

## **Agency**

Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Agency 395  
2316 W. First Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99204  
Bruce Eldredge, CEO (509) 363-5319; [brucee@northwestmuseum.org](mailto:brucee@northwestmuseum.org)  
Maurine Barrett, Director of Administration & Operations; (509) 363-5304;  
[maurineb@northwestmuseum.org](mailto:maurineb@northwestmuseum.org)  
Fax: (509) 363-5303 Website: [www.northwestmuseum.org](http://www.northwestmuseum.org)

## **Agency Responsibilities**

The mission of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society is to actively engage all people in the appreciation of arts and culture through collections stewardship, exhibits and programs that educate and entertain. The EWSHS/MAC uses five main activity areas to categorize all activities undertaken to achieve its mission. These categories are:

- **Museum Operations, Maintenance and Exhibitions**  
The Society curates, develops, designs, fabricates, and installs interpretive visual art, regional history, and American Indian and other cultural exhibitions utilizing 12,000 square feet of exhibition space and in the 13,000 square foot historic mansion, Campbell House. Staff operates, maintains and secures four buildings and a parking structure in historic Browne's Addition. Volunteer greeters, docents, etc. are recruited and trained with a resulting contribution of approximately 20,000 volunteer hours per year. Visitor Services staff provide excellent customer service to our visitors that is reflected in a customer satisfaction rate of 98.5 percent.
- **Acquire and Maintain Cultural, Artistic and Historic Collections**  
Manage the collection of art, artifacts, and archival material in three collecting disciplines: Fine Art, Regional History, and American Indian and other cultures. Collaborates with discipline curators and outside partners to select and acquire material that reflects the cultural, artistic, and historic development of Eastern Washington. Responsible for the organization, preservation, documentation, access, security, and legal transactions for over the 65,000 objects, 400,000 photographs, 10,000 books and 4,200 lineal feet of archival material in their care. Library / Archives serves over 1,600 patrons annually and provides research resources for museum staff.
- **Cultural, Artistic and Historical Education and Community Outreach Activities**  
The Society develops and implements a diverse array of educational programs for the benefit of four primary audiences: Adults, Families, Educators, and School Groups. We conduct over 150 individual programs, lectures and events annually that supplement, interpret, and enhance visual art, regional history, or American Indian and other cultural exhibitions or the disciplines in general. EWSHS provides programs that supplement the state's educational curriculum for grades K-12 that meet the state's Essential Academic Learning Requirements for art, state and national history and social studies with formal programs for school children. The EWSHS partners with six colleges and universities with formal agreements to share facilities, staff and programs to enhance the educational programs for college students. The Museum also offers a broad range of adult and family activities aimed at all age and experience levels to engage citizens in lifelong learning.
- **Development, Marketing and Communications**  
Responsible for developing and coordinating all aspects of fund raising, annual giving, public relations, marketing, advertising and membership for the Society.
- **Agency Administration**  
Overall direction of the Agency is provided by the Agency Director and a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the EWSHS is composed of 35 individuals who volunteer their time to set policy, promote the organization, provide financial oversight, and raise funds for the agency.

The Eastern Washington State Historical Society is enabled through RCW 27.34.010, with other applicable codes including RCW 27.34.060, RCW 27.34.070, RCW 27.34.075 and RCW 27.34.080.

## **Organization Chart and Budget**

The Society employs approximately 36 Full Time Equivalent employees.

- Senior Staff
  - Bruce Eldredge, CEO
  - Maurine Barrett, Director of Administration & Operations
  - Larry Schoonover, Director of Exhibits and Programs
  - Michael Holloman, Director of the Center for Plateau Cultural Studies
  - Joyce Cameron, Director of Development and Communications
- 2003-2005 Budget: \$2,926,000 fund 001; \$2,432,000 local fund 185
- Board of Trustees meets nine times per year

## **Most Pressing Issues or challenges your agency is facing**

- **Overall Financial Sustainability**

The MAC has more than doubled its facility size with the completion of our capital expansion project in December of 2001. Unfortunately, commensurate increases in operating funds have not been appropriated. Diverting funds from support of programs to support increased operating costs has hurt our ability to dynamically program the Museum, which in turn has effected admissions and other visitor dependant income. The Museum currently obtains approximately fifty percent of its operating budget from local fundraising efforts. Reduced funding, both state and local, resulted in a 20% cut in staffing last year and all full time staff voluntarily reducing their salaries through twelve days leave without pay. The Museum has also prioritized its activities to serve the public and continued prudent risk management strategies and activities. Both Senior Management and the Board of Trustees believe that we have reduced staff and operations as much as possible while still maintaining national accreditation by the American Association of Museums. The Museum continues to work at enhancing earned income revenue and contributions.

- **Changes in Exhibit Planning Philosophy**

The capital expansion completed in December of 2001 tripled the Society's exhibit space. At the same time, audience research revealed a demand for more gallery changes. As a result, exhibit programming included 12 or more gallery changes per year. However, no one could have predicted the sharp decline in resources available from local fundraising after September 11, 2001, combined with state budget cuts. The Society has been forced to change programming philosophy to adjust to reduced resources. As part of the Society's Strategic Plan two gallery spaces will be dedicated to longer term exhibits for the History Exhibit and the comprehensive American Indian Exhibit. Fewer gallery changes will reduce projected overall costs, as well as an overwhelming workload, while meeting customer expectations for greater emphasis on History and American Indian programming. While the Society has been extremely creative and frugal through the use of work-study students, interns, part time staffing, etc., the Society cannot continue the program as previously envisioned. Funding is required to implement the change.

- **Collection Processing / Cataloging Backlog**

Collections are a tool to educate the public about the world around them through the three broad theme areas of American Indian Culture, Regional history and the Visual Arts. Using our collections is also a key goal in developing exceptional exhibitions and programs. The Museum is striving to digitize all of its collection holdings for accessibility. The catalog will utilize digital images to promote increased use and appreciation of the resource internally, and as the strategic plan unfolds, to the widest audience possible through exhibits, educational programs, and internet access. This is a labor-intensive activity that has not been funded by the State and is progressing slowly as the Society is able to acquire private funding. Due to a tremendous backlog, the average delay in processing an archives collection is more than eight years. However, the collections must be organized for access soon. Every day we are losing the invaluable resource of elderly contact people that can provide identification and cultural context for objects and photographs.