

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Nicole Aston Photography

YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

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Photo on cover: This photo shows the southwest corner of the Dining Lodge. The photo was taken by Nicole Aston of Nicole Aston Photography during a September 2019 event.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for making 2019 another successful year for the Yellowstone Historic Center! As I look back on the year, among the many accomplishments, a few stand out in my mind.

- Rebranding from YHC Museum to Museum of the Yellowstone.
- Receiving grants from Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County, West Yellowstone Foundation, Union Pacific Foundation, Montana History Foundation, IBM, and Institute of Museum and Library Services and Montana State Library Commission.
- Admitting nearly 20,650 visitors to the Museum of the Yellowstone from all 50 states, Canada, and over 50 countries around the world.
- Hosting the third and fifth grade classes from the West Yellowstone School at the museum for educational programs.

- Utilizing the Union Pacific Dining Lodge as a venue for 30 events, May through October.
- Featuring a firearm exhibit from the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club including over 30 firearms with extension history in the Gallatin County region.
- Hosting the 18th Annual Heritage Celebration, featuring long-time locals including Karen Eagle, Trish Barnes, Pat Povah, and Jan Dunbar.

All of these accomplishments were made possible by the incredibly generous and dedicated donors of the Yellowstone Historic Center. Without the assistance of those devoted to our mission, we would not be where we are today!

As we look forward to the year ahead, we are filled with excitement and enthusiasm for what is to come!

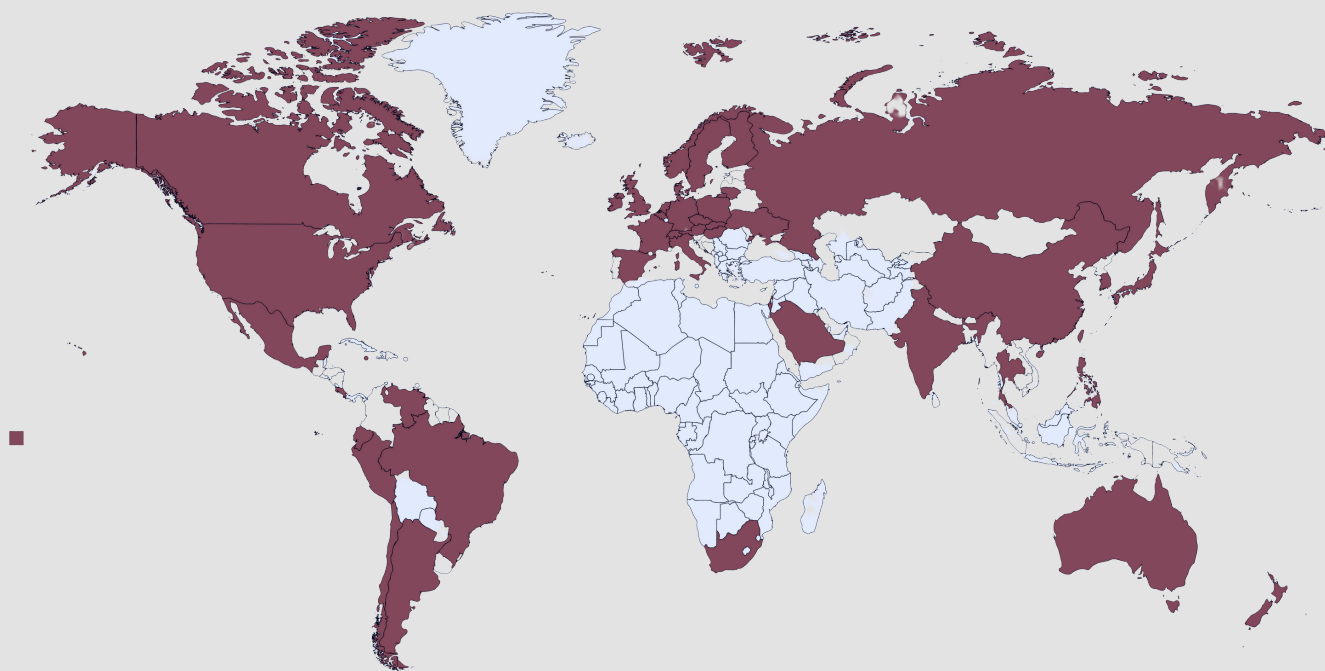
Sincerely,



Kaitlin Johnson, Executive Director



MUSEUM OF THE YELLOWSTONE



From May to October, the Museum welcomed over 20,000 visitors from all 50 states and 50 different countries. We had a few returning seasonal staff members and several new. There was a brand-new exhibit featuring over 30 guns on loan from the Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club. There was also a special exhibit for the 60th anniversary of the 1959 earthquake. The museum kept busy with guest speakers, walking tours, ranger talks, and an I Spy game for kids.

"Well-informed staff and organized displays offering everything to see and do. This is a class act, well-managed, and a true resource."

"The displays were first class and there were interactive presentations in place. I highly recommend this venue."

THE MUSEUM GETS A NEW NAME



Towards the end of 2018, the Board of Directors decided to rename "Yellowstone Historic Center Museum" to "Museum of the Yellowstone," which was the original name of the museum when YHC took over. Along with the new name comes a new logo which features MY, a stagecoach wheel, and the Lower Falls.



HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Another year and another Heritage Celebration in the books. This year, we had a fantastic crowd at the fundraiser. Dozens of local businesses donated items for the live and silent auctions and several more sponsored the event. By the end of the evening, the YHC had raised thousands to help fund future projects and operations.

PIE ON THE PORCH

As is typical, the line for Pie on the Porch was out to the street when we began serving up slices at 1:00 PM on the 4th of July. This event is one we look forward to every year and we owe a HUGE thank you to the community for making it possible. Special thanks to this year's pie and cobbler makers: Liah Allison, Carol Ashton, Linda Blank, Louise Cochrane, Sue Conaghan, Mary Sue Costello, Fiona Daley, Dusty Dunbar, Ed & Brenda Geiger, Lisa Johnson, Emily Kropp, Jan Leach, Donna Lewis, Kathy Long, Diane Morris, Amanda Newell, Garrett Ostler, Ashley Sandau, Verlene Schmier, Noelle Sullivan, Wendy Swenson, Dale & Sherre Thoreson, & Ann Voda.



FIELD TRIPS

In October, the museum staff welcomed the local third and fifth grade classes after the museum closed for the season. Each class had the opportunity to explore the museum and learn about local history. The third graders enjoyed dressing up in the dusters and conductor's uniform and learning about how West Yellowstone was founded. The fifth graders enjoyed an educational game of I Spy in which they searched for historic objects throughout the museum followed by a screening of the movie "Night at the Museum."



THE HISTORY BEFORE THE HISTORY

In June, the museum hosted University of Montana archaeology professor Doug MacDonald. He talked to a packed room about the research behind his book "Before Yellowstone: Native American Archaeology in the National Park." This was the most well-attended talk at the museum in several years and the staff was thrilled to have so many visitors join us for an enjoyable and educational evening.

PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

Right: The YHC received funding to digitize 1,000 historic photos to be uploaded online as part of the Montana Memory Project. This funding was provided by the Library Services and Technology Act through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Montana State Library Commission.

Far Right: The YHC received funding from donors and a grant from the West Yellowstone Foundation to rehouse hundreds of items in the collections.



The second phase of the Union Pacific Dining Lodge Window Restoration Project was completed in 2019 thanks to grants from the Union Pacific Foundation, the Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County, and the Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Grant. This picture shows custom-made scaffolding that was required to reach the clerestory windows in the Mammoth Room.



UNION PACIFIC DINING LODGE

This was the fourth year that the Yellowstone Historic Center has managed the Union Pacific Dining Lodge as an event venue. From May to October, the Dining Lodge hosted 30 events, including weddings, fundraisers, conferences, dinners, and more. The YHC is extremely grateful for the opportunity to rent the building as an event venue and continue its legacy as a space in which priceless memories are made.

Right: Nicole Aston Photography
Below: Carlie Breen Photography



2019 MEMBERS

Kelly & Lael Calton Anderson
Thomas Ansbach
Carol Ashton
Jason Barlow
Trish Barnes
Linda Blank
Robert & Nancy Bower
Sara Bradley
Duane Brassette
Scott & Linda Butler
William Casaday
Michael & Sherry Chandler
Michael & Paula Chatary
Gene & Diane Christie
Sue Conaghan
Renee Dalton
Ken & Mary Davis
John & Vee Doverspike
Eva Eagle
Frankie Eagle
Kendra Eagle
Susan Eagle Reynolds
Richard & Karen Fairbanks
Marin Fogg
Cheryl & Dave Gill
John & Carolyn Golba
Robert Goss
Tom & Dee Hall
Dick & Molly Harshman
Debby & Robbie Hermanson
Tamsen Hert
R.M. Heverly
Wayne & Marilyn Hill
Bob & Joanne Hitchcock
Nancy & Gordon Holt
Rich & Linda Jehle
Linda Jones
James Jorgenson

Anne Kinney
David Kogut
Jane Ann Lamph
Thea Lovo Lancaster
Jan & Tom Leach
Michael Levonas
Leroy Liebelt
Robert & Loretta Lindstrom
Glen & Virginia Loomis
Sandra Love
Kathrin Mautino
David Mayfield
Joanne Mayo
George McKinney
Martin & Carolyn Meng
Judith Meyer
Nancy Meyer
Skip & Diana Morris
Don & Marilyn Murdock
Clark Murray
Welsey & Janet Nelson
Craig Neumayer
Joel Nichols
Greg Nichols
Joe & Wanda Novak
Ruth Ann Nydam
Randy & Melanie Orullian
Edwin & Yvonne Parish
Robert Parlberg
Duncan & Eva Patten
Margaret Payne
Amanda Perry
Leanna Pfaff
Richard Phillips
Adrienne Pollard
Pat & Ginger Povah
Charles Pyle
John & Gail Richardson

Randy & Jeanine Roberson
David G. Robinson
Sal & Bunny Romano
Jim & Peggy Russell
Tom Schenkenburg
Doug & Stacey Schmier
Katherine Schuelke
MaryBeth Schwarz
Steve Shirley
Mike Slevin
Joan Stadler
Nick & Cynthia Stipanovich
Dale & Sherre Thoreson
Jay Thrift
Doug & Nancy Van Howd
Thomas & Alice Walters
George & Sharon Watkins
Howard & Pat Wattles

Founding Members

James & Susan Cole
Tim & Noelle Daley
Andy & Judy DeBoer
Denny & Jeanene Dickenson
Jan Dunbar
Byrns & Corinne Fagerburg
Linda Fontenot
Daniel & Linda Rice Lorenzetti
Mike & Andrea Manship
Scott Moore
Bob & Linda Pembroke
Neal Pringle
Lewis & Linda Robinson
Manon Russell
Jerry & Verlene Schmier
Paul Shea
Stephanie Siegel

2019 BUSINESS MEMBERS

ABM
Barta Electric
Bruce Gourley Enterprises
Buffalo Bar
Buffalo Services
Bullwinkle's
C.S. Construction
Cabins West Lodging
Clunhouse Inn West Yellowstone
Cochrane Accounting
Crosswinds Hotel
D & D Auto
Diamond P Ranch
Ernie's Deli
Fall River
Food Roundup
Freeheel & Wheel
Hansen Bros, LLP
Heritage & Research Center
Homeroom at Madison Crossing
Jacklin's
Madison Arm Resort
Madison Legacy Corporation
Madison Valley Bank
Market Place
Montana Territorial Land Co.
Old Faithful Carpet
Park One Restaurant, LLC
Pete's Rocky Mountain Pizza Co.
Perfect Captures
QuickPrint
Running Bear Pancake House
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Stagecoach Inn
The Evergreen Motel
The Pyle Foundation
Three Bear Lodge and Restaurant
Tri State Excavating
University of Montana
West Yellowstone Bed and Breakfast
West Yellowstone Kelly Inn
West Yellowstone Vacation Rentals
WestMart Building Center
Yellowstone T-Shirt Company
Yellowstone West Gate Motel

Audit

In 2019, the Yellowstone Historic Center initiated an audit, the first in several years. The summary of the audit was as follows:

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Yellowstone Historic Center, Inc. as of December 31, 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

DECEMBER 31, 2019

YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER

STATEMENT OF YEAR-END ACTIVITIES

| | Museum | Special Projects | Management and general | 2019 Total | 2018 Total |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Changes in unrestricted net assets: | | | | | |
| Revenue and other support: | | | | | |
| Dining Lodge Operations | \$ - | \$ 51,550.00 | \$ - | \$ 51,550.00 | \$ 42,925.00 |
| Fundraisers | \$ 2,404.00 | \$ - | \$ 36,602.00 | \$ 39,006.00 | \$ 39,171.33 |
| General Donations | \$ 1,356.51 | \$ 14,930.98 | \$ 5,716.00 | \$ 22,003.49 | \$ 36,936.80 |
| Grants | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 52,266.00 | \$ 52,266.00 | \$ 22,554.00 |
| Memberships | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 18,025.00 | \$ 18,025.00 | \$ 18,550.00 |
| Museum Admission | \$ 94,316.48 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 94,316.48 | \$ 96,402.74 |
| Merchandise Sales | \$ 39,920.88 | \$ 689.55 | \$ - | \$ 40,610.43 | \$ 36,176.84 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 57.84 | \$ 57.84 | \$ 176.68 |
| Special Equipment Use | \$ - | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Walk Into History Program | \$ - | \$ 2,025.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,025.00 | \$ 2,815.00 |
| Total unrestricted revenues | \$ 137,997.87 | \$ - | \$ 112,666.84 | \$ 250,664.71 | \$ 211,078.28 |
| Total restricted revenues | \$ - | \$ 71,895.53 | \$ - | \$ 71,895.53 | \$ 87,130.11 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Archives & Collections Management | \$ - | \$ 736.05 | \$ - | \$ 736.05 | \$ 6,221.14 |
| Dining Lodge Management | \$ - | \$ 24,730.30 | \$ - | \$ 24,730.30 | \$ 14,722.50 |
| Educational Programs | \$ 1,159.67 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,159.67 | \$ 2,048.60 |
| Exhibits Management | \$ 1,191.92 | \$ 321.45 | \$ - | \$ 1,513.37 | \$ 11,065.95 |
| Fundraisers | \$ - | \$ 11,043.83 | \$ 5,369.99 | \$ 16,413.82 | \$ 12,302.14 |
| Grants | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 51,481.00 | \$ 51,481.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Institutional Expenses | \$ - | \$ 150.00 | \$ 14,859.61 | \$ 15,009.61 | \$ 5,936.81 |
| Maintenance & Repair | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 681.30 | \$ 681.30 | \$ 2,838.92 |
| Marketing | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,947.50 | \$ 1,947.50 | \$ 2,206.25 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Museum Operations | \$ 22,779.21 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 22,779.21 | \$ 19,112.50 |
| Office Operations | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,601.00 | \$ 8,601.00 | \$ 8,997.03 |
| Payroll: Salaries & Emp. Contributions | \$ 30,683.30 | \$ 2,196.38 | \$ 76,452.88 | \$ 109,332.56 | \$ 134,342.54 |
| Personnel | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,623.46 | \$ 3,623.46 | \$ 2,173.18 |
| Phones & Utilities | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,060.21 | \$ 8,060.21 | \$ 6,796.98 |
| Rents | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,301.00 | \$ 10,301.00 | \$ 10,301.00 |
| Special Equipment | \$ - | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Subcontractors | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,100.00 | \$ 7,100.00 | \$ 7,260.10 |
| Walk Into History Program | \$ - | \$ 1,433.06 | \$ - | \$ 1,433.06 | \$ 1,074.90 |
| Total expenses (unrestricted) | \$ 55,814.10 | \$ - | \$ 188,477.95 | \$ 244,292.05 | \$ 180,403.63 |
| Total expenses (restricted) | \$ - | \$ 43,311.07 | \$ - | \$ 43,311.07 | \$ 79,496.91 |
| (Decrease) increase in unrestricted net assets | \$ 82,183.77 | \$ - | \$ (75,811.11) | \$ 6,372.66 | \$ 30,674.65 |
| (Decrease) increase in restricted net assets | \$ - | \$ 28,584.46 | \$ - | \$ 28,584.46 | \$ 7,633.20 |

STAFF + BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staff

Kaitlin Johnson, Executive Director
kjohnson@museumoftheyellowstone.org

Ellen Butler, Curator + Fundraising Asst.
ebutler@museumoftheyellowstone.org

Board of Directors

Bruce Courley, Chair
Glen Loomis, Vice Chair
Rawhide Johnson, Secretary
Chipper Smith, Treasurer
Amanda Newell
Garrett Ostler
Peter Donau (Board Member Elect)
Glenn Hales (Board Member Elect)

YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER

Office Location: 220 Yellowstone Ave. West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Mailing Address: PO Box 1299 West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Website: www.museumoftheyellowstone.org

Email: info@museumoftheyellowstone.org

Office Phone & Fax: 406-646-7461

Museum Phone & Fax: 406-646-1100

The Yellowstone Historic Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Tax returns, board meeting minutes, and other documents are available for
public review upon request at the administrative office.

