

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 2021 – August 2021

**July Attendance:**

- The Besser Museum is pleased to report unusually high attendance July. A comparison for the month of July attendance over the past five years:
  - 2021 \$13,615
  - 2020 \$3,136
  - 2019 \$5,534
  - 2018 \$4,719
  - 2017 \$4,944
- **To Date August admissions: \$4,123**

**Staffing:**

- Guest Services Specialist: The Besser Museum will be losing our summer help, Lillian Broad, at the end of August and will be looking for another part-time employee for the front desk.
- We are putting together a job description for a part-time maintenance position.

**Fall Harvest Day: Plans are being developed by Education Coordinator, Amanda Kucharek for the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Fall Harvest Fossil Fest.**

- We've discussed changing the name to Fall Fest rather than Fall Harvest Fossil Fest so that we can diversify and have different themes for this event. Often the Fall Harvest event is very similar to Log Cabin Day event except for the focus of Fossils in the fall. However, if we simply call it Fall Fest we can focus on a variety of themes each year.

**HVAC Project**

- On target to be completed in October. Equipment has been coming in for this project.
- Matt has been preparing the area where the new chiller will be installed.

**MUSEUM EXTERIOR:**

**Waiting to hear back from Meridian Construction. He hasn't had time to work on a bid.**

Todd Britton from Meridian Construction came to the museum on July 12<sup>th</sup> to examine the exterior of the museum and prepare a bid to fix the columns, eaves, flower boxes, and remove the window wells. Todd Britton has performed other work at the museum through the years which includes installing the elevator and the lift station for the new handicap restrooms. Meridian also sealed the back patio to stop the leakage that had been occurring.

**LOG CABIN PROJECT:**

Bob Kenel started working replacing logs on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Board approved the expense for Phase 2, which will include windows and doors.

He estimates the project will be complete in October.

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

- **Chinook:**
  - representatives from S&A meet with Jim Johnson and Matt to work on a bid for a steel building for the Chinook exhibit.
  - The Alpena City building inspector stopped by for an introduction to the project and give input on anything we might need to anticipate for the permit to build.
  - Lauren from Hammond Bay Fish Station meet with Jim and I to discuss the sea lamprey exhibit and discuss themes for the narrative.
  - We are working on drafting parts of the Invasive Species Grant and something for the GLFC.
- **Kat V:**
  - Tuffy and his crew continue work on the exhibit.

## **ANISHINAABE EXHIBIT REVITALIZATION PROJECT (Native American Gallery)**

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Advisory Committee will be meeting at the Besser Museum.
- Museum Collections Consultant, Laura Quackenbush is continuing to work on processing the private collection donated by an anonymous donor. This collection will be incorporated into the new exhibit.

**ART: The 2021 Juried Art Exhibit** opened August 16<sup>th</sup>. The public open house to name the winner will be on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm.

**ARTIFACT COLLECTIONS:** Sarah Honeycutt continues to excel in the position of Collections Manager working with volunteers and staff major works continues to be achieved in this department.

## **EDUCATION Outreach:**

- Amanda is currently working on creating a new exhibit label for the Spratt Church.
- Amanda finished the exhibit labels for the Alpena Flyer exhibit
- School groups are starting to contact the museum for possible tours this fall.
- Johnathan held two events in August. The Meteor and Milkways at Bay View and Astronomy and Ales at Austin Brothers Brewery. We sold 29 tickets at \$10 each for a total of \$290 for this event. The Austin Brothers team were pleased with the event and would like to do more.

## **MISCELLENOUS:**

- **Season of Light Exhibit:** We've started working on designing this year's exhibit. The exhibit is schedule to open November 20<sup>th</sup>.