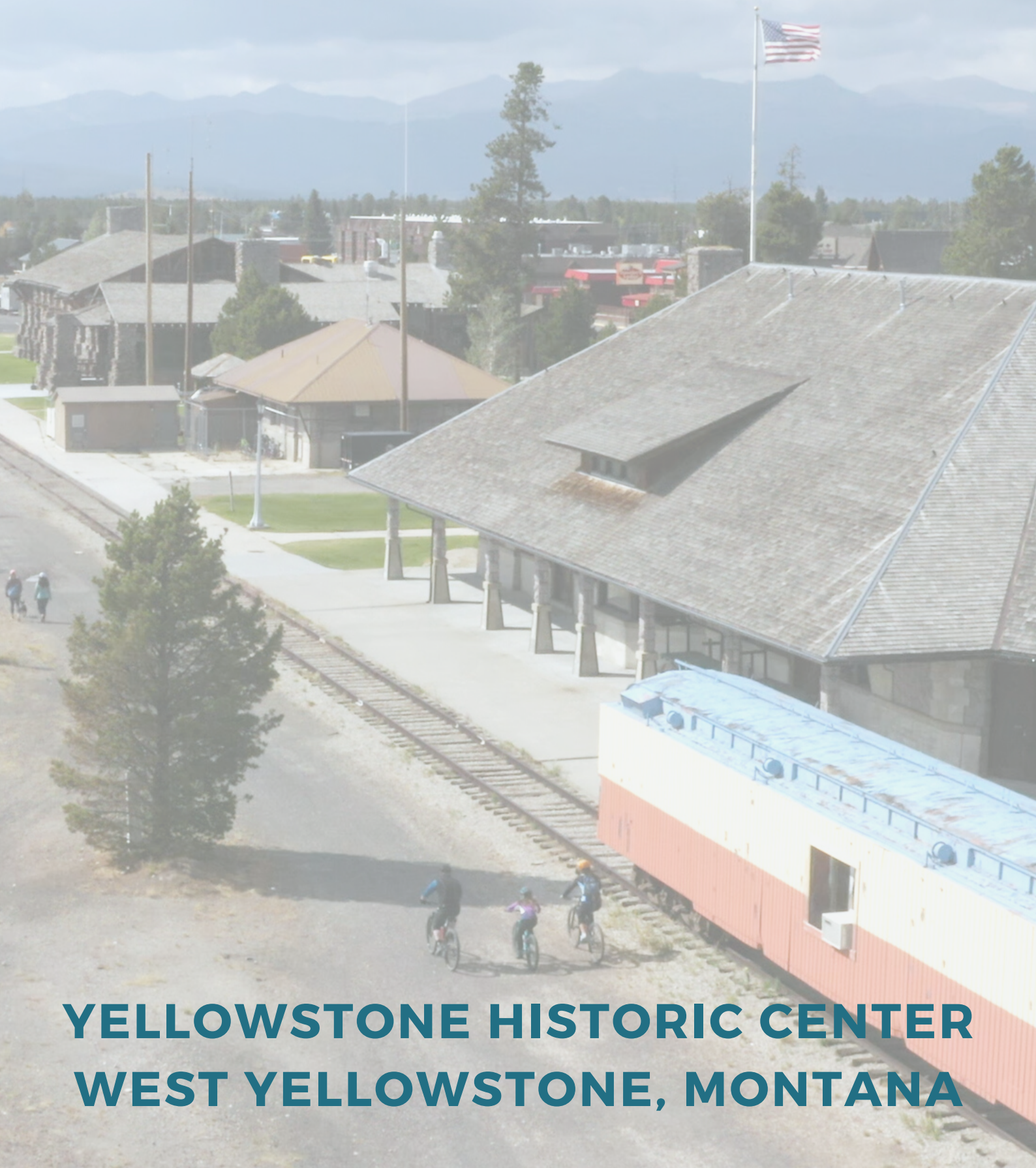


2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA**

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Photo on cover: This photo was captured by Jon Cracraft Marketing in September of 2020 with Destination Yellowstone and Custer Gallatin National Forest.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I take a look back on 2020, I am filled with emotion. My heart goes out to everyone in the midst of this pandemic we are currently enduring. The impacts of this disease have and will continue to leave a lasting impression on all of us. I find hope in the profound stories of those who have come together to help friends and strangers alike make it through this difficult time. I am also overwhelmed by the generosity that we, at YHC, have seen and experienced. Our organization has been able to continue to pursue its mission throughout the pandemic only by the kindness of our donors and supporters.

While 2020 was tumultuous, there were still a few bright spots. Early in the year, the YHC partnered with the new Yellowstone Shortline Trail as the official fiscal sponsor. Even in the midst of the pandemic, the project met and surpassed its goal to raise \$1.25 million in order to convert the abandoned railroad bed from the Idaho-Montana border to West Yellowstone into a world-class, hiking and biking trail. I am honored that YHC is involved with such an important project and beautiful preservation effort. Also in 2020, YHC hosted the Town's Summer Recreation Program for weekly lessons and activities about the area's history, biology, geology, culture and much more. It was extremely well-received by the kids in the program as well as the Town. We plan to continue this program for many years to come.

Operations for YHC did look a bit different in 2020. For safety of staff and guests, we made the difficult decision to close both the Museum and Dining Lodge. With that decision came the difficult reality of operating a nonprofit without the support of the organization's two major sources of revenue. Luckily, we applied for and received enough CARES funding to be able to retain our two, full-time staff members throughout the year. With those funds, and the support of our donor base, we continued to pursue our mission and began plans for 2021.

As I look forward, I am hopeful about the future. While it may still be a difficult year, 2021 has a great deal in store for our organization and our continued outreach to share the unique heritage of West Yellowstone and its connection to Yellowstone National Park. I am grateful to all who play a role in the continued success of YHC, and I hope each of you are able to stay safe and well.

Until next year,



Kaitlin Johnson



MUSEUM OF THE YELLOWSTONE

The Museum was able to open to the public on June 1st and remained open to the public into July. We then switched to by-appointment-only for members through the remainder of the season, which allowed guests a more relaxed experience where families were able to enjoy the space all on their own.

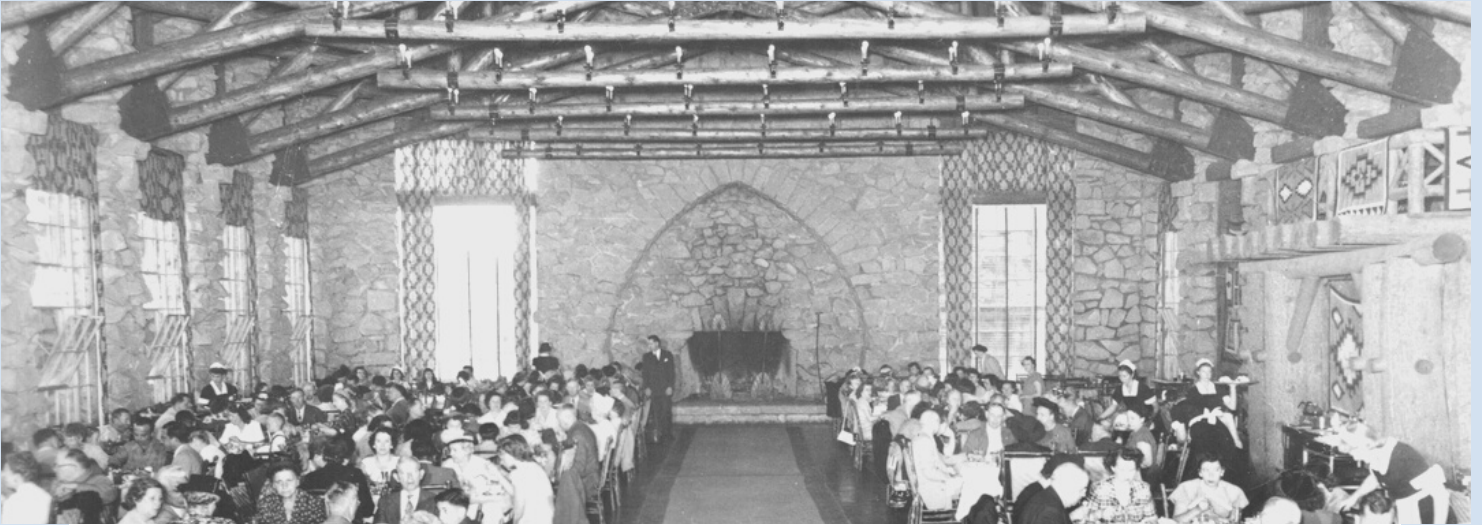


SUMMER REC YOUTH PROGRAM

This summer, the YHC staff teamed up with the Town of West Yellowstone's Summer Rec Program to provide educational and engaging activities at the Museum each Thursday morning over the span of eight weeks. While we had to change plans to follow guidelines, the kids and staff quickly adapted and managed to have fun every week.

From playing I Spy in the Museum to getting an up-close look at the historic 1938 Model 706 Yellowstone tour bus, the kids enjoyed learning about local history and the neighboring park. **We extend a special thank you to the West Yellowstone Foundation for funding the 2020 activities through the Community Grant Program.** Although it was our first year and there were many unprecedented circumstances, it was absolutely a huge success. We cannot wait to see the kids again in 2021!

UNION PACIFIC DINING LODGE



For what was likely the first time since the building opened in 1926, the Dining Lodge sat empty the entire summer, not hosting any events. We tried to make the most of the summer and were able to complete two preservation projects as well as work with the Town on an engineering report for the roof in order to assess immediate and future needs.

Window Restoration

For the third phase of the Window Restoration Project, 120 window panes and the surrounding frames were restored and given a fresh coat of paint to reflect the original aesthetics.

Fireplace Restoration

Thanks to a grant from the Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County, the Yellowstone Historic Center was able to have both fireplaces in the Dining Lodge cleaned. After years of built-up soot, the blackened stones beneath were difficult to see. Cleaning the rhyolite stones has helped preserve and restore the original appearance of the fireplaces.



YELLOWSTONE SHORTLINE TRAIL



The most exciting undertaking for the Yellowstone Historic Center in 2020 was partnering with Custer Gallatin National Forest and becoming the fiscal sponsor of the Yellowstone Shortline Trail.

The project will see 9 miles of abandoned railroad bed between West Yellowstone and the Montana-Idaho border at Reas Pass converted into a world-class, hiking-biking trail. Spurred by a 2-to-1 matching grant from the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation, the YST Committee began fundraising in earnest in June of 2020, wondering how global events would impact the efforts. The response was immediate and profound, surpassing all expectations. By the end of 2020, the \$375,000 needed to secure the \$750,000 from the Foundation was raised.

In addition, the \$1,250,000 overall goal was achieved which will enable construction of the trail in Custer Gallatin National Forest to begin in the spring of 2021.

We owe a huge thank you to the Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke Foundation who saw potential in the project and supported it from day one. We would also like to thank all the YST supporters and acknowledge the following grantors:

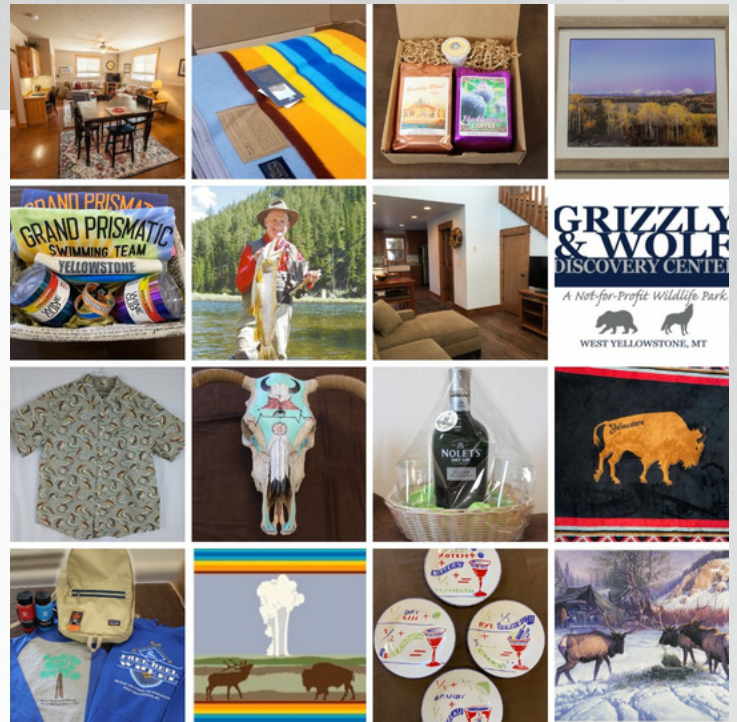
- Johnson Family Giving Tree Fund, \$100,000
- Katherine W. & Ezekiel Dumke, Jr. Foundation and Family, \$100,000
- Gallatin County Resource Advisory Committee, \$40,000
- Cross Charitable Foundation, \$25,000
- West Yellowstone Chamber Bike Committee, \$20,000
- Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, \$15,000
- High Stakes Foundation, \$15,000
- Union Pacific Foundation, \$15,000
- BNSF Foundation, \$10,000
- Glacier Bank/First Security Bank, \$10,000
- West Yellowstone Foundation, \$5,000



EVENTS + FUNDRAISERS

On July 4th, 2020, for the first time ever, the Museum hosted Pie on the Porch: Drive-Thru Edition! We always love seeing everyone lined up, spending the day with volunteers, and letting patrons pick a slice from five different pies. While we were unable to do things as usual this year, we were happy to be able to host the event at all. We look forward to when things are back to normal and hope to have the biggest Pie on the Porch celebration yet!

A special thanks to the following individuals who donated pies this year: Lisa Johnson, Timerblin Cafe, Sue Conaghan, Wendy Swenson, Jim Russell, Amber Smith, Louise Cochrane, Patti Weigand, Kris & Linda Blank, Diana Morris, Jessie Picone, Patty Peterson, Carol Leasure, Katie Gronniger, Liz Roos, Kristy Coffin, Lindsay Charlton, Emily Kropp, MarySue Costello, Toni Brey, Dusty Dunbar, and Denice Sabolsky.



In September, we hosted a virtual version of the annual Heritage Celebration fundraiser. The online auction featured 20 items and packages donated by locals.

Thanks to all those who donated items to the auction!

Arrowhead Properties, Carol Ashton & Ann Voda, Trish Barnes, Gary Carter, Delaware North, Dusty Dunbar, Eagle's Store, Freeheel & Wheel, Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, Jacklin's Fly Shop, Madison Hotel, Motel, & Gift Shop, Morning Glory Coffee & Tea, Inc., Mike Niemeyer, Pat & Ginger Povah, and SilverCloud Photography.

We missed seeing everyone and are excited for the next in-person Heritage Celebration!



YELLOWSTONE HISTORY JOURNAL + ARCHIVE PROJECT

This year, the Yellowstone Historic Center published the third annual Yellowstone History Journal. As always, the 2020 edition featured a great variety of articles about Yellowstone National Park and the local area.

The 2020 edition was also the first to feature the Made in Montana logo. The YHC is proud to edit and publish this journal locally.



Throughout 2020, we continued digitizing photos from the archives and uploading the images to Montana Memory Project (mtmemory.org). Most of the photos in 2020 were focused on aspects of West Yellowstone history encompassing themes such as town life, the 1988 Yellowstone fires, buildings and structures throughout the decades, and winter activities. **Digitization efforts were funded through a grant from Montana History Foundation and donors to the Archive Project. A special thank you to Steffi Siegel and her years of dedication to the project.**



2020 MEMBERS

This year, we are especially grateful for our dedicated members. While Museum attendance suffered and Dining Lodge events were cancelled, our members were more generous than ever. Each and every member made it possible for our organization to survive 2020. Thank you so very much for your support and belief in the Yellowstone Historic Center.

Amanda Perry	James Jorgenson	Richard Ryberg
Anne Kinney	Jane Ann Lamph	Richard Steadman
Betty & Leroy Liebelt	Jason Kladiva	Rick & Karen Fairbanks
Bob Jacklin	Jean Corey	Robbie & Debbie Hermanson
Brittney Gonzalez	Jerry & Verlene Schmier	Robert & Joanne Hitchcock
Bruce Gourley	Jim & Peggy Russell	Robert Goss
C. Horton	Joanna Kuchyt	Robert Nisbet
Carol Aston & Ann Voda	Joanne Mayo	Robert Paarlberg
Carol Leasure	Joel Nichols	Robert West
Cheryl Garrett	John & Carolyn Golba	Robert & Nancy Bower
Cheryl Gill	John Boe	Robert Heverly
Cynthia Shaffer	Judith Meyer	Ronald Forsberg
Dale & Sherre Thoreson	Katie Schuelke	Ruth Ann Nydam
David G. Robinson	Kelly Anderson &	Sandra Stuart Love
David Kogut	Lael Calton	Sara Bradley
David Toller	Ken & Mary Davis	Scott & Linda Butler
Doug & Stacey Schmier	Kendra Eagle Owen	Sharon & Dale Stubbs
Douglas Hackett	Kent Fletcher	Stephanie Aldrich
Duncan & Eva Patten	Kent Fletcher	Steve & Marin Fogg
Elysia & Jonathan Doyle	Leanna Pfaff	Sue Conaghan
Eva Eagle	Linda Blank	Tamsen Hert
Frankie Eagle	Linda Jones	Teresa Bailey
Gail Richardson	Marilyn & Don Murdock	Terry Povah
Gene & Diana Christie	Mark Sodja	Thea Lovo Lancaster
Geoff Krone	Michael & Sherry Chandler	Thomas Ansbach
George & Sharen Watkins	Michael Francis	Tom & Alice Walters
George McKinney	Michael Levonas	Tom & Dee Hall
Glen & Virginia Loomis	Mike Chatary	Tom & Jan Leach
Gordon Holt	Mike Slevin	Tom Schenkenberg
Greg Nichols	Nancy Meyer	Travis & Liz Watt
Home Moore	Nick & Cynthia Stipanovich	Trish Barnes
Howard & Pat Wattles	Pat & Ginger Povah	Wayne & Marilyn Hill
Irvine	Priscilla Dech	Wesley & Janet Nelson
Jack & Susan Davis	Randy & Jeanine Roberson	William Casaday
	Richard & Camille Phillips	

2020 MEMBERS (CONT.)

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Alpine Motel	Freeheel & Wheel
B&N Photography	Jackson Research Center
Barta Electric	Madison Arm Resort
Buffalo Bar/Stage One	Madison Legacy Corporation
Buffalo Bill Memorial Assn.	Market Place
C.S. Construction	Pyle Foundation
Cabins West Lodging	Running Bear Pancake House
Cardon Realty	Three Bear Lodge & Restaurant
Cochrane Accounting	Town of West Yellowstone
Delaware North	Tri-State Excavating
Ernie's Bakery & Deli	University of Wyoming
Evergreen Motel	WestMart
Fall River Electric	Yellowstone T-Shirt Shop
Food Roundup	

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

DECEMBER 31, 2020

YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC CENTER

STATEMENT OF YEAR-END ACTIVITIES

Yellowstone Historic Center
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Museum	Special Projects	Management and general	2020 Total	2019 Total
Changes in unrestricted net assets:					
Revenue and other support:					
Dining Lodge Operations	\$ -	\$ 1,550.00	\$ -	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 51,550.00
Fundraisers	\$ 1,850.00	\$ -	\$ 10,971.00	\$ 12,821.00	\$ 39,006.00
General Donations	\$ 136.19	\$ 19,130.19	\$ 4,535.37	\$ 23,801.75	\$ 23,485.49
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,220.00	\$ 20,220.00	\$ 52,266.00
Memberships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,245.00	\$ 22,245.00	\$ 18,025.00
Museum Admission	\$ 13,418.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,418.85	\$ 94,316.48
Merchandise Sales	\$ 5,533.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,533.45	\$ 40,610.43
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.50	\$ 57.84
Special Equipment Use	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,700.00
Walk Into History Program	\$ -	\$ 1,260.00	\$ -	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,950.00
Rail Trail Project	\$ -	\$ 1,208,086.01	\$ -	\$ 1,208,086.01	\$ -
Total unrestricted revenues	<u>\$ 20,938.49</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 57,989.87</u>	<u>\$ 78,928.36</u>	<u>\$ 250,673.71</u>
Total restricted revenues	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,230,026.20</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,230,026.20</u>	<u>\$ 73,293.53</u>
Expenses:					
Archives & Collections Management	\$ -	\$ 2.50	\$ -	\$ 2.50	\$ 736.05
Dining Lodge Management	\$ -	\$ 15,676.54	\$ -	\$ 15,676.54	\$ 24,730.30
Educational Programs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,141.72
Exhibits Management	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 55.66	\$ -	\$ 1,055.66	\$ 1,513.37
Fundraisers	\$ 819.69	\$ 18,492.83	\$ 389.43	\$ 19,701.95	\$ 19,487.11
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,616.65	\$ 31,616.65	\$ 51,481.00
Institutional Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,557.68	\$ 9,136.24	\$ 10,693.92	\$ 26,286.77
Maintenance & Repair	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,815.61	\$ 1,815.61	\$ 681.30
Marketing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 927.50	\$ 927.50	\$ 1,947.50
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Museum Operations	\$ 2,780.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,780.04	\$ 22,779.21
Office Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,746.86	\$ 4,746.86	\$ 3,641.31
Payroll: Salaries & Emp. Contributions	\$ 4,514.05	\$ 15,114.16	\$ 77,457.49	\$ 97,085.70	\$ 109,332.56
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 631.15	\$ 631.15	\$ 3,623.46
Phones & Utilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,626.30	\$ 5,626.30	\$ 8,060.21
Rents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,802.00	\$ 3,802.00	\$ 10,301.00
Special Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subcontractors	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,214.00	\$ 5,214.00	\$ 7,100.00
Walk Into History Program	\$ -	\$ 1,701.09	\$ -	\$ 1,701.09	\$ 1,358.06
Rail Trail Project	\$ -	\$ 44,161.95	\$ -	\$ 44,161.95	\$ -
Total expenses (unrestricted)	<u>\$ 9,113.78</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 141,363.23</u>	<u>\$ 150,477.01</u>	<u>\$ 252,167.03</u>
Total expenses (restricted)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 96,762.41</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 96,762.41</u>	<u>\$ 42,033.90</u>
(Decrease) increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 11,824.71</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (83,373.36)</u>	<u>\$ (71,548.65)</u>	<u>\$ (1,493.32)</u>
(Decrease) increase in restricted net assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,133,263.79</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,133,263.79</u>	<u>\$ 31,259.63</u>

** Yellowstone Historic Center received a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program in 2020. The amount was \$20,900. The loan was initiated through First Security Bank / Glacier bank. The full amount of the loan was forgiven in 2020 following submission of proper documentation detailing the use of funds. The full amount of the loan was used to support a portion of YHC staff's payroll in 2020.

STAFF + BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STAFF

Kaitlin Johnson, Executive Director
kjohnson@museumoftheyellowstone.org

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

BOARD

Bruce Gourley, Chair
Chipper Smith, Vice Chair
Trish Barnes, Secretary
Glenn Hales, Treasurer
Carol Ashton
Pete Donau
Garrett Ostler
Kendra Eagle Owen

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: 406-646-7461

Museum Phone: 406-646-1100

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.

