

## June 2017

### Exhibits report

- Basic cleaning of the space; dusting, sweeping, and checking for bugs
- Prep work for the upcoming Judy Dawley art exhibit; working on labels for exhibit
- Conversations with Rose Wojda, 2016 Juried Art winner, regarding her upcoming exhibit
- Agricultural equipment panels for Tractor Club Show in August 2016

### Exhibits Layout Schedule for 2017

Year	Exhibit Title	Gallery	Jan.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	April	April	May	May	June	June	July	July	Aug.	Aug.	Sept.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.
2017	Juried Art	Wilson	American Printmakers from the Collections : Open Feb. Run through Fall Harvest Day																		Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					
	NEMAG Juried Art Winner	Trelfa	Bob & Janet Young						NEMAG: Portals Open Apr.16th--Last Day July 24th						Juried Art Winner Opening Aug. 6th--Down Oct. 22nd?						Community Trees Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					
	Season of Lights – Community of Trees																									
		Center	Mary Stewart Adams						WWI Tribute						Judy Dawley Art						Season of Light Décor Starting Oct. 23rd--Jan. 1, 2017					
	Season of Light																									

### Upcoming Exhibits Related:

- No upcoming exhibit openings until August.
- In August, we will host the **2016 Juried art Show winner**, Rose Wojda's exhibit in the Trelfa Gallery.
- Also in August, we will be hosting **Judy Dawley's art exhibit** around the Center Gallery.
- This years Juried Art Exhibit has been replaced with ***In by a Foot***, a different fundraising attempt.

### Collections report

- We participated in the first of four ArtWalks through downtown Alpena galleries. We were hosted at a satellite location, the Centennial building. Ten of the Salvador Dali prints were shown alongside Judy Dawley's new artwork.
- In addition, we hosted Linda Pletcher as a guest speaker discussing local impacts during WWI
- We also hosted the Wildlife Sanctuary's Artist in Residence as a guest speaker
- Final revisions to the rewrite of the Collections Procedural Manual and Policy guide for the Reaccreditation process.
  - This involved looking through American Alliance of Museums (AAM) & National Park Systems (NPS) collections policies to compare our institutions Procedural Manual & Policy guide.
  - Adding a Scope of Collections section
  - Refining the Native American Graves & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) policy
- Cleaning up cold storage areas by taking time to put away accrued materials.
  - This also involved;
    - basic dusting
    - bug hunting
    - sweeping of the floors
    - tracking down file information on objects
- Fine Art Room A and B

- Artwork that has been temporarily stored has been put away. The space was dusted and swept.
- There was a Collections Committee meeting on June 28th at 1 p.m. Time was spent prepping for this Collections Committee meeting.
  - Report attached below.
- Summer interns started the project of completing the data entry for the Education collection files
- In Center storage
  - Inventory & location listings into Collective Access have been updated

### **To Do List:**

- **Textile storage** needs to be addressed.
  - In 2015 we overhauled the underutilized oversize fine art storage space and designated it to be the textile storage area.
  - This space is one of the last storage rooms to be addressed in terms of being overhauled.
  - I am looking to purchase some storage containers for the garments.
    - I am researching what is best for our budget and the materials we will be storing.
- **The Resource** room (formerly the Phil Park Library) is still a work in progress.
  - We are aspiring to make this space a resource room for local historians, genealogists and even museum staff.
  - The space still needs clear organization.
  - With the help of three amazing volunteers we could trim down our library collection and refine the organization of materials. There is now a system in place to help researchers find books based on topics. We are also utilizing a library software program so we can easily search the books in the resource library.
  - The space still bears evidence of the rooms original use, which was the history of Besser Room. Some of the text from the previous exhibit is still visible on the walls and the carpet has an enormous hole in the middle of the room. For many years, this room was utilized as a catch-all storage area. We have come a long way in terms of our reclamation of the space.
- **Furniture storage**
  - we need to place protective sheeting over the objects to help prevent the accumulation of dust
    - Primarily to protect the furniture objects in case the fire suppression system is triggered.
- **Center Storage Entry**
  - The inventory in this space could be double checked
    - Things have moved since the last inventory check
    - Materials have been added to this space and haven't been disseminated to their homes
    - Basic coverings need to be placed over objects
- **Center Storage**
  - Inventory hasn't been officially completed in this space
    - Each time inventory has been completed more material gets added or removed from this space
- **Storage Room D**
  - Inventory hasn't been officially completed in this space.
  - An in-situ inventory has been completed but needs to be formatted digitally & double checked

June 19th, 2017

Dear Collections Committee;

This month our Collections Committee meeting has been scheduled for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28th. At this month's meeting we will be reviewing a list of items proposed for accession into the education collections. If you have any questions before our meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Danyeal Dorr,  
Collections Manager  
Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
(e): collections@bessermuseum.org  
(p): (989) 356-2202

Proposed list for Education/Exhibits:

One travel tie case with ten assorted ties included. The tie case itself dates from early 1950's when purchased by the donor in Wisconsin. The assorted ties included date from the 1960's through to the 1990's. The ties were worn over the years the donor worked at the Jesse Besser Museum between 1970 and 1996. Donated by Mr. D. Bodem, Alpena, MI.

One box of maintenance records and travel logs from the DNR vessel The Chinook which is now part of the Besser Museum's permanent exhibition pieces. These records would be beneficial for future research pertaining to the Chinook. Donated by the Department of Natural Resources care of Mr. T. Cross, Alpena, MI.

One blue Besser Company shop coat which belonged to a Mr. J. Wesly Craighead. Craighead was a sales representative for the Besser Company for roughly 30 years. The coat itself is approximately 75 to 80 years old. Donated by Mr. S. Westrope, Alpena, MI.

One John Beck Brewing Company glass seltzer bottle. The bottle of this bottle has a frosted makers mark stating "Made in Austria." The donor's husband was born and raised in Alpena. The donor's husband passed away in 2013 and she wanted to return the seltzer bottle to Alpena. This bottle was donated by Mrs. L. Potvin, Fort Myers, FL.

One black leather folio case with a zipper closure. The case is marked on the front lower right corner with gold letters reading, "C.C.C." Within the folio are several pages of photos mounted on paper. The photos are of the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) in the 1930's. Along with this donation there is a pair of leather working boots that show obvious signs of wear and age. Additionally, a bag holding two spoons, four forks, and two

knives. The donor found all this material with her father's belongings. Her father, one Mr. Roy Schepkis, worked for the C.C.C. Donated by Mr. C.&J. McCaslin, Rogers City, MI.

### **Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan Collection Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 28th, 2017

**Members Present:** Dennis Bodem, Claudia Chapman, Bob Lyngos & Mike Phillips.

**Members Absent:** Richard Clute and Chris Christopherson

#### **Agenda**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Collections Report- D. Dorr

The Collections Committee reviewed a list of items that have been suggested for accession into the Museum's permanent collections and a list of proposed items for education/exhibits material.

In addition, the collections committee was also briefed on the progress of several topics. The topics included the reaccreditation site visit in July 2017 and a brief discussion regarding updating the Collections Management Policy & Procedural Manual.

**Motion** to approve the accession of three objects into permanent collections; one blue Besser Company shop coat; one photo of the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) in Alpena in the 1930's; and one John Beck Brewing Company glass seltzer bottle made in Austria. (Bodem) Seconded (Christopherson, Chapman, Phillips).

**Motion** to approve the accession of the four objects into the education/exhibits collections (Christopherson) Seconded (Bodem, Chapman, Phillips).

**Motion** to Adjourn at 1:45p.m. (Dorr); seconded (Phillips.)

Upcoming Meetings: August 30th @ 1 p.m.

## Collections: Year End Report

In July of 2016, the Collections Committee met and deaccessioned 3 objects from Permanent collections and 5 objects from the Education collections. Between August 2016 and April 2017, all incoming donations to collections were suspended. A moratorium was put in place on incoming donations to ease the process of reaccreditation the Besser Museum started in October of 2016 and is still in the process of completion. The reaccreditation team will be visiting the Besser Museum in July of 2017 and informing the museum of status of reaccreditation in the fall of 2017.