

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Quarterly Report March 21, 2008

Prepared by: Jody Ochoa

Accomplished

ISHS Goal/Training (SBOE Goal/Quality, Efficiency):

- Teresa McRoberts resigned to take advantage of a great opportunity in a new position. Anne Schorzman has been hired to take her place and brings wonderful experience and her great energy to the position.
- Kurt attended the WMA conference planning meeting in San Francisco from Jan 30 – February 1.
- Joe took an online course, “Introduction to Museum Security: Protecting Museums, Staff and Visitors.”
- Emily participated in two American Association of Museums Webinars for the Digital Museum (part of a four seminar series).
- Museum staff for Education and Collections have recruited and trained several new museum volunteers. Several staff members supervise and coordinate the work of volunteers.
- Staff participated in p-card training in January.

ISHS Goal/Funding and Organizational Development (SBOE Goal/Relevancy):

- Jody & Anne Schorzman continue working on the FUNDSY effort. Volunteers for the event met at the Museum for the Gala kick-off and silent auction acquisitions process.
- Jody, Emily and Anne continue to work on the committee for ISHS funding and development.
- Of the two grants sent in by the Museum for review to support in-house production of Masons in Idaho summer exhibit, we received one from the Idaho Humanities for \$5,000. Staff will be working on other grant opportunities to help fund the exhibit, as well as working with the Grand Masonic Lodge to fund raise for the exhibit.
- Emily met with DIP and IDIG staff and consultants to work towards sustainable digital programming within the ISHS and statewide.

ISHS Goal/Communication (SBOE Goal/Efficiency):

- Members of the Museum staff are directly involved in several committees and regularly attend meetings concerning society-wide issues including: weekly Mason exhibit meetings, bi-monthly Collections meetings, monthly Digital Initiatives Program meetings; Strategic Planning; and various project meetings that are both museum and society driven.
- Jody is a member of the History Sub-committee under the newly established Boise City Department of Arts & History.
- The Museum continues to be an active participant in the work of the Western Museum Association, the Idaho Association of Museums, the Boise Museum Association and the Cultural Network in Boise.

Goal/Customer Service: (SBOE Goal/Quality, Access, Relevancy, Efficiency):

Administration

- Alice Parman came to the Museum in January to facilitate a day-long meeting with staff, volunteers and trustees on the development of an interpretive plan for the major exhibit in the new expansion. She returned home and has since written a draft. Staff has been given a copy to review before she returns in April.
- Jody, Anne and Fred continue to work with Jan and LKV Architects and DPW towards a successful approval process for the museum expansion
- Fred worked with Rachelle, the Center for Nonprofit management and others to develop customer service surveys to be administered to the Museum, Sites and PARL users.
- Emily presented an Intro to History class at BSU about working with the collection and artifacts in a museum and how it relates to comprehending and telling history's story.
- Jody, Fred and Anne Schorzman continue to attend the group planning team meetings for the museum expansion.
- Jody, Kurt Gen and Leslie completed a business plan for the Museum Shop. Melonie and Jan are reviewing it. The goal for opening the shop is mid-April after review of the plan by our Board, and various agencies with fiscal oversight over the ISHS.
- Staff continues to work with Kent Krohn on the design of the Museum expansion.

Collections

- In January, Joe took artifacts to BSU photo lab for pictures to be used in future Idaho Yesterdays publication.
- Jason continues to work shrinking the back log of unprocessed artifacts and processing new acquisition records.
- There were 6 donations and 149 loans processed (annual renewals time) during the last quarter. There were approximately 250 hours contributed by the collections volunteers during this period.

Education

- During this quarter, 34 school groups visited the Museum (14 self guided) with 1,045 students. Kurt also traveled to 14 schools, reaching an additional 771 students.
- In March, six regional History Contests were held in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Meridian, Boise, Rupert and Idaho Falls. Compilation of numbers is pending. Kurt facilitated all of these contests and several staff members worked as judges.
- Karen and our BSU intern spent January and February recruiting judges for three competitions: Treasure Valley "A" Regional held March 8 at Lowell Scott Middle School, Treasure Valley "B" Regional held March 1 at Riverstone International School, and the Idaho State History Day contest which will be held on Friday, April 11 at the College of Idaho.
- Karen has been working on registration for the Idaho State History Day. First and second place winners in grades 4-12 from the six regional contests will be eligible for the state competition.
- Registration for the April 11 competitions will be through an online system provided by the National History Day program. Winners in grades 6-12 at the state level qualify to participate in the National History Day contest June 14-19 hosted by the University of Maryland.
- On February 24, hosted hands-on activities such as calf roping and butter making for Special Olympics event.

Exhibits

- Fred and Jason installed Forever Free, a traveling exhibit on Abraham Lincoln and slavery.

- Fred and John installed a case exhibiting art slated for auction at the FUNDSY event in our lobby.
- Emily coordinated with museum staff, PARL, Officers of the Grand Lodge of Idaho and the Potentate of the El Korah Shrine to produce a “teaser” to advertise the upcoming Masonic exhibit. John designed the case and lighting components and Fred designed the label and information. The exhibit has been installed in the in our upper gallery.
- Museum staff continues to work with and visit local Masonic temples to research information for the upcoming Idaho Masons exhibit called: “Brotherhood: Freemasonry’s Mark on Idaho.” Fred has designed the floor plan and developed construction plans for the exhibit and John is overseeing the construction. Staff continues to research and write copy. Joe is scheduling trips throughout Idaho to pick-up artifacts for the exhibit.
- Joe continues to work with the Governor’s office to hang the remaining Idaho Governor’s portraits in the Borah Post Office.
- Fred Fritchman and Keith Petersen produced and installed four interpretive labels at Capitol Annex (Old Ada County Courthouse)
- Staff continues to work with The Land Group to finalize plans for Lewis and Clark Discovery Trail in Pioneer Village. Fred is coordinating this effort.
- Traveling Nez Perce trunks traveled to Ola, Wendell, Hailey and Sun Valley, and the Lewis and Clark trunk was picked up. These went out a total of twenty-five times.
- Fred coordinated repair of the Sacajawea statue and base located in front of the Museum.

Public Programming/Museum Events

- Nine catered events were held at the Museum during this quarter.
- The Museum was open for First Thursdays during January, February and March.
- Brown Bags continue with successful monthly turnouts.
- In February we hosted an education event for the visiting Special Olympics athletes and their families. 150 visitors from 12 countries attended.
- Friends of the Museum hosted a Legislative Reception on January 23. Fred designed the invitation.
- Two events for Fundsy were held at the Museum: a kick-off breakfast for volunteers and a thank-you reception for the same members. \$100,000 of donated goods was acquired for the Fundsy silent auction.
- The grand-opening of the Lincoln Exhibit was held in February.
- The

Visitation

- The Museum’s visitation is up for the quarter over last year. (Please see the enclosed chart for a breakdown on the numbers.)

Plans for Next Quarter [bullet point activities under each goal]

ISHS Goal/Training (SBOE Goal/Quality, Efficiency):

- Emily Peeso will attend the Museums and the Web conference in Montreal, Canada in April.
- Emily plans to participate in second two (of a four seminar series) American Association of Museums Webinar for the Digital Museum.
- Joe Toluse will be the representative of the Museum on ISHS COOP activities.

- Kurt is one of the co-chairs for the Program Committee for the September WMA Annual Meeting in Anchorage and continues to facilitate conference activities.

ISHS Goal/Funding and Organizational Development (SBOE Goal/Relevancy):

- Jody and Anne Schorzman will continue to work with the Friends on the upcoming FUNDSY event. The Lewis & Clark Discovery Trail is slated to receive 20% of the net income of the event.
- Jody, Kurt, Emily and Anne will be working on securing additional funding to support in-house production of Masons in Idaho summer exhibit.
- Museum staff will be working with The Boise Museum Association and the Cultural Network about helping with a bigger Special Olympics event in 2009 when all of the athletes are in town.

ISHS Goal/Communication (SBOE Goal/Efficiency)

- Museum staff will continue regular meetings as mentioned above.
- Emily Peeso will create workflow manuals for museum digitization efforts and photographic guidelines.

Goal/Customer Service (SBOE Goal/Quality, Access, Relevancy, Efficiency)

Administration

- The Gift Shop remodeling is almost complete. Carpeting is needed to finalize this.
- Jody, Fred and Anne Schorzman will continue to work with Jan on the Museum Expansion Team. Museum staff will continue meetings with Kent Krohn on the design of the building.
- Alice Parman has completed work on the draft for our Interpretive Plan and will be meeting with us in April to work through it to produce a final plan.

Collections

- Collections staff is working on digitizing selected museum artifacts to start building records in CONTENTdm database for pilot project development.
- Joe will be traveling the state in the next month to pick-up Masons artifacts for the exhibit.

Education

- Karen Grindle and Kurt Zwolfer are preparing for the State History Day competition to be held at the College of Idaho in Caldwell. It is scheduled for April 11. Many of the Museum staff members have volunteered to judge the State History Day competition.
- Kurt and his volunteers will be scheduling and teaching the many school groups coming this Spring.

Exhibits

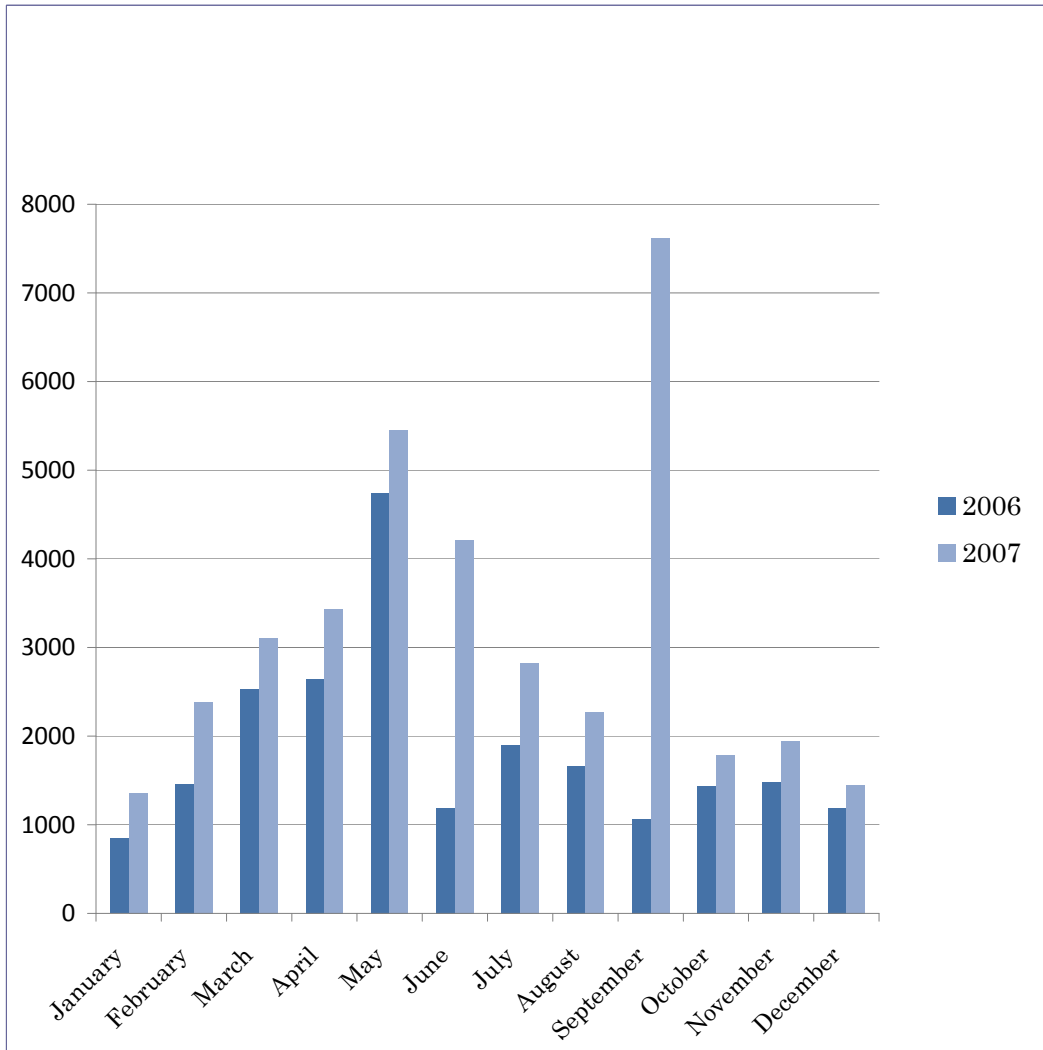
- Museum staff is constructing the Freemasonry exhibit in April and May for the grand-opening May 24. A special reception by invitation only is scheduled for May 23rd in the evening.
- We are still working on the plan to finalize the design for Pioneer Village. Ground-breaking is set for June or July with a tiered approach to completing the work. Work will continue through October.

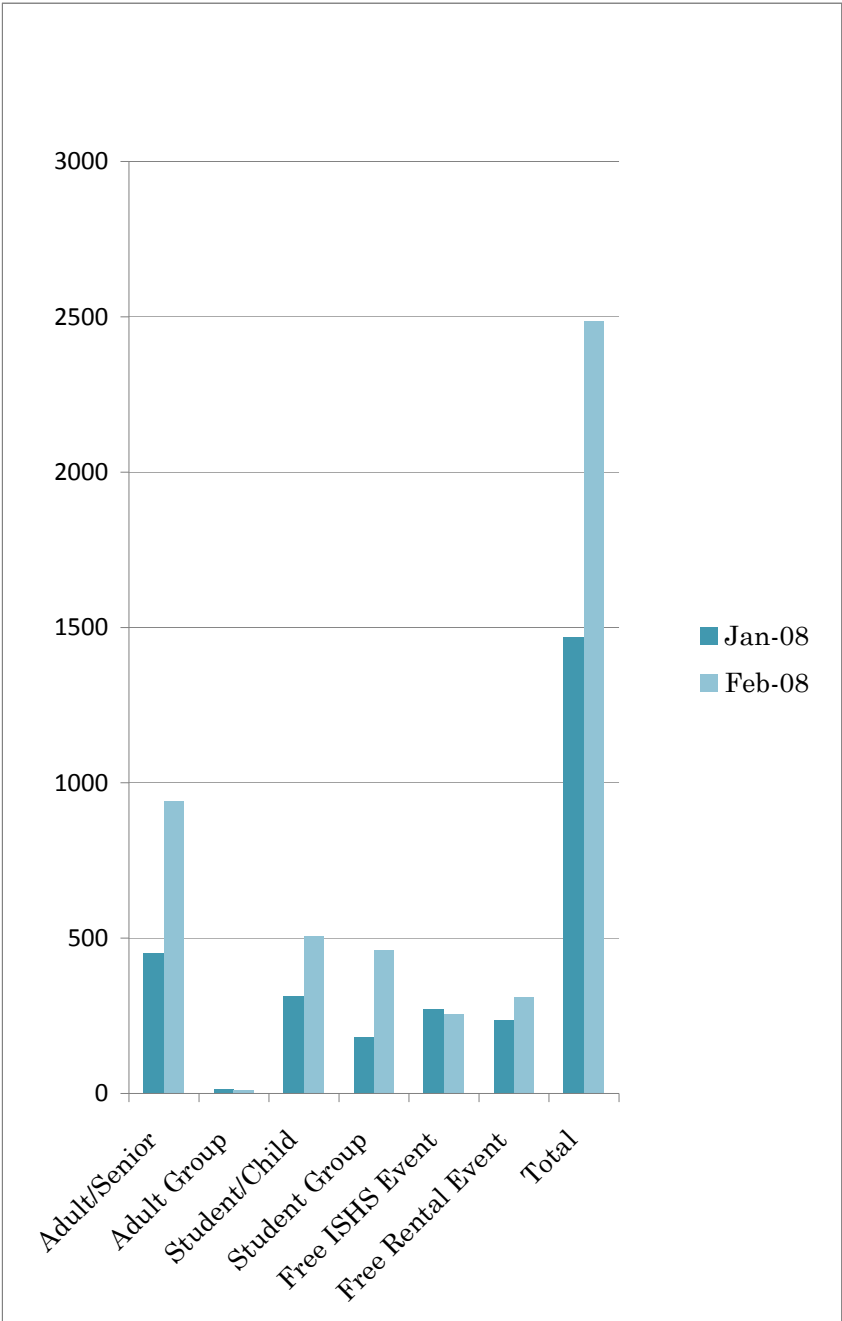
Public Programming/Museum Events

- Brown Bag lecture for April- “Canoeing the Snake in 1925, Jackson Hole to the Ocean” by Cort Conley.
- Brown Bag lecture for May- “Mining in Idaho: Today and Yesterday” by Tom Blanchard.
- Due to the construction of the Freemasonry Exhibit in Idaho, the last two Brown Bags of the season will be held at the Boise Public Library’s Hayes Auditorium.

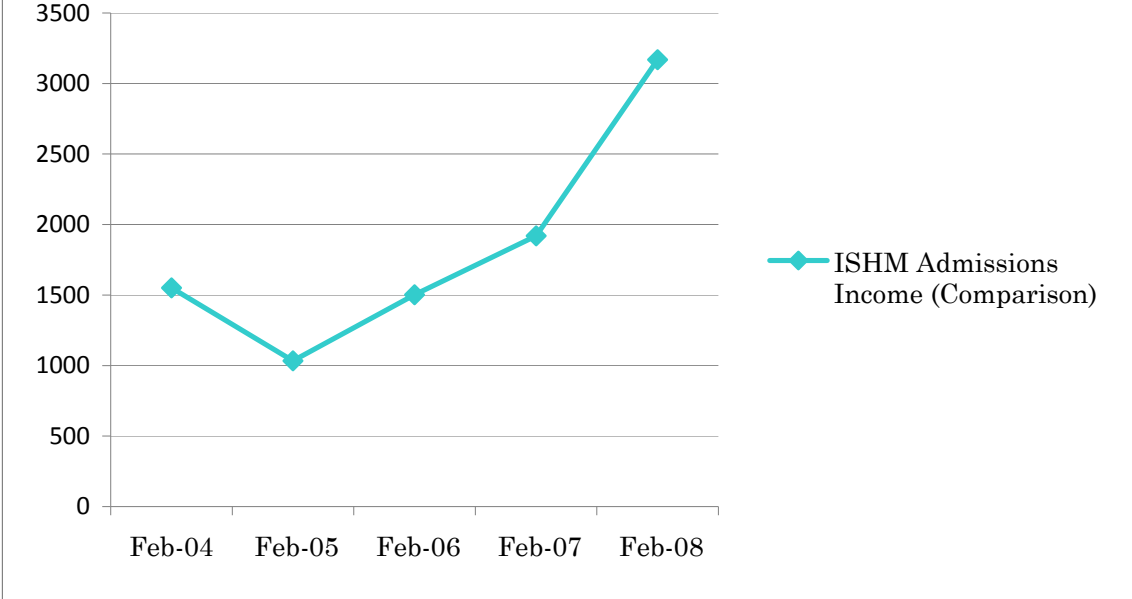
Visitation

- Staff will work actively on increasing our visitation in the next quarter.





ISHM Admissions Income (Comparison)



* The vertical axis represents income in whole dollar amounts