2013 Financial Report

2013 Income

Grants: $33,000.00
Donations & Fundraising: $22,262.51
Memberships: $15,825.00
Gift Shop: $8,760.39
Admission & Research Fees: $3,565.15
TOTAL: $83,413.05

2013 Expenses

Staff: $23,792.50
Utilities: $12,699.70
Programs, Exhibits, & Collections: $10,795.56
Insurance: $2,554.00
Building & Maintenance: $2,539.07
TOTAL: $64,930.79

BCHS Made History in 2013

Bemidji The Middle Years: 1941-1961 premiered at the Chief Theater in Bemidji, January 2013.

Former director Nicole Foss entertained and educated students with the Time Travel Minnesota Style lecture series at the Bemidji Public Library, January & February 2013.

Cecelia Watattles McKeig showcased her latest book, Bemidji (Images of America) featuring photographs from BCHS, June 2013.

BCHS held its Annual Meeting, reporting the hire of Dan Karalus as the new director and electing officers for 2013-14, June 2013.

The Trails Through Time exhibit opened, July 2013.

Fairgoers made ice cream, explored the Sunnyside School and Doud Cabin, and admired the new Doud Cabin sign with BCHS at the Beltrami County Fair, July & August 2013.

BCHS guests enjoyed railroad stories and marveled at the History Center on Depot Day, August 2013.

Diane Mostad fascinated dozens with the history of the Big Bog at the BCHS Semi-Annual Meeting at Saum School, October 2013.

More History in Historical Society’s Future

BCHS organized a history lecture series hosted by the Bemidji Public Library in January & February 2014. Local author Dan Rice talked about his book, This Sale of a Wilderness, in April. And the History on the Move bus tour introduced participants to parts of Beltrami County in May.

Over the rest of 2014, look for BCHS to:
- Host the Minnesota Disasters traveling exhibit in June, made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008, and administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Launch the Revisiting Beltrami County repeat photography exhibit, made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant awarded in March 2014 from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
- Continue to digitize negatives and photographs for preservation and public access with funding in part from a grant provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund in January 2014.
- Host annual events, like Depot Day and the Night We Light Bonfire, and bring other book-signings, activities, and programs to visitors and members.

Generous Grants Received in 2013

George W. Neilon Foundation Grant
BCHS received $30,000 from the George W. Neilon Foundation in January 2013 to develop the Trails Through Time exhibit, detailing the history of Beltrami County. The generous grant allowed BCHS to hire Bemidji State University Visual Arts Professor Steve Sundahl to design and construct the exhibit, increasing BCHS display assets. It also enabled BCHS to fund staff for research and story development. Trails Through Time opened in July 2013 and remains on display, featuring touchscreen displays and historical artifacts and photographs from the BCHS archives, partner organizations, and community members. BCHS plans to update the exhibit with more hands-on components and new content in 2014 and 2015.

Beltrami County Development Grant
Beltrami County awarded BCHS $3,000 in February 2013 to improve research resources and access. BCHS used the funds to purchase two computers and a copy machine, as well as upgrade its collections software. With the improvements, staff can better manage BCHS collections and researchers have guest access to the BCHS records database and the option to scan documents to reduce costs and paper.