

MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

December 8, 2023

Education

Teachers are reserving Education Kits in near record numbers because of appearances such as the Education Summit in June. The Society will again participate in the Education Summit in June 2024. Education standards are being updated to match the new curriculum standards.

Exhibition

Museum staff has diligently worked with Split Rock Studios on the proposed new state history exhibit. Initial schematic planning has completed. Schematics is the phase of dreaming big and asking for the widest possible response. The next phase is Design/Build that has two phases. Both phases are meant to align what was generated in the schematic phase with the budget. The final phase is to build the exhibit.

During the schematic phase and continuing through design, the Museum has conducted *Share Your Voice* sessions with the public in various parts of the state with the Society's director and the executive director of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation. Sessions have been held 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), and Deadwood (Dec. 6) to date. Further sessions are in Chamberlain (Dec. 13), Brookings (Jan. 10), and Aberdeen (Jan. 25). 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. Early responses include fossils, major historical events, geographic features, and the general hospitableness of South Dakotans. All responses are being fed into the design process. *Share Your Voice* has been staff-intensive but very rewarding for ideas, relationships, and the new exhibit.

The Museum team has been meeting weekly concerning the exhibit for artifact selection, consider themes, work on interactives from manual dexterity to digital, select color schemes, initiated meetings with other Society units, and more. Work will continue during the Design/Build phases through installation and opening.

Collections

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

- James Carlon, Spanish American War footlocker, 1900, Edward Dever, 1st SD Volunteers
Action: Unanimously accepted as the only footlocker from the Spanish American War.
- Apparel, Norwegian and Folk (cream color silk blouse, two folk costumes of blouse, vest, skirt, and one cap), declined by Vesterheim, made and used by Lise Hammer, 1952-1998 in Huron SD
Action: The committee accepted the collection for the Education Collection.
- Flag, American, signed by women's knitting group, made for a raffle/fundraiser, Crandall SD, 1917-1918.

- Action:** Accept for Permanent Collection.
- Button, South Dakota Centennial, Beth Price, 1989.
Action: Unanimously declined as it duplicates existing examples and offers no further provenance.
- Booth, Telephone, South Dakota State Agricultural Museum, Clear Lake Interstate Communications Co-op, 1940s-1960s.
Action: Accept for Education Collection.
- Desk, legislature, ca. 1909, Rawlins Library in Pierre SD
Action: Decline for Permanent Collection as it duplicates two existing desks.
- Valentine, "temperature", Cora Thornes, early twentieth century, Don Jaspers of Pierre SD
Action: Accept for Education Collection.
- Hat, plastic, political, George McGovern, 1972, John Royster of Omaha NE.
Action: Decline for Permanent Collection 3 campaign hats and 300 John McGovern items.
- Additional items for Dahlin Collection 2022.005.001-.026, Curt Dahlin, Sisseton SD, 1890-1952.
Action: Noted for the record.
- Additional items for 2017.028.001-027, a Canistota High School graduation program, 1902, John Royster of Omaha NE.
Action: Noted for the record. Collection previously accepted by State Archives.

Submitted by

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