

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
September 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.

Funding Awarded to date for Phase 1 totals \$327,250

CFNEM FUNDS

Granum Funds Committed by Board for Phase 1	\$ 50,000
Kent Fund held at CFNEM	\$ 43,000
Cook Fund held at CFNEM	\$ 13,000

GRANTS AWARDED

Besser Foundation	\$ 80,250
MACC Grant	\$ 51,500
Youth and Rec Grant	\$ 75,000
Older Person Grant	\$ 12,500
CFNEM Impact Grant	\$ 2,000

We are waiting to hear from First Federal Legacy Foundation. They are deciding on our \$100,000 grant request in December.

Fundraising Campaign Brochure: The Campaign Brochure is almost complete and will be printed and mailed out shortly. I will also put ad the exhibit project and campaign brochure to our website.

Exhibit Development: Exhibit Committee members are still working 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 2024 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 Capital Improvement projects funded by the Besser Foundation approved \$194,000 Capital Improvement grant are underway. Parts of the front approach are being poured.

The new blocks in the artifact storage rooms are being painted. Once complete those areas will be put back together. Matt and Nate will work on transferring the furniture storage area into the new storage area and prepare what was the furniture storage to store the Christmas exhibit items.

HVAC/Chiller Project:

The Chiller is still experiencing some issues that is believed to be associated with the control system. The museum has to replace a control for one of the valves which cost \$3,000. The control has been ordered and the job should be completed shortly.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

1. **Chinook:** We were awarded **\$386,500** from the DNR Invasive Species Grant to build the Greats Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.
 - 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*
2. Huron Engineering expects to have the bids ready by October. They will handle putting out the bids and vetting the proposals.
3. The construction to put up the pole building over the Chinook is undetermined at this time.
4. Lauren from Hammond Bay Biological Station will work with the Besser Museum to create signage for the Sea Lamprey story. Lauren has provided lots of information for the signs.
5. Besser Museum was approved for a Huron Pines AmeriCorp worker in 2023 to work on the Great Lakes Fisheries Exhibit project. This cost will be covered by grant. The position starts in January.
6. Jim is working on creating an outline for the exhibit narrative.
7. Tuffy is working with volunteers to build a hip roof on the Katherine V pole barn.

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. **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.

Misc.

- Fall Harvest Fossil Fest is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st. The program is still be developed.
- Season of Light: The designers meet the first week of August to discuss this year's theme. Decorating will begin October 31st.