

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
August 2021 – September 2021

August Attendance:

- 2021: \$6,862
- 2020: \$3,644
- 2019: \$5,630

Museum attendance was up over August 2019 attendance by \$1,232.

September attendance is already at \$1,567, which is above 2019 attendance to date. The museum has also booked four tour groups, two visiting in September and two visiting in October. We are uncertain at this time if we will have any fall school field trips booking.

Fall Harvest Day: Plans are being developed by Education Coordinator, Amanda Kucharek for the October 2nd Fall Harvest Fossil Fest.

- The event will take place from 12p.m. – 4p.m. The marketing/supplies expenses are covered by the Harry Johnson Fund. Regular Admission applies, museum members are free.

HVAC Project

- We received word that the chiller equipment will not arrive until November due to shortages of both materials and labor force.
- Matt has been preparing the area where the new chiller will be installed.

MUSEUM EXTERIOR:

Waiting to hear back from Meridian Construction. He hasn't had time to work on a bid.

Todd Britton from Meridian Construction is working on putting together an estimate of three exterior projects.

1. Removing the lower-level windows and window wells.
2. Fixing the exterior columns and flower boxes. The back flower box would be removed. The other repaired and sealed to prevent interior leaking.
3. Fixing the handicap ramp/railing/concrete approach/and steps

We will use this estimate to create a masterplan to raise the necessary funds to make these capital improvements.

LOG CABIN PROJECT:

Work is ongoing. The completion deadline is approximately the end of October.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

- **Chinook:**
 - representatives from S&A meet with Jim Johnson and Matt to work on a bid for a steel building for the Chinook exhibit.
 - Jim is working on drafting parts of the Invasive Species Grant. This proposal will also be useful in communicating with GLFC. Jim also has a meeting set up with a Huron Pines representative. Mike Beaulac is also providing assistance by reviewing the grant and giving guidance.

- The dock for the Chinook exhibit is underway. We have had the building inspector here twice. Mike Ableidinger created engineered drawings for the building inspector so we can get our building permit.
- Bill Kelly, owner of ACE Hardware, gave us a discounted price on lumber. We will be having that delivered to the museum.
- Tuffy has volunteers lined up to work on building the dock. Matt and Nate will assist his volunteer crew.
- **Kat V:**
 - Tuffy and his crew continue work on the exhibit.

ANISHINAABE EXHIBIT REVITALIZATION PROJECT (Native American Gallery)

- Members of the Advisory Committee will be met at the museum Saturday, Sept. 18th.
- I have been researching files containing photos and information on Edna Joseph and her sister, Edith Bondie from the museum's collection. These will be used in the exhibit.
- Professional exhibit designer, Joe Hines, will be visiting Sept 22nd to discuss the Anishinaabe exhibit and the fisheries exhibit.
- Museum Collections Consultant, Laura Quackenbush is continuing to work on processing the private collection donated by an anonymous donor. This collection will be incorporated into the new exhibit.

Season of Light: this year's theme is Merry and Bright

1. The exhibit is schedule to open at the Season of Light reception, Saturday, Nov. 20th at 5:30 p.m. The event will run from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.
2. Volunteers, DeLynn Medina and Marilyn Thom have started working on props for the exhibit.
3. An appeal for support was sent to Alpena Power. Alpena Power has been contributing funds to the Season of Light exhibit for several years now.
4. Spoke with Jon Benson about catering the opening reception. The budget for the buffet is approximately \$1,800. Jon said the price of several of the food items have gone way up. He is working on what menu would work with our budget.
5. I will be writing
6. We are talking about doing a cash bar for the event. However, that would be an extra cost of getting a liquor license, insurance, and a bartender.

ARTIFACT COLLECTIONS: Sarah Honeycutt continues to excel in the position of Collections Manager working with volunteers and staff major works continues to be achieved in this department.

1. We are using the Giving Tuesday Campaign to raise funds to purchase equipment needed to digitize the collections, starting with the photo collection. Digitizing will provide great access for the member in our community to view and study the artifacts in our collections.

EDUCATION Outreach:

- Amanda is currently working on creating a new exhibit label for the Spratt Church and organizing Fall Fest.

- Johnathan will be holding two Astronomy & Ales events at Austin Brothers Brewery in October. Friday, October 8th and Friday, October 29th. Tickets are \$10 each.

MISCELLENOUS: We are researching and trying to make contacts to fix our pendulum.