**REPORT TO THE**

**BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY**

**JUNE 11-12, 2020**

**I. Private Funds Budget Summary**

All revenue categories are tracking even or better by the end of the third quarter. The Mint 150 effort generated extremely high store sales exceeding projections. Unfortunately, the museum closed on March 15 due to the global pandemic and requiring staff to work from home or take leave. Some phone order sales may still occur, but museum operations were essentially halted by the closure and the coin press program, along with all sales, came to a standstill.

Due to the pandemic/closure expenditures were restricted to essential purchases only.

The above figures reflect the third quarter of fiscal year 2020 revenues and expenditures as of March 31, 2020. \* Further detail available in the below identified sections.

**II. Museum Store Sales**



**Museum StoreSales Narrative:**

Store sales hit a record high this year, even before the closure. This may be attributed to medallion sales during the Mint 150 year of celebration. Report is through March 31, 2020.

**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM STORE SALES ANNUAL COMPARISON**

**III. Museum Store Revenue and Expenditure Chart**



**Museum StoreRevenue and Expenditure Narrative:**

A 40% net proving a very good year to date. Report is through March 31, 2020.

**IV. Membership Figures**



**Membership Figures Narrative:**

New and renewed memberships tracking ahead and picking up a new Benefactor. Renewals are cyclical, though the popular Mint 150 programming provided excitement for members who renewed at a high rate. The program also benefitted from the return of a part-time coordinator. Report reflects activity through March 31, 2020.

**Membership Sales**



**Membership Program Narrative:**

Membership Sales are cyclical based on renewal dates. The sales figure in March 2020, the month we closed the museum, is the highest one-month total in the previous 30 months.

That is due, in part, to getting caught up in processing memberships, which was complicated by the closure, but also due to the high interest members have in our recent programming, particularly Mint 150. Report through March 31, 2020.

**V. Museum Attendance Figures**



**Museum Attendance Figures Narrative:**

Attendance is healthy overall, trailing the previous year, but then the best February in the last 5 years during the sesquicentennial celebration month. December’s report through March 31, 2020.

**VI. Attendance Receipts**

 **Attendance Receipts Figures Narrative:**

Receipt totals for January are down, though still good for that month, then a very robust February. All due to programming around Mint 150 including children’s minting days, and Frances Humphrey Lecture by Dr. Joanne Goodwin on the history of women getting the right to vote in Nevada. Report through March 31, 2020.

**VII. Fundraising Activities**

Support garnered throughout the year for the Mint 150 celebration. Sponsors included the Nevada Mining Association, Coeur Rochester, CC Convention and Tourism, Travel Nevada, Bentleys Heritage, Shoe Tree Brewing and Friends of the NSM. Awarded grant for Lei Day celebration, however event cancelled due to pandemic.

A museum fundraiser was held at the Governor’s Mansion the evening of February 4, with support from CC Convention and Tourism, Bentleys Heritage, Shoe Tree Brewing. Tickets were $100, and the attendance of approximately 130 exceeded our planned total (some tickets sold at the door). Each paid ticket received a sesquicentennial medallion, and partygoers included Governor Sisolak and Congressman Amodei, along with U.S. Mint Director David Ryder who made a short speech. Thanks to Doris Dwyer and Alicia Barber for participating as speakers at both day and evening events. The event was well supported, but really made possible by the dedicated staff and volunteers of the NSM, and greatly assisted by the amazing staff of the Governor’s Mansion.

**VIII. General Museum Activities**

Mint 150 programming continued to dominate the museum’s activities through February, coming to a head on February 4, and a major follow-up event February 8 and 9 featuring free copper medallions for kids, minted just for them on Coin Press No. 1. Media coverage was national, thanks in part to the U.S. Mint’s media push, but mainly to the Travel Nevada team who had us in major coin publications. NSM Exhibits staff assisted with the production of related videos that were embedded in coin enthusiast websites.

**February 4th, the Mint’s Sesquicentennial Celebration**

CC Mayor Crowell kicked off the celebration with a speech given from the portico of the historic Mint building. The morning was sunny, on the brisk side, and several hundred were in attendance on Carson St, which was partially blocked off by the city. We were honored to have the U.S. Mint Director David Ryder attend, and it was he who rang the very same bell that first rang in 1870 to announce the Mint’s opening. Immediately following the bell ringing, Director Ryder, Governor Sisolak, Treasurer Zach Conine and Congressman Amodei led the way through the historic front entrance and, with other dignitaries, participated in first strikes of the new sesquicentennial medallion on Coin Press No. 1. The day would eventually see about 700 visitors, with public minting starting at noon after speeches by dignitaries. Over 500 medallions were minted that day as individuals streamed through the gallery; a phenomenal statistic. The speech program was keynoted by our guest of honor, Director Ryder. Also speaking were Governor Sisolak, Treasurer Conine, Congressman Amodei, and the outgoing president of NV Mining Association, Dana Bennett. The NMA was a major sponsor of the event. Myron emceed the event and Bob Nylen spoke on the Mint legacy enabled by the vision and dedication of Judge Guild. We were also honored by the participation of Lt. Governor Marshall, the Director of Economic Development, Michael Brown, Board member Alicia Barber, and acknowledgment from Senator Rosen.

**Coronavirus Impact**

On March 15 the Governor ordered state agencies to close and non-essential staff to remain home to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. This meant staff continued to work from home and/or take administrative leave to cover hours they simply could not work. Staff continued to communicate and work on what tasks they could and convened as a group at least once a week by phone conference. Facilities staff continued to sanitize and clean the buildings and maintain the grounds, and Security continued to monitor the sites.

We continued to maintain email communication with members and volunteers and publish electronic updates.

Staff worked together to produce content for Facebook posts, including quizzes on collection items and Nevada flora and fauna.

Curator George Baumgardner worked with Myron to complete information for the self-study step required for AAM re-accreditation.

In March, several staff were recruited by Myron to work from home reading and commenting on CCCHP grant applications as part of SHPO’s review process.

**Personnel**

Bob Nylen retired as the NSM Curator of History in early March. Bob worked for the state since the 1970s, first with NHS, and then at NSM for 36 years. Bob’s tenure is nothing short of legendary as he became known as one of the leading voices of Nevada history. A true gentleman who had (has) a genuine passion for his work, he is beloved by staff and volunteers alike, and it just won’t be the same without him.

Unfortunately, all open positions have been frozen to reserve funds for the fiscal impact caused by the pandemic.

Staff are extremely grateful to security officer, Albert Depew, who stepped in as Acting Facilities Manager.

**Education**

Education Department Impact: Staff and volunteers provided museum experiences for 3793 people.

Tour Guide Led Capitol Tours-Volunteers provided State Capitol tours for 702 people.

Education programs- 10 programs held at the museum. 4 Rock Art programs were held at Empire Elementary School as part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, 80 students were served.

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series-January (Western Nevada Ghost Towns by Stan Paher, 1/23 and 1/26; 132 people), February (Nevada and the Campaigns for Women’s Voting Rights by Dr. Joanne Goodwin; 85 people) and the March lecture was cancelled due to the closure.

Family Fun Saturday-January 25th FFS was Chinese New Year (150 people), February 8th and 9th FFS was Kids Minting days (02/08/20; 319, 02/09/20; 198), and March 14th FFS was Fun with Fossils (45 people).

Special Event- Mint 150: January 11th was a celebration of the original opening of the Mint Building in 1870 and included a discussion with Abe Curry descendants. February 4th was the celebration of the first day of minting in 1870. Lunch sponsored by the NMA, cake made by the Carson High School Culinary Program, presentations by dignitaries, special tours of the museum, and first minting of the Sesquicentennial Medallion. The day of programs was very successful with approximately 700 people attending.

On February 5th to 7th we offered sesquicentennial medallion minting from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. This was also very successful.

On February 8th & 9th, with the support of Travel Nevada, we minted a free copper sesquicentennial medallion for each child, age 17 and under, as they came through the gallery. We also had special craft activities in the auditorium, a Mint 150 scavenger hunt, and a display by the Reno Coin Club. 549 copper sesquicentennial medallions were given away to children.

On March 12th we held an evening Mint 150 lecture and minting. The program coincided with the start of the Coronavirus fears and was sparsely attended.

Special Event- New Tour Guide Training was held Feb 24th, 25th, Mar 2nd and 3rd. 27 total volunteers attended training. 6 of them were taking tour guide training for the first time. We explored native Nevadan heritage to be able to better give tours of the Under One Sky exhibit. We had guest speakers from the Washoe tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Stewart Indian School Museum.

Volunteer management system. Worked with Offero to configure the new volunteer and program management software, “NSM Connect.” Introduced it to volunteers at training. The museum closure was a setback as we still need to enter data.

Volunteers-served 1529.5 hours in the Education department during the quarter.

**History Department**

During this three-month period, the Registrar’s Office was primarily involved with assisting History Curator Bob Nylen with his impending retirement after 44 years with the State of Nevada. This involved a significant transfer of institutional knowledge and gathering background on various exhibits and artifacts. Registrar Mary Covington planned a farewell for Bob.

Curatorial assistants worked on a digitization of records project in the office, an inventory of the Bud Klette collection in the basement, and inventorying, photographing, and data entry of the doll collection.

Loans to the Minerals division were checked on with curator of natural history, George Baumgardner and subsequently renewed. Loans to the Way it Was Museum and the Comstock Firemen's Museum were reviewed, objects checked on with Bob Nylen and subsequently renewed.

Accessions: 7 Deeds processed 7 Processed 14 loans.

The Fremont Loan was returned to NSM by Las Vegas on January 8th, involving a significant amount of time to check artifacts, prepare condition reports, re-house as able, return loans as able, and coordinate returns with Exhibits and Anthropology.

Past Perfect: 1057 objects physically inventoried and records updated with images, corrections, location updates, etc.

Curator Jan Loverin conducted a program on the History of Underwear for the Carson Valley Quilt Guild attended by 100 people. Other programs were cancelled due to the pandemic. Jan handled 10 consultations in the quarter and contributed content for the Facebook program. She continued to develop the First Ladies exhibit plan with the Exhibits Department.

**Exhibits**

Working with curators in several departments, Exhibits is developing upcoming projects, including: *History of the Carson City Mint* (Bob Nylen, curator,) *Under One Sky: Basketry Gallery,* (Anna Camp, curator,)and *Nevada’s First Ladies’ Gowns* (Jan Loverin, curator.)

**Interviews/Lectures/Tours:**

Myron presented a program on the architecture of the CC Mint to the Westerners Corral in Reno.

**Anthropology Department**

Curator Rachel Delovio applied for and was awarded Carson City Cultural Commission NSM Lei Day grant.

Curator Anna Camp working with the Washoe Tribe and Exhibits Dept. to develop the Under One Sky Basketry Gallery.

Anna continues with implementation of NAC 381 including extensive tribal notifications. She also visited with Walker River Tribe to assist them with establishing Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Anna Camp, Evan Pellegrini (Research Assoc.), George Baumgardner and Gene Hattori consulted with Sierra Search regarding identification of human remains from drone images.

Anna, and Rachel carried out NAGPRA repatriation of human remains to Washoe Tribe.

Anna and Gene were contacted by BLM to solicit NSM application for Assistance Agreement.

**Nevada State Museum** **Mission Statement**

The Nevada State Museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada’s natural and cultural heritage.

* The museum preserves heritage for long-term public benefit.
* The museum presents heritage through unique and authentic educational experiences, enhanced by an environment of comfort, interaction, and inspiration.
* Audiences learn what makes Nevada special. They gain stronger identity, connection, and validation. They develop a broader point of view and a sense of responsibility.
* The museum extends benefits to the greatest audience, provides leadership in heritage education, and adheres to the highest standards of public-trust stewardship.

**Current Operations**

The museum is open six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday.