

**Minutes of Meeting
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society
Friday, August 14, 2020
Steele Auditorium, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe (and virtual)**

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – President Linda Whitaker. At 12:07 pm
2. **Roll Call** – Recording Secretary - Bruce Gwynn and Robert Fleck
 - a. **In person:** Joe Abodeely, Janice Bryson, Voie Coy, Jim Snitzer, Michael Wade, Linda Whitaker
 - b. **Via phone or Zoom:** Robert Ballard, Lorna Brooks, Kelly Corsette, Tom Foster, Bruce Gwynn, Doug Hocking, John Lacy, Tom Rose, Greg Scott
 - c. **Quorum**
 - d. **Staff present in-person:** James Burns, Tawn Downs, Bill Ponder, Debbie McKinion, Robert Fleck, Marilyn Murphy
3. Discussion and action, if any, to **approve the draft Minutes** of the June 19, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.
 - a. Motion to approve: Janice Bryson
 - b. Seconded by Doug Hocking
 - c. Approved unanimously
4. **Call to the Public** – Consideration and discussion of comments from the public. Those wishing to address the Board need not request permission in advance. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes. This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.
 - a. MOU speakers:
 - A. Gwen Groth, volunteer at Riordan Mansion. Worried for AHS and Sunset review. Worried for the future of Riordan. Riordan is great way to market AHS and other locations. Since AHS took over 10 years ago, increased revenues over 200%. Surprise agenda item will hurt membership. Quoted mission statement. Concerned that this agenda item is a permanent bruise on AHS.
 - B. Janice Klein – Executive Director of Museum Association of Arizona. Read Statement. Sympathizes with financial situation, but expresses concern for the dissolution of agreements associated with the three museums. Historic treasures. Urges boards to enter into discussions with partners to determine how financial situation can be mitigated.
 - C. Joe Meehan, Flagstaff. Agree with Gwen. Need to look at more than dollars. Need to look at the community and the significance of the properties and the events that take place there.

- D. Charlotte Madden, President of Northern Arizona Pioneer Historical Society, and representing the Riordan Action Network. Historical perspective on the two organizations. Ask for Committee to consider each of the 3 properties separately and work with organizations to renegotiate.
 - E. Demion Clinco, Executive Director of Tucson Historic Preservation. Sent a letter expressing concerns about the lack of opportunity to discuss this prior to today. This as a quiet backdoor effort. Needs to be public discussion to find new ways to move forward. Recommend postponing this action.
 - F. Frank Flasch – Historic Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association. Agree with Demion. Support opportunity to find other solutions. Recommend postponing this action.
 - G. Ken Scoville – Agree with Demion. Retired teacher and historian.
 - H. Barry Spicer – Agree with Demion. Lives in Ft Lowell area.
 - I. Andres Cano – State Legislator. Recommend postponing action today, and offers to participate in discussions
 - J. Sarah Marsom – AHS needs to be creative in creating a plan that will sustain these sites in the long term. We need to set them up for success.
- b. Flags, monuments
- A. Jacob Raiford - We want something that teaches diversity and inclusion. Urge removal of confederate monuments. Have ideas of how to do so and replace with other things that honor inclusivity and diversity. Murals, art projects more accurately represent this history. Arizona houses many different cultures.
 - B. Dennis Amparo – AHS member. Support removal of Confederate flags and monuments. Aware of removal of flags from the lobby of the Arizona History Museum in Tucson and support that action. The story is better told in other ways.
 - C. Tiffany Fairall – Contemporary exhibitions in Tempe. 2nd generation AZ native. Chief curator at Mesa Arts Center. Important to balance history with contemporary relevance. Upstairs exhibits are nostalgic, but not relevant – relics of the past. Conversely, the Still Marching exhibit is more relevant. Tells the history but in a way that I can relate to. Important to talk about contemporary topics in historical perspective. Agree with removing flags and telling the stories in other ways.
 - D. Jim McPherson – President of the Arizona Preservation Foundation – Their board has taken a stance against confederate monuments on state/federal property. Enjoyed recent panel discussion about monuments (Whistlin’ Dixie), etc. Agree with removal of confederate symbols. RE: MOUs urge postponement of action on dissolution of agreements.
 - E. Brenda Thompson – Executive Director of AZ Humanities and AHS member. Work with many museums in the State. Agree with Tiffany. Museums must become more focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is very focused on this. NEH funding will only be made available to organizations that make that a priority. Do we represent the communities we serve?
 - F. MOU - AZ State Parks Director – Robert Broscheid. Parks and AHS have been partners since 2010. On June 30 signed new agreement with intent to

renegotiate. COVID 19 has been difficult, and aware of impact of closure and loss of revenue. Remain willing to work with AHS on a new, restructured agreement for long term success.

- G. Monuments, flags - Shawn Morten – Re: Our responsibility to discard objects that honor and perpetuate slavery. We must reject these symbols. Call on board to ask when can we talk about this history in an educational way, and not through knick-knacks and relics.
- H. Exhibits and Monuments/memorials - Mark Tebeau, ASU History faculty. Congratulated AHS staff for striving to provide exhibits and programs that explore history in a relevant way. AHS is working in partnership with ASU, Banner Health, other organizations to bring relevance to events of historical relevance. Also support removal of confederate symbols – propaganda - and the telling of history in a more meaningful way.
- I. MOU - Michael Amundson – Support continuation of Riordan Mansion.

Throughout the public comment, virtual participants were simultaneously adding comments in the chat box. Below is a record of that chat:

00:22:08 Frank Flasch: We from the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood are disappointed at the decision to close the Fort Lowell Museum - When was it decided, what are the true costs of running the museum and why not reach out to the neighborhood before the meeting regards Frank Flasch -

00:24:01 Ileen Snoddy: I wanted to share that the direction that AHS has move towards these past 2 years has been positive! It is a pleasure to work with a professional executive staff--thank you!

00:25:30 Melanie Sturgeon: I agree with you Ileen

00:26:30 Tiffany Fairall: Hear, Hear with Ileen and Melanie!

00:26:38 Mark Tebeau: Extraordinary Ileen! The AHS is becoming a model of professionalism and leadership in Arizona!

00:27:32 Ileen Snoddy: It is a pleasure to work with such professionals and the forward moving direction is a breath of fresh air! Finally after all of these years!

00:30:12 Linda Head: I cannot set Gwen.

00:31:09 Linda Head: Can we get back the video from the meeting room?

00:33:29 Arizona Historical Society: Unfortunately the camera is malfunctioning. You should be able to hear us.

00:36:20 sarah marsom: Questions: Will AHS help the sites set themselves up with stand alone resources? If these sites are no longer connected to AHS, will they be sent back to state parks (who tossed them away a decade ago)? What is the timeline being given to these sites for a thoughtful extraction from AHS?

00:37:05 David Zimmerman: David Zimmerman, Arizona Preservation Foundation Board Member. I support Gwen Groth's comments on Riordan Mansion.

00:37:19 Ileen Snoddy: Thank you MAA!

00:38:34 Frank Flasch: I support the comments by Gwen concerning the Fort Lowell Museum - Thank you for your support Gwen

00:38:56 Melanie Sturgeon: These are difficult times; all museums are struggling. Patrons do not have access to most museums. AHS obtains resources from the public events held there--these events are no longer possible. This loss of funding impacts AHS. The legislature also looks at wise use of existing resources when funding the AHS. How do you propose to raise the funding needed to maintain these sites?

00:40:13 Frank Flasch: Why not reach out to the public for support of these 3 significant sites?

00:40:20 Susan Irwin: Great question Melanie. Many museums may not survive the impact of Covid-19.

00:41:08 David Zimmerman: I support Frank Flach

00:41:59 David Zimmerman: Sorry, I hit "enter" to soon. I support Frank Flasch's comments.

00:43:12 Susan Shaffer Nahmias, Ph.D.: Melanie's observations are important. The challenges to museums are beyond local; they are international.

00:43:40 Mark Tebeau: The American Association of Museums estimates that as many as 33% of all historical museums will fail as a result of the pandemic. By showing fiscal prudence the Arizona Historical Society is working through these issues. Recognizing the importance of partner sites is critical, of course. But, I would also gently suggest that these museums and sites need to find a way to remain viable in their own right—as part of their broader sustainability.

00:43:51 Susan Shaffer Nahmias, Ph.D.: And don't believe that anyone is taking them lightly.

00:44:37 Mark Tebeau: The AAM estimates that as many as 33% of ALL museums will fail as a result of the pandemic (as I correct myself.)

00:45:00 Mark Tebeau: <https://www.aam-us.org/2020/07/22/united-states-may-lose-one-third-of-all-museums-new-survey-shows/>

00:45:02 sarah marsom: @Mark Tebeau, you are right that partner sites should be getting creative to generate income during this pandemic, but it is important for AHS to set these sites up for success and not closure if they are "let go."

00:46:03 Arizona Historical Society: Who would like to talk on Downtown History Museum?

00:46:07 Arizona Historical Society: I will unmute you.

00:46:10 Arizona Historical Society: Type in the chat box.

00:46:32 Arizona Historical Society: OK - if nobody for Downtown then who has any additional comments to offer on Fort Lowell

00:46:47 Demion Clinco: I would like to talk on this topic

00:46:54 Frank Flasch: What about raising their hand I would like to speak

00:46:57 Arizona Historical Society: Demion. You will be temporarily unmuted.

00:47:01 Arizona Historical Society: Next Frank

00:47:04 Shannon Madden: I support the comments of Gwen and Charlotte regarding the future of properties. Specifically, I strongly support Riordan Mansion and the innovative fundraising done my RAM. It ran in the black for many years. \$84000 is amazing!

00:47:23 Ken Scoville: Ken scoville

00:47:47 Robert Spicer: I would like to speak on this topic. Barry Spicer

00:49:23 MICHAEL AMUNDSON: I would like to speak briefly about Riordan Mansion and its internship opportunities for Public History and Museum Studies at Northern Arizona University

00:49:27 Marilyn Ruggles: There is no visual coming through on Zoom. We need to see the speaker.

00:49:34 sarah marsom: Wonderful points Demion Clinco!

00:49:48 Frank Flasch: I support Demions points

00:49:49 sarah marsom: I would like to speak briefly on Riordan Mansion

00:50:02 Arizona Historical Society: We are unable to do that, Marilyn. The speaker is on Zoom. He should be in one of the boxes on your screen.

00:50:03 Robert Spicer: I support Demion's comments.

00:50:43 Arizona Historical Society: Ken - you will be up next.

00:51:02 Marilyn Hammarstrom: I support everything Demion Clinco stated.

00:51:46 Lois P Eisenstein: totally agree with the current speaker - find a solution that involves the communities and County governments WITH NOTICE

00:51:53 Lynn Ratener: As a long-time member of the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association, I support the comments by Demion and Frank.

00:51:59 David Zimmerman: David Zimmerman, Arizona Preservation Foundation. I fully support Demion Clinco's comments. Particularly his request to table action on this item and develop a more robust public process and explore additional options.

00:52:01 Arizona Historical Society: Next up, Barry.

00:53:45 Marilyn Ruggles: The deed that gave Riordan Mansion to the AZ State Parks states that if the Mansion is not open to the public for a year, it reverts to the family. They do not want that to happen. If funding could be found to pay a staff person, I think the grounds could safely be open to the public on a very

limited basis with the help of volunteers. I think that would qualify as "open" and make the Mansion available to the public when the building is eventually able to open for tours.

00:53:48 Arizona Historical Society: You will be up next, Representative Cano

00:55:32 Laura Sagerman: I am a private citizen living in Ft. Lowell Neighborhood. I agree with Demion and Frank. I also would like to mention a few points.

00:55:38 Teresita Majewski: My name is Teresita Majewski, a long-term member of the AHS. I agree with many of the things noted by the in-person members of the public who spoke on the dissolution of the agreements. I can't speak about whether stakeholder engagement was appropriate, but without public support, AHS can't combat the poor view of the importance of Arizona's history, which is evident in the continuing budget cuts facing important state institutions like AHS. The COVID situation is impacting museums in all of the states and the nation. The AHS Board should work on finding solutions to combat funding cuts and the need to eliminate these satellite locations. **WORK TO CHANGE THE ANTI-HISTORY CULTURE OF OUR ELECTED STATE LEADERSHIP.** Look at what other countries are doing. In the UK, even their conservative government deemed museums **ESSENTIAL TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROCESS DURING COVID.** Sit down with those with whom AHS has agreements and brainstorm solutions - public/private partnerships (per Demion).

00:55:47 Frank Flasch: Barry is right on and we all support his comments

00:55:59 Tom Peterson: YES!

00:56:41 sarah marsom: I would like to be on the speaker docket.

00:57:05 Arizona Historical Society: You are up next Sarah.

00:58:02 Teresita Majewski: Thank you Representative Cano.

00:59:47 Tom Peterson: Tell your last 4 digits

00:59:48 Desirae Barquin: Thank you, Sarah! I completely agree.

01:00:30 wm werner: To group: What are budget consequences of delay? How long could a decision be deferred without additional adverse consequences? In addition - What would a long-term solution, safe from the legislative broom, look like.

01:00:47 Tom Peterson: Everyone can mute themselves

01:01:10 Melanie Sturgeon: Excellent questions, William.

01:01:56 Jim McPherson: On behalf of the Arizona Preservation Foundation board of directors, we appreciate all of the speakers from Flagstaff and Tucson who care about and expressed their opinion on the fate of important historic resources in their communities.

Given COVID-19, it is even more important to reach out to long-time stakeholders, partners, and elected officials to work together to find solutions. We recommend this topic be tabled and a community engagement process be launched.

Thank you. Jim McPherson, President, Board of Directors, Arizona Preservation Foundation

01:02:01 James Hewitt: Sarah please move back to Flagstaff and take over administration of Riordan Mansion - you are correct, we need more engagement with a younger audience.

01:02:37 Mark Tebeau: I'd like to speak!

01:02:54 Mark Tebeau: About flags, markers, monuments...

01:03:13 Shawn M: I'd like to speak on the flag, markers, monuments

01:03:24 Desirae Barquin: Riordan has a great team and Sarah would be an excellent addition!

01:03:49 sarah marsom: @James Hewitt - My work as a heritage resource consultant specializes in education/outreach and I thoroughly enjoy doing this work around the country. I would always be happy to come help out the team in some capacity.

01:03:58 Arizona Historical Society: OK Mark - and Shawn.

01:06:09 Brenda Thomson: Thank for your comments,

01:06:28 Jim McPherson: I would like to speak on Confederate monuments (and a brief comment on the MOUs). Thanks.

01:06:45 Robert Spicer: can't hear the speaker

01:06:45 Arizona Historical Society: OK, Jim. After Shawn.

01:07:18 Arizona Historical Society: Sorry, Bob. Some folks have quieter voices. This audio will be on the website by early next week.

01:08:16 Laura Sagerman: I wanted to speak about Ft. Lowell Museum

01:08:23 Arizona Historical Society: Shawn I am asking to unmute you
01:08:28 Brenda Thomson: I would like to speak on trends and future exhibits
01:08:33 Brenda Thomson: Brenda Thomson
01:09:02 Arizona Historical Society: OK Laura
01:09:03 Mark Tebeau: I would like to speak about confederate monuments and exhibits.
01:09:07 Shawn M: can I go after Brenda please
01:09:13 Shawn M: missed the notification
01:09:14 Chris Bradley: My name is Chris Bradley. I am a member of the Historical Society, and I have lived in Arizona for 47 years. I am a graduate student in history at ASU. I have conducted historical research on the monuments at Picacho Peak. What I found was that the original memorial there was placed in 1928 by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Historical Society to honor the three U.S. Army volunteers who were killed there in 1862. Confederate heritage groups began to place markers in the area in the late '50s, culminating in the 1984 plaque placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in conjunction with the Historical Society. The 1984 plaque changed the site from a memorial to volunteers who died serving the United States to a statement of a pro-Confederate version of history. The historical society should not replace it.
01:09:17 Arizona Historical Society: Mark - you'll go as we wrap up
01:09:30 Arizona Historical Society: Yes, Shawn, after Brenda
01:09:33 Mark Tebeau: Thanks!
01:09:49 Mark Tebeau: Thank you Chris Bradley. Your research is impeccable and important!
01:10:01 Marilyn Ruggles: Thank you, Sarah! So good to see you! Sarah fought with us to keep Riordan open back in 2010. Marilyn R
01:10:44 sarah marsom: Nice to see you virtually @Marilyn!
01:10:47 Teresita Majewski: Moving Confederate monuments from public spaces into museums is appropriate. Creative and trained AHS staff members can create appropriate, contextualized exhibits dealing with the monuments and the feelings they engender. This can only help to start the discourse that is needed to promote inclusivity and respect. This is a way to bring past, present, and future perspectives together.
01:11:09 Mark Tebeau: Thank you Tiffany. Professional historians and museum professionals agree with your approach to building exhibits, audiences, and community. Bravo!
01:11:31 Demion Clinco: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/costs-confederacy-special-report-180970731/>
01:11:57 sarah marsom: <https://savingplaces.org/press-center/media-resources/national-trust-statement-on-confederate-memorials#.Xzbtcy05QWo>
01:12:43 Mark Tebeau: To learn more about the role of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in propagating white supremacy and Jim Crow segregation (and terror) through its monuments: <https://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813064130>
01:13:32 Arizona Historical Society: One minute left, Tiffany. Thanks@
01:13:53 sarah marsom: Preserve places where history happened not monuments to white supremacy
01:13:58 Chris Bradley: The Confederacy was only in control of Southern Arizona for about 8 1/2 months.
01:14:10 Teresita Majewski: AHS started this tough conversation by having the "Whistlin' Dixie in Arizona" virtual event, and they should be lauded for this. The Board should support these kinds of events.
01:14:19 Jenna Bassett: Thank you for your historical background, Chris Bradley. I agree with you.
01:14:26 Mark Tebeau: Teresita. I agree!!!
01:14:29 Demion Clinco: From Arizona born and raised historian:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/11/style/confederate-statue-columbus-analysis.html>
01:14:31 Vincent S Murray: Why place the monuments in a museum where they'll be mothballed. Instead, we should leave them in place and properly interpret them, explaining why they were originally placed and what's really wrong about them.
01:14:41 Tiffany Fairall: Exactly! Thanks, Chris!
01:15:20 Chris Bradley: I agree with Ms. Fairall and Mr. McPherson.
01:15:23 Tiffany Fairall: At Vincent - Why should they be given such prominence in a public display?
01:15:36 Tiffany Fairall: They are a blip in our history.
01:16:11 Arizona Historical Society: Brenda

01:17:20 Vincent S Murray: Tiffany, that's exactly my point. We should explain why they are where they are and what's--quite frankly--stupid about them. The one at Wesley was a classic example.

01:17:50 Teresita Majewski: I respectfully disagree with Tiffany. The Confederacy may have been short-lived, but its consequences live on. We have to grapple with all aspects of our national, state, and local histories, especially those that are uncomfortable.

01:18:02 Jim McPherson: Arizona Preservation Foundation's sign-on letter asking Governor Ducey work to remove Confederate monuments on state property:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17fCYayQ0gIk0e7gp6p19w6_vygnJfAjzUItgDvXU8og/edit?usp=drive_web
Three monuments have been removed (in Phoenix, near Gold Canyon, and at Picacho Peak State Park), one remains at the State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista.

01:18:11 sarah marsom: Thanks for sharing Jim!

01:18:17 Mark Tebeau: Thank you Jim. This is an important step! Bravo

01:18:32 Linda Head: We have a tremendous collection of actual artifacts from all periods of Arizona's past in the basement. Well crafted and impactful exhibits should feature those things we have in our collections and archives and connect to our present day and future. We do not need to IGNORE our collections and archives in favor of displaying "contemporary" history. We have the advantage of being able to share it all!!!!

01:19:18 Ito E.: I just want to express my support for the statements made by Jacob Raiford with the WE Rising Project, as well as for those made by others expressing the need to remove confederate monuments throughout the state of Arizona. Thank you for the time allotted to speak on this issue

01:19:55 Eric Nystrom: I'm glad Teresita and Jim raised the "Whistling Dixie" event. I wanted to commend the AHS Board and Staff for that program – it was research based, accessible, timely, and relevant. The panel of speakers that was brought in was excellent, featuring rigorous scholars with national reputations. Events like these show the professionalism, integrity, and relevance of AHS programming.

01:19:59 Mark Tebeau: Nobody is arguing that we should ignore the past; we merely want to interpret it within a richer tapestry of Arizona's citizens — including diverse groups of Arizonans.

01:20:08 Teresita Majewski: The one that was on the Governmental Mall has been gifted back to the Daughters of the Confederacy and has apparently been relocated to private property. Despite the requests from the public for a public process, the governor did not implement one. Glad that APF pushed for monument removal as hard as they did.

01:21:54 Vincent S Murray: Teresita. I was glad they decided to remove it. It was originally placed as part of Arizona's celebration of 50 years of statehood. The MC at the ceremony was Wesley Bolin.

01:22:23 Susan Irwin: Brenda, agreed, AHS staff has done a great job!

01:23:27 Ileen Snoddy: Agreed--the staff at AHS has done amazing work and a professional job moving forward with making history and heritage available to everyone!

01:23:49 Linda Head: To Mark and everyone. We have artifacts and documents which tell about the history of this state from the prospective of all cultures. I work in the archives am amazing at some of the letters written by young Navajo children to their families etc. talking about the experiences at the boarding schools for example. Those artifacts can be connected to contemporary experiences of native Americans today.

01:23:51 sarah marsom: Wonderful comments Brenda!

01:24:01 Teresita Majewski: Well done Brenda.

01:24:16 Ileen Snoddy: Thank you Brenda!

01:24:28 Jared Smith: I agree with Teresita with regards to the anti-history culture of Arizona's elected leadership generally. These attitudes have played a big role in the financial challenges faced by AHS and historical entities across the state for years. Not only the failure to recognize the importance and richness of Arizona's deep, complex, messy, and amazing history has been at issue - the fact is that heritage tourism and related businesses should be a more valued part of the foundation of a diverse, and sound economic base, which would help AZ better through the hard times.

01:24:36 Shawn M: ready to go after Bob as well

01:25:05 Mark Tebeau: Then, let's use them Linda. But, collecting and representing contemporary history is a recommended best practice for all history museums!!! Documenting the distant past and the recent past are not mutually exclusive. That's a false choice.

01:25:07 Ileen Snoddy: Agreed Jared!

01:25:10 Jim McPherson: Thanks Terry for your kind words, but along with the 300-plus signatories to the Foundation's letter, numerous other individual and groups have raised their voice, including Arizona veterans, Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, Rep. Reginald Bolding, and local civil rights and community organizations.

01:25:27 James Hewitt: Thanks for giving Brenda some extra time - good items we all need to hear.

01:25:30 Mark Tebeau: Agree Jared!

01:25:33 Tiffany Fairall: Society determines relevancy. Revolutionaries tore down the statue of King George III. Should that monument have stayed? Prominent reminders of a painful history can continue to inflict harm. You are asking the Black Community to continue to be reminded that they are second class citizens. By ignoring their voices, you are perpetuating the supremacy and prioritization of white voices. This is equivalent to Germany keeping their Nazi Monuments in prominent locations, ignoring the loss and pain of Jewish citizens.

01:25:33 Mark Tebeau: Well said Brenda.

01:26:12 David Turpie: To Linda Head: That's our plan! We are working on exhibits on the Spanish/Mexican periods and the early territorial period as we speak. They will be up in AHM by mid-Fall.

01:28:32 Brenda Thomson: YES!!

01:29:25 Vincent S Murray: Arizona didn't meet the qualifications for being a territory when created in 1863. It was created specifically as part of the effort to abolish slavery.

01:29:28 Marilyn Ruggles: As Keeper of the Chips (aka treasurer) of the Flagstaff Westerners Corral, I want to point out that Westerners has supported Riordan Mansion and NAU for several years by funding an internship for an NAU student each year. Breann Velasco's award-winning Todos Unidos was supported with an \$800 internship. Three senior students majoring in history, Parks and Rec, and anthropology were awarded \$1,000 internships the last three years. All interns benefitted from their experience volunteering at Riordan like Sarah Marson did.

01:29:33 Teresita Majewski: Excellent comments Director Broscheid. Thank you for standing up.

01:31:05 Arizona Historical Society: Anyone else online - besides Dr. Tebeau - wish to speak?

01:32:35 Brenda Thomson: WELL SAID

01:33:23 MICHAEL AMUNDSON: I would like to comment briefly

01:33:29 Arizona Historical Society: OK Dr. Amundson.

01:35:33 Brenda Thomson: in 2021 we will be partnering with AHS on a series of podcasts featuring women leaders including Cindy McCain. We received a Mellon Foundation grant, because the work is so compelling and building on the Marching Still exhibit.

01:35:43 Vincent S Murray: The AHS has done, and continues to do, a valuable service for the citizens of Arizona. I greatly appreciate their efforts and the leadership of Dr. Burns.

01:36:39 Brenda Thomson: I could not have written a successful grant application or have received the Mellon funds without James Burns. He is a dedicated and thoughtful leader.

01:37:42 Teresita Majewski: I concur with Mark Tebeau and others regarding the professionalism and quality of AHS staff. They deserve the Board's support. James Burns is a visionary leader.

01:38:02 Susan Shaffer Nahmias, Ph.D.: Communication. Interpretation. Education. It is essential that accurate, balanced, diverse, culturally-sensitive history is easily available, comprehensible and accessible to all people. Insure multiple that voices are heard and multiple perspectives are revealed. Multiple languages are useful, too. Whether in a museum, or out in the field. This is a responsibility that we should all assume and press for on behalf of the residents of our state and our visitors from everywhere. Keep showing up and bring your friends and colleagues along with you. Presence is power.

01:38:44 Brenda Thomson: Such eloquent remarks. Thank you, Mark. THANK YOU!

01:39:04 Chris Bradley: I strongly concur with Dr. Tebeau.

01:39:30 Jenna Bassett: Very well said, Dr. Tebeau! I agree!

01:39:33 Ileen Snoddy: I agree Brenda! Thank you James Burns, and kudos to you and your staff for bringing AHS a fresh breath that has been needed for many many, many years!

01:39:50 Arizona Historical Society: Anyone else?

01:40:20 Laura Sagerman: I wanted to make a comment

01:40:53 Tiffany Fairall: For me, they have been invaluable colleagues. AZ Heritage Center employs Mike Goodwin, a talented local artist and preparator/exhibit designer. His exceptional talents extend to curation. He was the first preparator I worked with at MCA Museum at Mesa Arts Center. Unfortunately, he was let go during the reduction in work force of 2008. He is not the only amazing staff person that is employed by the AZ Historical

Society. I have had the pleasure of working with James Burns on community collaborations. The most significant partnership occurred during the planning of the American Alliance of Museums in 2018. This was the first time that convention came to our state, putting our cultural institutions on the national map.

01:42:52 Jared Smith: I greatly appreciate and support the efforts of AHS in its role as the lead champion of Arizona history and resources, and especially under the leadership of Dr. Burns. In tough times, there are no easy solutions. We need to press our elected leaders to better support AHS, both now and when times are past our current global health and economic challenges.

01:43:38 sarah marsom: Museums are being redefined- "democratising, inclusive and polyphonic spaces for critical dialogue about the pasts and the futures" came from the 2019 conference of International Council of Museums

01:43:53 Mark Tebeau: Yeah Sarah. Exactly!

01:43:55 Brenda Thomson: YES!!!

01:44:49 Jared Smith: Well said, Mark - thank you and the previous speakers for your insights, passion, and love of history!

01:48:10 Teresita Majewski: Please ask the speaker to summarize what her point is if it isn't clear by the end of her 5 minutes.

01:50:15 Susan Irwin: Exhibits do not go up overnight. They take time, effort and cost. Assessment of the exhibits cannot truly be done without this information.

01:50:51 Tom Peterson: Yes, Linda! Thank you for sharing this. Well done.

01:50:58 Demion Clinco: Linda, thank you for your comments.

01:51:04 Mark Tebeau: I disagree with Ms. Head. The Arizona Historical Society staff has emerged as a model of professionalism.

01:51:09 Tiffany Fairall: I see an institution that desperately needs funding to better represent our state. THAT is what I would love my tax \$\$ to be supporting. When we visited the museum back in 2012, I had another preparator, who actually worked on the large installation back in the day. He is a Mexican immigrant, and he was telling me how difficult it was to put up that Bob's Big Boy display, because he was not allowed to eat there. It was a painful reminder of the exclusion of our society.

01:51:11 From Email: Closing is the easy way. What do we need to do to keep it open? We are ready to help to avoid this bad thing to happen and we lost our history and roots

Best Regards,
Manuel Ramos

01:51:30 Susan Irwin: Linda - I completely disagree!!! The staff are well educated and have great experience in the field. While they may have different views does NOT mean they are not professional or that they don't care.

01:51:46 Laura Sagerman: Hi, my name is Laura Sagerman, a private citizen, a genXer and a professional planner living in the Ft. Lowell neighborhood. I urge you to put the museum action item on hold to allow all stakeholders to find a better solution to allow the small history museums, including Ft. Lowell, to survive the pandemic and come out stronger on the other side. I grew up in Tucson and attended public schools. The history in the Ft. Lowell museum is vital to understanding the history of Tucson, Arizona and the country as a whole that was never covered in school. It explores the relationship between the Ft. and the population that lived here before including Native Americans.

01:52:54 Laura Sagerman: Please use my chat comment and I don't need to take up time speaking

01:53:28 Teresita Majewski: I don't think that the issue is lack of professionalism of AHS staff. Exhibits cost money that is continually cut from the AHS budget. The Board should we trying to get the money that AHS needs to do things professionally and appropriately.

01:55:58 Douglas Hocking: As an historian I go to a museum to see and get close to artifacts so I can understand their use and how they worked.

01:56:52 Linda Head: Absolutely, Doug! Thank you.

01:57:53 Linda Head: tp Teresita and all,

01:57:58 Vicki Schwager: thank you all for allowing us to share our experience

01:58:23 Marilyn Hammarstrom: Museum exhibits create learning from feeling, touching, seeing and hearing...please don't replace this experience with a medium that we can now all get on line.

01:59:22 Susan Irwin: As a transplant to Arizona I came to love its history. As an AHS member I hope to see AHS not just survive into the next century but to thrive. The board and staff face difficult decisions about how to ensure the viability and sustainability of the organization. This requires thinking beyond our own individual wants and interests. What do we hope AHS looks like in 2112, the 200th anniversary of the state? Does it tell stories of the diverse people of Arizona? Does it tell stories of the 20th and 21st centuries?

01:59:39 Ileen Snoddy: Exhibits are extremely costly! Not every exhibit should look the same--people learn in many different ways!

01:59:52 Linda Head: To Teresita and all, one of the best exhibits we have had in the recent past was done by museum volunteers under the direction of our past Director. It was well researched, and props were created to help tell the story. It was filled with artifacts and documents and met all criteria for exhibitions for AAM. It cost the Museum NOTHING!

01:59:59 Eric Nystrom: No museum can ever display all the objects it cares for. If a researcher needs to learn from an artifact, they can examine individual collection objects that the museum preserves in its collections, like visiting an archive.

02:00:03 Desirae Barquin: As a member of AHS, a former Riordan volunteer and as someone with years of experience in board and membership management - I do not feel supported. The manner in which major decisions are being made, with little to no public input, is completely unacceptable. Especially for a state organization. Sneaking controversial topics on to the agenda and not being fully transparent with stakeholders is not the way to maintain the support of your community.

02:00:54 Ileen Snoddy: The AHS staff has brought professionalism and creativity to the exhibits. Dr. Burns and his staff understand the way that people learn and are reaching to reach many audiences!

02:02:04 Mark Tebeau: Well said Susan. And, exhibits are about telling stories, evoking the past through objects. Simply putting objects on display is not a best practice. Using objects to interpret the past is; less can be more.

02:03:10 Ileen Snoddy: History is being made every day! AHS over the past 2 years is embracing the heritage of our state!

02:03:44 yvonne clay: I advocate for downtown. As a 9th generation Tucson native I definitely see myself at the downtown museum. I do not see myself at the main museum. Have all the executive members been to visit and actually enjoy and learn about Tucson at the downtown museum?? I was born at the Stork's Next in downtown Tucson. I am a descendent of one of the first soldiers at the Presidio. I am involved at the AZ History Museum as a volunteer and board member of the southern board + I am associated with the Sosa Carrillo House as a volunteer and member of Los Descendientes a group of Tucsonans that run the first in Arizona, Mexican American Heritage and History Museum out of a AHS property! We lease the house and pay rent to AHS. Revenue for AHS!!

02:04:13 Marilyn Ruggles: As a docent at Riordan Mansion since Aug. 2007, a founder of the Riordan Action Network, and the 2015 AZ State Parks Volunteer of the Year, I would like to encourage AHS and ASP&T to work together to restructure the MOU to keep Riordan Mansion open. Marilyn Ruggles

02:05:42 yvonne clay: I just send a chat advocating for downtown but forgot my name:

02:05:48 yvonne clay: Yvonne Clay

02:06:47 Wynne Brown: Thank you for this opportunity to watch and listen to AHS and so many who care about both the organization and the history of this remarkable state. As someone who's written about Arizona's pioneer women and who's currently writing the biography of Sara Lemmon, I especially appreciate the words of Brenda and Mark. Thank you! Wynne Brown

02:17:31 Douglas Hocking: As an historian I hate to see modern Confederate coopt monuments to heroes. On the other hand, the flag of the Confederacy belongs is a display of flags that flew over Arizona even though Arizona was only part of the Confederacy for about two months. There is a reason Arizona, where there were no slaves, went for the Confederacy, which offered basic government services long before the Union was willing to.

02:20:11 Tom Peterson: There are thousands of artifacts that were entrusted to the Arizona Historical Society by generations of Arizonans for exhibit and interpretation. Where are they now? Why are the museums new exhibits lacking? They are in storage and out of public view. What does that say about the current leadership? Staff lacks historical knowledge and curatorial skills. They are trying to get rid of historically valuable old artifacts to make storage space for new items. Current interpretive and exhibit orientation needs to be reexamined.

With the INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL volunteer organizations and assistance, the museums should be able to increase their community outreach, involvement, support, membership and funding. In this role the Board of Directors has been largely disappointing and ineffective!

02:21:08 Vincent S Murray: I disagree, Doug. While I think we should acknowledge the blip--as Tiffany referred to it--it completely overshadows the actual story of Arizona's creation.

02:22:55 Douglas Hocking: It is the actual story of Arizona's creation. Our county seat was in Mesilla and we had no courts or representation.

02:26:55 Vincent S Murray: No, Doug, it is a small component if the efforts made to create a territory that did not qualify for territorial status.

02:27:21 Susan Irwin: we can't hear what is being said

02:27:37 Nicole Lovato -- JLBC: What did Joe ask?

02:28:02 Susan Irwin: can speakers use a microphone?

02:28:11 Ileen Snoddy: We cannot hear--please use a microphone!

02:28:18 Vincent S Murray: Please have the questions repeated before answering.

02:28:30 Janice Sgambelluri: Speakers need to use a microphone or have the questions repeated

02:30:51 Janice Sgambelluri: Can't hear speaker

02:31:59 MICHAEL AMUNDSON: Excuse me for not knowing this but the National Endowment for the Humanities has had several grant opportunities to specifically help museums and the like affected by the Covid 19 crisis. Has AHS applied for any of these?

02:34:16 Brenda Thomson: Yes. To my knowledge.

02:34:58 Brenda Thomson: CARES Act funding

02:36:55 Shawn M: I have given a lot of talks to non-profits in this Covid time. a few suggestions I mentioned to them.

02:37:09 Bill Cavaliere: Who just spoke? There was no name.

02:38:27 Douglas Hocking: Bill. Joe Abodeely spoke at some length.

02:38:53 Bill Cavaliere: Thanks!

02:40:12 Rebekah P.: In response to previous questions: Our current budget shortfall is \$125,000 per month.

02:40:49 Rebekah P.: Yes, we have applied for CARES funding from AZ Humanities.

02:40:52 Kim Bittrich: I am muted

02:41:26 Rebekah P.: Kim you are unmuted

02:44:42 Rebekah P.: If you are on the phone and would like to comment please call James Burns cell phone

02:45:59 Kim Bittrich: Revenue projection 35% over previous year for 2021 and 80% for 2022

03:01:37 Kelly Corsette: Thank you to everyone who spoke on item 8.c. - your input and perspectives were very valuable.

03:09:12 Douglas Hocking: I'm raising my hand.

03:11:42 Thomas Rose: i rais my hand. TomRose

03:14:03 sarah marsom: If that was the intention you should have reached out to the sites before publishing the agenda

03:22:39 Frank Flasch: Did I hear correctly that the decision on the 3 museums has been tabled till a November meeting ?

03:23:43 Kelly Corsette: That item was tabled until the October board meeting.

03:24:09 Frank Flasch: Thank you for the update

03:26:50 Teresita Majewski: Did a Board member really ask if the divisions of the AHS have museums/archives, etc?

03:27:27 Douglas Hocking: Eastern chapter doesn't have a museum.

03:31:35 Thomas Foster: Hey there Doug. True Eastern does not.

03:32:07 Douglas Hocking: Hey Tom. I was almost surprised to learn this.

03:32:13 Thomas Foster: I do work with other museums within Eastern and there do support AHS.

03:32:40 Douglas Hocking: And that really is the point. The money is not leaving AHS.

03:34:47 John Lacy: Does the Eastern Chapter actually have any 1107 Funds?

03:35:10 Thomas Foster: At last look ... yes.

03:38:14 Robert Ballard: Thanks everyone!
03:38:33 wm werner: Best wishes to all

Additional public comments were submitted via email during the public comment:

Dear AHS members:

I have copied a note from a member of the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association and what she uses the Fort Lowell Museum for. We think it is important for future generations and my fellow member says it best:

Hi Frank

I would you like to read the following comment in my stead. .

Dear Historical Society Board:

I am unable to attend the meeting today but have asked Mr. Frank Flasch to read my comments.

My name is Terri Contapay and I have lived in the Ft. Lowell historic area for 11 years. What a fortuitous chain of events that allowed me to purchase a home in this community, a rich part of Tucson's history.

Specifically addressing my concerns about the closing the Museum, I think such an action would be sad and the remaining history eroded a little more just as the surrounding adobe brick structures. I used to take my grandson to the museum as a 4-year old when he lived here. I have taken Chinese students here that I have hosted and, this year until the Covid, I was planning to take 4th graders from Whitmore Elementary school, You see I am on the Site council and work with the school, and I see the museum as a real way to connect students to their neighborhood. Everyyear the neighborhood hosts Ft. Lowell Day in February and the museum is part of that specific day every year.

As you consider your actions, please consider the history that will be lost. How can the neighborhood in partnership with the Historical Board keep the museum open?

Sincerely,

Terri Contapay

I planned on attending today and providing it there either in audio or chat, but an issue has arisen here at home. Please see my statement below:

Dear Chair Whitaker and Board Members:

My name is Wendy Trakes, I am an Archaeologist and Public History Masters student at ASU.

I was born in Tucson, but spent many of my formative years on foreign soil. When we returned to Arizona, my only real exposure to the history of our state was limited to family stories and museums, of which we visited many.

Those exhibits told me stories of miners and statesmen, brave explorers and city founders. It wasn't until much later that I learned to notice the silences. The museum exhibits told me about Navajo code talkers, but not about The Long Walk. They told me about the construction of San Xavier del Bac but not the forced conversion of Tohono O'odham people. Controversy was avoided, artifacts displayed with dispassionate labels telling me about the object. It was "Safe" history. As a teenager, my understanding of Arizona history was of heroes and builders, great men who came to Arizona for opportunity and growth.

As a woman, I rarely saw myself in these stories. Women remained in the background in supporting roles. I consumed them as a passive onlooker with no direct connection to them. I didn't identify with them.

Now, as a historian, I have developed an understanding of the silences in those exhibits. Not just of women, but of entire ethnic groups. I also understand how important it is for Arizona communities to gain a deeper understanding of our shared history.

There are 21 federally recognized Native American tribes in Arizona, and roughly half the state's population are Hispanic, Native American, Asian, and Black. Our state's history is as diverse as our population with incredible characters and stories, accomplishments and failures. I believe it's our responsibility and the responsibility of organizations like the Arizona Historical Society to provide exhibits, both physical and digital, that reflect the state's diversity. People are more engaged in public history exhibits when they are represented in it. "Safe" history does us no favors. It creates silence and that silence is tacit complicity to racism.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Trakes

Arizona Historical Society President Whitaker and Board Directors,

Re: August 14 Action: Executive Committee recommendation to dissolve the relationships with the City of Tucson, Wells Fargo, and AZ State Parks and Trails and to direct staff to act in a timely manner to extract AHS from operational aspects in existing MOU's for Downtown History Museum, and Historic Fort Lowell.

I am a recognized Tucson historian and retired teacher who has been involved with Tucson history and historic preservation since 1985. The museums in downtown Tucson and Fort Lowell have provided essential interpretation for the community and especially for students as they learn the history of Tucson and Arizona. The Fort Lowell area mirrors the history of Arizona with its physical features providing the essential element of water to sustain agriculture and human survival. This area became an emergence point for various cultural layers of human experience as have specific areas in the state where water was present. The Fort Lowell Museum is an essential part of that history with its construction during a time that historic remains in the area were finally being preserved and needed interpretation. I have given tours for hundreds of adults and children over the decades and the museum provided visual understanding and interpretation that was not available anywhere else. Given the preservation of the remaining Officers Quarters to the west of Craycroft Road, the mission of interpretation is even greater. The downtown museum also provides essential interpretation for visitors downtown where I have given walking tours for hundreds of adults and students also.

I became aware of the issue of closure for these museums just today and I know that many people in the community would like a public process to address issues of funding and new strategies to maintain the museums to continue the essential interpretation they provide.

I would ask the Board to vote no on the current recommendation.

Ken Scoville

To Whom It May Concern and please consider my plea and move this letter forward!

I am very disappointed hearing the news of funding possibly being dropped for important historical sites. Being a five generation Arizona resident this was very disturbing. Is this a start of losing all of Arizona's historical sites and the beginning of the end of the Arizona Historical Society's presence in the preservation of our history?

I am a member of three institutions here in Flagstaff; the Museum of Northern Arizona, Northern Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society and the National Park Service Flagstaff's area Monuments. Just today I surveyed a 120 year old railroad grade used for the timber industry and I know the importance of saving and protecting these historical sites.

The Riordan Mansion brings this history out to all the visitors that come to Flagstaff and learn about our rich history and the part Flagstaff played on cultivating the west and the westward expansion. Being a published author my latest story was about the Riordan family and the Central Arizona Railroad.

Denis Riordan was one of the first advocates for the Navajo people.

Please consider the importance of all the sites and especially preserving our past.

Richard McGaugh

Docent- Museum Northern Arizona

VIP Ranger- Wupatki-Walnut Canyon

Member- Northern Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society

- c. Los Amigo/Exhibits - Vicki Schwager and Linda Head. Informational presentation. Non action item. Carry over from Board Meeting, June 30. 10 minutes
 - A. Presentation shared with audience.
 - B. Vicki and Linda represent Southern Chapter Board, Los Amigos and Southern Arizona History Boards, re: Condition of exhibits.
 1. Quoted Dr. Burns regarding focus on digital programming. Suggest that has taken away from physical exhibits. Can't lose sight of the museum experience.
5. **Summary of Current Events** – Brief summary of current events by the Board Chair, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K). The Board will not discuss, or act on, any current event summary. – Whitaker.
 - a. Deferred to Executive Director report
6. **Executive Director Summary** – Summary of written report submitted to board with update on goals, initiatives, opportunities, communications – Burns
 - a. Read report/statement.

This month's 20-page report is a lot to digest. The staff spends a great deal of time analyzing data and compiling the narrative to give you a thorough summary of our activities. Please pay particular attention to our mission-driven activities relating to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating Arizona history.

A category for partnerships was added to the report as they are key to audience engagement, making the organization more relevant, improving mission fulfillment, and better reflecting the interests of Arizona's diverse residents.

Like thousands of arts and cultural institutions across the country, AHS has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The extended museum closures have resulted in a devastating loss

of revenue from operations. These losses have compounded our already tenuous financial situation.

AHS has reduced expenditures to the bare minimum – only the bills that need to be paid. In the words of a colleague at one of our peer organizations in the West, “earned income is dead.” Earned income was the lifeblood of AHS. In the booming economy of the past few years, staff continued to implement austerity measures, while increasing earned income to new heights – nearly \$1.5 million per year. Through their efforts we built a reserve of non-allocated dollars, which is what sustains us at present – though that reserve is dwindling at the rate of six figures per month. The lack of earned income forces AHS to pay salaries, repairs and utilities not covered by appropriated dollars from reserves. As just one example, we are at the point of being uncertain how to pay the monthly utility bills for some of our properties. Should we continue at this rate the organization will be in a very precarious position at the end of this fiscal year.

In short, we are immensely grateful for our state allocation, and the financial assistance provided by numerous support groups over the years to help operate our museums. However, the support from partners and nonprofits, individual philanthropy, and the state, in addition to our earned income, still falls well short of covering operating costs. Like many institutions today, we are faced with extremely difficult decisions about our future.

Staff is closely monitoring trends in philanthropic giving. Increasingly, AHS struggles to be competitive for grants or funding from family foundations for two reasons – giving priorities are shifting to health and human services and some are adding criteria, including inclusion and diversity measures. This evolution will affect the planned capital campaign as well as requests for annual giving. To receive funding in the future, AHS will need to evaluate and adapt its professional practices to be eligible for philanthropic giving from many sources.

Membership declined for the first time during the pandemic – a dip of approximately 1%. While a downward trend is not something anyone wants to see, this figure should be placed into the context of what museums across the field are seeing in terms of membership. Most are reporting a membership loss of 30% or more. Our counterpart organization in Texas reported a membership loss of 47% yesterday. In comparison, AHS’ ability to keep its membership relatively constant during the recession is nothing short of remarkable, and credit goes to our outreach coordinator, Shelley.

AHS continues to enhance its digital presence. The Arizona Department of Education recognized AHS’ digital history hub as a valuable resource for teachers seeking Arizona history materials to use in their online teaching. Our digital programming continues to increase in popularity. Recently, a program opportunity arose on short notice, and with only one week of virtual advertising, we had over 130 people sign up; many were new to AHS; a soft ask in the registration resulted in about 10% of registrants making a voluntary contribution. We have also begun to see a trickle of new members who we are able to identify as participants in our virtual programming.

Since the written report was circulated, I attended a virtual gathering of state historical administrators who run our counterpart sites across the nation. That window in what the museum field, particularly organizations just like ours, is particularly illuminating. The highlights include:

Across the nation, state historical organizations are being called up to be responsive to their communities, to engage in rapid response collecting and preserving (COVID-19, social movements), to address their institutional history, and to be at the center of conversations about markers, monuments, memorials, and symbols in public spaces. There is a new appreciation for the role of history and a readiness to have a reckoning with the past. At the same time, budget constraints are hampering the ability of museums to respond at a time when we are most needed.

Private museums, particularly those without endowments are faring far worse than those who are state agencies or quasi-state agencies. As tough as AHS' financial circumstances are, we are better positioned than 75% of our peer organizations.

That being said, even organizations that have some governmental funding are facing a precipice similar to AHS; none know how they will be able to operate at their current level beyond next June. The directors of these organizations are engaging their boards in discussions about substantial downsizing.

Historic houses/structures are particularly hard hit. They tend to have cramped/confined spaces that do not allow for social distancing. Few historic structures have even tried to reopen. Those who have are reporting a trickle of their former attendance as the public is not comfortable being in confined spaces at this time.

Museums are all struggling to develop plans to reopen as safely as possible. All are reporting a drop of more than 90% in earned income. Organizations that rely on very large gatherings of people (facility rentals for example) as an income stream are facing much uncertainty, and are beginning to survey their audiences to determine when/if they would feel comfortable participating in a large group setting. AHS' largest revenue source was facility rentals; that revenue stream will not rebound any time soon – if ever.

At this time, plans to reopen are fluid and uncertain. Data from museums that have reopened reflects public discomfort with being in confined spaces, and precipitous drops in attendance for museums that have reopened. AHS, like many museums, lacks the start-up funds to hire staff to reopen some of its facilities.

- b. Question from Joe Abodeely. You have heard the comments from the public regarding the MOUs. Affirmative response. Is it fair to say we are down to the “nut-crunching” as far as what we can pay and what we can't. Affirmative. We are hemorrhaging about \$125K/mo. Will discuss more later in finance committee.

7. **State Board Health** – Discussion, and action, if any, regarding the status of current board members, status of board appointments, and possible board committee assignments – Whitaker
 - a. **Update and discussion** regarding review of election statistics, election processes, nomination process, recommendations – Corsette
 - A. Under review and will make some recommendations about how it can be improved at the next board meeting.
 - b. **Board Priorities/Goals** – Discussion and action if any, on board priorities for July 2020 – June 2021 – Whitaker
 - A. **Michael Wade** – At what point could we amend or add items to the board priority list? It is becoming more and more important to foster good relationships with support groups. Needs to be in writing.
 1. **Whitaker** – it is being tracked
 2. **Burns** – we can add board priorities (discussion/update/action to amend) to board agendas
 - B. Joe Abodeely – When it comes to exhibits and programs, we can't be all things to all people
 - C. We may have as many as 4 – 6 new board members under review at the Governor's office. They have gone through the fingerprinting process, so they are close in the process.
 - D. Len Marcisz resigned; Bill Garbarino resigned
 - E. Doug Hocking will join Greg Scott on Collections Committee
 - F. Finance committee – Jim Snitzer is chair. They are currently seeking people from around the state with financial experience in non-profits to serve as consultants.
8. **Treasurer's report**, and board discussion, if any. – Jim Snitzer, Bill Ponder, Kim Bittrich
 - a. **Action:** Discussion and approval of June 2020 and July 2020 financial statements
 - A. At end of February, we were \$94K above goal, but ended year with a loss due to COVID. This fiscal year, July results are under budget in every line item except appropriations. Expenditures are over budget by more than \$30K. With current situation, we will not make it past June of next year.
 - B. Moved by Voie Coy
 - C. Seconded by Jim Snitzer
 - D. Unanimously approved.
 - b. **Action:** Discussion and approval of FY 2021-2022 proposed budget
 - A. In spite of strain on finances, State has not lost as much as anticipated due to State rainy day fund which allows the state to continue funding AHS at levels approved. They have asked that we do everything we can to protect jobs. Budget levels similar to last year.
 1. Motion to approve proposed budget Janice Bryson
 2. Seconded by Voie Coy
 3. Unanimously approved
 - c. **Action:** Discussion and approval of Executive Committee recommendation to dissolve the relationships with the City of Tucson, Wells Fargo, and AZ State Parks and Trails and to direct staff to act in a timely manner to extract AHS from operational aspects in

existing MOU's for Riordan Mansion State Park, the Downtown History Museum, and Historic Fort Lowell.

- A. Voie Coy – Motion to table until October and spend more time analyzing data, and vote on each of the three properties separately. Seconded by Tom Foster.
- B. Call for the vote
 - 1. Ballard – yes
 - 2. Brooks – yes
 - 3. Corsette – yes
 - 4. Foster – yes
 - 5. Hocking – yes
 - 6. Lacy – yes
 - 7. Scott – yes
 - 8. Gwynn – yes
 - 9. Abodeely – no
 - 10. Bryson - yes
 - 11. Coy – yes
 - 12. Wade – yes
 - 13. Snitzer – no
 - 14. Whitaker - yes

9. Sunset Review and Performance Audit and American Alliance of Museums Reaccreditation –
Discussion, and action, if any regarding the most recent sunset audit and reaccreditation tracking documents – Whitaker

- a. **Action:** Discussion and approval of Executive Committee recommendation to adopt the staff and volunteer Code of Ethics as presented – Whitaker
 - A. Moved by Doug Hocking
 - B. Seconded by Janice Bryson
 - 1. Ballard – yes
 - 2. Brooks - yes
 - 3. Corsette – yes
 - 4. Foster - yes
 - 5. Hocking – yes
 - 6. Lacy – yes
 - 7. Gwynn - yes
 - 8. Rose – yes
 - 9. Scott – yes
 - 10. Whitaker - yes
 - 11. Coy - yes
 - 12. Wade - yes
 - 13. Bryson - yes
 - 14. Snitzer - yes
- b. **Update:** Update and discussion regarding sunset review tracking meeting with Auditor General's office – Whitaker
 - A. Auditor General's office liked the tracking document. The biggest issues are the collections in Conex boxes in Flagstaff.

- B. 1107 funds discussion. This was an issue in the last sunset review. They focused on the financial aspects of the practice. There are some Chapters that routinely spend them every year to support the organization. Other Chapters sit on the funds and don't spend them, and Auditor doesn't like that.

1. Various board members provided individual perspectives on this subject.

10. **Announcements** and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings.

- a. Janice Bryson – Chiricahua marker – AHS letter of support ready to mail. Doug Hocking indicated they will be seeking other letters of support.

11. Meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm

2020-2021 AHS Board meetings:

August 14, 2020 – Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe (and virtual)

October 23, 2020 – Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe (and virtual)

January 8, 2021 – Location to be determined

February 19, 2021 – Location to be determined

April 16, 2021 – Location to be determined

June 18, 2021 – Location to be determined

August 20, 2021 – Location to be determined

October 15, 2021 – Location to be determined

December 17, 2021 – Location to be determined

2020-2021 AHS Executive Committee meetings:

Monday, August 17, 2020

Monday, September 21, 2020

Monday, October 19, 2020

Monday, November 16, 2020

Monday, December 21, 2020

Monday, January 18, 2021

Monday, February 15, 2021

Monday, March 15, 2021

Monday, April 19, 2021

Monday, May 17, 2021

Monday, June 21, 2021

Adjournment

Arizona Historical Society



Linda Whitaker, Board President

APPENDIX
A

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, written in a cursive style. The text is oriented vertically and appears to read "Handwritten" or a similar phrase.

Why do we need museums or do we?

Anthropologist Sarah Parcak stated, "Museum collections are nothing less than the keys to understanding not only our past but our future as well. They help us to understand how past cultures adapted to changing worlds and have much to teach us as we adjust to shifting climates, new technologies and the possibility of living in space. Their preservation should be a top priority for anyone who cares about our collective humanity."

Smithsonian said, "What draws a person to visit an exhibition as opposed to staying at home and watching a television program about the topic or going online to study a topic? How is an exhibition a unique medium, an experience people cannot get other places? There are three principles of museum exhibitions that are universal to all. The main business of exhibitions is to tell a story with things."

The Arizona Historical Society by law and Bylaws. Pursuant to the statutes of the State of Arizona, the purpose of the Arizona Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of Arizona and the West.

Arizona History Museum two of our popular exhibits

Part of Transportation Exhibit



Part of our Mining Exhibit

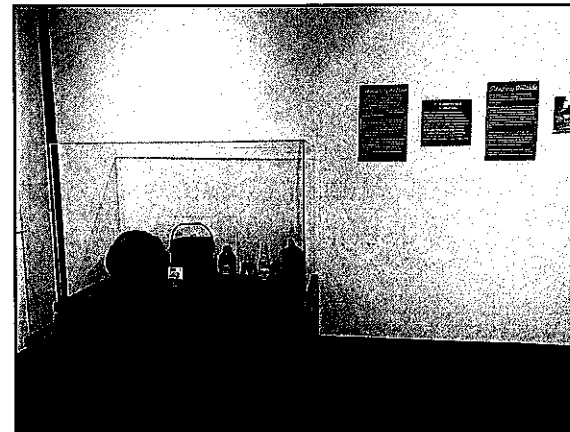
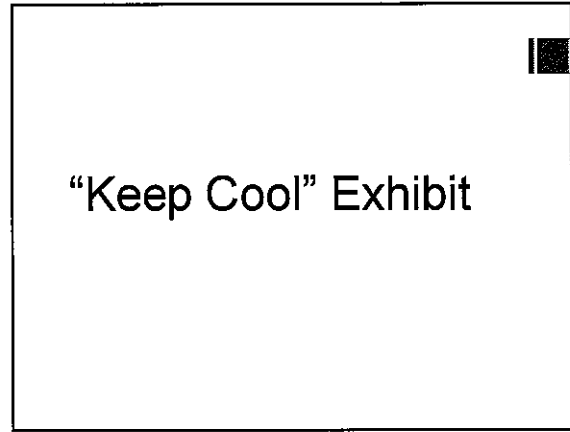
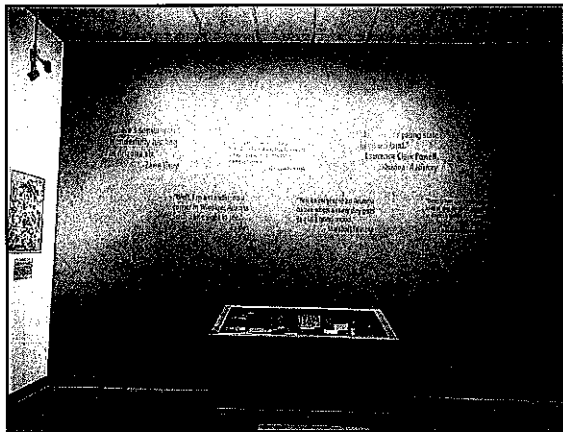
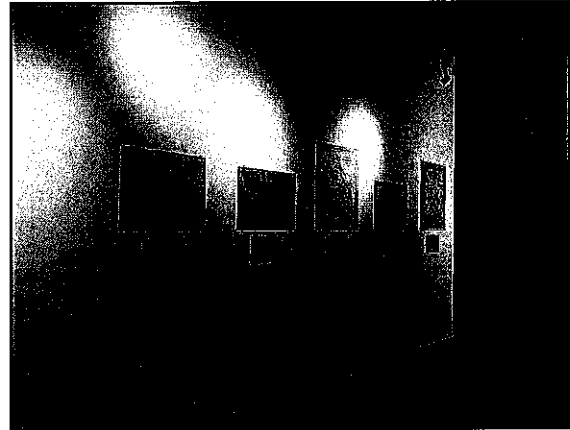
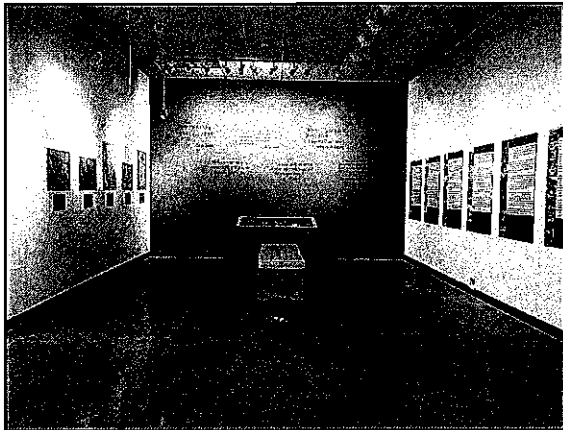


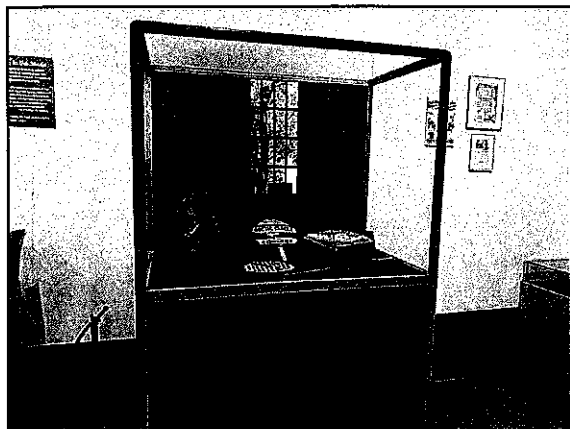
This is one of our volunteer Museum guides preparing a group of students to experience the 1870s in Tucson.



New Arizona History Museum Exhibits

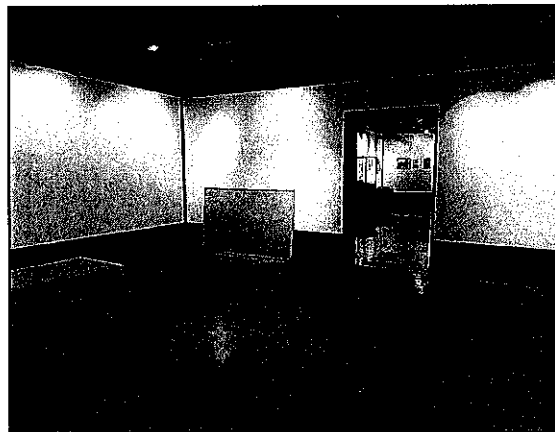
"HISTORY 101" Exhibit






Gallery where "John Slaughter Ranch and Ranch Life" Exhibit was removed

You walk through this gallery to get to the "Keep Cool" Exhibit.



These photographs were taken on June 17, 2020. It was just after the reopening of the Museum. *This is what our members saw when they were encouraged via email to visit the Museum on the Saturday before the official reopening.*

 American Alliance of Museums

Standards for Museum Exhibitions and Indicators of Excellence

Developed by the Professional Network's Council of the American Alliance of Museums
Updated August 2012

Introduction
Exhibitions are the public face of museums. The effective presentation of collections and information in exhibition is an activity unique to museums, and it is through their exhibitions that the vast majority of people know museums.

Museum exhibitions are complex, and even modest ones require the time, energy, and expertise of many people. Museums now realize that effective planning, management of resources, research and interpretation, collections care, marketing, merchandising, design and fabrication, public programs, publications, and fund raising all contribute to the fulfillment of a museum's mission. However, it is vital that—as a profession—not lose sight of the importance of the exhibition in its own right.

From the American Alliance of Museums.....

Indicators of Excellence in Museum Exhibitions

While many exhibitions achieve a competent level of professionalism, each year there are a few exhibitions that achieve excellence by surpassing standards of practice in scholarship, interpretation, content, integration of audience considerations, and/or design or by introducing innovations that stretch the boundaries of accepted practice. Such exhibitions are highly distinguished and serve as models of the capacity of museum exhibitions to provide transforming experiences visitors so often attribute to them.

Some specific indicators of exhibition excellence are:

- An aspect of the exhibition design is innovative.
- The exhibition offers a new perspective or new insight on a topic.
- The exhibition presents new information.
- The exhibition synthesizes and presents existing knowledge and/or reflection materials in a surprising or provocative way.
- The exhibition includes audience voices in a new or innovative way reflected through exhibition design or content.
- The exhibition includes innovative uses of media, materials, and other design elements.
- The exhibition is particularly beautiful, conceptually capable of engendering a personal, emotional response, and/or profoundly memorable in a constructive way.
- The exhibition evokes responses from visitors that are evidence of a transforming experience. Such experiences are often characterized in those ways:
 - It was haunting.
 - The exhibit was an absolute eye opener.
 - It's never gone 100% in the same way again.
 - I was filled with emotion.
 - It knocked my socks off.
 - It sent shivers down my spine.
 - I found joy!

What is an exhibition?

At its most basic, a history-focused exhibition is a story that tells a story. It is a communication medium. The key to developing a successful exhibition is understanding how the exhibition medium differs from other communication media. An exhibition is not like a book, on the wall or a series of slides.

What draws a person to visit an exhibition as opposed to staying at home and watching a television program about the topic or going online to study a topic? There is an exhibition unlike museum, an experience people cannot get elsewhere. There are three principles of museum exhibition that are universal in all:

- The main business of exhibitions is to tell a story with things. Whether artifacts, images, or signed documents, there is an intrinsic power in seeing the real thing. There is also great appeal in seeing something rare, an artifact or photograph that you cannot see anywhere else. The addition of things you display is very important. The objects and images help tell the story.
- Exhibitions are a medium for communication. They communicate not only through words on labels, but through the combination of multiple elements presented in the exhibition. The key to successful communication is ensuring that the message is received and understood.
- Exhibitions are experiences, not products. Visit audiences do not feel in an exhibition is important is what they learn.


Characteristics of effective exhibitions include:

From the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street; an exhibition planning guide

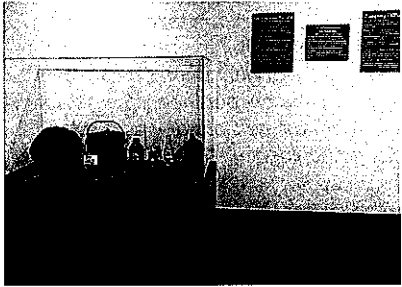
- They are strongly dimensional, meaning they usually include objects, props, and other three dimensional components and exist within a physical environment.
- They are designed to communicate to a general audience and should have components that speak to different learning styles and preferences, and make them accessible for many people.
- They are able to engage different senses and should take advantage of this opportunity.
- They present a clear message.
- They do not require extensive prior knowledge of a topic and are designed so individual components can stand alone.
- They are designed to accommodate multiple users at a time and encourage social interaction.

Now, let's look at these new Arizona History Museum exhibits using the criteria from the American Alliance of Museums and the Smithsonian guidelines.


Smithsonian:
"The main business of exhibitions is to tell a story with things."



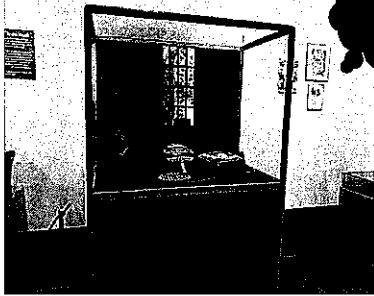
AAM- Standards for Exhibitions and Indicators of Excellence:
"An aspect of the exhibition design is innovative."



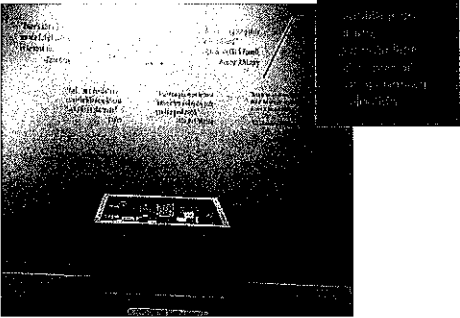
AAM— Standards for Exhibitions and Indicators of Excellence:
 "The exhibition synthesizes and presents existing knowledge and/or collection materials in a surprising or provocative way."



AAM— Standards for Exhibitions and Indicators of Excellence:
 "The exhibition includes innovative uses of media, materials, and other design elements."



AAM— Standards for Exhibitions and Indicators of Excellence:
 "The exhibition offers a new perspective or new insight on a topic. The exhibition presents new information."



If you were touring these exhibits, how would you evaluate them based of American Alliance of Museums "Criteria for Excellence?"

Using AAM Standards and a scale of 1-5: 5 being "Excellent" and 1 being "falls well below the standard" please score these exhibits.

1. An aspect of the exhibition design is innovative.
2. The exhibition synthesizes and presents existing knowledge and/or collection materials in a surprising or provocative way.
3. The exhibition includes innovative uses of media, materials, and other design elements.
4. The exhibition offers a new perspective or new insight on a topic. The exhibition presents new information.

