

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

**NEW HISTORY EXHIBIT:**

1. Gary Goren and Jim Conboy helped edit the First Federal Foundation Legacy Grant Application I drafted for the new history exhibit. The language in this grant proposal will serve as a template for all future grants and public presentations for the renovation of this space. The tentative title given for the new exhibit space is *Discover Northeast Michigan History*. The grant proposal can be found on the Board of Trustees webpage.
2. The Besser Museum minutes needs to have an official vote by the Board of Trustees to commit the current spendable portion of the Granum funds for the first phase of the exhibit. This phase will include hiring an exhibit design firm to prepare all necessary documents prior to construction. After securing the money for this phase, we will begin vetting companies for the job.

**STAFF:** A part-time Museum Assistant (Collections) job opening has been posted on the museum's website and Facebook page. I have not posted it on the Michigan Museum Association site, or in the Alpena News yet. I am looking to hire two part-time employees for this position.

**BUILDING PROJECTS:**

- To date, Woods and Johnson have almost completed the installation of the new chiller unit. The plumbing is done. There is a pump that has not been delivered yet, they will install it as soon as it arrives. The electrical is wired all the way from the main breaker to the chiller, but it will not be turned on and the breakers will be locked until the pump arrives and everything is installed. The humidifier is hooked up, but not running yet. The project cannot be complete until the weather warms up.
- Sprinkler head inspection: Matt has a full report on the status of the museum's sprinkler head inspection. The sprinkler heads are aging. The museum may be looking at a major project soon if all the sprinkler heads need to be replaced. There was also a water valve replaced, which is document in the Facility Report.

**MUSEUM EXTERIOR:**

The Capital Improvement projects funded by the Besser Foundation approved \$194,00 Capital Improvement grant are underway. There has been a lot of planning, and work taking place in the spaces being affected by these projects. This is one big domino effect.

1. Todd Britton from Meridian plans to start removing the lower-level windows in March. This is the first of the three projects on his proposal. The other projects are the columns and eaves, and the front approach.
  - a. In preparation for this project, Matt and Nate have cleared away all shelving units and objects in the rooms with the windows.
  - b. Plans for new shelving in some of the storage areas is being researched. New shelving in what was Richard Clute's office will hold all the Haltiner Collection.
  - c. The sink, countertop, and kitchen cabinet, in what will be the new permanent collection room, were removed. Shelving for the furniture collection will be installed in that area. Once the windows are complete, the furniture can be relocated into that space. The current furniture storage room will be used for the Season of Light exhibit.

- d. The books in the staff resource library not serving our mission or staff have been purged. Volunteer, Judy Dawley and Doris Puls, along with Sarah have gone through each section and removed the unneeded materials. This freed up a lot of space needed for collections. Many of the books were donated to other organizations.
  - e. Several exhibit props in the exhibit prep area have been removed from the building. This freed up space for the props and display cubes stored behind the Native American exhibit. There is more work to be done in the exhibit prep area. Matt and Nate have been doing a lot of work in this area too.
2. Moran Iron Works plans to have the railing compete and ready for installation by the end of March. They are redesigning the four seats that will be attached to the rail system to ensure a rolled edge. The art sculptures are expected to be completed and installed at the same time.

### **GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:**

- **Chinook:**
  - The DNR Invasive Species Grant was submitted for the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit. We should receive word on the grant by March.
- **Film Project:** Gary Goren videotaped Jim Johnson, Tuffy Cross, and Albert LaBlance. in January. Gary will continue working with these gentlemen to produce a short film about Great Lakes Fishing.

### **Planetarium:**

- No word yet on the grant Gary Goren submitted for pursuing the Planet/History Walk.
- **Pendulum:** Matt was able to talk to someone at Dayton University in Ohio about the pendulum. There are only four of this 1960s model of pendulum still operating (or not operating) in the country. They gave Matt some tips on how to troubleshoot the problem. They felt it might be an issue with the magnet and electrical current. We also reached out to Ryan Fairchild at Omega Electric. Ryan will be sending a technician to look at the electric panel. Unfortunately, this is a very hard problem to solve for those who still have pendulums. One museum removed their pendulum. We are hoping that is not the fate of our pendulum.
- **Science Saturdays:** Johnathan has developed a monthly Science Saturday program. He has invited the Library and Star Base who will be participating in these museum programs. The first one will be held Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Misc.** I will be on vacation February 19<sup>th</sup> through February 27<sup>th</sup>.