

Nevada Indian Commission Board Report

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director

Chris Gibbons, Museum Curator

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

November 30, 2020

The museum closed to the public on November 11th, due to Governor Sisolak's concerns about escalating virus infection rates. The current plan is to remain closed until January 4, 2021. The museum director and curator are still working in the building, socially distanced from each other. We are working on grant funded projects, developing educational activities, keeping the Stewart Cultural Advisory Committee informed and seeking their counsel, preparing budget requests for the FY 2022-23 Nevada Legislature, and collection preservation efforts.

Budget

The State of Nevada cut \$100,000 from the museum's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Of those budget cuts we have replaced more than \$95,500. This was accomplished with grant writing and fundraising efforts by museum staff. Here are the results:

WESTAF CARES Act Grant	\$20,000	Using to pay building rents
Nevada Humanities Council Grant	\$7,500	Using to pay staff salaries
Private donation by Jan Leonard	\$50,000	Saving in Gift Fund
Private donation by Sandy Miller	\$15,000	Saving in Gift Fund
Cash donations at front desk	\$5,000	Using to pay cultural teachers
WESTAF/Mellon Foundation grant	\$74,000	Using to pay salaries, rent, etc.

In addition to the grants and cash donations, we have sold \$600 in Stewart merchandise—t-shirts, hoodies, cups, water bottles, tote bags, and lanyards.

Capital Improvement Projects for Stewart Indian School

Museum staff worked with the State Public Works staff to create three CIP proposals for consideration by the Nevada Legislature in the upcoming session.

1. \$1,410,182.00 - Renovating the former bakery building/post office to provide environmentally controlled storage for Stewart's artifact collections currently housed at the Nevada State Museum's Curatorial Center. Once we have renovated this building, we will be able to apply to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be a repository for the Stewart collections and move them back to the Stewart campus. The 2019 Nevada Legislature approved \$998,000 to renovate the bakery building. However, when the pandemic hit, Governor Sisolak took those funds away from us. We are asking the Legislature to reinstate that funding.
2. \$1,608,536.00 to renovate the Stewart auditorium. The scope of this project is to complete the design documents and construction. Built in 1925, the historic structure has been identified in both the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan and the Stewart Master Plan as a significant building to telling the history of the campus and is listed as a priority for rehabilitation.
3. \$17,236,428.00 to renovate the old gym. This project will complete the seismic stabilization and rehabilitation of the old gym. The gym was built 1938 and has been identified by the Stewart Master Plan as an integral part of telling the story of the Stewart Indian School athletic program.

Publicity

- Visit Carson City
 - Virtual tour of the museum on the Visit Carson website
 - Video of Stacey Montooth narrating the museum exhibits and inviting people to visit
 - Nevada Day micro event publicity
- Wild Nevada PBS Reno tour of museum guided by Linda Eben Jones, Stewart class of 1966 which aired Sept. 24, 2020
- First American Art—we paid for an ad in their Fall 2020 issue
- Sacramento Magazine October 2020 issue interview with Stacey
- Five Museums to Visit article published on wiki.ezvid.com on September 21, 2020.
- KTVN Interview with local donors to the museum. The interview aired on October 9, 2020.

Projects:

- Made a presentation for Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto about museum.

- Participated in Women's History Project about Native women involved in Nevada suffrage.
- Met with Monte McCann of TravelStorys—Native owned business to publicize Native projects—we are discussing hiring them to make an app for the Stewart Indian School Trail.
- Talking to Americorps about getting a team of young people to help with projects at Nevada Indian Commission and museum.
- Talking to VISTA about getting service workers to help us sit at the front desk and do additional projects at museum.
- Provided information to the Philanthropy Summit at Nevada Museum of Art; contacted by a private foundation but couldn't apply because they needed the museum to be a 501 c 3 IRS tax exempt organization, so we suggested they provide funding for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Museum.
- Provided information to the River Wranglers for a Carson River Watershed educational project about Stewart Indian School and suggested they work with Darrel Cruz at the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California for tribal information.
- Museum director was appointed by the Carson City Board of Supervisors to the Carson Cultural Tourism Authority board.
- We worked with State Public Works to finalize the construction project to renovate the museum building and welcome center, including removing bats.
- Putting together a proposal as a partnership with Great Basin Native Artists to the Nevada Arts Council to pay Native artists honorariums for teaching classes at the museum and providing art residencies for the tribes and schools.
- Setting up a Friends of the Stewart Museum group to get 501 c 3 IRS tax exempt status so we can apply for more grants.
- Participated in National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition workshop to plan for sharing information with other boarding schools.
- Made a presentation to Carson City Rotary Club.

Events

- Partnered with Carson City Open Studios to sponsor three area artists to demonstrate at our museum. We also paid Linda Eben Jones and Janice Stump, Stewart alumni, to demonstrate their beadwork in the Wa-Pai-Shone Gallery at the museum. We had over 100 visitors over Saturday-Sunday August 22-23, 2020.
- Nevada Day Micro Event—Saturday October 31, 2020. We opened the museum to the public and had 199 visitors. We paid Linda Eben Jones and Janice Stump to demonstrate beadwork and offer bead kits for people to complete at home. We paid Loretta Burden, basket maker, to demonstrate making cradleboards with kits people could take home and finish. We also offered Stewart memorabilia to

purchase in the Welcome Center gift shop. We raised \$1,300 between sales and cash donations from visitors.

Volunteers

We currently have 10 volunteers helping at the museum. The volunteers who help at the front desk and with tours have received orientation and a training manual. Some volunteers have provided other services such as cleaning out gardens and power washing the building.

Internships

We had four University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) interns working on internship projects at the museum. These projects include helping to preserve collections, photographing collections, helping with the Nevada Day event, and creating educational activities for children for future classes.

We have a graduate student who is doing online classes at New York University. She is a member of the Walker River Paiute tribe whose relatives attended Stewart Indian School. She is providing information about historical trauma such as identifying how boarding schools created historical trauma, its symptoms, and resources on where boarding school survivors can get help with recovering from historical trauma. We have made copies of this research available in the museum's reflection room and in the research room. We are asking Stewart alumni for their feedback on this material.

Collections Department

- Research requests – Since the end of August 2020, museum staff have completed 10 research requests from the public.
- New donations – There have been 11 new additions to the Stewart collection including 2 separate donations of wood carvings made by Tebe Nobe Instructor Fred Forbusch and his students, an 1898 Atlas Map of Nevada, historic photographs depicting student life at Stewart in the 1920's, a Stewart Indian School pennant, and a Stewart coaching jacket owned by Al Tyler.
- Collections work – Collections Assistant Tera Bruhn has worked on photographing collections, scanning historic photographs and will soon begin work on scanning a collection of glass plate negatives. Tera recently completed a comprehensive list of Stewart graduates that includes tribal affiliation. Interns from UNR have been organizing and scanning historic Stewart newsletters and re-housing, labeling, and scanning negatives.

- Tours – Currently, the museum only allows groups of 10 or less into the museum at one time due to the pandemic. Groups included members of a local chapter of the Gardnerville Red Hat Society, members of the UNR Native American Alumni Chapter, and students from the Nevada Urban Indians after school program.