**Nevada Indian Commission**

**Report from Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum**

**Museum Director Bobbi Rahder and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons**

**August 31, 2020**

December 2019 Cultural Center construction ended (mostly)

December 16, 2019 First Look for Stewart Alumni and Families

December 17, 2019 Soft Opening for General Public

January 13, 2020 Official opening after exhibits were completed

* + - * + 997 visitors, research requests
        + Installed Little Free Library which offers books, children’s books, masks, and art supplies
        + Major donations:

Christine Neusbaum, Northern Paiute from Yerington, donated her beaded baskets, dolls, and cradleboards. She came to Stewart at age 10 and learned to sew and bead in the Wa-Pai-Shone coop

Two donations of framed Robert Caples drawings of Northern Nevadans

March 13, 2020 Museum shuts down to public because of COVID-19

* + - * + Museum’s budget of $305,000 approved in 2019 is
        + 62% tourism lodging tax revenue and 38% general funds
        + Because of COVID-19, governor and Tourism Dept. cut museum’s budget by $100,000  
          Fundraising efforts by museum staff:
  + WESTAF CARES Act grant of $20,000
  + Nevada Humanities Council Grant of $7,500
  + $50,000 family donation
  + $10,000 visitor donation
  + Invited to apply for additional WESTAF/Mellon funds
  + Working on AmeriCorps proposal
  + Assistance by Nevada’s Indian Territory
  + SISPA changing mission
  + Setting up Friends of the Museum for fundraising

July 20, 2020 Reopened museum with safety protocols

* + - * + 256 visitors, donations, research requests
        + Visit Carson created a virtual tour of the school and museum and posted to their website
        + Preservation Magazine published an article about the renovation project in August 3rd issue
        + Participated in record sharing workshop with staff of National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition
        + Participated in Carson City Open Studio tour Aug. 22-23
        + Presentation to Sen. Cortez-Masto about new museum Aug. 25
        + Presented CIP proposal to State Public Works Board on Aug. 26 for renovation of bakery building for environmentally controlled storage of Stewart collections currently housed at Nevada State Museum warehouse. (2019 Legislature approved this project, but Governor took back the funds. We have to present it again to the 2021 Legislative session.