Sparks Heritage Foundation & Museum, Inc. 820 Victorian Avenue Sparks, Nevada 89431

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# **SPARKS HERITAGE FOUNDATION & MUSEUM, INC.**

Designed by Fredrick DeLongchamps in 1932 our historic building served as the first Sparks branch Washoe County Library and Justice Court.

### THE SPIRIT OF SPARKS

A project, which a year ago seemed doomed to failure after loss of funding, is now a shining example of the community camaraderie for which Sparks is famous.

During World War II the community of Sparks banded together to raise \$600,000 in order to purchase a B-25 Bomber named "The Spirit of Sparks. " That same community spirit still exists today and is no better exemplified than in the past year at the Sparks Heritage Museum.

The Sparks Museum Revitalization Plan, which was set in motion in 2009 based on planning done in 1996, is a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the entire Sparks Museum facility located in Victorian Square directly off of Interstate-80. A Multipurpose Cultural Education Room, as well as an Archival Research Room were envisioned in the historic Library and Justice Court building.

Additional agals included revitalizing the 4000 square feet of indoor exhibits, restoring the outdoor train display, enhancing public program offerings and ultimately constructing the previously planned Museum addition.

In 2009 and 2010 the Sparks Heritage Museum was awarded two arants by the Commission of Cultural Affairs (CCA) in order to rehabilitate the historic building. The purpose of the CCA grant program is to create a network of Cultural Centers around the State of Nevada in order to increase tourism and engage the local community.

Dear Friends,

Additionally, this year the Sparks Heritage Museum became the first museum in Nevada to incorporate interactive iPad technology into exhibits. The Bicentennial Train exhibit, which was closed for almost ten years, has been open to visitors every single weekend in 2011. We have seen a 75 % increase in visitation to the Museum's facilities this calendar year.

As a volunteer run, donation dependant organization the incredible community support and dedication which has made this all possible is truly inspiring.

Demolition began in March 2010 thanks to funds from the first CCA grant for \$105,000. False walls, the dropped ceiling and all electrical was removed. Architectural plans were drawn and a new energy efficient HVAC was installed in the attic and downstairs.

Having completed Phase One, the Museum was prepared to move forward with Phase Two and put the building back together.

In October 2010, the State Treasurer announced that no Bonds were to be sold due to the economy. The Commission of Cultural Affairs program was funded through the sale of bonds so it essentially ceased to exist.

The second CCA grant of \$140,000, which the Museum was relying on to complete the project, was withdrawn ... *literally weeks* before Phase Two was scheduled to begin!

The Board reacted quickly and a plea to the community was made. The response was overwhelming. Volunteers arrived to perform labor. Insulation, paint, plastering materials, wood and electrical supplies were donated. The momentum was not lost and *thanks to the community* joining forces during times reminiscent of the Great Depression, ironically when the Building was first built, Phase Two was completed and Sparks now has a Cultural Center upstairs at the Museum

The Spirit of Sparks is alive and well as the community moves towards completing the next phase of the Museum Revitalization

Thank you for contributing to the Sparks Museum Revitalization Project ! Thanks to you Phase Two is now complete and we have a New Cultural Center!

*Coming in January* ....

FRED HORLACHER presents Nevada Revisited: A Travel Log for the Curious

A three part series focusing on Central, Eastern and Northern Nevada's ghost towns, scenic attractions and, geologic and archaeological features all spiced with *Tales from the "Nevada Outback"* as only Fred Horlacher can tell the tale!

# January 26, February 2 & February 9 at 7:00 pm

\$8 per lecture or \$20 for all three . Museum members: 50% Discount. All Proceeds to benefit the Sparks Museum Revitalization Project.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2012.

# **December 2011 - Annual Report**

The opening of our new Cultural Center this year and the completion of Phase Two of the Museum Revitalization, in spite of severe budget cuts and the loss of awarded grant funds, is no less than remarkable.

Thanks to generous supporters like you the future is brighter with your continued patronage.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year! Anthea Humphreys, Executive Director



October 2010 - Funding to complete the restoration project was cut from the State Budget. We were left with an empty space, with no lights, holes in the floor, holes in the walls, holes in the ceiling and NO MONEY.



October 2011 - Thanks to the COMMUNITY joining forces and donating materials and labor we now have a functional space to use as a Cultural Center

### FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS OF THE MUSEUM 2009 - 2011 - Up to \$999

The Museum Revitalization Project which started in 2009 would not have moved forward without your continued support.

Sharron & Larry Adams All Seasons Lawn Alleara Print & Imaaina Amv's Flowers Louise E. Allen Allen's Tire & Brake AI M Family Medicine Alpen Glow Interiors Teresa Ammerman Edward P. Anderson Edvthe Anderson George Andrews Frances April Betsy Armstrong Assemblywoman Debbie Smith lohn ∆wl Karmel Bailey Marvin & Susan Bake Marilyn Barry Phyllis & Bruce Bassett Nadiah Beekon Ravmond Bera Best Buy\* Lawrence & Alica Blaloc Blind Onion Pizza\* James Bonar Jerry & Janet Bradfield Sara Brav Rill & Flng Brew Charles& Wanda Brown James & Nola Brown Camilla Brown\* Louie Burgarello Andy & Judy Burnett Barbara Byington Doualas & Nancy Byinator William & Bernice Byrd Treat & Patricia Cafferato Cantina Los Tres Hombres David Carpenter\* Pauline Carpenter Garrod Carpenter\* Maraery Carı Dr. Larry L. Champagne & Family William Clark Classy Sassy Bear Ladies - Red Hat Society Rvan Cobb Carol Coleman Darlene Cormier Len & Lois Crocker Mary Ann Culwell Brian & Vicki F Curwen Trudy Cut-N-Loose Hair Desians Will Davis\* Julie Demler Denny's Restaurants John Dickson Raymond & Rarhara Diederichsen Lloyd Diedrichsen Eleanor Donati Downtown Kiwanis Club of Sparks Eagle Framing & Art Gallery Richard & Luella Eason Paul & Margie Edgingtor Edward Jones Barbara Edwards Flaine Alexander CPA Jacqueline Elliott Bloomquist Catherine Evans Mildred Fast Thomas Fee Jerry Fenwic Frank Fey

Les & Virgie Machen **Fingerprinting Express** John & Joyce Flynn Lois Foster Syl & Paul A. Frediani Wayne Frediani Mario & Marcia Frugo Buddy & Grace Fuiii Jean Galletti Marilvn Galli Raul Garcia LaMoin Garrard John Gilbertson Terry Gilbreth Emily Gilmartin loe Ann Giordana Corrine Glass\* John & JoAnne Gonda Timothy & Bobbie Sue Gonyo Abel Gonzales Loriene Gonzale Granite Construction\* Lothar Greiner Frank Grunstead Nils Hallden Beverly Hancock Clark & Alicia Hancock O.H. Hatlestad I vie & Sue Haven Sam & Kathleen Hayes **Cindy Henderson** Thomas & Sandra Henrie Larry Hersh Robert & Jennifer Herstin Bruce Hicks Nancy Hicks Fvelvn I Hill Louis & Doris Hills Marvin Hoffman Nancy Hollinger Beverly Hollingsworth Home Depot\* Fred & Kathryn Horlache Howard's Chevron Rarbara & Proctor Hua Procter Hug, Jr. Ice Lakes Lodae Industrial Equip. Repair Dianne Inabera **Beverly Irwin** Ronald Irwin **IR Romero Architect** Ellen & Roger Jacobson Charles & Maybelle Jenking Dona G. Jeppson Jean Johnson Michael & June Johnson Don & Evelyn Johnston Claudia Judson Chesney Tyler Joni / Tom Kaiser / Lake Traci & Mark Kattelmar Brooke Keast Nancy Keen David Kennedy Sarah Kidd\* Frances Kindred Diane Kirker Tom Koizumi Vincent & Barbara LaVeaac John & Marian LaVov Frank Lawrence David Layton Edward & Mary Lynn

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### **Preservation & Education**

Excluding the time that was volunteered for the construction project upstairs just shy of 6000 hours of time has been contributed to the Museum by its Volunteers in 2011. This welcomed increase in volunteer time is apparent in our preservation and education efforts.

### Digitization

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Dianne Ingberg and David Carpenter, together with our volunteer photo archivist Coleen Ede the entire Museum collection is currently being inventoried, photographed and updated in our Past Perfect database. To say that this is a daunting task would be an understatement!

Digital images of our collection is important from a preservation standpoint, as well as an educational standpoint. Not only do the objects require less handling, but even with the best of care items often deteriorate with age and they will have been preserved for our posterity to learn about in a digital format. Once the collection has been digitized the Museum will be able to join the ranks of leading Museums around the world an develop online exhibits.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**



December 1 - January 2 - Family : Past Present and Future — Holiday Exhibits What better time than during the holidays to contemplate "Family — Past Present and Future," this year's theme for the annual festive holiday displays. The Sparks in Space exhibit has very futuristic looking trees, while the • 1940's living room exhibit has classic charm. Make sure to vote on your favorite display.

January 8 - Sparks In Space exhibit closes Due to popular demand this exhibit remained for nine months. Depicting the role that Sparks played in getting the first man to the moon, as well as the contribution of Northern Nevadans to the Space program, there is something for everyone. Who doesn't find Animals in Space interesting? What about the rockets in the Black Rock Desert? Don't miss out, if you have not been to the Museum lately its worth the trip.

February 7 - Chamber of Commerce Mixer - 5 pm to 7 pm

### January 26, February 2 & February 9 - NEVADA REVISTED - A Travel Loa for Curious People presented by FRED HORLACHER at 7 pm

A series of three lectures highlighting ghost towns, scenic attractions, State parks geologic and archaeological features, as well as Tales from the "Nevada Out back." Each program will focus on a separate region - Central Nevada, Eastern Nevada and Northern Nevada. Retired Reed High School history teacher and Chautaugua speaker, Fred Horlacher is by far one the most entertaining and knowledgeable speakers of our time. Children delight at his antics while learning without knowing. A series definitely not one to be missed!

### February - April - Celtic Heritage Exhibit

This community based exhibit will teach us about the customs and traditions of our Celtic ancestors - Irish, Scottish, Welsh , etc. To compliment the exhibit musical performances, dance troupes and other traditional faire will be featured in the Cultural Center.

April 21 - April Wine Tasting & Fundraiser

June 7 - Mystery on the Sparks Express ...

October 6 & 7 - Western Heritage Festival Showcasing the diverse traditions, music and food that have made life in Nevada and the West so unique.

November 24 - Victorian Tea Party & Fundraiser

We make every effort to maintain accurate membership files. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apology and contact us so that we can make the correction and properly acknowledge your support next time.

As an active participant in the Nevada Statewide Digital Steering Committee, we aim to contribute to the first collaborative Nevada Online Collection as soon as possible.

### Exhibits

The Exhibit Committee has been hard at work upgrading the Museum exhibits and have developed a new educational tool which enables visitors to readily learn about all of the artifacts in an exhibit. The work that has aone into researching artifacts and revamping the exhibits has been significant and is setting the stage for further improvements and inclusion of interactive tools in the future.

### School Tours

Hundreds of School Children toured the Museum, Glendale Schoolhouse and the Train once again this year. The Museum provides these tours for FREE of charge along with thei Color Me Sparks in school program.



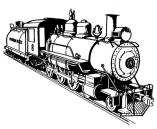
Girls Scouts volunteer to keep the outside of the Museum and the Train clean



Volunteer Dr. Richard Simmonds teachina a school arou



Veteran Dan Smith is one of over fifty Volunteers who keep the Museum open six days a week.



# DONORS 2009-2011 \$1,000 to \$12,000

John Ascuaga's Nugget\*

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# **MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ....**



In December 2010 the restoration of the Bicentennial Train exhibit was completed with funds from a federal grant secured by the City of Sparks. Thanks to Dick Dreiling and numerous Volunteers, the museum has been able to keep the train open to the public on Sat urdays and Sundays all year. Since its re-opening one year ago over 2500 people have visited the train.





### First Museum in Nevada to incorporate iPad technology into exhibits

In March 2011 the Museum took a giant leap forward and became the first Museum in Nevada to incorporate iPad technology into their exhibits. Thanks to the Challenger Learning Center at Sparks High School, students played an integral role in developing the Sparks in Space exhibit and selecting appealing iPad apps. It is a little known fact that the rockets that got the first man on and off the moon were developed and tested right here in Spanish Springs. Visitors to the Museum complex are staying an estimated forty five minutes to an hour longer than previously due to the introduction of interactive technology and the opening of the train.

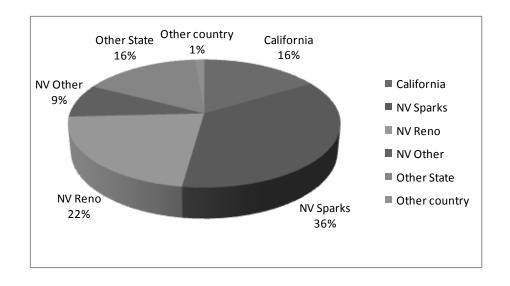


### Visitors

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In the past 12 months the number of visitors to the Museum complex has increased by approximately 75% aging from 2750 people to 4800.

We are happy to report that not only are we attracting more local visitors, but the number of tourists has been gradually increasing since 2008. Forty Two percent of the Museum's 2011 visitors were from out of the area. Compared to thirty five percent in 2008. Doing our part to help the local economy by providing a diversion for visitors so that they stay in Sparks longer, and hopefully spend more money, is an ancillary outcome of the Museum Revitalization project aimed at improving our facility and programming.



Bill & Elna Brew	
Celtic Hardwood Flooring*	
<b>Challenger Learning Center</b>	of Northern
Nevada*	
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Sparks Heritage Foundation & Museum, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation. Tax ID: 94-3004 776. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Tim Patterson<sup>\*</sup> Ponderosa Wholesale<sup>\*</sup> **Rejuvenation**\* Sertoma Club of Sparks Sherwin Williams\* Simmonds Trust Sparks High Class of 1960 Sparks Tribune\* Thunder Roofina\* Nileen Verheten\* Victory Woodworks\* George & Larma Volk

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# **LIFE MEMBERS**

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## **GRANTS** \$1.000 - 105.000

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**Ben Snow Foundation** Nevada Arts Council Nevada Humanities Nevada Commission of **Cultural Affairs** 

Thank you to the CITY OF SPARKS for providing the buildings in which the Museum operates.

\*Denotes In Kind Donation or combination of Cash and In Kind

John & Shenard Richard Simmonds Barbara Simons Alma P. Smith Charles F. Steiner Nancy Streets **Corinne Summerfield** Ree Taylor Paul "Bud" Tholl William & Kathryn Van Meter Martin A & Eileen Van Woerkom Giles & Linda Vanderhoot Nileen Verbeten George & Larma Volk Billie Walker Fred J. Wedow Kathrvn L Williams Glee Willis Donald G. Zundel, DDS

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2012**

dmission to the Museum \* Membership Card \* Free Access to Research Library o Museum Events \* Quarterly Newsletter — *The Headlight* 

Free Admission & General benefits for ONE Individual

Admission & General Benefits for TWO individuals at same address

ree Admission & General Benefits for all family members living at same address,

Admission & General Benefits for all family members living at same address, n Photo Reproductions

ion & General benefits for ONE Individual for the life of the individual que displayed at Museum Entrance

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### FT OF ANY AMOUNT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

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		Please make check payable to Sparks Heritage Museum Mail to: 820 Victorian Avenue, Sparks NV 89431								
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Signature:

## Thank you to our Community Partners whose contributions of materials, services and labor during times of economic hardship made the Sparks Cultural Center possible.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW **Positive Movement**

During the Fiscal Year July 2010/June 2011 the Museum gladly reports its operating deficit has decreased by 30 %compared to the previous fiscal year. There was an 23% increase in operating revenue and while expenses were decreased by 7 %.

Though progress has been made, sadly funds continue to fall short for operations including for preservation and education projects.

The Revitalization project is far from complete . Funds are needed to complete an Archival Research Room, as well as to make the Cultural Center fully functional with window coverings, a sound system, a security system, appropriate furnishings, etc. The exterior of the historic building is in need of painting and repair. Preservation supplies such as acid free boxes are running out and the need for expanded temperature controlled storage will be dire in the very near future.

The City of Sparks graciously provides the buildings in which the Museum is located, however operating expenses including educational outreach and preservation are funded exclusively through your donations and memberships.

Please consider making a year end contribution, renewing your membership, booking the Museum for a function or including the museum in your planned giving. Planned gifts to build an endowment are the best way to ensure a strong future for your Museum.

Consider booking the Sparks Museum Cultural Center for your next function.

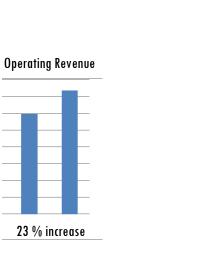


Thank you for making the Celebration on Nov 3rd a Success!

The Alley Amv's Flowers Blind Onion Pizza **Cantina Tres Hombres** The Gaberdine Sisters Great Basin Brewerv Irene & Paddy's Irish Pub The Nuaaet Oski's Irish Pub







CELTIC HARDWOOD FLOORING ONE STEP ABOVE THE REST NIALL KIRWAN 450 Toano St NIALL.KIRWAN@ATT.NET Reno, NV 89512 (775) 329 1131 WECCO inc. 2920 SAGE SPARROW CIRCLE NO, NV 89509 Donated all of the wiring and electrical supplies. Donated 100% of the labor to install, sand and finish approximately 2000 square feet of Douglas Fir solid wood flooring. James M. Helsel





Donated contracting services to get the first phase of the project started.

MASTERCRAFT Hardwood Lumber, Inc. Tel: (775) 356-1772 Fax: (775) 356-6573 1460 Linda Way Sparks, NV 89431



Donated the Cherry wood plywood for the soffits to cover the retrofit earthquake supports..



Ponderosa Wholesale 340 WOLVERINE • SPARKS, NV 89431-5728

Donated all of the lathe and plaster materials to repair the walls in a historically accurate manner.



PO Box 20285, Reno NV, 89515 Www.NevadaWoodchucks.org Donated all of the labor to sand and install baseboards and moldings. Designed 7 inch baseboard and arranged custom milling. Re created historically accurate window sills and installed.





775) 356-8008 • FAX: (775) 356-0307 • CELL: (775) 745-5730

VICTORY WOODWORKS Your Cabinet & Millwork Company 423 Overmeyer St., Sparks 89431 (775) 348 7552

Donated custom milled Cherry wood for historically accurate 7 inch baseboard.



Sparks, NV \* 775 355-8041 Donated the labor to repair the Museum roof



CELL: 775-846-777 FAX: 775-826-604



726 Spice Island Drive, Sparks, NV 89431 775.323.8822 Donated parts and labor to repair elevator to enable ADA accessibility to the Cultural Center.

Donated the initial drawings and designs, including the proposed finished project renderings.



2550 NW Nicolai St., Portland, OR 97210 888.401.1900

Deeply discounted the historically accurate period light fixtures enabling us to replicate the ambiance of 1931.



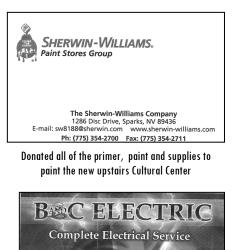
Donated all of the insulation materials needed for our historic building.



1357 Coupler Court, Sparks, NV 89434 775,287,8827 Donated 100% of the labor to prime and paint the entire upstairs. Solicited donation of paint.



Donated 100% of the labor to build the square soffits in the not so square Cultural Center



Bob Nesler bnesler@sbcglobal.net TEL: 775-846-9898 WI In #F6610

Donated a portion of the labor to install the electrical outlets and wiring for the light system.