

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
November 2022

NEW HISTORY EXHIBIT:

The total estimated cost for the new exhibit project is \$1.5 million.

Phase 1 is estimated at: \$370,500

Phase 2 is estimated at \$1,129,500.

Total Funding raised to date: \$1,210,650

Funding For Phase 1 to date:	\$344,888
Cash available Exhibit Fund at Nicolet Bank:	\$41,518
Cash available in Exhibit Fund at CFNEM:	\$67,470
Besser Foundation Phase 1:	\$80,250
MACA Grant available for Phase 1:	\$51,150
Youth and Rec Grant for Phase 1:	\$75,000
Older Persons for Phase 1:	\$12,500
Park Family Fund at CFNEM:	\$15,000
CFNEM Grant for Phase 1:	\$2,000

Funding For Phase 2 to date:	\$1,135,382
Besser Foundation	\$319,750
Kent Fund at CFNEM:	\$50,000
Private Donor Pledges at CFNEM:	\$65,632
Private Donor Pending	\$200,000
Granum Fund Line of Credit	\$500,000

A \$10,000 grant was submitted to PIE&G in January.

A request for funding was sent to Jim Park and Family in January.

Working on a \$50,000 matching grant proposal for the MEDC Public Spaces Community Places grant. This is a crowdfunding campaign on Patronicity.

Working on contacting local business for support.

A presentation was giving to the Kiwanian's Club and the Rotary Club.

An ad was in the Alpena News.

The donating to the new exhibit was discussed on Talk of the Town. (WBKB)

Exhibit Development: Exhibit Committee members are continuing to work on research and development and preparing documents that will be submitted to the exhibit design firm that is hired for the project.

Project Timeline: January 2023 museum staff will start dismantling the Native American artifacts currently on display. Sarah and her volunteer crew will work on packing away the artifacts currently on display. Matt plans on doing most of the demo of the old display cases.

Mike Beaulac will be contacting Split Rock to discuss details of the project. Mike will report to the Board his findings and if satisfied, will make a proposal to hire Split Rock. We will award the contract sometime in early February.

We will also need to hire a local contractor to do the electrical and lightening and such. However, we will not know where all that will go until we have an exhibit design.

BUILDING PROJECTS:

MUSEUM EXTERIOR:

The \$194,000 Exterior Capital Improvement projects funded by the Besser Foundation is almost complete. Meridian will return in the spring to finish putting the sills on the flowerbeds and check on the grass seed. We are working with the volunteer gardeners and possibly Doug Pratt for a new landscape design.

MUSEUM INTERIOR:

The shuffling of artifacts to different storage areas is going great. Matt and Nate were able to get all the Christmas decorations into, what was, the furniture storage room. The furniture will now be moved from the multipurpose room (where the Board meets) into the new permanent collection storage room. The multipurpose room will be unavailable for use until further notice. The Board will be meeting in the Trelfa Gallery.

HVAC/Chiller Project:

The Chiller is still experiencing some issues that is believed to be associated with the control system. Matt has been working with Johnson and Woods and Control Solutions. There have been issues with the humidifier that is under warranty.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

Tuffy, Jim and Matt meet with engineers from Huron Engineering on Tuesday, November 22 to discuss the progress.

1. **Chinook: \$386,500** DNR Invasive Species Grant.
 - a. **Phase 1:**
 - Huron Engineering has been hired to prepare the site and construction bids:
 - Task Lump Sum Fee
 - Topographic Survey \$1,700
 - Site Design Services \$3,900
 - Geotechnical Services \$6,275**
 - Foundation Design \$4,900
 - Bidding Services \$1,500**
 - Total Lump Sum Fee \$18,275*
2. Besser Museum received \$8,657 in reimbursement from the DNR for the Huron Engineering invoices paid.
3. A request for advancement will be made to the DNR after we receive an estimate of the cost of construction for the structure over the Chinook.

Planetarium:

We have been in discussion with a potential major donor for the planetarium. This donor has also contacted several board members to discuss the stability of the museum, the make of the Board, and his interest in donating to the planetarium.

Planetarium Other:

1. **Beyond the Stars:** Johnathan has developed an educational outreach program for the planetarium that will teach visitors how to navigate the night sky at one of the three dark sky parks in our area. These classes have been going well.
2. **Radio Program:** Recently Johnathan did a radio interview with Deb Michaels from HitsFM. Deb expressed an interest in doing a daily “star talk” with Johnathan that would air twice a day and help promote the planetarium. Deb will start working with Johnathan in February.

Misc.

- New Exhibit in the Wilson Gallery: Around the 80s will be up through August 2023.
- The non-juried art exhibit will be in February. Entries are being accepted January 23 – 30.
- Carol Lund’s art will be displayed on the Center Gallery walls in January 21 through July 29.
- Johnathan hosted his first field trip as acting education coordinator January 4th for the Season of Light exhibit for 78 students from Sanborn Elementary. There were four volunteers who helped with the program. The field trip went very well. Johnathan also hosted a class from Immanuel Lutheran school. Please see attached below the email received from the teacher commending Johnathan for a job well done.

Dear Jesse Besser Museum,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to Jonathan for the outstanding tour he provided for the Immanuel Lutheran 5th and 6th grade class. The planetarium show and wild animal exhibit were particularly enjoyable, and greatly enhanced the learning experience of all of the students.

Jonathan's knowledge and enthusiasm were truly remarkable, and his ability to engage and captivate the students was truly impressive. The tour was the highlight of our school year and we were all left with a greater appreciation for the natural world and the importance of conservation.

On behalf of the Immanuel Lutheran 5th and 6th grade class, I would like to extend our warmest thanks to Jonathan for his dedication and for providing us with an educational experience that we will never forget.

Thank you,

Dave Cloft

Immanuel Lutheran School