

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
August - September 2018

1. Reaccreditation:

**Creating Action Plan to Submit to AAM Reaccreditation Board by December 14, 2108.
Reading through the AASLH STEPs program.**

2. Facilities:

- a. Susan Edwards from R.S. Scott Associates is continuing to work on the architectural drawings for the renovation of space and to address exterior concerns.
- b. Bliss Painting continues to work on the Spratt Church. A letter requesting ongoing financial support for the historic Spratt Church is being sent to the Spratt Methodist Congregation. It is our hopes that they will partner with the Besser Museum to preserve this historic legacy of their community.
- c. See Facility Report submitted by Matt Klimczak

3. Native American Exhibit Project:

- a. Good Design Group has provided two conceptual exhibit drafts for the Native American gallery to date. Once the narrative has been completed, then reviewed and approved by our Native American advisors, Good Design Group will complete their work.
- b. I spoke with the State Archaeologist who are working on the Native American exhibit at the State History Museum in Lansing. Based on their experience and professional counsel, it was decided to postpone the interview portion of our project.
- c. Three professional Native Americans from the **Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians** will be visiting the Besser Museum on Friday, September 28th to discuss the exhibit. We will be discussing the exhibit outline, exhibit concept, and what they would like to contribute and/or story that needs to be told.
- d. Richard Cook, Matt McCormack (genealogist) and David Joseph (Hubbard Lake native and Edna Joseph's son) and I meet this past month to talk about the exhibit and about David's family history. Matt McCormack will spend more time interviewing David about his family. Matt McCormack will create a family tree showing the connection of several Indian families throughout the region. This tree/diagram will be incorporated into the exhibit.
- e. The following is from Richard Cook in November of 2017 at the time he donated an additional \$15,000 to the project:

We are prepared to commit additional funding of \$15,000 at this time, to meet half of the Besser Foundation's matching challenge. We hope that another donor or donors will be moved to complete the remaining

portion of the challenge since it has Museum-wide implications and benefits. As for our funding (\$25,000 plus \$15,000), it is our intent that it is used to support the Native American project. While we will not attempt to control exactly how these funds are used, our preference is to apply the gifts as directly as possible to the Native American project rather than for planning purposes. We know you are seeking to keep consulting fees for planning reasonable and proportional to the ultimate cost of museum and exhibit improvements and innovations. We also recommend that more funds be released for research and contact development as is reasonably needed (and again appropriately proportional to the goal of the project) to complete the work of Matt McCormack.

- f. The Native American Collection: Collections Manager, Maggie Malone is working with Richard Clute to inventory and catalogue the Native American artifacts. This work will take Richard a few weeks, if not months to complete. All the work will be merged into PastPefect.
- 4. Fisheries Exhibit:** Work is ongoing.
- a. The Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Conference was held on Beaver Island September 12, 13, and 14th. Members from the committee attending included, Christine Witulski, Tuffy and Bonnie Cross, Ron Meneghel and Brandon Schroeder.
 - b. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant is due December 2018. Jim Johnson is starting to work on revising the original grant application to include the progress that has been made since first submitting it. The progress includes the Good Design Group exhibit renders.
 - c. Jim Johnson held a meeting September 6th. The educational components of the exhibit were discussed with Brandon Schroeder from Michigan Sea Grant.
 - d. A request for \$25,000 was submitted to the Vogelheim family to continue work on the Katherine V. The work includes interviewing Tuffy, building a structure around the Kahlenberg, interpretative signage, and landscaping. I am waiting to hear back from Charlie Volegheim.
- 5. Art:**
- a. **Juried Art Exhibit** is scheduled for October. Brochures will be mailed out at the end of May. Erv Lewandowski will be this year's juror. The opening reception is set for October 27th and the exhibit will run through December 31, 2018.
 - b. **Erv Lewandowski:** Erv and Mark Beins will be exhibiting in the Wilson Gallery in January through April.
 - c. **Winter Blues:** Plans to hold another non-juried art exhibit in January are underway. The Winter Blues theme was very popular last year, and we will do that again this year.

6. Special Events:

a. **Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run November 23, 2018.**

- i. The Besser Museum is in communication with Wayne Calkins, Joe Gentry, Chamber of Commerce, and City of Alpena to host the first, and hopefully, annual Besser Museum Jingle Bell Run. This is a fundraiser for the museum. This event will be an entry in the Christmas Parade. The participants will be the first to leave the parade staging parking lot on 9th Street and run/walk the parade route in front of the parade.

b. **Mindful Movement at the Museum: Yoga**

- i. Paige Edwards Trisko will continue to hold yoga sessions at the museum after the July. The sessions will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for \$10 per person.

c. **Fall Harvest Fossil Fest, Saturday, October 6th 12pm – 4pm:** Planning has begun. Lafarge and Specification Stones products are sponsoring this event.

d. **GIVING TUESDAY: November 27, 2018.**

- i. This year's campaign will be for our collection needs. The following is our 50-word statement for the CFNEM application.
 1. Maintaining Memories: Safeguard the past for the future. Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits authentic articles and artifacts of art, history, and science to inspire curiosity, foster pride, and cultivate legacy. Your donation will purchase acid-free and archival supplies to ensure the preservation of precious artifacts.

e. **Season of Light – Christmas Exhibit:** Planning has begun.

- i. **Season of Light reception is tentatively planned for Saturday, November 17th.**

7. Collections:

- a. Maggie Malone will be reconvening the Collections Committee. We have discussed opening the Collections Committee meetings up to Museum Members in the future. This will be used as an opportunity to education our members. We discussed calling this time Museum 101: Understanding our Mission. This will also be a nice perk for our members.
- b. Maggie is working on creating an exhibit that will be installed in the front gallery space sometime in 2019. This exhibit will also be used to educate the public on the museum's mission, purpose, the care and preservation of artifacts, and general museum's manners.
- c. Maggie has also been working diligently on creating forms, policies, and procedures to properly manage the collections.

8. Education:

- a. Amanda Kurcharek, has been working on developing the activities for Fall Harvest Fossil Fest. I will be working with her as she experiences for the first-time visiting fieldtrips.

- b.** We are with Brandon Schroeder and Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative on fisheries related outreach programs for upcoming fieldtrips. Tuffy will be giving tours of the Katherine V. during this time.
 - c.** Amanda will be working on the Season of Light field trip programming.

- 9. Planetarium:** Johnathan is working to create new programming. He has order a couple of new shows. He had identified a Season of Light program for \$1,500. If we cannot find a sponsor for the show, he will create something for the Season of Light program

10. Miscellaneous: Dates

- a.** MMA Conference: October 28, 29, 30th. Amanda, Maggie and I will be attending this conference.
- b.** Great Lakes Planetarium Conference. Johnathan and John will attend that conference.
- c.** October 12th – October 16th. I will be traveling to Texas for a wedding.