

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
July 2016 – August 2016

1. Capital Campaign for the 50th Anniversary:

- a. Besser Museum has been giving an amazing opportunity with a 1:1 matching donation of up to \$50,000 from June until November 30th.
 - i. We have secured **\$7,250** in gifts towards the match
 - ii. We have secured **\$24,300** in pledges towards the match
 - iii. Total towards match is **\$31,550**
 - iv. We need an additional **\$18,450** by November 30th for the \$50,000 match
- b. The Capital Campaign has raised **\$413,771**. The breakdown is as follows:
 - i. **\$193,650** in gifts at the CFNEM
 - ii. **\$114,750** in pledges at the CFNEM
 - iii. **\$90,000** outstanding pledge from Besser Foundation
 - iv. **\$9,750** outstanding from the MCACA grant
- c. A \$5,000 grant request was submitted to CFNEM for their July 15th cycle, we are waiting to hear if we are award
- d. A Youth & Rec grant was submitted for \$11,000 for the Shout Eureka Science program. If awarded, \$5000 of the grant would pay for up to 100 people to attend a digital planetarium as part of the Saturday science event. The grant recipients will be announced by September.

- 2. Besser Foundation:** The annual operational support request was submitted to the Besser Foundation. They will be meeting at the Museum on Monday, September 19th. I have been asked to speak to the Foundation Board and give an update on the Museum.

3. Facilities:

- a. Bliss Painting has begun the work on the Maltz Bank. Due to additional, unforeseen water damage, the restoration project will cost \$4,000 more. Doug Bliss is donating \$2,000 of that expense. In total, Doug is donating \$6,000 for the Maltz Bank restoration project. The project will be completed by late fall. Doug will address the Board of Trustees on the necessity and long term benefits of having a maintenance contract.
- b. Zann from Zann Brothers Construction has submitted a quote for three separate projects that need to be addressed. The bid was submitted to the Facility Committee and will be presented to the Board in the very near future.
- c. Meridian Construction came and did a total assessment of the building, including the back patio. We are still waiting to receive a quote from them.

4. Planetarium:

- a. Spitz started installing the new equipment on September 12th. The installation will take several days.
- b. September 20th. Training is presently scheduled for September 27, 28, & 29. This is a 3 days/ 8 hours per day of hands of training for 4 people. An evening demonstration will be held on September 28th for community partners who have an interest in being trained as presenters.
- c. Omega donated the electric work that needed to be done in preparation for the new equipment.
- d. Young Appliances installed the new carpet at a discounted cost.
- e. Matt (and Steve) reinstalled the chairs.

5. Art:

- a. Last year's **Juried Art Exhibit** winner, Mark Beins opened his exhibit in the Trelfa Gallery.
- b. **Coffee with the Curator:** Danyael Dorr will do another round of presentations at each of the DIA art pieces throughout the summer. Check the museum website for dates and details.
- c. **2016-2017 Exhibit Calendar is being set and confirmed. More details to follow**

6. Exhibits:

- a. The staff has been working on creating the Native American traveling exhibit panels for the Lake Huron Discovery Tour this October 7th – 10th.
- b. The panels are done! They look amazing! Display cases with a few artifacts will accompany the panels.
- c. Besser Museum took a small exhibit of antique farming tools to the Antique Tractor Show on August 12th and 13th.

7. Katherine V: Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit.

- a. The Katherine V – Work is ongoing – Tuff Cross and his team of volunteers have the faux walls built for the fishing village. They picked up the barn board needed for the exterior, old doors and shutters.
- b. Chinook – Jim Johnson is outlining a plan for pursuing grants.

8. Marketing:

- a. Kat keeps the website and face-book page updated. Other staff also contributes to the face-book page. Kat is keeping the media up to-date on museum happenings.
- b. We are redeeming many of the free museum admission coupons from area newspapers. Last year's news ads focused on the northern counties. This year I will run ads in the southern counties also.
- c. The banners are receiving a lot of compliments. The bottom part of the sign is complete.

- 9. Museum Staff:** Jessica Peck, through Star Staffing has temporarily joined our team part-time. Jessica works on Monday cleaning the facility and Tuesday through Thursday as front desk receptionist and helping in the gift store.
- 10. Michigan Humanities Heritage Grant: The work under this grant is ongoing. The statement below was in last month's report, however is repeated here for a reminder.** The Lake Huron Discovery Tour Committee (which I am a member of) applied for a Michigan Humanities Heritage Grant via the Community Foundation (Katie Wolf, who is also a member of the LHDT committee). The grant focuses on Native American heritage in Northeast Michigan. \$8,000 has been earmarked for the Besser Museum to create a traveling exhibit for the October Lake Huron Discovery Tour. This project will help with the total redesign of the Native American gallery and story that is being told in that gallery. Several regional experts have been contacted to work alongside Richard Clute in helping with this project. Work is ongoing. The Lake Huron Discovery Tour is scheduled for October 7th – 10th.
- 11. Michigan Museum Association State Conference: Repeated from last month as a reminder.** I will be attending the Conference in Detroit September 14th – 17th. I submitted and was awarded a grant to cover the cost of the conference. The museum will only be covering the cost of the lodging.
- 12. Michigan Historical Society State Conference** will be held in Alpena September 23rd and 24th. The Besser Museum has been working with MHS for the past several months to help coordinate this event. Danyeal Dorr, Kat Tomaszewski and Richard Clute will be presented a session in the conference schedule. The Saturday sessions will be held at the Alpena Community College.
- 13. Michigan Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Conference** will be held this year in Alpena. The tentative dates are November 2nd and 3rd. Details are being worked out.
- 14. Upcoming Events:**
- a. **October 1st : Fall Harvest Fossil Fest**
 - b. **October 7th – 10th Lake Huron Discovery Tour**
 - c. **October 22st: Juried Art Exhibit Opening Reception**
 - d. **November 19th: Season of Light Reception & Exhibit Opening**

