

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT FORT MISSOULA

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As I write this, it's hard to believe that we are moving into year three of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's been a difficult time for all of us, but I'm confident that we are all finding new ways to move forward and get back to the things that mean a great deal to us.

At the Historical Museum, we are doing much the same. While not all of our events returned in 2021 and 2022, we did have some wonderful accomplishments and were able to get back to some of the activities that our community looks forward to. Whether it was the preservation and construction projects that we accomplished or the return of popular events like Forestry Day and the 4th at the Fort, we continue to work to better serve our community and look forward to a time soon when we will be able to deliver a full slate of events and programs to the public.

MATT LAUTZENHEISER

Executive Director



UNION STATUS OFFICIAL

It was a very exciting year for the staff as we diligently pursued and finally achieved union shop status. In the spring of 2022, after many months of meetings and negotiations between staff, union representative Jeff Howe, and Missoula County leadership, a contract was signed. Our shop is now affiliated with the Montana Federation of Public Employees. It was a unanimous decision by staff to join. Becoming a bargaining unit of MFPE allows the museum staff to work directly with Missoula County. After many years of stagnant wages; we have now gained the right to negotiate for better working conditions, fairer salaries, and more equitable benefits.

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Assistant Director and Union President

YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

Year by the Numbers:

- 44,086 Visitors served
- 3,022 Children participating in a program
- 132 Programs and events offered
- 3,526 Volunteer Hours donated to the museum
- 627 New items added to our permanent collection

You Helped us Accomplish:

- Partnering on the exhibit ***Resilience through Representation*** which represented young people's response to COVID-19.
- Replacing the roof on the NCO Quarters
- Completing the ADA-accessible ramp on the Library Car
- Establishing a partnership with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale
- Providing seven local organizations with free use of our site

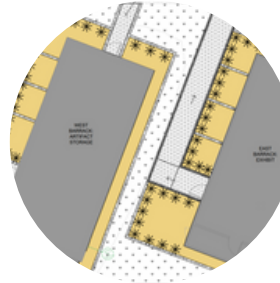
Special Welcomes:

- On September 8th, Education Director, Kristjana Eyjólfsson and her husband, Trevor, welcomed a beautiful daughter, Gwendolyn, to the world and the museum family.
- In January, Ryan Delany joined the Board of Trustees for the Historical Museum
- On February 1st, Stacy Carr-Poole joined the museum staff as the Development and Communication Director
- In April, four new members joined the Friends Board, Tito Flores, Alan Johnson, Thula Weisel, and Kalina Wickham



WWII ALIEN DETENTION CENTER BARRACKS PROJECT UPDATE

This year has brought exciting progress with our Barrack Restoration and Reconstruction Project. Thanks to the support of our valued donors and three grants, the construction phase of this project is now fully funded.



Work on this project began with a request for proposals for the architectural design in the fall of 2021. Through that process, the museum chose A&E Design. Beginning with the first meeting in early spring, it was apparent that A&E is the perfect firm for our needs.

Throughout spring and into summer, we've continued to work with A&E to complete the final design and drawings. We anticipate the design phase to be completed in the fall of 2022, with construction work scheduled to begin in the spring of 2023. The project should be completed in the fall of 2023, with a dedication to take place in the spring of 2024. This project is one of the largest and most important in the Museum's history. Our staff has been overwhelmed with the public support we've received and we can't wait to share the final product with our community.

Special Thanks to the Following Funders:

- National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant (\$533,000)
- Helga Hosford Bequest (\$130,000)
- Treacy Foundation Grant (\$67,000)
- Louis L. Borick Foundation Grant (\$25,000)

COLLECTIONS UPDATE

You Helped the Collections Department have a great year:

- Updated Collections Management Policy and developed a departmental procedural manual
- Completed an in-person site visit through the Museum Assessment Program
- Addressed issues with the collections management database, improving the records for over 15,000 artifacts
- Significantly reorganized storage in 3 buildings across the campus to improve housing conditions
- Provided 6 paid internships for aspiring museum professionals. Of those, 2 have already gone on to get paying jobs in the field.
- Over the course of 556 hours, volunteers and staff worked on 11 different inventory projects, inventorying and rehousing over 7,000 items.

Thanks to 37 amazing donors, some fabulous things were added to the permanent collection, including:

- An original builder's plate from the Willamette #7, which would have been on the Smoke Box just under the Stack.
- A polished and painted rock that was made by an Italian internee and given to Charles Graham, a guard at the fort.
- An amazing collection of calling cards dating from 1890-1920 with names and information of many of Missoula's prominent early families.



MISS JEANNETTE RANKIN,

134 MADISON STREET,

MISSOULA, MONTANA

Mrs. Herman Kohn.

Mrs. Donner

Mrs. Spottwood

At Home

Tuesday afternoon December
the sixth, from three to five
1006 Gerald Ave

RESTORATION OF THE WILLAMETTE ENGINE #7 UPDATE

A great deal of progress was made during the past year by museum volunteers towards the restoration of our Locomotive. One crucial and exciting moment was the removal and assessment of the original stack. The stack was removed and some of our concerns about its overall deterioration were dispelled. While there was rust on the exterior of the stack, the interior was found to be largely intact and for the most part in serviceable condition.



All of the windows and doors of the locomotive were removed so that they can be rebuilt. The originals were sent to a woodworker for use as templates and new wood was cut on the museum's original steam-powered sawmill as part of a public demonstration on Forestry Day.



Work also began on the brake system. The brake pistons were removed. They were both in good condition after a thorough cleaning. They will need replacement of the original packing cups.

Finally, work began on the Boiler. The first step is an ultrasound inspection by a certified inspector. Work began to prepare the boiler for inspection.

Special Thanks to the Following Funders:

- MT Dept. of Commerce Cultural and Aesthetics Grant, created through coal severance taxes
- Anonymous
- Vicki Fleischer
- Robert Dundas
- Michael Duffield
- Contributions to the Annual Fund 2019 and Missoula Gives Campaign 2021



EDUCATION UPDATE

Fiscal Year 2022 saw the transition from all virtual programs to a return to in-person programs and events. While the fall brought some groups out for field trips and tours, the spring exploded with groups visiting the museum. In all, we hosted 132 programs, including on-site field trips and tours, virtual programs, and programs throughout the community.

Some program highlights:

- Through field trips and tours, we served 3,022 children and 1,235 adults
- Volunteer Docents contributed 1,024 hours to leading tours and lessons
- Education Department hosted seven interns
- Shared the Alien Detention Center story:
 - ***Memories of Imprisonment.*** Lecture by Former WWII Internee Sam Mihara
 - 4 History Buffs presentation at the Missoula Public Library: ***Looking Like the Enemy: The ADC Era at Fort Missoula***
 - ADC Tours during Missoula Gives
- Worked with partners to host Buffalo Soldier enthusiasts for a week-long Buffalo Soldier Gathering



MISSION AND VISION

The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula seeks to keep Missoula County's history alive for the education and enjoyment of the public.

The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula seeks to inspire a sense of place and history for Missoula County by collecting, studying, interpreting, and preserving the region's cultural and natural heritage.

EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Exhibits in our galleries, around town, and virtual:

- History through an Artist's Eye
- Seasons Greetings (Virtual)
- 25th Infantry Buffalo Soldiers (Missoula Public Library)
- First Movement: History of the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Choral
- Kids as Curators: Missoula Music History
- Iron Riders (NCO Quarters for 125th Anniversary of the Iron Ride)

Special Events, returning and new:

- Return of History Camp
- Return of 4th at the Fort
- Return of Forestry Day
- 125th Anniversary of the Iron Riders/Buffalo Soldier Gathering
- Juneteenth Celebration

Special Thanks to Event Sponsors:

- Farmers State Bank
- A&E Design
- Park Side Credit Union
- JT Zinn Insurance
- Pepsi
- Good Food Store
- Murdoch's
- Draught Works



WHAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR?

Returning Programs and Events:

- Fall Harvest Festival
- Used Book Sale
- Holiday Open House
- Holiday Lantern Tours

New Exhibits:

- A Symphony Holiday Tradition: Exploring Holiday Pops! (September)
- Undressing History: The Stories Your Clothes Tell (October)
- The Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Missoula (March)

Special Projects:

- Complete design and permitting on the Barracks project and the start of construction
- Designing the new barracks exhibit and collections storage space
- Celebration of the 100th Birthday of the Willamette #7

Updated Strategic Plan Priorities (2023-2025):

- Preservation and Collections
- Education and Visitor Experience
- Marketing, Branding, and Identity
- Financial Health
- Organizational Infrastructure
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Museum Reaccreditation



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

List in Alphabetical Order:

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Emma Selfors - Curator

Anne Smyrl - Collections Assistant

Eric Ives - Property Manager

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