

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

Spring Field Trips:

March, April, and May are the busiest times for field trips. We hosted a total of 677 students from 20 different schools from across Northeast Michigan. We are grateful to the volunteers that helped with our field trips; the Museum could not host so many students and provide quality experiences without our volunteers. Field trips will generate an additional **\$3,385** for general operations.

Solar Eclipse Event, April 8

The Solar Eclipse event was very successful, raising **\$4,144**. The Besser Museum sold 512 pair of solar glasses at \$2 a pair from January up to the April 8th event. On April 8, the Besser Museum received 624 visitors at \$5 per person.

DNEM History Exhibit Update:

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2

- Minor details are being worked out on the DD2 design.
- A member of the Split Rock Studios team is coming to the Besser Museum in April to take final measurements of the exhibit space.
- The Museum should receive the CAD drawings to provide to the construction company. Work to build the interior walls and install the needed electrical is planned to start around June.
- Collections Manager, Sarah Honeycutt continues to work with others to process the artifact list for each exhibit area.
- Katie Wolf has submitted a Michigan Humanities grant for the publication of Janet Young’s book on the history of Northeast Michigan Anishinaabe.
- Plans are being made for several grand opening events. More details to follow.
- *Line of Credit: was scheduled with Jerry Tracey at Nicolet to discuss the possibility of taking a line of credit to fund the gap if needed. Jerry will be meeting with his team at Nicolet to see what kind of loan, if needed, they can offer.
- The Besser Museum needs to raise \$422,602 to meet our exhibit fund goal - \$242,984 if we choose to use the \$179,618 in the savings fund at Old Mission. However, this is the only savings fund in case of any major maintenance needs. We can always part of this fund for the new exhibit if needed.

The estimated expenses for Phase 2 total approximately \$1,457,885. **The Besser Museum needs to raise approximately \$242,984 for the DNEMH Exhibit.**

2024-2025	Split Rock Studios	\$ 976,015.00	
	Omega Murals	\$ 20,000.00	est.
	Omega Electric and Lighting - Phase 2	\$ 30,000.00	est.
	Kanarr Builders - Phase 2	\$ 50,000.00	est.
	Carpeting - Phase 2	\$ 19,000.00	est.
	Trees - Commercial Silk	\$ 61,000.00	est.
	Artifact mounting	\$ 20,000.00	est.
	Keith Knetch - teepee structure	\$ 5,000.00	est.
	Donor Board	\$ 5,000.00	est.
	Contingency - construction costs	\$ 197,885.00	est.
	Total	\$ 1,383,900.00	

As of the end of March, this was the total in savings for the new exhibit.

Saving Accounts	Amounts
Nicolet	\$ 146,573.00
CFNEM Exhibit Fund	\$ 57,494.00
CFNEM PLEDGES	\$ 57,200.00
CFNEM Museum Fund	\$ 76,167.00
Granum Fund	\$ 78,552.00
Cook Fund	\$ 13,523.00
Kent Fund	\$ 55,885.00
Smith Fund	\$ 10,751.00
Johnson Fund	\$ 12,738.00
Old Mission Exhibit Fund	\$ 160,643.00
Old Mission Board Fund	\$ 74,885.00
Old Mission Savings (back up if needed)	\$ 179,618.00
Besser Foundation	\$ 198,554.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,122,583.00

As of April 1, 2024, the DNEMH Exhibit Fund has received \$18,333 in donations. This amount is not reflected in the chart above.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union gave \$3,333 which is their first payment of a \$10,000. They will make two more payments over the next two years.

The Alpena Community Credit Union has pledged \$5,000.

The Wolverine Credit Union will be giving \$1,000.

Nicolet has pledged \$1,500. They will present their gift at their June membership appreciation day event. Besser Museum will be the designated non-profit at this event. The Museum will work on details to capitalize on this fundraising opportunity.

OLD MISSION ACCOUNTS:

Besser Museum opened three accounts with Old Mission on January 11, 2023. Account balance as of **January 31, 2024**

1. Quasi-endowment fund set up by the Board of Trustees years ago.) **\$77,193.**
2. Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit Fund. **\$161,963.**
3. Operational funds and the advancement of the DNR IAS grant. **\$181,084.**

MISCELLANEOUS Business:

Besser Museum is cohosting the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Conference May 22 and May 23.

The conference will kick off at the Besser Museum on May 22. May 23 will take place at the TBNMS facility. A conference flyer is attached to this report.

June 29, 2024, Log Cabin Day plans are underway.