

January 11, 2022

Museum and Heritage Fund Advisory Board
Routt County, CO

RE: Tread of Pioneers Museum
2022 Budget and 2021 Financials

Attached you will find the following documents:

- MAHFAB Financial Summary Form
- 2021 Year-End Income and Expense Statement (preliminary)
- 2021 Year-End Balance Sheet (preliminary)
- 2022 Approved Budget
- 2020 Annual Report

The Museum and Heritage mill levy funds disbursed to the Tread of Pioneers Museum have been used to continue an ever-expanding array of preservation, research, digitization, and educational activities, to serve both our local community as well as visiting tourists. Though 2021 continued to be greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and mostly hindered our ability to host indoor events, large outdoor gatherings, and/or keep the museum fully open, highlights of our 2021 **programs, events, and tours are:**

- Weekly summer walking tours including the Downtown Historical Walking Tours, Olympic Heritage Walking Tours and new Iconic Steamboat Tours and Ag Talks at the Arnold Barn
- Open Houses and children's programs at the Historic Mesa School
- Summer Brown Bag Storytelling Series (virtual for 2021)
- Tours and talks at historical landmarks including More and Arnold Barns, Mesa School and more
- Virtual Winter Historical Film Series at the historic Chief Theater
- Virtual "A Taste of History Food and Recipe Series" (Jan.-March)
- History Happy Hour series
- Ute Pow Wow events
- Curriculum based school tours and other children's programs
- Members events and First Friday Artwalks
- Full opening, five days per week from June 2021 onward
- An ever expanding array of online programming on our Youtube Channel, Facebook page, and website

We often partner with local organizations to present our programs, tours and events for maximum community benefit.

Local partners include Community Agriculture Alliance, Historic Routt County, Bud Werner Library, Yampatika, Chief Theater, Steamboat Springs School District, Steamboat Springs Arts Council, Steamboat Art Museum, Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club and more. Some **annual events** continue like the Pioneer Day 4th of July Block Party were cancelled due pandemic safety, but were able to continue the Festival of Trees, Leckenby and Larson Awards, and the Yule Log Hunt.

The mill levy funds have also supported our many **exhibits** including the Foundations of Steamboat exhibit, honoring local World War II service men and women and now highlighting the Luekens Family; Mineral Springs of Steamboat; Olympian Tribute display at the Steamboat Ski Area; Inspiration: Four Seasons at Perry-Mansfield; Lens to the Landscape: The Photography of John Lanterman; seasonal and continual exhibit updates throughout the museum and more. We partnered to help research, design and create all new interpretive signs at nine of the local mineral springs.

Collections and archive management, as well as artifact **preservation**, continues to be a key focus through the efforts of our full-time, professionally trained Curator, and recently a ¾-time Curatorial Assistant. We recently completed an in-depth collections assessment to help us plan for future collections projects. Each year, we continue to receive hundreds of significant local artifacts, photos, films, documents and other materials that capture the unique history of our area. Much of our collection, including our films and photos, have been digitized and are available online. After receiving the entire 130-year photo archive from the *Steamboat Pilot* newspaper in 2018, we have made significant progress preserving and scanning the massive collection.

We have many exciting projects and plans for **2022** including:

- Continue to assess, organize, preserve and digitize the *Steamboat Pilot* newspaper photo archive
- Continue to transcribe our oral history collection; conduct new oral histories
- New feature exhibits including the Richard Pleasant Collection of Native American Art
- Overhaul of the Western Heritage and Agricultural exhibit on the museum's second floor
- Continue popular programming offerings including History Happy Hours, historic site tours, and more
- Increase outreach and programming in local schools
- Expand partnership programs and events with other local nonprofits
- Continue all of our annual programs, tours, and events and increase attendance.
- Continue to adjust and pivot to the changes presented by the pandemic. Continue our strong online presence.
- Co-lead Partners in Preservation group focused on historic preservation advocacy, education, and program strengthening.
- Lead efforts to place policies and protections for mineral springs longevity and vitality. Partner with the City of Steamboat Springs and contribute funds for USGS mineral springs study.
- Build new exhibit enclosure and upgrades for Steamboat Pilot stagecoach (potential MAHFAB grant).
- Continue to provide competitive salaries and benefits to skilled employees.
- Find location for newly donated sheep wagon, and create new exhibits for the artifact.
- Co-sponsor MAHFAB grant with City of Steamboat Springs for preservation projects for the Community House at Little Toots Park.
- Assess satellite exhibit and programming locations at historic sites in the community.
- Plan future facility expansion needs.
- Launch new museum brand and website.

Please take a look at the attached **2020 annual report**, which was created for our June 2021 annual meeting that includes a summary of our 2020-21 highlights. Please let me know if you have any questions about our programs and activities, and thank you for your continued support of the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

A few notes on our financials: With reduced museum operational hours, attendance, and admissions due to Covid-19, we again received a federal Paycheck Protection Program (shown in Misc. Expense on the MAHFAB form) grant in 2021 of over \$41K. Along with increases in donations, grants and fundraising, we again ended the year in a healthy financial position.

Once again, thank you for your time on MAHFAB and your continued support of the museum.



Candice Bannister, Executive Director
Tread of Pioneers Museum