

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

Spring Field Trips:

Besser Museum Staff and volunteers have been busy hosting students from across Northeast Michigan. Over 800 students will have visited the Besser Museum by May 31. That is not counting the teachers and parent chaperones. I leave for vacation June 1 and will return June 10.

New Museum Logo:

We Care: Top O' Michigan made a generous donation of \$1,000, plus time and talent donated by Kimberly Berreth. Kimberly worked with Katie Wolf to produce a promotional flyer featuring the Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit project along with their support to the project. Top O' Michigan will blast this flyer out to their contacts throughout Northern Michigan. Besser Museum will also email blast this flyer to over 800 contacts in our database. Kimberly also worked with museum staff to create a new look for the museum's logo. This logo is being presented to the Board for their consideration and approval.

Annual Membership Meeting – End of Fiscal Year:

The Annual Membership Meeting information went out in the newsletter May 20. Ashley Peterson was the only Board member up for election for another 3-year term. There are no new Board members joining the Board at this time. Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, and Tuffy Cross all volunteered to serve an additional year according to the new language the Board will adopt to allow past board members to serve at the pleasure of the board.

Due to circumstances out of our control, the audit for fiscal year 2022/23 was not completed. Marie Williams (accountant) spoke with auditor Chelsea Meeder and asked to audit two years together. Fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 will be audited together. I talked with auditor, Chelsea Meeder, and she stated that the Board could consider amending the bylaws to conduct a full audit every other year, with a financial review report on the other years.

OLD MISSION ACCOUNTS:

Besser Museum opened three accounts with Old Mission on January 11, 2023. Account balance as of **April 30, 2024**

1. Quasi-endowment fund was set up by the Board of Trustees years ago. **\$74,933**
2. Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit Fund. **\$162,219.**
3. Operational funds transferred from Museum savings. **\$181,380.**

DNEM History Exhibit Update:

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2

- Details are continuing to be worked out in the DD2 design.
- The CAD designer and new Project Manager (Niki) visited the museum May 7th and 8th. The purpose of this visit was to capture accurate measurements of the space to ensure the design as planned will fit. During their visit they met with general contractor, Glenn Kanarr, to discuss details of constructing the interior walls. SRS will provide a General Contractor package detailing all measurements for wall placement, and electrical needs. They also captured measurements of the taxidermy going into the river exhibit.
- The construction of interior walls should start sometime in July.
- Collections Manager, Sarah Honeycutt continues to work on processing the artifact list for each exhibit area. Sarah has completed the massive list of artifacts for Areas B, C, D, E, F, G, I, and L.
- We are still waiting to hear word on the Michigan Humanities grant submitted for the publication of Janet Young's book on the history of Northeast Michigan Anishinaabe.
- Katie Wolf has taken several photos with different donors. These photos will be used for promotional pieces on Facebook and Alpena News.

- June 6, 2024, the Besser Museum is the sponsor for the Chamber of Commerce Good Afternoon Alpena program at NOAA/TBNMS. Hosting this event, the museum will have available for all guest information about how you can donate to the new exhibit. I will be out of town on vacation, so Katie will work with Board members and volunteers on the presentation.
- The exhibit is still scheduled to be completed in December of 204. Plans are being made for several grand opening events. More details to follow.
- Line of Credit with Nicolet Bank is still undecided.
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\$1,800,000 Budget for the new Discover Northeast Michigan Exhibit

| Donations by Donor Levels as 5.18.2024 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| LEGACY | VISIONARY | CHAMPION | LEADER | PATRON | FRIEND | FRIEND | FRIEND | FRIEND | |
| \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 27,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 1,050.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 105.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 650.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 20.00 | |
| \$ 55,885.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 135.00 | \$ 300.00 | |
| \$ 101,150.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 100.00 | |
| \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| \$ 78,552.00 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 6,300.00 | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,750.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 20.00 | |
| | \$ 15,050.00 | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 605.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | \$ 40,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 325.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | \$ 75,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 75.00 | |
| | \$ 12,500.00 | | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 550.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | \$ 11,000.00 | | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | \$ 10,000.00 | | \$ 2,100.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | \$ 10,000.00 | | | \$ 700.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 100.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 10.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 125.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 600.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 600.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 20.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 40.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 600.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 15.00 | |
| | | | | \$ 870.00 | \$ 125.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 20.00 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| \$ 935,587.00 | \$ 371,050.00 | \$ 48,800.00 | \$ 22,650.00 | \$ 14,775.00 | \$ 2,575.00 | \$ 2,825.00 | \$ 1,910.00 | \$ 1,295.00 | \$ 1,401,467.00 |

Phase 1 expenses: \$358,405

Estimated expenses for Phase 2: \$1,441,595

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| 2024-2025 | Split Rock Studios | \$ 1,033,710 | |
| | Omega Murals | \$ 20,000.00 | est. |
| | Omega Electric and Lighting - Phase 2 | \$ 30,000.00 | est. |
| | Kanarr Builders - Phase 2 | \$ 50,000.00 | est. |
| | Carpeting - Phase 2 | \$ 19,000.00 | est. |
| | Trees – Fabricated by SRS | \$ 61,000.00 | est. |
| | Artifact mounting | \$ 20,000.00 | est. |
| | Keith Knetch - teepee structure | \$ 5,000.00 | est. |
| | Donor Board | \$ 5,000.00 | est. |
| | Contingency - construction costs | \$ 197,885.00 | est. |
| | Total | \$ 1,441,595.00 | est. |

MISCELLANEOUS Business:

**Besser Museum is co-hosting 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.

Besser Museum will be co-hosting the Michigan Historical Society Michigan State History Conference in 2025.

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