

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

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

Research and drafted the AAM Accreditation Progress Report. Janet Young brilliantly edited the draft creating a document ready to submit to the Accreditation Committee highlighting all the projects completed since 2019.

Five Year Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2029

Brian Bartosh is completing the restructuring of the Strategic Plan. The new design will include an Action Plan that will be adjusted on an annual basis.

DNEM History Exhibit Update

Working with Katie Wolf over the past month, a second appeal letter was drafted for local businesses who have not yet contributed to the project. To date, over 30 appeal letters have been mailed out totaling \$270,000 in solicitation for donations.

Lenny Avery from Target Alpena is proposing the Besser Museum pursue a federal rural development loan. Lenny will explain the program to the Board on Tuesday, February 20th. There is also a \$50,000 grant opportunity through a rural development program that we will look into. Katie Wolf and I will research more grant opportunities.

Appeal letters will be going out to past board members.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1&2

The Split Rock Studios DD2 presentation will be on Tuesday, March 12th from 1pm to 4pm. This will be a virtual meeting with the opportunity to attend the meeting at the Besser Museum.

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

Committed:

\$ 343,554.00	Besser Foundation
\$ 7,500.00	MACC Grant (sent 42,500 on 1.24.24)
\$ 58,402.00	Granum Endowment
\$ 200,000.00	Cook Family Pledge
\$ 55,885.00	Kent Family Fund
\$ 160,643.00	Old Mission Private Donations (includes the \$17,478 from the Infinex Fund)
\$ 74,485.00	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
\$ 132,237.00	Nicolet Restricted Savings Account as of 1.31.2024
\$ 5,000.00	Alpena Area Credit Union pledged donation 2.14.24
\$ 1,187,906.00	Total to Date

Still need to raise: \$403,958

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

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

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

The Chinook project is coming along. The pole barn and walkways/docks have been completed. The electricians are starting to work.

The GLFH exhibit committee meet to discuss the revisions to the exhibit components. Jim Johnson will edit the original exhibit concept document that will be presented to Good Design. This step will help Good Design revise their 2018 schematic design.

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.) **\$74,485** (+6.39).
2. Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit Fund. **\$160,643** (+280).
3. Operational funds and the advancement of the DNR IAS grant. **\$179,618** (+759).

MISCELLANEOUS Business:

The exhibit schedule for 2024.

Center Gallery

1.20.24 – 7.24.24: Local photographer, Beverly Wolf from January 20 through July 24.

8.10.24 – 10.26.24: 2023 Juried Art Winner – solo exhibit – Diane

Wilson Gallery

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

4.12.24 – 7.24.24 NEMAG Exhibit

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.