

2024



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Dacotah Prairie Museum

21 S. Main St.

Aberdeen, SD 57401

605.626.7117

www.dacotahpraiemuseum.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	3
Boards/Staff	4
History/Vision & Mission.....	5
Special Events	6
Camps.....	7
MUSEUM BY DEPARTMENTS	
<i>Education</i>	8-9
<i>Collections</i>	10-11
<i>Exhibits</i>	12-16
Attendance/Scholarships.....	17
Volunteers	18
Financial Summary	19

*“Shoring Up” Oil on Canvas by
Doris Symens-Armstrong
purchased by the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation
for the museum permanent art collection, 2024*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Museum,

The Dacotah Prairie Museum (DPM) had an eventful year in 2024, and we would like to share some highlights with you. We held the second "Pickle on the Prairie" pickleball fundraising tournament, where approximately 45 local players gathered at the Odde Ice Arena for a morning filled with friendly competition. We extend our gratitude to the Aberdeen Hockey Association for their generosity in allowing us to use the Odde Ice Arena and Charlie Mehlhalf for the wonderful lunches from Subway of Aberdeen.

New carpet was installed throughout the first and second floors of the museum, replacing seven different carpets, some of which were nearly 30 years old. This upgrade was made possible through our foundation's Karl Lee Betterment of the Museum annual endowment. Our firearm collection underwent a thorough inspection by the Aberdeen Police Department. All items were checked for safety and "inability to fire" according to museum collection standards. Additionally, the state Department of Criminal Investigation and the Aberdeen Police Department inspected a WWII Japanese hand grenade from our collection, which was confirmed to be inert and safe.

The beloved mascot of the Aberdeen Pheasants from 1947 to 1971, Philbert, was honored with a book titled "Philbert and the Aberdeen Pheasants." This book was published by the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation and authored by local writer and researcher Patrick Gallagher. Our "Talking History with..." series featured South Dakota authors who focused on local, regional, and state history. This program was well-received by attendees. Notable speakers were Brad Tennant and Troy McQuillen.

The traveling exhibit "Spies & Space: Toys of the Cold War Era" from SuperMonsterCity in Minneapolis was a summer highlight, attracting both adults and fans of science fiction and espionage. Following this exhibit, we hosted an additional traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian titled "Spark: Places of Innovation," in collaboration with the South Dakota Humanities Council. This panel exhibit shared stories of rural communities as they confronted challenges and innovated solutions.

We are grateful for the assistance of sculptor and former Aberdeen resident Ben Victor, who helped the DPMF authenticate and gather additional information about the bronze sculpture "Taking Flight." This beautiful piece depicts a pheasant taking flight from the prairie and is a wonderful addition to our 3D artwork collection. We hope to acquire more works from Ben Victor in the future, as he is a significant artist of our time.

The Education Department welcomed Jessica Puente Castro as our newest education curator. With her engineering background and experience working with students, Jessica is a great fit for our robust education programming, which reaches all schools in Brown County and brings over 2,000 students to our museum annually.

This year, we celebrated 55 years as an institution in Brown County and Aberdeen. This milestone coincides with our future plans to advance into the next half-century. The year concluded with discussions about a new multi-use museum building addition, which will expand our existing Dacotah Prairie Museum collection, exhibits, programming, meeting and event spaces, as well as a gift shop and eatery.

Thank you to all our museum patrons, donors, and community supporters for helping us create an inviting cultural haven that encourages both local residents and visiting guests to learn more about Brown County and the world around us.

Patricia Kendall, MSA
Director
Dacotah Prairie Museum



Chicken, part of the new children's exhibit mural.

By Lora Schaunaman

BOARDS & STAFF

Foundation Board

“The Board of Directors shall have general power to control and manage the affairs and property of the corporation, and shall have full power, by majority vote, to adopt rules and regulations governing the actions of the Board of Directors and shall have full authority with respect to the distribution and payment of monies received by the corporation. The ownership of the collection of the Dacotah Prairie Museum shall vest in the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation, Incorporated.” – Bylaws of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation, Inc.

- ***Matthew Scott, Past President***
- ***Aaron Darling, President***
- ***Justin Scott, Vice President***
- ***Scott Woizeschke, Secretary***
- ***Courtney Rott, Treasurer***
- ***Gretchen Sharp, Member at Large***
- ***Mitchell Mikkonen, Member at Large***
- ***Sheila Enderson, Member at Large***

Museum Board (Board of Trustees)

“The purpose of the Board of Trustees shall be to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Brown County and South Dakota through operation of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, hereinafter referred to as the “Museum”. Additionally, the Board of Trustees shall determine and direct the policies of the museum involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting objects of cultural and historical importance.” – Bylaws of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Board of Trustees

- ***Rose Kraft, Past President***
 - ***Ginny Lewis, President***
 - ***Alan Neville, Vice President***
 - ***Jenny Dix, Secretary***
 - ***Elisa Sand, Member at Large***
 - ***Sadie Frey, Member at Large***
- Ex-officio members:*
- ***Duane Sutton, County Commission Liaison***
 - ***Layton Holmstrom, Aberdeen Area CVB***

STAFF: Total overall service years = 108.19

- ***Patricia Kendall, Director (2014-present)***
- ***Sherri Rawstern, Education Curator (1990-present)***
- ***Marianne Marttila-Klipfel, Exhibits Curator (2010-present)***
- ***Brandon Duxbury, Collections Curator (2022-present)***
- ***Jessica Puente Castro, Education Curator (2024-present)***
- ***Jay Hopkins-Entzel, Exhibits Curatorial Assistant (2021-present)***
- ***Levi Margolies, Collections Curatorial Assistant (2021-present)***
- ***Sally Swanson, Custodian (2023-present)***
- ***Kristin Boeshans, Education Curator (2021-2024)***

The Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen originated in 1938 as the Northern South Dakota History Museum, established by John Murphy and Marc Cleworth at Northern State Teachers College. It closed in 1941 due to WWII training needs, with artifacts placed in storage until 1970 when they were incorporated into the new Dacotah Prairie Museum.

In 1963, community leaders, including the AAUW, reinitiated plans for a museum, leading to the museum's opening at the Anderson Recreation Center in 1969. In March 1970, Fred Hatterscheidt donated a building at 21 S. Main, which officially opened on October 25, 1970.

Over the years, the museum expanded from occupying part of the first floor to the entire building by 1980. The 1980s and 1990s were marked by the adoption of a mission statement, increased staffing, and the establishment of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation in 1985 to support funding efforts.

In the 2000s, the museum focused on renovations and gallery expansion projects, such as the Hatterscheidt Wildlife Gallery. Notable updates included the renovation of the Squire Gallery in 2013 and the Toy and Fan exhibits gallery in 2016. By the end of 2019, improvements included new LED lighting and updated restrooms.

From 2020 onward, significant renovations included the Lamont Gallery expansion in 2021-22 and updates to the gift shop and entry ramp in 2022. In 2023, the children's exhibit was completely re-modeled, becoming the new Decker-Schooley Gallery opening in 2024 as "Country School Days."

VISION & MISSION

Our Mission:

The Dacotah Prairie Museum's mission is to facilitate conversation of the prairie and its people, cultivate insight, and curate its collections as a catalyst for inter-generational exchanges to inspire children, connect families, and build community through education, programming, exhibits, and its collections.

Our Purpose:

To preserve and share the stories of the Dakota prairie and its inhabitants.

Our Vision

The Dacotah Prairie Museum, a non-profit, permanent learning center in service to all people, is committed to the continued growth of its collection of material evidence representing the ongoing history of its region. This collection will be used by present and future generations to study and interpret the lives and accomplishments of previous generations inhabiting the Dakota Prairie. Through these endeavors, the Museum will continue to advance itself as a cultural, educational, and economic asset to South Dakota.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Talking History with... Book Talks in February

Saturdays in February

2-3: Brad Tennant | 2-10: Christopher Vondracek | 2-17: Marie Cleveland | 2-24: Troy McQuillen

The DPM invited local and regional authors to discuss about their writing, research and their love of South Dakota history. Most popular was Brad Tennant, a former history teach at Roncalli and former professor of history at Presentation College and Troy McQuillen, local publisher and history enthusiast. Also presenting were: Marie Cleveland, a popular local elementary school teacher and Christopher Vondracek, a modern day prairie poet.

Pickleball Fundraiser Tournament

June 8

“Pickle on the Prairie” DPM’s second and final pickleball fundraiser tournament was held at the Odde Ice Arena at the Brown County Fairgrounds. Over 50 players participated in doubles or singles. Lunch was sponsored by Subway of Aberdeen, and many other local businesses provided support and sponsored courts.

Philbert Book Signing

July 20

The DPMF hosted Patrick Gallagher, author, for a fun discussion about the beloved mascot of the Aberdeen Pheasants baseball team, Philbert the Pheasant. Patrick was contracted by the DPMF to research and write about the back story of 44 Philbert cartoons (from the museum’s collection) drawn by Gordon Haug during the 1947-1972 reign of the Northern League prairie team.

Harvest Stroll

September 21

The annual fall festival that includes pumpkin decorating, turkey shoot games, log splitting and pumpkin hammering. Live musical entertainment was provided by fiddlers Dan Sheldon and Judith Oliver and friends, and Rosie Daze, a folk string group from Minneapolis featuring Aberdeen native Johnna Lawrence. New this year was use of the courthouse green space for lawn games and large bubble-making, along with more living history displays.

Holiday Open House

December 14

The annual holiday open house was well-attended again in 2024. Visitors walked through the decorated exhibits, enjoyed a hot beverage and treats and listened to holiday music provided by our local fiddler friends, Aberdeen Central orchestra students, Northern State University brass ensemble, and Merry Tuba Christmas. Jolly ol’ St. Nick listened to children’s wishes and Miss Merrie Christmas read stories as visitors went to the make ‘n take ornaments stations. This year’s Christmas Tree Lane’s was “Prairie Home for the Holidays.” Due to the visiting Smithsonian panel exhibit in the Lamont Gallery, Merry Tuba Christmas performed on the sidewalk on First Avenue with the double doors open for the sound of the season to come inside.



DPM Camps!

Each year the Museum hosts hundreds of elementary and middle school aged children at a variety of camps. What a wonderful way to reach our youngest, and most enthusiastic, patrons.

HISTORY CAMP

Imagine a time from a bygone era and become a pioneer! Games, crafts, old-time chores, campfire popped popcorn, a one-room school-house experience and more. Campers bring a sack lunch. Ever popular, History Camp was well-attended. Over 90 campers attended one of the two sessions (6 days) at Centennial Village located at the Brown County Fairgrounds. Campers that have attended in the past are encouraged to attend Senior History Camp for a varied experience.

ART CAMP

Inspiration awaits! Campers gathered at Centennial Village to be an artist for the day. There were new themes daily, with two weekly sessions available for many options. Campers register for one or more days. Art Camp saw over 120 campers during two sessions (8 days) with many repeat campers coming for several days in a row.

SPY CAMP

In conjunction with the summer traveling exhibit, "Spies & Space: Toys of the Cold War" from SuperMonsterCity (Minneapolis, MN), campers were excited to explore espionage and spy craft. Two full days of campers, exercises, and scavengers hunt kept campers busy.

Each session of Spy Camp had a theme:



July 24 Mission Possible!
MISSION: Spy Training Exercises & Reconnaissance (Exhibit Scavenger Hunt)

July 31 Secret Agents!
Secret Agent Training Week:
Codes, Tools, Disguises, Mystery
Tour Training Exercise



DPM SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Art Camp History Camp Spy Camp

ART CAMP at Centennial Village

Inspiration awaits! Take a trip to Centennial Village to be an artist for the day. There are new themes daily. Campers may register for more than one day in each session. Be sure to wear weather-appropriate clothing, the days may be hot or rainy. Wear clothing that is best suited to working with glue, paint, etc.

Instructor: Lora Schaumann, Professional Artist
"Draw, paint and/or sketch new art projects each day of Art Camp!"

Camp held 9AM-12PM each day.

- Session I: June 10, 11, 12, 13
- Session II: June 17, 18, 20, 21

Campers must be at least 8 years old by July 1st. Bottled water and a healthy snack will be provided.

***For Ages 8-14**

HISTORY CAMP at Centennial Village

How did the Pioneers live? Experience pioneer life with old-time chores, cooking over a campfire, old-fashioned games & more! Campers may register for one day per session/week, if desired.

Instructors: Sherri Raestrom & Kinist Bossham, Curators of Education
If the weather prevents, we'll adjust, history never set out at DPM. Campers must be at least 7 years old by July 1st. Campers must bring a sack lunch. Bottled water and old-fashioned snacks will be provided.

Camp held 9AM-3PM each day.

Week 1 Theme: Explore the Village!
*Wed. July 10 - (7-8)
*Thu. July 11 - (9-11)
*Fri. July 12 - (11-13)

Week 2 Theme: Old Time Fun!
*Wed. July 17 - (7-8)
*Thu. July 18 - (9-11)
*Fri. July 19 - (11-13)

***For Ages 7-13**

SPY CAMP at Dacotah Prairie Museum

In conjunction with the DPM's summer traveling exhibit, "Spies & Space: Toys of the Cold War" Museum Camp at the DPM is all about espionage and spy craft.

Instructors: Sherri Raestrom & Kinist Bossham, Curators of Education, Marianne Martin-Rudler & Jay Hopkins-Bretz, Curators of Exhibits
Campers must be at least 7 years old by July 1st. Bottled water and a healthy snack will be provided.

Camp Schedule: Each day has a different theme, choose morning or afternoon session.

July 24 - MISSION POSSIBLE
*AM Session, 9am-12pm
*PM Session, 1-4pm

July 31 - SECRET AGENTS
*AM Session, 9am-12pm
*PM Session, 1-4pm

***For Ages 7-13**

All camps \$15 per day.

2024

Register Now!
For more information:
dacotahprairiemuseum.org
605.626.7117



EDUCATION

Educational Impact

By Sherri Rawstern, Curator of Education

The year 2024 had both growth and change for the DPM's Education Department. It was a busy year with over 400 school visits, almost 25 Morning or Afternoon's into the Past, Children Exhibit tours and general tours and summer programs. Plans were made for Spy Camp, History Camp and a second STEM camp when word was received that Miss Kristin was going to be moving to Des Moines, Iowa in August. So, a job description was written, the position was posted, interviews were conducted and Jessica Puente-Castro, or better known as Miss Jessica, came on board the first of August. She and Miss Kristin had exactly one week for training, answering questions and teaching several sneaky kids how to be spies!

The plans to expand into a few other schools and grades are temporarily on hold till Jessica can learn the seven second grade monthly lessons, the ten third grade monthly lessons, a few fourth grade and some other very important duties, like making butter, weaving on a loom, making candles, giving tours and learning about the different parts of the Museum. She is doing a fantastic job taking in all this new information and making the stories come alive, but Jessica brings an important plus, she is fluent in Spanish. We are able to better communicate with the English as Second Language (ESL) students that speak Spanish and are able to share with them the fun history of Aberdeen and Brown County. You know you're doing the job right when you get lots of hugs and high fives when you come in the classroom and when you leave!

The Education Department has been working with the area teachers regarding programming for the upcoming change in the Social Studies standards scheduled to start in the fall of 2025. We will continue to bring the information regarding our local and county history to the area classrooms as always, as the teachers believe in the importance of learning about where you live. Just ask any third grader in the public, Catholic or Christian schools what was the first town in Brown County and they will tell you, "Columbia!"

Our Curators started Jessica's new month with working at the Dacotah Prairie Drygoods store at Centennial Village during the Brown County Fair. For over 35 years, staff and volunteers have worked at the store and sold candy as a fundraiser for the Education Department, and this year didn't disappoint. By Friday, candy was started to be limited as to how many pieces you could buy at a time and by Saturday, it was almost completely gone! There were about 600 people that came into that little store over a 3-day period, enjoying the artifacts from a bygone era and getting their sugar fix. The most popular seller still remains the candy cigarettes, followed by the 25-cent stick candy in several flavors.

This was the 31st year of our Junior Docent Program and it didn't disappoint! In January we started off by letting each sixth grader choose their favorite exhibit, learned about it, practiced their parts and finally gave a presentation to their parents, friends, family and teachers. Both sets of tours were well attended and the Junior Docents received lots of complements

about how much they had to learn and their public speaking skills. They also helped with both Native American and Pioneer toys programs in the public schools during the school year, each student was able to come once during each month. And, of course, they also gave a huge assist in May during our Morning and Afternoon's into the Past. They helped with washing clothes in an old-fashioned washtub with a laundry board and taught how to weave on a small, two harness loom. As payment, each received their own container of freshly made butter to take home to share with their families, in theory anyway.

History Camp at Centennial Village at the Brown County Fairgrounds was very popular and there were a couple of surprises this year. First, one of the buildings has a new air conditioning system that we can use on those hot and humid summer days, which everyone took advantage of. And the second, there were several new senior docents that signed up to help with the camp and they were welcomed with open arms and cornbread, along with ice cream and popcorn too! They did such a great job that they also helped with the expanded old fashioned games area during our Fall Harvest Festival. Several learned ropemaking, splitting wood into kindling, and playing other old-fashioned games. It was a great day, with 1,000 in attendance!

In August/September, the new school season started and as each month rolls by, Miss Jessica continues to learn and present about Aberdeen and Brown County history to each of the Aberdeen public schools, Roncalli Catholic school system and Aberdeen Christian, along with Groton, Frederick and Northwestern. Both Miss Sherri and Miss Jessica handed out candy at the downtown Halloween event to over 1,100 spooky trick or treaters and finished 2024 with making candles at the ARCC's Holiday celebration at the Arena.

It was a busy and full year, and more to come for 2025, looking at expanding programming to kindergarten and 1st grade groups, and perhaps adding another school or two for the monthly programs. The Education Department is always busy, but also always looking as to how they can share the local history and stories with everyone.



Kristin Boeshans & Sherri Rawstern, Curators of Education

EDUCATION: JUNIOR DOCENTS



Museum patrons in the making.

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Junior Docent program began in 1993 with the Aberdeen Roncalli sixth grade classes, prompted and encouraged by Rose Kraft, sixth grade teacher. Docents help the education staff with “Afternoon in the Past” programs at the museum and with classroom visits at all of the Aberdeen schools, both public and private. The docents also choose a museum exhibit to present to visitors during Catholic Education Week in January of each year. Previous docents of all ages, who visit the museum, eagerly tell staff which exhibit was “theirs” and what they remember from that time.

The DPM is generating future museum patrons and supporters through this program. These elementary students will always have a connection to the Museum and to Brown County history. Just to make sure, each student receives a copy of the 1980 Brown County History Book upon completion of the year.

*Docents have
donated over 18,000
hours of service since
1993.*

2023-2024 Docents:

Hattie Anderson

Aspen Arment

Evy Beidler

Charlotte Bode

Harrison Bode

Samuel Bradley

Felicity Cogley

Erica Gulden

Ericka Dix

Garrett Faehn

Cade Feickert

Corbin Feickert

Anna Geary

Norah Gonsor

Isabella Haggerty

Alexander Hall

Bensen Huggett

Mason Jurgens

Benjamin Keller

Maesyn Klapperich

Leland Larson

Evelyn LeFebvre

Lucas Lohman

Amelia Martin

Hayden Mussetter

Cody Niederbaumer

Bailey Nold

Evelyn Saylor

Landon Schaffner

Brodie Ulmer

Abigail Waltman

Kathryn Young

Devin Zacher

Lyrach Zahn

INTERNSHIP

Internship - Professional Training

The DPM internship program has benefited both university students and museum staff. Each year, a paid internship of 180 hours is available to a full-time college student, regardless of their academic major. Over the years, we have hosted a diverse group of students from various degree programs. This past fall, our intern Lauren Bland from NSU worked in the Collections department. She cataloged artifacts, assisted at the front desk, and made a positive impact in all aspects of the museum. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors as she pursues a career in museum work.



Lauren Bland, Intern

COLLECTIONS

Every Artifact

The Dacotah Prairie Museum Collections Department touches every artifact that enters the building and ultimately into the collection. Curator of Collections, Brandon Duxbury and Curatorial Assistant, Levi Margolies, interacted with 70 Donors, with 1433 donated artifacts accessioned in 2024 including unknown donors. Here is the detailed collections report from 2024 with select photos on the facing page. (*The collection is owned by the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation.*)

250 artifact donations from unknown donors

Include a wide range of artifacts such as:

Aberdeen Insider, Aberdeen Magazine, Progress Magazine, postcards, Christmas ornaments made from the original Capital Theater marquee lights, books by local authors, a South Dakota centennial cookbook, archival records of the United Methodist and Aldersgate churches, a 1992 cartoon map of Aberdeen, sherbet dishes from Lu's Pizza, prints and drawings from local artists, and photographs of the 1950s and 60s Aberdeen Pheasants teams and players.

2246 artifacts catalogued into PastPerfect

Bringing the total number of items in the Permanent and Education Collections to **39,792**.

- **1433** artifacts donated
- **516** catalog records created for previously accessioned artifacts but without electronic records
- **43** items added to the Education Collection
- **254** items assigned temporary Found In Collection numbers
- **36** artifacts approved for deaccession

Significant Donations/Family Heirlooms:

- Artist sketch and technical plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Anderson Park. Donated by Tom Gohn.
- Photos and archival records pertaining to Joe DeVine, caretaker of Aberdeen's mule team Maude and Kate.
- Model of the Grain Palace
- Yelduz Shrine Horse Patrol uniforms, saddle, and tack
- 1902 Montgomery Ward buggy from the George Casanova family farm.

Large Donations:

- **Presentation College/Convent**- archives, photos, videos, and nursing school memorabilia.
- **Kay Dixon** – various items including kitchen equipment, clothing, hats of Aberdeen businesses and clubs, Brown County atlases.
- **Vineta Milbrandt Estate** – various items including clothing, vanity set, vintage toys and tools, Columbia High School 1936 class ring, 1950s Columbia youth baseball uniform, 1930s Northern State sweater, archival material related to the Columbia Farmers Elevator Company, and family postcard collections.

Archival Donations

- Genealogy of the Sieman and Neff families who moved to Dakota Territory in 1883 and 1868, respectfully. Multiple photographs included. Donated by Phyllis Wagner.
- Gage School scrapbook, 1961-1970.
- Photos and papers related to M.M. Guhin. Collected by Emily Guhin.

Permanent Art Collection

- Print titled "Teach Your Children Well" by Mary Gorder Groth. Donated by Marje Kaiser.
- Sculpture titled "Taking Flight" by Ben Victor.
- Four original Frank Ashford paintings including three landscapes and one portrait.
- Acrylic painting titled "Secret Garden" by Kathy Stuck. Donated by artist.

Significant Accomplishments of 2024:

- Acquired a larger off-site storage space to alleviate space constraints
- Applied for a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions through the National Endowment for the Humanities to purchase shelving units for the storage unit

COLLECTIONS



"Taking Flight" Ben Victor



Glasses, Sherman Hotel



2024 Graduation Stole, Presentation College



Girl Scout Vest, 1990s



the City without limits ...
Bumper Sticker, 1980s



Paper kite, 1950s



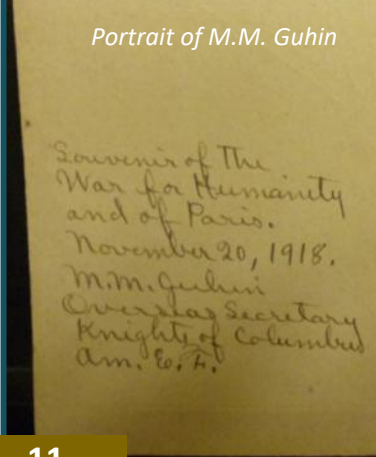
Yelduz Shiner Boots,
Frank Dixon



Untitled, Frank Ashford



Portrait of M.M. Guhin



EXHIBITS

Curating History, Art & Culture

Marianne Marttila-Klipfel, Curator

Jay Hopkins-Entzel, Curatorial Assistant

DPM produced 25+ short-term in-house exhibits in 9 revolving display spaces including incoming traveling exhibits, solo art shows, and historic displays. Exhibits staff curated installations of permanent collection art, coordinated seasonal decorating, and maintained 11 semi-permanent galleries. The children's room remodel and new semi-permanent children's exhibit install was completed in 2024.

The museum hosted two traveling exhibits! Increased DPM Foundation funding in recent years supports annual traveling exhibits, but two traveling shows in one calendar year is noteworthy. (*The additional exhibit was sponsored by South Dakota Humanities and the U.S. Smithsonian Institution.*)

Twelve short-term outreach exhibits were curated, and two new long-term outreach photo exhibits were installed for a total of four outreach photo exhibits currently viewable in Aberdeen.

Exhibit case rehabilitation continues, two more tower style cases were purchased, and older surplus display cases went to area non-profits in the last 1-2 years: Frederick Historical Society; Webster Museum of Wildlife, Science, and Industry; and Brown County Fair. Oak pedestals and a gallery bench donated to DPM by Presentation College in late 2023 have seen frequent use. Several rehabilitated cases were fitted with new security fasteners. Room 315, by the exhibits offices, was recently emptied of artifacts moved to off-site storage and is used for exhibit staging and workspace for concurrent projects.

Exhibits staff developed and worked with special programming, particularly artist open houses, the Dakota Student Art Exhibition, art camp, spy camp, family day and special event activity stations, April Fool's and Spy Scavenger Hunts, and various companion programs for exhibits.

New Children's Exhibit Open!

"Country School Days" – Decker-Schooley Gallery – SOFT OPENING Feb 29 | GRAND OPENING & DEDICATION Mar 15

A one-room country school themed exhibit for children was revealed after a year-long remodel of the gallery including demolition of interior lathe and plaster dividing walls, removal of an unused doorway into the Dacotah Gallery hallway, and installation of new colorful carpet, ceiling tiles, sound system, lighting, exhibit structures, etc. Included in the new exhibit are a barnyard and house where children are encouraged to complete chores and pack lunch for a day spent at school, where reading, writing, and arithmetic are the order of the day. The barn "tot spot" and an abundance of role-playing activities for elementary-aged children provide historical fun! Photos and facts about local one room country schools and a historic map of rural schools in Brown County are included for reminiscing by generations that attended or know someone who attended one-room school. Hands-on elements include a garden table, books, puzzles, flashcards, cookstove, pot belly stove with flickering lights, historic school desks, hopscotch grid, an apple tree, and more. An outhouse with a plexiglass barrier and teacher's desk area with artifacts behind display windows add historic authenticity and teaching moments within the space. New elements will be added as the exhibit evolves to serve a new generation of visitors. A grand opening and dedication was held March 15, 2024. The gallery is named in memory of Ester Decker, a long-time Brown County educator and supporter of the museum, and Dick Schooley, long-time custodian of DPM. This exhibit was made possible by DPM Foundation, with additional support from Montgomery's Furniture of Aberdeen and other donors. Since it has opened, the exhibit has been popular with visitors of all ages and is one of the most frequented spaces in the museum.



Lamont Gallery

Jan 6 – May 4 "Life in Miniature"

The "Life in Miniature" exhibit showcases models, miniatures, dollhouses, and small-scale toys, including seven historic Brown County building replicas by Don Miller, a 6-foot wind turbine model from Molded Fiberglass, a grain palace model by Joe

Hauk, a Grafunder prototype field seeder, a hand-carved 1800s ship replica, and the Longfellow Model House dollhouse. The Longfellow dollhouse is a 1:12 scale replica of the Longfellow House in Aberdeen, which itself is modeled after the famous Longfellow house in Cambridge, MA, a national historic site.

May 25 – Aug 31 “Spies & Space: Toys from the Cold War Era... and More!

This exhibition by SuperMonster City! (Minnesota) explored the influence of espionage and space fascination on American pop culture during the Cold War (1960s – 1990s). It showcased toys, games, posters, comic books, and cultural artifacts from David Barnhill's extensive personal collection. Curator Stephen Rueff provided context on the era's social and political tensions. Since 2014, SuperMonster City! exhibitions have attracted thousands across the U.S. This special exhibit was supported by the DPM Foundation, featuring events like a preview for members, a grand opening, a Kid's Spy Camp in July, and a scavenger hunt in August.

Sep 14 – Oct 5 “From the Exhibit Archives: Images of Liberty & Ellis Island”

This short-term pop-up poster exhibit was pulled from past exhibit archives. The series was produced by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation for Liberty's 100-year anniversary in 1986 and includes photos of the construction phases of the statue and images of Ellis Island. It was resurrected from storage because 2024 was the 100th anniversary of Liberty and Ellis Island's national monument designation, and the 40th Anniversary of Liberty's existence as a World Heritage Site. The gallery offered a quiet setting to learn about this national symbol of friendship, freedom, hope, solidarity, innovation, and democracy. A documentary video on the history of the monument and artifacts of ethnic/immigrant heritage were included.

Oct 12 – Jan 11, 2025 “Spark! Places of Innovation”

The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, part of the Museums on Main Street program and sponsored by South Dakota Humanities, visited Eagle Butte, Rapid City, Huron, Aberdeen, and Mission. Celebrating invention and problem-solving in small-town America, the exhibit highlighted stories of collaboration that address community challenges. It encouraged visitors to ignite change through new ideas and provided electronic devices for interpretation, along with a QR code for a smartphone app. A bulletin board displayed visitor feedback, and historic maps showcased the area's rural communities.

(Curators M. Marttila-Klipfel and B. Duxbury attended an exhibit installation training workshop in May.)

Companion Programming: Brown County Community Day-Program by Northern Innovation Center, Exhibit Featuring Groton, SD (Past, Present, Future) in 3 Adjacent Galleries, Groton Community Day.

Dacotah Gallery

Jan CLOSED - CARPET INSTALLATION

Feb 24 – Apr 20 “Awesome Places, Beautiful Faces” Art by Doris Symens-Armstrong

Symens-Armstrong is a prolific artist who has embraced her creative side since retirement, endeavoring to paint daily. Originally from Amherst, SD, Doris resides in Watertown, SD. Her solo art exhibit featured 32 oil paintings and three bronze sculptures with subjects ranging from color-filled Midwest landscapes to portraits with nostalgic flair. **Gallery Open House:** Saturday, March 9. **Permanent Art Collection:** “Storing Up,” an oil on canvas by Symens-Armstrong, was purchased by DPM Foundation.

May 4 – June 29 “Imagination in Color” Art by Christy Brubaker

Seeing her creative process as imagination and thoughts flowing; Christy Brubaker's solo show featured 24 colorful and fluid acrylic artworks. Christy is a resident of Aberdeen and an alumna of Northern State University. She recently revived her love of art (specifically pour painting) and has created a new body of work. **Gallery Open House:** Saturday, May 11. **Permanent Art Collec-**

tion: “Fall Moon,” an acrylic on canvas by Brubaker, was purchased by DPM Foundation.

July 20 – Sep 14 “Chance Encounters” Art by Kathy Stuck Kathy describes her artworks as “chance encounters.” She says, “I never take myself or my creations too seriously. I am literally playing and experimenting from start to finish on a project.” Kathy resides in Aberdeen and was owner of the former downtown business Kathleen's Furniture and Home Accessories. She has always loved art, design, and creativity, and works with a variety of materials. The exhibit featured 34 of her artworks. **Gallery Open House:** Saturday, August 3. **Permanent Art Collection:** “Landscapes” a triptych collage by Stuck was purchased by DPM Foundation. “Secret Garden” an acrylic on canvas was donated to DPM by the artist.

Oct 5 – Dec 28 “Groton Past” The impetus for the Groton, SD exhibit series was a 2023 donation by Curt Rowell to the DPM Collection of 47 glass plate negatives, ca. 1890s, from the estate of H.T. Foss, a former Groton City Auditor. Forty digital photos were produced from the negatives, providing viewers detailed glimpses at buildings, people, and life in Groton's early days. Aside from digital prints and other artifacts from the collection, two enlargements produced from the negatives using a traditional gelatin silver (darkroom) process were shown. The traditionally processed photographs were loaned by photographer, archivist, and collection donor Curt Rowell. Alaina Perry, DPM Staff, contributed exhibit research and digital photography. **[Groton Past, Present, Future exhibits were curated in three adjacent galleries.]**

Lamont Annex

Dec 1, 2023 – Mar 16 “Home Sweet Home” Photos of area historic homes, ca. late 1800s – early 1900s.

Mar 19 – May 7 “Re-Writing History: Who Am I? - Frederick Area School 6th Grade Creative Writing” This display of creative writing, inspired by unidentified photos from museum archives, is an annual activity offered to Frederick Area School 6th graders by DPM's Education Staff. Original stories by 12 students were included. The class enjoyed a field trip to see the exhibit.

Jul 13 – Oct 1 “Cold War Era Headlines on the Local Page” The Cold War spanned over four decades, beginning after World War II in 1945 and lasting until the Soviet Union's fall in 1991. It was a historic time characterized by tension, propaganda, espionage, distrust, and novel threat of nuclear war. This exhibit included 23 reproductions of selected front pages of the Aberdeen American Newspaper containing cold war era headlines and articles. The exhibit offered glimpses of the past through the lens of the local news. Brandon Duxbury, Curator of Collections, assisted with research.

Oct 5 – Dec 28 “Groton Future” Youth in grades 3-8 at Groton Public School were invited to participate in an idea contest, resulting in a prolific display of 126 posters. Students were challenged to design a poster illustrating their vision or “bright idea to spark” Groton's future. Contest winners were announced at DPM's “Groton Day” event on October 26. Prizes were awarded for exceptional ideas, with winning entries chosen by the mayor of Groton and DPM staff. All participants received a certificate of participation. **[Groton Past, Present, Future exhibits were curated in three adjacent galleries.]**

Prairie Landing Gallery

Jan 9 – Jan 26 “South Dakota Snow Queen Festival” Artifacts and photos from the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival were shown and included a special feature of four faded, discolored queen portraits (1971-1974) sent to the Midwest Conservation Center in Minneapolis, MN in 2022 for digital restoration. Orig-

nal and digitally restored versions of the '70s-era portraits were shown. Restoration was made possible by the Guards and Snow Men Organization (GASM) through their donation to DPM Foundation.

Feb 3 – Mar 9 “History Features in February” Separate history-themed vignettes included a promotional display for DPM’s history book talks; informational panels about African Americans in SD for Black History Month; and (*held over from a previous exhibit*) restored 1971-1974 Snow Queen portraits.

Mar 16 – May 11 “Dollhouses: Through the Decades” One hundred years of dollhouses from the 1920s to the 2020s offered a visual journey through the evolution of play. The eleven dollhouses displayed with furnishings were just a small sample from a sizable private collection belonging to Liza Kollman of Aberdeen. The newest dollhouse, from the 2020s, was shown on first floor as an introductory piece.

May 25 – Sep 7 “Moon & Space from the DPM Collection” and “Intro to Spies & Space: Toys from the Cold War Era...and More!” The large case at the top of the stairs featured introductory artifacts for the adjacent traveling exhibit of cold war era toys. To extend a space theme, objects from DPM’s collection and exhibit archives were assembled in the southern half of the gallery. This part of the exhibit focused on the moon, NASA history, Apollo missions, and included local space sci-fi themed artifacts. NASA videos were shown on the gallery TV (courtesy NASA.gov) and young visitors could enjoy an astronaut photo op, read a book about space, and assemble 3D wooden rockets. A 3-panel timeline illustrated development of the U.S. space program, resulting in Apollo 11’s moon landing in 1969.

Oct 5 – Dec 28 “Groton Present” Photojournalist Jay Kirschmann of Aberdeen spent a year visiting businesses, residents, and events in Groton SD as a representative of DPM. His research, photos, and interviews were incorporated into an exhibit in Prairie Landing Gallery to represent current life in the town. Photo scrapbook panels, interviews of residents, a digital slideshow, and a video compilation were included. Collected content from the project will be added to DPM’s archives as a record of Groton’s current history. [*Groton Past, Present, Future exhibits were curated in three adjacent galleries.*]

Helen Bergh Education Room

Jan 12 – 18 “Special Collections Feature: Early Snow Queen Portraits in Color” A temporary extension of the SD Snow Queen exhibit, 18 rarely displayed, unframed, color versions of queen portraits from the collection (1947-1960 & 1962) were shown for Festival Dignitaries tours and for a few days thereafter.

Feb 2 – Aug 24 “Historic Photos of Downtown Aberdeen” During February book talks, and beyond, six large photos of Aberdeen’s downtown were displayed. The room was open intermittently for visitors.

Jul 20 – “Philbert the Pheasant Book Signing” Artifacts related to Aberdeen Pheasants Baseball, Philbert the Pheasant mascot, and drawings by artist Gordon Haug were shown at the book signing event for Pat Gallagher, author of “Philbert and the Aberdeen Pheasants.” The book, based on the museum’s collection of original comic drawings by Haug, was published by DPM Foundation. Due to its popularity, the display was expanded and moved to the Conference Room.

Jul 24 – Jul 31 “Spy Camp Headquarters” To support the museum’s spy camp program, an interactive spy headquarters display set the scene for training campers in the powers of observation.

Aug 26 “Vintage Vegas Buffet” - Volunteer Luncheon: A nostalgic Vegas themed backdrop and select artifacts provided ambience for the volunteer luncheon buffet.

Aug 31 – Oct 26 “Adventures in Stitching: Prairie Stitchers Biennial Exhibition” Eighty-five embroidered, hand-sewn works, representing hours of meticulous work and various styles, contributed by 11 members of the Prairie Stitchers Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America were exhibited. Members of the group are from the Aberdeen area, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Guild members served as gallery docents and demonstrators within the exhibit during the Harvest Stroll event September 21st.

Nov 23 – Dec 28 “Christmas Tree Lane: Prairie Home for the Holidays” Community-contributed trees and wreaths, Christmas cards from the collection, a food drive “sleigh” for Aberdeen Salvation Army’s Snack Pack Program, and a frontier home backdrop on the north wall filled this gallery for the holidays.

Sue Gates Conference Room

Jul 23 – Aug 17 “Philbert and the Aberdeen Pheasants” This expansion of a smaller special event display included all 42 - 4”-size artist cards from the collection (hand-drawn comics by Gordon Haug featuring Philbert the Pheasant), plus memorabilia, photos, etc. Philbert was mascot of the Aberdeen Pheasants Northern League Baseball Team (minor league). The 1946-1971 Pheasants teams were associated with the St. Louis Browns who moved to Baltimore in the 1950s and became the Orioles. Especially in days before television and air-conditioning, baseball games were popular summer entertainment.

Nov 23 – Dec 28 “Christmas Tree Lane: Prairie Home for the Holidays” The Conference Room featured eight community Christmas trees, a special corner vignette decorated and reserved for Santa Claus’s visit during DPM’s holiday open house, and other holiday decorations.

First Floor Elevator Lobby, Reception Lobby & Other In-House

May 28 – Sep 9 “Grandparent Essay Contest Finalists” The top 3 Aberdeen area essays in the South Dakota Retired School Personnel (SDRSP) writing contest for 5th graders were displayed with photos of the students, their teachers, and grandparents. The essay topic was: “Why my grandparent (or senior citizen mentor) should be the AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year.” Ashlynn Madsen from C.C. Lee Elementary School, Aberdeen, was awarded first place for an essay about her Grandmother Linda.

Aug 18, 2023 – Aug 21, 2024 | Reception Lobby Early U.S. & Railroad themed display

Aug 21, 2024 – Continuing in 2025 | Reception Lobby Prairie Past & Future – Five collection artworks

April, 2024 – Continuing in 2025 | Reception Lobby Front Window Display “Taking Flight” – Newly acquired bronze pheasant sculpture by artist Ben Victor for the Permanent Art Collection.

50th Anniversary Exhibit Revisions “How a Treasure Becomes an Artifact” (south shadow box) was removed in June and replaced by “Aberdeen Pheasants the Hometown Team” with artifacts in adjacent cases plus a scrapbook of Philbert comics. The Longfellow Dollhouse, from the “Life in Miniature” exhibit, was displayed in the Anniversary exhibit May–Nov 2024 before returning to off-site storage.

ALL EXHIBIT SPACES: Nov 23 – Dec 28 “Christmas Tree Lane: Prairie Home for the Holidays” & “Christmas in the Exhibits” Participants Christmas Tree Lane are groups, organizations, families, and individuals who decorate a tree or wreath for display at the museum. “Prairie Home for the Holidays,” the 2024 theme, evoked images of “home” with a nod to early days of frontier life. Community trees were set up in the Education and Conference rooms and new this year--throughout the exhibits, inter-

dispersed with the museum's own holiday decorations. Contributions by the community totaled 21 trees and 3 wreaths. The exhibits department with assistance of volunteers added an additional 22 decorated trees and many various holiday decorations throughout the building.

Short-Term Outreach Exhibits

Short-term outreach (1 day – 1 week duration) exhibits, usually curated for special events.

“South Dakota Snow Queen Festival” – Aberdeen Civic Theater Lobby | Jan 6 & Jan 13 Three Snow Queen Contestant dresses paired with corresponding festival brochure covers and queen's messages plus a vignette of Frosty's Guard uniforms through time were featured in this annual outreach exhibit. **Attendance (Jan 6 - Junior SQ Coronation): 400 Attendance (Jan 13 – SD SQ Coronation): 400**

“Notable Events in Aberdeen's History” – Aberdeen Day at SD State Capitol, Pierre, SD | Feb 22 Artifacts and information about notable events in Aberdeen's history were shared with visitors to the State Capitol in Pierre on Aberdeen Day. This one-day exhibit was set up and staffed by DPM.

Attendance: 150

“An Evening with George Prisbe”- NSU Library | Apr 9 “On the Road to Groton” (Dunnland Series #4) from DPM Permanent Art Collection was displayed for an event featuring artist George Prisbe.

Attendance: 12

“Dakota Student Art Exhibition: The John Sieh Legacy” – DPM Event/Exhibit at ARCC | Apr 17-18

There were 105 artworks exhibited at this annual event including a gallery show and two days of student workshops (grades 7-12). DSAE is sponsored by DPM Foundation and is held at Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center. The art exhibit was set up in the Library Auditorium and was open to the public during the lunch hour on workshop days and for an Evening Open House, April 17th. Participating schools were Aberdeen Central, Aberdeen Christian, Britton-Hecla, Frederick Area, Great Plains Lutheran—Watertown, Groton, Hitchcock-Tulare, Holgate—Aberdeen, Ipswich, Milbank, Mitchell, Mount Vernon, Northwestern Area, Roncalli—Aberdeen, Selby Area, Simmons—Aberdeen, Trinity Lutheran—Aberdeen, Webster Area.

Total Attendance: 241 (See Special Events Attendance Chart for Itemized Stats)

“Constitution Day: US Constitution, Presidents, Elections, and Suffrage” – NSU Student Center | Sep 17 Campaign buttons, a ballot box, constitution day history, photos of woman suffragists with local ties and U.S. Presidential visits to Aberdeen were included in the display at NSU's Constitution Day event.

Attendance: 276

“Aberdeen's First Library: Too Much Smashing Success?” - SD Library Association Conference at Ramkota Hotel, Aberdeen | Sep 25-26 This exhibit about Aberdeen's public libraries included the story of the collapse of the floor of the original Carnegie sponsored library due to the heavy weight of books!

Attendance: 40

“Promotion of Dakota Student Art Exhibition 2025” - SD Art Ed Assoc/SD College Art Assoc Conference at SDSU, Brookings, SD | Sep 26-28 A portable display was created to promote Dakota Student Art Exhibition at an annual conference for art teachers. It was set up at the event by a volunteer (teacher).

Attendance: 75

Aberdeen Regional Airport CVB Kiosk Outreach Exhibits

The airport kiosk, courtesy of Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau, features revolving mid-term length (3–6-month) DPM outreach exhibits with photos, artifacts, historic props,

and interpretive text.

Oct 13, 2023 – Mar 8, 2024 “80th Anniversary: Aberdeen's WWII USO Canteen...& the Legendary Pheasant Sandwich” Items from DPM and the CVB celebrated the 80th anniversary of a significant WWII-era community effort. From Aug. 19, 1943, to Mar. 31, 1946, the local Red Cross and volunteers operated a canteen at Milwaukee Railroad Depot to serve free meals (pheasant salad sandwiches) to military personnel traveling on trains. In just over 2.5 years, over 500,000 meals were served. **Attendance (Jan 1-Mar 8, 2024): 4528 [Exhibit Attendance in 2023 (Oct 13 – Dec 31): 6101]**

Mar 8 – Jun 3 “Life in Miniature Exhibit Preview” Miniatures, replicas, and toys from the collection, not included in our Lamont Gallery “Life in Miniature” exhibit were displayed at the airport.

Attendance: 5616

Jun 3 – Aug 19 “Ice Cream the Timeless Treat” Ice cream related artifacts, photos of popular mid-century ice cream hot spots in Aberdeen, and a list of some local businesses which served or manufactured ice cream (1930s – ca.1970) were shown. Thanks to Troy McQuillen for additional photos.

Attendance: 4879

Aug 19 – Dec 20 “Aberdeen Pheasants Baseball” This exhibit about the Aberdeen minor league baseball team (1946-1971 & 1995-1997) exuded baseball nostalgia with photos, artifacts, information about former Aberdeen Pheasants players in the majors, and hand-drawn Philbert the Pheasant comics.

Attendance: 8625

Dec 20 – Continuing in 2025 “Winter Memories” Objects to help recall historic indoor cold weather comforts, activities, and old-fashioned entertainment are featured. This exhibit continues in 2025.

Attendance (Dec 20 - Dec 31, 2024): 753

Long-Term Outreach Exhibits

Long-term displays, usually re-evaluated after 5 years. Host locations report monthly attendance stats.

NEW in 2024! “Open for Business: Places of Commerce & Industry” – Milwaukee Depot Business Suites | Historic Photo Exhibit Installed Apr 26, 2024 Twenty-three photos and historic accounts of early Aberdeen businesses are featured in an outreach exhibit at Milwaukee Depot Business Suites—2nd floor of the historic train depot at Main St & Railroad Ave. Open to the public during weekday business hours.

Attendance in 2024 (Apr 26 – Dec 31): 2844

NEW in 2024! “Images of Aberdeen” – Dakotaland Federal Credit Union | Historic Photo Exhibit Installed Oct 30, 2024 [The](#) Dakotaland Federal Credit Union conference room is host to eight large format photos from DPM archives and Brown County records. Connecting to views from windows in the room, some of the photos contain historic images of buildings which are still visible from the location.

Attendance in 2024 (Oct 30 – Dec 31): 138

“Historic Photo Exhibit” – Aberdeen Convention & Visitors Bureau, Downtown Aberdeen | Installed Apr 9, 2021 Twelve large format photos/descriptions available for public viewing during business hours.

Attendance in 2024 (Jan – Dec): 302

“Downtown Evolution” – Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Conference Room | Installed May 30, 2023 Five large format photos ca. 1880s–1950s and historic accounts from Aberdeen's Main Street over time.

Attendance in 2024 (Jan – Dec): 2260

MUSEUM EVENTS

Attendance: Special Events & Activities

DATE(S) & EVENT	ATTENDANCE
1-13 Snow Queen/Little Sisters Outreach Activity @ ARCC (extreme cold weather)	50
2-3 February History Book Talk - Brad Tennant	50
2-3 February History Book Talk - Christopher Vondracek	12
2-3 February History Book Talk - Marie Cleveland	15
2-3 February History Book Talk - Troy McQuillen	60
3-9 Artist Open House: Doris Symens-Armstrong	55
3-15 Children's Exhibit Grand Opening/Dedication	40
3-16 Children's Exhibit Grand Opening Weekend Special Activity Station	45
4/1-30 April Fool's Seek and Find Activity Participation	91
4-17 Dakota Student Art Exhibition Evening Open House at ARCC	56
4-17 Dakota Student Art Exhibition Student Workshops DAY 1 at ARCC	65
4-18 Dakota Student Art Exhibition Student Workshops DAY 2 at ARCC	92
4/17-18 Dakota Student Art Additional Attendance Other Visitors/Awards/Artists	28
5-11 Family Day: Mother's Day at the Museum Special Activity Station Participants	10
5-11 Artist Open House: Christy Brubaker	20
5-24 Exhibit Opening: Members Special Preview (Spies & Space Traveling Exhibit)	31
5-25 Grand Opening: Traveling Exhibit First Day – Spies & Space	143
6-8 National Knit in Public Day Prairie Fiber Arts Guild Knitters	10
6-8 Pickleball Tourney – MUSEUM FUNDRAISER	45
6-15 Family Day: Father's Day at the Museum Special Activity Station Participants	11
6/10-13 Art Camp Week 1 Centennial Village with Lora Schaunaman, Instructor	61
6/17-18,20-21 Art Camp Week 2 Centennial Village with Lora Schaunaman, Instructor	60
7/10-12 History Camp Week 1 – Education Dept. @ Centennial Village	39
7/17-19 History Camp Week 2 – Education Dept. @ Centennial Village	58
7-20 Philbert & the Aberdeen Pheasants Book Signing Event – Pat Gallagher	22
7-24 Spy Camp Week 1-Mission Possible (2 sessions)	36
7-30 Salvation Army Youth Volunteer Program Visit – Volunteer Art Kit Assembly	7
7-31 Spy Camp Week 2-Secret Agents (2 sessions)	33
8-3 Artist Open House: Kathy Stuck	40
8/15-17 Candy Sales at Centennial Village Mercantile – Brown County Fair Week	
8-16 Old Fashioned Fun! Activities at Ken's Tent, BC Fair	43
8-26 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – Theme: Vintage Vegas Buffet	32
8/1-31 Spies & Space Scavenger Hunt Activity Participants	118
9-7 Family Day: Grandparent's Day at the Museum Special Activity Station Participants	35
9-21 Harvest Stroll – MUSEUM EVENT	1000
10-5 Gypsy Day Caramel Roll Sales – MUSEUM FUNDRAISER	
10-12 Brown County Community Day – @ DPM Innovation Center Program	6
10-26 Groton Day Program – DPM	129
10-31 Trick or Treat on Main	1011
12-14 Holiday Open House – MUSEUM EVENT	823



Our Visitors in 2024

VISITORS

2024 TOTAL WALK-IN ATTENDANCE: 17,941

Average Daily Attendance = 69.7

Previous Years:

2023 = 21,974/83.5*

2022 = 14,114/53.3

2021 = 11,382/44.6

2020 = 5,888/27 - (Covid, closed to public 14 weeks)

2019 = 14,680/48

**Record breaking attendance for 2023, mostly due to traveling exhibit "Thomas & Friends".*

NOTE: Number of open days changed in 2021 from 6 days a week to 5 days a week with new extended hours on the weekend which affects the average daily attendance.

UNITED STATES

45 states

COUNTRIES

8 Foreign Countries plus Canada

TOURS	# OF TOURS	ATTENDANCE
SCHOOL TOURS	54	1060
Tours-MISC (All SelfGuide/CathWkEd/Etc)	18	468
AFTERNOON IN THE PAST	24	521
IN-HOUSE YOUTH PROGRAM (NOT apast)	6	98
School Classroom Visits	402	7996
EVENTS	30	3895
Adult Programs	12	478

DPMF SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2022, the Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation established a \$1,000 scholarship program for Brown County students planning to attend accredited post-secondary schools in South Dakota. Open to all Brown County residents or students, the scholarship aims to enhance educational opportunities and encourage young people to remain in South Dakota. Eligible applicants must provide a current transcript, two letters of recommendation, and essays addressing community involvement, their connection to Brown County, and future plans.

2024 Recipients:

- Anna Bisbee, Groton Area - Northern State University
- Zachary Bowser, homeschool - South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- Anna Johnson, Aberdeen Central - South Dakota State University
- Lindsey Kendall, Aberdeen Central - Northern State University
- Faith Marie Opdahl, Aberdeen Christian - Northern State University
- Ty Pinkman, Aberdeen Central - Northern State University
- Ava Rott, Aberdeen Central - University of South Dakota
- Ayrлие Waldo, Aberdeen Central - South Dakota State University

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you volunteers!

Museum volunteers are the (not so) secret weapon of our industry. Without the smiling face and cheery hello at the front desk, without the helping hands during Afternoons in the Past (APAST) and at camps, without the manual labor of building, hauling, and cleaning and every other volunteer act (whew!), the Museum staff would not be able to accomplish the tremendous amount of work required to operate this gem of an institution.



Volunteers participate in:

Foundation and Museum Board Attendance, Front Desk/Gift Shop, Education Programs, Exhibits Assistance, Collections Assistance, General Museum Assistance, and Special Events.

*Diana Banker
Tayla Bauer
Imogen Bengs
Joe Berns
Gayle Bortnem
Raylee Brick
Christy Brubaker
Joan Buntrock
Nancy Clark-North
Aaron Darling
Glenda DeVore
Jenny Dix
Abby Dorn
Kenzie Dorn
MaKenna Dorn
Emily Ekanger
Bryan Ekanger
Sheila Enderson
Russell Entzel
Jan Erickson
Colleen Erickson
Ella Feickert
Noah Files
Sadie Frey
Felicity Gasperich
Eden Gasperich
Susan Gerlach
Enrich Groton
Joan Haak
Jackson Hagen*

*Scott Hanlon,
Cynthia Hebert
Amy Heinz,
Layton Holmstrom
Becky Jacobson
Patricia Johannsen
Marje Kaiser
Ellen Kendall
Lindsey Kendall
Paul Kendall
Jay Kirschenmann
Eliana Klipfel
Amara Klipfel
Briella Klipfel
Doug Klipfel
Bert Klipfel
Nancy Klungseth
Liza Kollman
Lydia Kost
Rose Kraft
Laura Kramp
Ginny Lewis
Jonnae Liebelt
Marlene Lorenz
Susan Margolies
Paul McDonald
Mitchell Mikkonen
Mason Muilenburg
Cindy Myers
Kayla Myers*

*Alan Neville
Norah Nosbuesch
Nyla Olauson
Barbara Pagel
Shirley Pelkofer
Nathan Perry
Mary Raile
Nancy Ringgenberg
Henry Roth
Courtney Rott
Curt Rowell
Elisa Sand
Deanna Sanderson
Jean Schaffer
Lora Schaunaman
Neil Schaunaman
Marie Schumacher
Matthew Scott
Justin Scott
Gretchen Sharp
Alexa Sheldon
Bea Smith
Adriana Soundara
Duane Sutton
Steve Swanson
Jeff Vilhauer
Danielle Wagner
Kim Weaver
Brynne Willems
Scott Woizeschke*

Over 2,200 volunteer hours in 2024!

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2023	2024
Brown County Budgeted Funds	\$ 391,169.07	\$ 466,156.68
Additional funds (salary adjustments)	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 4,552.31
Additional funds (grants, refunds)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS BUDGETED	\$ 453,169.07	\$474,708.99
Salaries & Benefits		
Salaries	\$ 306,236.69	\$ 332,830.68
Benefits	\$ 79,899.42	\$ 83,295.51
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 386,136.11	\$416,126.19
Operations		
Insurance	\$ 2,268.29	\$ 2,307.63
Professional Fees	\$ 217.25	\$ 5,356.25
Cafeteria Flex Plan	\$ 71.55	\$ 89.55
Publishing/Printing/Advertising	\$ 12,512.28	\$ 15,906.61
Rentals	\$ 11,788.00	\$ 4,093.65
Building Maintenance	\$ 9,427.47	\$ 5,164.40
Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 463.63	\$ 461.56
Supplies & Materials	\$ 19,989.49	\$ 16,745.63
Postage	\$ 165.17	\$ 606.18
Copier	\$ 1,955.65	\$ 2,224.10
Travel & Conference	\$ 1,894.83	\$ 1,056.40
Utilities	\$ 948.04	\$ 1,191.78
Machinery/Equipment	\$ 306.73	\$ -
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 62,008.38	\$55,203.74
TOTAL FUNDS SPENT	\$ 448,144.49	\$471,329.93
TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING AT YEAR END	\$ 5,024.58	\$3,379.06
EXPENDITURES THROUGH COUNTY/MAINTENANCE BUDGET		
Gas & Electricity	\$ 17,664.65	\$ 14,182.00
Water	\$ 509.55	\$ 629.06
Supplies & Maintenance	\$ 4,235.50	\$ 9,954.31
Janitor Salary	\$ 9,943.40	\$ 15,838.00
Major Repair (sewer - 2023)	\$ 56,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL MAINTENANCE	\$ 88,353.10	\$40,603.37
TOTALS	\$536,497.59	\$511,933.30



DACOTAH PRAIRIE
— MUSEUM —