Montana!

It’s people... It’s a way of life worth preserving!

MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION
2011 ANNUAL REPORT
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Gena Ashmore  
Office Manager  
Helena, MT  


The Montana History Foundation works tirelessly to preserve and protect Montana's history. We have had a very successful year thanks to your support and we are excited to share the details with you.

This fiscal year we reached our goal to grant monies to communities across the state. With funding from the Steele-Breas Foundation and private donations we will be granting funds totaling more than $100,000 that will support 13 different communities across the state.

In another history education first, with gift support from a generous donor, MHF published Witness to History: The Remarkable Untold Story of Virginia City and Nevada City Montana by pioneer preservationist John Ellingsen. The book chronicles Ellingsen's remembrances working with Charles Bovey over the years.

Our new development director conducted seven tours of the state to work with local preservation organizations, integrate our preservation activities and encourage collaboration. These site visits helped improve our program reach, identify endangered historic treasures, and encourage fundraising activity.

As always, we continue to sustain Virginia and Nevada Cities with annual support for upkeep and special projects; Original Governor’s Mansion fundraising activities; sponsorship of the Montana Historical Society’s History Conference; and Advocacy Day support to the Museums Association of Montana. Our fiscal sponsorship activities grew this year when we added the renowned Montana Club to our list of groups that we help. Funds raised through that project are being used to replace the elevator in this historic building.

Our total contributions increased by 93% this fiscal year which, according to our auditor, “is significantly better than most charitable organizations experienced during the same period.” We grew our endowment to ensure we can continue to do this work into the future, bringing all of our assets close to the $5 million mark. Gift support to our campaign totals $985,000, an increase of $465,000 this year.

With another clean audit, the strength of our financial position encourages continued support of our mission, and donors feel secure in their estate plans with MHF. This, coupled with last year’s office and staff reorganization, enabled us to have a lean, efficient structure to expand our possibilities.

Our vision is to create a dependable and sustainable source of funding for Montana’s history. Here at MHF we are excited about all the possibilities that await us as we are out and about in Montana.

With your support we are up to the challenge!

Bruce Parker, President

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Mission The Montana History Foundation is an independent, nonprofit corporation that provides development and advisory leadership for organizations dedicated to the preservation of Montana’s history and culture.
Projects

Opportunities abound when it comes to preserving Montana’s past. Our new Preserve Montana Fund allows donors the opportunity to make a difference locally, regionally and statewide. Grants help fund history projects under the broadest of definitions. If you are interested in the Preserve Montana Fund or hosting a presentation in your community, please contact us.

Accomplishments

- Total campaign income increased by $465,000 to total $985,000.
- Reached our goal to grant monies to communities across the state.
- Steele-Reese Foundation and private donations enable grants of $100,000 plus!
- Published John Ellingsen’s *Witness to History: The Remarkable Untold Story of Virginia City and Nevada City* Montana chronicling remembrances of work with Charles Bovey.

- Funded lighting for the historic Fort Benton Bridge across the Missouri River.
- One more historic music machine is restored!
- Replaced the electrical system at the Nevada City Music Hall.

- MHF was honored by the Virginia City Preservation Alliance and the Montana Heritage Commission for our work at Robber’s Roost, Nevada City and Virginia City.
- Planned our first Preserve Montana program for Dillon.

- Sustained Virginia and Nevada Cities upkeep and special projects.
- Fiscal sponsor for Original Governor’s Mansion fundraising activities.
- Sponsored the Montana Historical Society’s History Conference.

- Sponsored Advocacy Day for Museums Association of Montana.
- Fiscal sponsor for Montana Club to replace the elevator in their historic building.
**Financial Position**

*MHF Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2011 and 2010*

### Assets

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<tr>
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<th>6.30.11</th>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Receivables:</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets, at Cost</td>
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<td>Curatorial Building and Improvements</td>
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### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,956,531</td>
<td>$4,166,601</td>
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Rex and Judy Rieke

Thank you to our generous donors for your support. We strive to ensure that all donors giving to MFF during the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 are listed here. If you have inadvertently left off your name, we apologize and ask that you please let us know.
Many Poles Support the Lodge.

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The Montana History Foundation is the leading source for contributions and funding to preserve and protect history resources throughout Montana.