

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
January 2024

American Alliance of Museum Accreditation Progress report is due March 1, 2024.

Work is on going to submit the AAM progress report by the end of February.

Five Year Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2029

Will working on the AAM report, I came across the notes from the January 18, 2020, Board Retreat facilitate by museum professional, Ron Bloomfield from CMU. From that retreat, the main goals focused on Artifact preservation, financial stability, and exhibit development. Marketing the museum and leadership development are also important goals. The goals have been reduced from six to five, and the objectives for each goal focus on outcomes from the board retreat and AAM report.

DNEM History Exhibit Update

The Besser Museum Board of Trustees agreed to increase the budget from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million. The second phase of fundraising was launched with the **Big Things Are Coming** brochure that was mailed out the last week of December 2023. A total of \$19,750 has been raised so far from that end of the year campaign. Through private donations, grants, and pledges, the Besser Museum has raised/secured \$1,388,525. Our fundraising goal is now \$411,475.

I will be meeting with Katie Wolf on Thursday, January 25 to discuss funding strategies to meet this goal.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1&2

January 8, 2024: Besser Museum returned to Split Rock Design the responses to the DD1 design.

- Design changes are being made to the wall in the Anishinaabe according to input from an elder.
- Design changes to the Communities space is being made due to spacing issues.
- Content was provided for the forest area, geology area and astronomy areas.

Besser Museum still needs to make arrangements for a training workshop in artifact mounting.

Below is the funding plan for Phase 2 totaling \$1,591,864.

Committed:

\$ 343,554.00	Besser Foundation
\$ 50,000.00	MACC Grant
\$ 58,402.00	Granum Endowment
\$ 200,000.00	Cook Family Pledge
\$ 55,885.00	Kent Family Fund
\$ 160,362.00	Old Misson Private Donations (includes the \$17,478 from the Infinex Fund)
\$ 74,478.00	Old Mission (Old Infinex Fund)

\$ 113,188.00	CFNEM DNEMH Exhibit Fund (Assets \$55,288 – Pledges \$57,900)
\$ 12,738.00	Harry Johnson Fund - CFNEM
\$ 10,751.00	Candace Smith Fund - CFNEM
\$ 13,523.00	Cook Family Fund - CFNEM
\$ 22,325.00	Donations since End of the Year Giving Brochure
\$ 82,291.00	Nicolet Restricted Savings Account as of 1.19.24
\$ 1,197,447	Total to Date

Still need to raise: \$394,367

Funds will be raised through grants, soliciting local businesses and private donors.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

Chinook: \$386,500 DNR Invasive Species Grant.

Besser Museum received an advancement of **\$174,246** from the DNR grant on 8/24/2023.

The Meridian Construction crew started work on structure on September 25.

The progress is ongoing. Tuffy has been taking photos of the progress.

Meridian had to revise the contract for the following reasons:

Original contract	\$176,492
Add second overhead door	\$ 2,247
Additional excavation and foundation cost	\$26,413
Add 2” of height to building to clear mast	\$ 1,795
Supply and install 4 additional landscape blocks	<u>\$ 1,115</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$208,062

Meridian has been paid \$90,560 for work completed so far.

Good Design was contacted. Good Design provided a schematic exhibit design for the exhibit in 2018. These designs are on our website. Jim Johnson has made revisions to the original exhibit concept description based on the DNR Invasive Species grant. This will be discussed by the Fisheries Heritage Exhibit committee and submitted to Good Design.

OLD MISSION ACCOUNTS:

Besser Museum opened three accounts with Old Mission on January 11, 2023.

1. One account was a transfer of the Infinex (quasi-endowment fund set up by the Board of Trustees year’s ago.) **\$74,479** (These funds are being held for the new exhibit if needed.)
2. One account was a transfer of funds from Nicolet Bank designated for the new Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit Fund. (Also included in this balance is the \$17,265 transferred in December 2023 from an Infinex account) **\$160,362**.
3. One account was funds transferred from Nicolet Bank that included some operational funds and the advancement of the DNR grant. **\$175,000**.

To Date we have paid out **\$91,112.50** for the Chinook Fisheries Exhibit.

\$ 90,560 to Meridian

\$ 562 to Halls Serve All for the port-a-john.

These payments came from our regular Nicole checking account.

No money has been drawn from the Old Mission account to put back into our regular savings at Nicolet. As of 1.19.24 there is \$188,762 in Nicolet operational funds account.

MISCELLANEOUS Business:

The exhibit schedule is set for 2024.

Center Gallery

1.20.24 – 4.20.23: Local photographer, Beverly Wolf from January 20 through April 20.

5.1.24 – 7.27.24: Northeast Michigan Artists' Guild

8.10.24 – 10.26.24: Juried Art Winner – solo exhibit

Wilson Gallery

1.20.24 – 3.30.24 will host an exhibit celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouts.

4.12.24 – 7.27.24 Besser Museum will display artwork from our permanent collection.

8.10.24 – 10.26.24 Juried Art Exhibit

Trelfa Gallery

From the museum's permanent collection.

Works from artist: Hoi Lebadang are currently on display.