

Executive Directors Report September 26, 2017

NCHS Grant

As you all know we applied for a \$168,000 NCHS grant to cover all interior and exterior ADA costs associated with the new History Center and Museum. Well we got notified that we were awarded \$123,675, or 75% of what we asked for, which is actually more than I expected as they only had \$300,000 to give away this year and they had more than \$600,000 in approved requests. This amount will cover ALL interior ADA expenses – all three bathrooms and the Wheelchair lift for the banquet room. We will be accepting the check at the *Bravo for the Arts* luncheon in October where we have a table reserved for staff and board members (it is already full, sorry).

County Commissioners

I met with all three Tippecanoe County Commissioners last week to bring them all up to speed on all of our projects and plans for the future. They were quite pleased and impressed. I then made a pitch for the remaining ADA money for all the exterior work needed to be done, which comes to \$44,325. They were very positive about the request and they are seeing if they can work it into their budget for next year, which I told them would be perfect as we would not start that work until spring and their budget year starts in January as ours does. I feel we have a good shot at getting either all the funds or a good chunk of it. So good thoughts and good wishes. If you happen to know any of these gentlemen, do not hesitate to put in a good word for our request!

Feast Dignitaries

I have confirmed this past Saturday after much communicating that Guillaume Lacroix, the new Consul General of France in the Midwest, will be attending Saturday mornings opening ceremonies as our guest of honor. The complete list of dignitaries attending the feast are:

Saturday, September 30th

Opening Ceremonies

- French Consulate General **Guillaume Lacroix**
- Rep. Sheila Klinker
- Mayor John Dennis

Sunday, October 1

Opening Ceremonies

- Senator Brandt Hershman
- Rep. Sally Siegrist
- Mayor Tony Roswarski

We also have a letter from Governor Holcomb which will be read by Representative Sheila Klinker. As you can see, we are pulling out the stops for the 50th!

Feast Challenge Coins

We are offering these free with the purchase of a single or family membership during the feast and will also be selling them as stand-alones for \$10. We only need to sell a total of \$100 of them to break even on the 1000 purchased.

Final Feast Sponsorship Numbers

I was shooting for a total of \$20,000 in sponsorships for the feast this year, but I ran out of time with the program going to press and I finished fundraising for it at a total of \$17,625. I hope to do better next year.

Commemorative Program

This year we have a 32 page full color commemorative program we will be passing out for free at the feast this year. The sponsorships more than paid for the program, which will include articles on the history of the feast, the blockhouse, and a brief history of Fort Ouiatenon and three pages of photos from feasts' past. I would like to especially mention and thank David Houvde for his work on putting those articles together.

Blockhouse Report

We will forward to the entire board a copy of the Blockhouse report. Short summary is that things are not as bad as we feared. The main concern is the current roof, which needs to be replaced. But please read the whole report and we can then discuss in more detail in October's board meeting. Ben Ross and the folks at Ratio Design did an outstanding job.

TCHA Web Site

The reworking of the web site is going very well and everyone loves how it is looking. We are very close to having it ready to launch and it should be up and live before the end of October.

IMLS Grant

I put aside the application for the \$500,000 grant application to IMLS until after the feast. I will take it back up the latter part of next week. It is due December 1.

Taylor Studios

Things are going well with Taylor Studios and we are now currently working on the final list of add/alternatives of what we want in the exhibit and tweaks to the budget. We are putting that all aside from this point forward until a week after the feast.

Ongoing repair and maintenance projects

- Trimming and removal of shrubbery around parking lot and slope as well as tree limb removal above Arganbright. – approved \$2000 last meeting. I have not pulled the trigger on this and wanted to wait until after the feast.
- Arganbright window leak bricking up window – approved \$722 last meeting. This has been completed and we will have to see if it holds up once we have a good soaking.
- History Center Roof Repair and leak in basement – We are still waiting on Hinshaw Roofing to get their schedule in order to do the work, which has to be done before Kincaid Construction can seal the wall below.

TCHA Programs & Membership Department Monthly Report—September 2017

Dept. Team: DJ Tucker-Director

Preamble:

This monthly report will seek to illuminate on the various doings of the department over the course of the last few weeks and since our last communique.

Report:

Yet again it's been a very busy few weeks in the department as we continue to tackle the trickle of membership renewals that arrive at our HQ. We are mostly current in the process and keeping up well with the task at hand. Thanks again and again to Kelly for her support and guiding hand.

The month began with DJ making a trip to the tailor's and a final meeting to solidify costuming for the Feast and colonial era programs the department has in the works. We think it's important to note that the procurement of these items will facilitate the implementation of hands-on programming in 2018 dedicated to costumed interpretation of the lifeways of the French habitants of Ft. Ouiatenon and the surrounding region.

The first weekend of September also saw our team set-up at the downtown Mosey for our annual effort to promote the Feast. A hearty thanks to those staff and board members that made it out. Cheers to you for exhausting yourselves singing the praises of TCHA, the Feast and our upcoming program ambitions.

September 5th marked the first public program delivered by our new programs director, and according to the 300+ students/chaperones present over three days at Ft. Ouiatenon's riverside picnic shelter, things went very well indeed. Our students were part of an annual outdoor program, *Wonders on the Wabash*, and were excited to learn more about the grand history of the river they had just rafted for some four miles. Treated to an animated talk about area natives and newcomers we capped off with a lively musket firing demonstration. Needless to say, the folks that contracted our services are most keen to partner with TCHA in all future *Wonders* programs.

This month we also met with our website redesign team and are very pleased with the results so far. Looking forward to putting this to bed in the next couple of weeks and are most proud of the product they have hammered-out.

This month we also met with a representative of the local DAR as they prepare to mark the chapter's big anniversary next year. The focus of their work has been to shed light on little-known aspects of Tippecanoe County Black history. They have impressive ambitions and are hopeful TCHA might provide guidance and support. They also affirmed a desire to move past some "friction" they perceived between our two associations. As the "new guy" DJ just smiled and nodded and is hoping someone might share some intelligence information and bring him up to speed regarding this relationship.

Weekends have been particularly busy this month with a battlefield program for an attentive bunch of Boy Scouts from Indianapolis, TCHA Archaeology Day activities (also at the battlefield and drew some 40-50 visitors) and another installment of Feast promotion at Purdue's Global Fest. We gave out dozens

of Feast brochures at these events and hopefully made a modest contribution to getting the word out regarding our iconic annual festival.

Toward the later part of the month we continued to engage in outreach and program delivery with respectable groups of local high school and elementary pupils. Carolyn O'Connell secured a speaking engagement with a group of seniors connected with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and DJ met with members of a local community group interested in our program initiatives. This specific group is hoping to book DJ as a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting of their organization so this looks quite promising.

The rest of our time this month has been filled to capacity with the work of registering groups for Feast School Days and all the usual rituals of Feast preparation. Since we added the Membership & VIP Marquee we have been busy making arrangements for this as well. Let us just acknowledge how remarkable the work of producing the Feast truly is. Of course you know this, but those new to the experience now see first-hand just how big a task of weaving all this together can be. We sure have new found respect for all the members of TCHA and the legion of volunteers that make this spectacular festival a reality. Please give yourselves a giant pat on the back folks. That's all for this month everyone, thanks and see you at the FEAST!