

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
March 2022**

NEW HISTORY EXHIBIT:

1. Jim Conboy, Mike Beaulac, Matt Klimczak, and I meet with architects, Tom Nemitz and Anna Kindt from Cornerstone Architects on Wednesday, March 9th. The architects will provide a bid for the History Exhibit as soon as possible. Their bid will include the cost from Split Rock Studios for exhibit design and fabrication.
2. We are waiting for word on our Federal Foundation Legacy Grant Application for the history exhibit.
3. Preparations for grant submissions is ongoing. Grant opportunities the museum will be pursuing include State of Michigan Arts and Culture Capital Improvement (June 1) Alpena County Youth and Rec (May 2) Alpena County Older Persons (May 2) Community Foundation Impact Grant (July 15).
4. I am working on reaching out local experts to create subcommittee for each theme in the History exhibit.

STAFF:

- Two part-time Museum Assistant (Collections) have been hired and are assisting Sarah with data input and other duties as needed; Jenna Escareno and Matt Wieschowski. We are still looking for a possible third part time position to assist with field trips and special events, i.e., Log Cabin and Fall Harvest. This year, I will be handling all the field trips.

BUILDING PROJECTS: Please refer to Matt's Facility Report for more details.

- To date, Woods and Johnson have almost completed the installation of the new chiller unit. The plumbing is done. The wiring is done. All the parts are in. The humidifier is hooked up, but not running yet. The project cannot be complete until the weather warms up.
- Sprinkler head inspection: Matt has a full report on the status of the museum's sprinkler head inspection. The sprinkler heads are aging. The museum may be looking at a major project soon if all the sprinkler heads need to be replaced. There was also a water valve replaced, which is document in the Facility Report.

MUSEUM EXTERIOR:

The Capital Improvement projects funded by the Besser Foundation approved \$194,00 Capital Improvement grant are underway.

1. Todd Britton from Meridian plans to start removing the lower-level windows in April. He is just waiting for the weather to improve before construction begins. This is the first of the three projects on his proposal. The other projects are the columns and eaves, and the front approach.
 - a. Matt and Nate have prepared all the rooms for Meridian to start the window project.
2. Moran Iron Works plans to have the railing compete and ready for installation by the end of March/first of April. The art sculptures are expected to be completed and installed at the same time.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

- **Chinook:** We were awarded \$386,500 from the DNR Invasive Species Grant. The next step will be speaking with DNR Grant Manager, Erin Campbell to finalize the contract.
- **Securing bids for the Chinook structure and exhibit:** This process will begin when the grant contract is signed.
- **Film Project:** Gary Goren videotaped Jim Johnson, Tuffy Cross, and Albert LaBlance. in January. Gary will continue working with these gentlemen to produce a short film about Great Lakes Fishing.

Planetarium:

- **Planet/History Walk** – Gary Goren would like to apply for a Youth and Rec grant.
- **Pendulum:** Matt is still working on issues with our pendulum.
- **Science Saturdays:** Johnathan has developed a monthly Science Saturday program. He has invited the Library and Star Base who will be participating in these museum programs. The first program was held Saturday, February 26th and had over 70 visitors. The next one is scheduled for March 26.
- **YouTube Videos:** Johnathan continues to produce short videos for the museum's YouTube channel and educational posts for the Planetarium Facebook page.
- **CNFEM Grant:** We are waiting to hear on a grant proposal to purchase the planetarium video "Birth of Planet Earth." We were granted to publicly play this video for a three-month period. If we want to continue to use it, we now must purchase it.

Misc.

- Log Cabin Day will take place Saturday, June 25.
- The Modern Art Gallery will be closed at the end of April to prepare for the next exhibit, which will open in June.
- The Town That Wouldn't Die came in. Allegra is not happy with the quality of the book and is working with the printer. Allegra asked that we do not put out any books until we hear from them.