

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting  
June/July/August 2019

Museum attendance for August 2019 was 1,731 visitors

**1. Human Resources:**

- a. Dan Florip is currently reviewing the museum's **Employee Handbook:**

**2. Facilities:**

- a. Susan Edwards from R.S. Scott Associates is still working on space study.

**3. Native American Exhibit Project: ONGOING**

- a. A meeting to host representatives from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians at the Besser Museum is being coordinate to meet sometime in November.
- b. A new exhibit from the Clarke Historical Library, Native Treaties: Shared Rights will be installed in the Native American Gallery to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Saginaw. The treaty was signed on September 24, 1819. This exhibit was funded by the Cook Family Fund.

**4. Fisheries Exhibit:**

- a. The retaining wall around the Katherine V has been put into place. The retaining wall around the Chinook exhibit is partial done and should be completed by next week. After completion, MacArthur's Construction can back fill and level the area in preparation of where the dock will go alongside the Chinook.
- b. Engineers from R.S. Scott are working on the design for the cradle for the Chinook. They are talking with Besser Company to complete this project. The Museum has not received an estimates or bids on what it would cost to build the cradle, or when the cradle would be completed.
- c. Film producer, Zack Irving received permission to go aboard Albert LeBlance's fishing vessel to film. Zack should be going on sometime in September.

**5. Art**

- a. **June Perry's** opening art reception was well attended. Her artwork will be on display until October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- b. **Shirley Ritzler Art Exhibit and Fundraiser Proposal:** The prints for the Shirley Ritzler exhibit will be funded by the Candance Smith Fund. The cost will be approximately \$1,000.
- c. **Juried Art Exhibit:** Noel Skiba will be this year's Juried Art judge. We will be excepting juried art work October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit will open Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will also host an exhibit by Noel Skiba in the Wilson Gallery in January 2020 through September 2020.

**6. Collections:**

- a. The new storage area shelving is in place. Judy Dawley and Doris Puls will start working on transferring the Temporary Custody donations onto the shelves.
- b. Volunteers continue to work on data input into Past Perfect.

**7. Education:**

- a. There are several new programs Amanda Kucharek is working on. Please refer to the Education Coordinator report for more details.

**8. Planetarium Highlights:**

- a. Please refer to the Planetarium Coordinator Report

**9. Other:**

- a. Accounting:
  - i. I am continuing to work with Marie Williams making changes to the accounting system.
  - ii. We will be starting our annual audit soon.
- b. Fall Harvest Fossil Fest will be held Saturday, October 5, 2019.
  - i. Funding for the 2019 Fall Harvest Fossil Fest will be from the Harry Johnson Fund.
  - ii. There will be Tours to the Lafarge Quarry and ACC's World Center for Concrete Technology. The Founders Society will be serving fudge brownies and hot fudge sundaes. Volunteers will be helping with hosting the historic buildings and Avenue of Shops. There will be music, games, and crafts.
- c. Season of Light: November, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – plans are underway. Volunteers have already started working on exhibit props.
- d. The CFNEM Giving Tuesday will take place December 3, 2019. This year our campaign will be to raise funds for the Historic Village. We are currently working on our campaign materials.