MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SDSHS Board of Trustees Report
July 5, 2023, Addendum

I am sorry to be unable to be with you.

Exhibition

Ben Jones, Kristine Day, Dan Moeckly and I scored exhibit proposals. Per state law, these were averaged and Split Rock Studios was the winner among 2 bidders. We look forward to working with them to create an exhibit for a Grand Opening on December 6, 2025.

Collections

Museum staff learned that PastPerfect Museum Software, a collections management software (CMS), is not currently a supported software for the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT), an agency that governs all state agency information technology infrastructure. We learned that PastPerfect was undersized but workable for SDSHS collections and would need to be replaced when the Society returns to the Cultural Heritage Center. PastPerfect's main difficulty is twofold. The software is meant for small institutions and the SDSHS is more a mid-size to large institution. PastPerfect is a good solution for smaller institutions and has been since 1997. The software operates best from a single desktop where the state system is a networked platform. The network unfortunately interferes with the operation and maintenance of PastPerfect. Recent developments accelerated the timeline for replacing the CMS. Staff is working diligently on studying likely options that meet the SDSHS needs and BIT requirements, and once selected will use the certification process to have a CMS supported by the state. The result will be a right-sized software with room for growth.

Submitted by
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