

## **MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

March 18, 2024

### **Education**

Teachers reserved Education Kits 100 times in 2023. The pace of reservations remains elevated. Ronette Rumpca has continued to be active attending education conferences attracting these audiences.

Additionally, the majority of kits have been updated to reflect the new social studies education standards.

### **Exhibition**

Dan Moeckly is coordinating the exhibit on behalf of the Society.

All staff have actively been engaged in synthesizing feedback from the public, academic, cultural, and language advisors. Staff held public meetings in Timber Lake (Oct. 11), De Smet (Oct. 13), Pierre (Oct. 17), Rapid City (Oct. 18), Watertown (Oct. 24), Yankton (Oct. 27), Huron (Nov. 17), Sioux Falls (Dec. 1), Hot Springs (Dec. 5), Deadwood (Dec. 6), Chamberlain (Dec. 13), Brookings (Jan. 10), Aberdeen (Jan. 25) and Mission (Jan. 30). The feedback and comments taken are on what makes South Dakota, South Dakota; what about the design excites you or inspires a question; and memorable museum experiences. Responses were tabulated and analyzed. Share Your Voice was staff-intensive but very rewarding for connecting with stakeholders. Both academic and cultural advisors were tapped and language advisors were contacted. Language advisors will begin their work following the completion of design development stage one on March 26.

State Buildings & Grounds crews are demolishing the gallery to prepare the space for the new exhibit. Much of the gallery was salvaged. For instance, case doors were marked and will be reused in the new gallery. Similarly, the tempered glass barriers were salvaged for reuse in the new gallery. The Foundation salvaged other items to be auctioned for the benefit of the new gallery. Finally, several items of furniture were selected by partners to be reused in their facilities.

ISG (architect for the renovation), McGough Construction, and the state are synchronizing budget numbers for Split Rock Studios (exhibit consultant) ahead of exhibition construction. Numbers should be available April 9, 2024.

### **Collections**

A sample first bank note issued in Dakota Territory at the time owned by Wells Fargo Bank NA that had been loaned by a predecessor bank in Watertown since 1903 had its ownership transferred to the museum. 121 years is the longest loan resolved in my career. I sincerely thank Eunice Liu for guiding me through the process with Wells Fargo.

There were two floods (Dec. 26 and Jan. 11) in the warehouse where collections are stored offsite during renovation. Both floods came from a struck and burst pipe and resulted in no damage to the collection. Staff responded quickly and directed response to ensure the safety of the collection.

Corey Christianson had her duties clarified as Registrar in December and now manages collection data, researches the collection, assists Kevin Larsen with social media, and assists with facility risk management. Katy Schmidt continues as Curator of Collections focused on shaping both the collection and its policies as well as coordinating preventative conservation. In this way both the physical (Katy) and intellectual (Corey) control of the collection is well managed.

The state issued a request for proposals for an upgraded collection management system on March 15, 2024. A new system is required to meet state Bureau of Information and Technology (BIT) specifications and meet the needs of the Society in managing its collection. The current system is not BIT-compliant nor large enough to manage the Society's collection.

Sample Collections Actions using the board authorized collection rubric, the collection management committee discussed the donations since December:

- Sinte Gleska (Spotted Tail) Collection, bonnet, shirt, quiver, arrows, moccasins, horn, leggings, trunk. Chief John Spotted Tail and Tamara Stands and Looks Back-Spotted Tail. Rosebud, 1870s.
  - **Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection.
  - **Note:** the collection transfer at time of writing is pending and therefore confidential.
- Artwork (Selected) for book *Wings of an Eagle*, 2023, Billy Mills
  - **Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection.
- Sketch Books, unknown date and place, James Pollock
  - **Action:** No action taken, need more information.
- Dishes (various pieces), 1940s, Joan Schuller
  - **Action:** Decline for Permanent Collection.
- Dress, wedding, 1906, Dawn Smart.

- **Action:** Decline for Permanent Collection.
- Bag, leather with quillwork, unknown date and origin, Christy Bailly
  - **Action:** Accept for Use Collection.
- Cane, belonged to donor's great-uncle Senator Theodore Berndt, 1903, Philip Howard
  - **Action:** accepted for collection, but owner declined.
- Veterinary Tools and Medication, belonged to Charles B. "Doc" Anderson, early 20th century, Raylana Anderson
  - **Action:** Accept for Education Collection.
- Point, arrow, surface finding, unknown date and origin, David Hagar
  - **Action:** Decline for Permanent Collection.
- John Harris and Donald McLain collection (two paintings, medicine books, medical kit, diary, medical tool, religious books), late 19th century, Robert Bauman
  - **Action:** accepted medical tools and kit and diary for the Permanent Collection, declined the remainder.
- Brush, clothing, from the C.M. Wiggins Store, late 19th century, Martin County Historical Society (James Marushin, curator) of Fairmont, Minnesota
  - **Action:** accepted for Education Collection
- Medallion, plaster, trophy from DeSmet high school, 1917, Susan Purintun
  - **Action:** Decline for the Permanent Collection.
- Tools, veterinary (supplemental to Raylana Collection accepted the month previous), including five syringes, three boxes, and a forceps, Raylana Anderson
  - **Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection.
- Carol Ferguson Collection, engraved rings, drill, wrench, saddlebag, nippers, other assorted farm tools, 3 ground stone tools, 2 license plates, 2 barber's brushes, barber's clippers, jar of arrowheads, maul, beaded bag, Carol Ferguson, c. 1900
  - **Action:** Decline for Permanent Collection.
- Brad Jones Collection, 2 American Legion medal, 2 Grand Army of the Republic medals, watch chain made of hair, trench art napkin holder, Ojibwe bandolier bag, 1861-1919.
  - **Action:** Accept all but bandolier bag for Permanent Collection.

Submitted by

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