- b. Amanda will be working on the Season of Light educational field trip programming.

**9. Planetarium:**

- a. The new planetarium programs were well received by the public at Fall Harvest Fossil Fest.
- b. Johnathan and John Heath are attending the Great Lakes Planetarium Conference in October.
- c. Johnathan is working to create new programming for Season of Light. He had identified a Season of Light program for \$1,500. A grant to the CFNEM Youth Advisory Council was submitted to purchase this program. The grant will be reviewed in November. If awarded, the funds will not be available until after December 11<sup>th</sup>. Season of Light exhibit and programming opens November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Miscellaneous:**

- a. Work is underway with accountant, Marie Williams to reorganize the museum's accounting practices. The new tracking system will provide better insight to donor restricted funding for special projects, such as the Katherine V. This new system will also be useful for reporting and filing the 990 tax forms and the Cultural Data Project survey.
- b. Besser Museum hosted/meet with several students from MSU enrolled in the Sustainable Tourism course on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- c. MMA Conference: October 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup>. Amanda, Maggie and I will be attending this conference.
- d. October 12<sup>th</sup> – October 16<sup>th</sup>. I will be traveling to Texas for a wedding.