

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

American Alliance of Museum Accreditation Progress report was completed and submitted on February 27.

Five Year Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2029

Brian Bartosh completed the edits to the strategic plan in time to submit AAM progress report. The Besser Foundation also requested a copy of the strategic plan. Jim Park sent an email on March 14 complimenting how well done the plan was, *“you have captured the main thoughts a plan should include: short history- highlights - what's important and action plan supporting the Strategic Plan.”*

DNEM History Exhibit Update:

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2

On March 12, Split Rock Studios presented the DD2 design. The Exhibit Committee needs to respond with comments by March 27th. Due to health issues, the exhibit’s content manual will be delivered the first week of April

Sarah and Matt have been busy intaking a large collection for the exhibit. Sarah, Nicole, and Matthew have been working on processing the collection. A lot of progress is being made.

A contract has been signed with Katie Wolf to act as the Development/Fundraising agent for the second phase of the DNHEM capital campaign. Katie has devised a strategic plan and will be researching, writing, and submitting grants. Katie will also be planning direct asks from potential donors.

Besser Museum received \$3,000 from our CFNEM Community Impact Grant.
Besser Museum received \$2,100 from the Youth Advisory Council (CFNEM) grant.

Line of Credit: a meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. with Jerry Tracey at Nicolet to discuss the possibility of taking a line of credit to fund the gap if needed.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

Chinook: The Chinook project is coming along. A budget spreadsheet for the Great Lakes Fisheries Exhibit project is attached to this report. The spreadsheet dates back to 2017 when Besser Museum first received \$10,000 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to develop our concept.

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.

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:

2024 Field Trips are starting to be scheduled. A lot of time is being spent on developing lesson plans and activity schedules. The first field trip will be on April 8.

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

March 11 – 15, Control Solutions installed the new sensors in seven areas in the museum to help monitor temperature and humidity.

Matt is researching updating our alarm system, as some of the electrical dates back to 1966. Matt has requested bids from our current vendor along with a bid from Total Fire. More information will be coming soon.

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.