

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 totals \$333,900**

**Funding For Phase 2 totals \$584,750**

**Fundraising Efforts to date:**

800 Campaign Brochure were mailed out the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. Donors can contribute to the Information is available on the Museum website.

Michigan History Magazine is doing a small article on the exhibit project.

Giving Tuesday campaign on November 29<sup>th</sup>

**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. We will vet proposals from exhibit designers and award the contract sometime in January – early February. We will also hire a construction company to demo/renovate the gallery.

**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 also waiting for Alpena Glass to complete the bottom of the upper-level windows. We are waiting for the lamp for our new light post. We are working with the volunteer gardeners for a new landscape design.

**MUSEUM INTERIOR:**

Museum Staff (Matt, Nate, and Sarah) will be rearranging artifacts throughout the new storage rooms. The furniture room will be transferred to the larger storage room. What was the furniture room will be used for the Season of Light exhibit displays. The multipurpose room (where the Board meets) will be sequestered for collection materials during the transition. 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\*

### **Planetarium:**

- 1. Projector Issues:** Johnathan Winckowski has been communicating with planetarium vendors and has compiled a report with several options to consider for addressing the issue.
- 2. Funding for new projector:** Johnathan is working with Board members, Jim Johnson, and Mike Beaulac to identify possible grants and submit grant applications.
- 3. 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. The second class will be held December 13.

### **Misc.**

#### **Season of Light:**

- Staying closed to the public this year while decorating was very helpful.
- Although being closed, members still bought memberships, raffle tickets, and shopped in the gift store.
- The Staff was very grateful for the volunteer help and community partners who made this exhibit possible.
- 167 members attended the Gala.
- 157 Holiday Raffle Tickets were sold for \$10 each totaling \$1,570.
- We received 24 new memberships totaling \$1,555.
- Alpena Power Company provided \$1000 for assist with Season of Light exhibit.
- Total Revenue: \$4,125
- Total Expenses: \$4,127
- 17 donated items for the Holiday Raffle totaled \$2,442 in-kind donations.
- We will track admission and rental revenue for Season of Light through January 7<sup>th</sup>.

New Exhibit in the Wilson Gallery: Around the 80s will be up through August 2023.

The non-juried art exhibit will be in February.

Carol Lund's art will be displayed on the Center Gallery walls in January through July.