

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
Laramie County Library, Cheyenne
February 13, 2009

Present: David Reetz, Sara Needles, Mike Shonsey, Barbara Smith

Staff: Renée Bovée

Guests: Lynn Pitet, Buffalo Bill Historical Center; Bob Sell, Ark Regional Services; Kayc DeMaranville, Ark Regional Services; Tina Lackey, Wyoming State Library/WY Center for the Book; Marcia Britton, Wyoming Humanities Council; Jenn Kolter, Wyoming Humanities Council; Holly Turner, Nicolaysen Art Museum; Amanda Helm, Nicolaysen Art Museum; Steve Schrepferman, Park County Arts Council; Linda Newman-Byers, Ft. Bridger State Historic Site; Edre Maier, Sheridan Heritage Center; Wendy Bredehoft, U.W. Art Museum; Susan Moldenhauer, U.W. Art Museum; Milward Simpson, Director, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

The Agenda was approved by consensus.

Chair David Reetz welcomed Lynn Pitet of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to the meeting.

Mike Shonsey moved and Barbara Smith seconded to approve the June 13-14, 2008 Evanston, July 23, 2008 Conference Call, and August 19, 2008 Conference Call minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Department Update/Legislative Session Update

Sara Needles noted that the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR) has several board meetings happening today, so she may be leaving later in the meeting to attend other meetings. Needles provided a brief legislative update:

The Cultural and Heritage Area bill, which involved a granting program to develop heritage corridors, areas, etc., faced some unexpected obstacles. This bill, in the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources (TRWCR) committee hearing, had lobbyists from the energy and agriculture areas who spoke against the bill. They expressed concern about the “designation” process that they saw as a problem with future energy development. During the committee hearing, Needles and Renée Bovée stepped outside with the lobbyists and discussed changes to the bill. After a weekend spent rewriting the bill, it became so watered down that it had nothing of substance remaining. So at the request of the SPCR, the committee “laid back” the bill, which meant it would not be heard this session and we would have the opportunity to talk to the TRWCR committee about this as a continued Interim Topic and possibly crafting a bill for the next session that more adequately addresses the concerns of all parties.

Chair Reetz and Shonsey asked whether there had been any support for the bill. Needles noted that yes, at the Committee meeting was Pamela Dewell, the Executive Director of the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust, who spoke in support of the bill. This Land Trust is involved in conservation easements for agricultural land, and this bill would have tied in with their easement program. But there were more folks speaking against the bill. Obviously, this brings up the ongoing issue of advocacy for cultural activities. This was the first time we tried this, and it is worth continuing to work on it, and working to develop an active voice of support for the concept.

Chair Reetz asked whether Diane Shober, Wyoming Tourism, had been in support of the bill. Needles noted that there had been many conversations with Tourism on this idea; overall they were lukewarm about the concept, perhaps having concern as to whether this would be “stepping into their territory”. In some ways they may feel they are doing this already, but since they don’t do “niche” marketing, we need to spend some more time with Shober. Additionally, Bovée noted how quickly we had worked on this project and having more time to develop the concept will allow the building of advocates for the idea.

Needles reported on the Arts Council revisions bill, which is a re-drafting of their enabling statute to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Arts Council board, Arts Council staff and their Endowment Program. It was believed this would be a simple house-cleaning bill, but some unusual action did arise. The proposed revisions include clarification of Arts Council Board responsibilities and it required the opening up of the Cultural Trust Fund legislation, to add the word “board” to the Arts Council’s role of supplying nominations to the Governor of two Cultural Trust Fund board members (while the SPCR Commission supplies two nominations). The Senate floor amendments changed that to the elimination of the nomination process by the Arts Council (and by SPCR Commission). This morning, the House TRWCR Committee heard testimony on these changes, and Smith testified on the Cultural Trust Fund position of support for the bill overall but also the wish to have the Cultural Trust board nomination process restored. The House TRWCR Committee was in support of that restoration of language. The House will now forward the bill to the House floor. Needles suggested that if the board knows any Representatives, to take this opportunity to contact them and ask their support for the House TRWCR version of the bill.

Needles briefly reported on the Historic Mine Trail and Byways program, which brings that program into the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Monuments and Markers program, is currently going through the legislative process without problems. There were a few bills that failed this year, but nothing that really has an impact on the Cultural Trust Fund or the type of grants that this board will be reviewing.

Needles reported on the Preservation Summit that occurred December 5, 2008 in Casper. This was a follow-up meeting to the May 2008 Historic Preservation Conference. This was a one-day workshop where about 90 participants broke up into teams to discuss and evaluate the topics of concern that are in the SHPO State Plan. From those discussion groups, action items were then worked on. Out of those groups, there were several points

that were brought up including advocacy, education and outreach, funding, support of preservation efforts, etc. To avoid the “bystander” effect, we finished the day with a sign up process for each action item – creating a contact list of people interested in working on these action items. The State Historical Society is working on the first issue, Advocacy, at this point, as without an advocacy group or effort we will not be able to proceed with the other action items. Bovée will e-mail out a copy of the Summit Report to the board.

Additionally, this May, SHPO and Main Street are teaming up again for another preservation workshop, “Upstairs in Wyoming” in Sheridan. Needles passed out a save the date card to the Board members.

Needles also reported on the status of the State Museum’s Collections move to the new Unicover building. The collections have been moved in over in the last few weeks, and they will have the space for future growth. They are currently working on clearing a few “bugs”, but essentially they are in place there now. Needles had an opportunity to go through the new site and was impressed with the incredible collection that the State Museum maintains and how wonderful it is to now have it all in a secure, climate controlled space.

Needles reported on the new Capitol Art Advisory Committee processes. There are often requests for new monuments or new artwork to be placed in the Capitol or throughout the Capitol Complex. These requests have to be evaluated in terms of location, appropriateness, quality, and the impact to the historic structures themselves that comprise the Capitol and Capitol Complex. Thus a new Advisory Committee is proposed, composed of a Chairman, Secretary of State Max Maxfield, and two legislative representatives, folks from the department including the State Museum, Arts Council and SHPO, and two public representatives. This Advisory Committee will review nominations for any artwork, monuments or renovations through an application process. The Advisory Committee will report to the State Building Commission. In addition, this committee can help address the issue that while the State Museum is responsible for all the artwork, there has been no appropriation to help with ongoing care and maintenance.

Needles reported on the Architectural Assistance program that is now up and going through the SHPO and Main Street programs. This granting program provides money for historic architects to provide consultation assistance to private individuals, non profit groups or others who need assistance in determining such things as whether “that crack in the foundation is cosmetic or structural” or “what is the next crucial step in preserving this building...the roof or the foundation”, etc.

Finally, Needles reported on the status of the state budget. In November the Governor requested the departments prepare a proposed 5% budget cut for the next fiscal year. As of yesterday, the Governor has requested that we need to go back and adjust these cuts to 10%. That is a lot of the SPCR budget as so much of our department expenses are tied up in staffing (more than ¾ of the current budget is salary). These cuts are for not just this next fiscal year (the second year of the biennium), but must be sustainable and carried into the next biennium budget. This information will be due to the Governor by May 5.

These are still “proposed” as we don’t know exactly where the revenues for the state will be, however Needles will keep the board informed of this as we proceed.

Bovée noted that we still have our Cultural Trust Fund request of \$20,000 in the supplemental budget, currently being reviewed by legislature. This \$20,000 is in support of administrative costs for the Cultural Trust Fund, primarily board and staff travel and general admin expenses. We will see what happens when legislature opens up the budget for discussion.

Budget

Bovée brought the board up-to-date on the current revenues to the Cultural Trust Fund. As of July 1, 2008 the Fund received the additional \$1.5 million, thus bringing the Corpus up to \$11.5 million. This additional corpus amount has helped offset the losses in interest earnings that have occurred to date. Each month, the Fund receives an “interest payment”, and this fiscal year those payments have swung from \$19,000 to \$80,000, with no discernable pattern. As of this point, with the carry-over from last year, it appears we will be earning enough to have a grant award “pool” of approximately \$500,000. This will keep us consistent with our previous grant award pools. Bovée noted that judging by the phone calls she is already receiving, the economic downturn is already impacting the non-profits in Wyoming and there appear to be a lot of proposals in development.

Grant Extension Policy

This was delayed to later in the day to allow the Grant Recipient Reports.

Grant Recipient Reports

The following individuals presented brief reports on their projects/activities supported by previous WCTF grants:

Bob Sell and Kayc DaMaranville, Ark Regional Services, Laramie

The Creative Arts Program provides opportunities in the arts to their clients, and through this program they have found meaningful participation in the arts improves communication, increasing fine and gross motor skills, improving vocational skills, building self confidence, improving listening skills and also shows a decrease in negative behavior which can create a road block in achieving advancement in other areas. The Creative Arts Program provides individualized instruction in theatre, dance, music and visual arts, and provides opportunity for community performances. Apart from the challenges of providing individualized training programs, they also have the challenges of assuring age appropriate work and to create work that is of high artistic excellence. One of the biggest challenges is to provide this level of artistic excellence that adds to the cultural landscape of Wyoming that requires a high level of commitment and expertise from the providers and teachers. The Program has a strong commitment to provide true, authentic excellence – not just providing the experience.

Tina Lackey, Wyoming State Library/Wyoming Center for the Book, Cheyenne
Lackey reported on the Wyoming Center for the Book festival which occurred in Cheyenne in September 2007. They are in the process of preparing for the next festival that will occur in 2009. They are taking a lot of what they learned at the last festival to make the next festival stronger. They are looking a redesigning the festival to better accommodate the audiences and the authors themselves – as some of the locations proved to be challenging last go around. They are looking to concentrate on having Wyoming authors only in the next festival.

Marcia Britton and Jenn Kolter, Wyoming Humanities Council, Laramie
Britton and Kolter reported on two different WCTF supported projects—the “Welcome to Wyoming: A Guide to Newcomers” pamphlet and the planning for the 2009 statewide humanities conference. The Newcomers guide was well received both within the state and from our colleagues in other states (especially our neighboring Western states). The guide brought together many collaborators that have created some new partnerships for future projects as well. The panel in Pinedale was very successful and while the attendance wasn’t as strong as hoped, but they are hoping to have follow-up panels in the future. The pamphlet is almost all distributed, so they are looking a reprinting more copies in the future (dependent upon funding). The statewide humanities conference is titled “Humanities Matter” and will occur October 22-24, 2009 at Central Wyoming College in Riverton. They have visited with the President, Academic Vice President and Faculty at seven community colleges, the Wind River Tribal College, the Wyoming Catholic College and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and most recently the University of Wyoming. They have received considerable support and interest in this conference. They will soon be meeting with public humanities organizations, such as the Wyoming Historical Society, the Cultural Resources Division of the Department, art museums, etc., to brainstorm on the content of the conference. The conversations to date have illustrated the challenges facing the humanities, including such things as diminished humanities faculties at the community colleges, the need to rebalance humanities with the sciences and the need to gather and unify humanities constituencies. This conference is shaping up to be a giant think-tank for the humanities and the impact of the humanities in Wyoming – and how this will tie into a current national conversation on the humanities.

The meeting agenda paused for Milward Simpson to provide a brief update on the legislative process. Apart from the update provided by Needles and Bovée, Simpson commented on the recent State of the State Address by Governor Freudenthal. He noted that it was the first time in a prominent public setting that he had heard the Governor refer to the Cultural Trust Fund “was near and dear to his heart” and that he highly values what the Cultural Trust Fund has accomplished, despite the need to withdraw the recommendation for an additional \$1 million for the corpus. Simpson also noted that the Mountain Plains Museum Association (MPMA) annual conference will be occurring in Cheyenne October 5-9, 2009. He is serving as honorary chair for the conference. This conference will bring museum professionals from a 10-state regional area to Cheyenne. Additionally, he noted that it looks like the Cultural Trust Fund administrative request of \$20,000 will survive through the supplemental budget process. He wished the board a

good meeting and he looks forward to seeing them at the Governor's Arts Award event this evening.

Holly Turner and Amanda Helm, Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper
Turner and Helm reported on two WCTF supported projects – the Summer of Art project which included the NIC Fest, Wednesday Night Live concerts and the Artspace consultation that occurred in 2007, and the new Endowment Campaign project. Turner provided background on the Nicolaysen and its role in supporting contemporary Western art. The Nic is currently going through the accreditation process, which should be completed within a few months. The NIC Fest was at its tender, young stage of being in the second year...and with the Cultural Trust Fund support and the additional sponsorships that were leveraged, the festival grew from 2,000 visitors to over 8,000 (the third year of the festival has brought over 15,000 visitors to the event). The use of an online artist application has helped draw national craft artists to the festival. The inclusion of performing artists, both at the Festival and in the Wednesday Night Live concerts, draw a broader spectrum of visitors to the NIC and create more of a presence in the community overall as a gathering space. The Artspace consultation provided an opportunity for the community to discuss the options and opportunities of utilizing existing buildings for redevelopment for artist/studio spaces. While the NIC won't be able to utilize such an opportunity at this point, it is something they have the information on to better evaluate it and if given the opportunity can implement something like it at a future date. The Endowment Campaign was started this fiscal year with planning and preparation, with the Campaign to go public in fiscal year 2009. The \$30,000 matching grant from the Cultural Trust Fund has helped get the campaign started, with already over \$13,000 being raised in match. The ultimate goal is to bring their endowment up to the \$6 million mark (it is currently valued at just under \$1 million, given the current downturn in the economy).

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Grant recipient reports continued from:

Steve Schrepferman, Park County Arts Council, Cody
Schrepferman reported on the challenges and success of the endowment campaign, supported with a \$25,000 grant from the Cultural Trust Fund. The Park County Arts Council worked with the Wyoming Community Foundation to create an endowment campaign. The Arts Council had a small \$10,000 endowment created through a granting program of the Wyoming Arts Council in the mid-90s...and nothing had happened with that endowment since that time. With the assistance and guidance from the Community Foundation, Park County Arts Council developed the materials and solicitation philosophy for the campaign. The board was inexperienced with this type of campaign and they limited the match to \$1 to \$1. Given the immediate success of this campaign, Schrepferman noted that it would have been nice to have a higher match planned in the campaign. The packets to prospective donors was sent out in May (2007) and the \$25,000 was matched by August! But what is important, was that it was a successful campaign and they will be able to carry the campaign into the future – they are continuing to seek

support for the endowment campaign. The endowment revenue is supporting the Park County Arts Council's arts in education programming.

Linda Newman-Byers, Ft. Bridger State Historic Site, Ft. Bridger

Newman-Byers reported on the Jim Bridger statue project. She provided a brief history of Ft. Bridger itself. The statue project was tied to the redesign of the entrance to the site itself. In the fall of 2003, the Ft. Bridger Historical Association Board commissioned artist David A. Clark from Lander to build an 8-foot tall, heroic size statue of Jim Bridger for the entrance of Ft. Bridger. Additionally, the Department committed \$10,000 to the enhancement of entrance. The board was deeply involved in the development of the statue, with the artist providing renderings and scale models for close evaluation to ensure that all the details (clothing, gun, accoutrements, etc.) were accurate. The maquette of the statue was used to raise awareness and funds for the project. Memorial rocks placed at the base of the statue were also used to raise funds. The redevelopment of the entrance to the site by the Wyoming Department of Transportation took two summers of work, which caused a slowdown to the overall project and seemed to equally affect the fundraising effort. In 2007, the Cultural Trust Fund grant award brought a renewed interest in the fundraising effort and provided the catalyst needed to bring the project to completion. The original siting of the statue was hampered by the discovery that a small portion of the site belonged to Uinta County and not the State of Wyoming. After considerable negotiations, a formal agreement was reached with Uinta County and a completion date was scheduled for August 2008. Permission to begin building the statue base was given July 1, 2008 – with the dedication scheduled for August 8. The statue was delivered for installation on August 7th. The dedication included recognition to all who had purchased memorial rocks and supported the project and the statue officially turned over to the State of Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Edre Maier, Sheridan Heritage Center/Sheridan Inn, Sheridan

Maier supplied some background on the Sheridan Inn and role of the non-profit Sheridan Heritage Center, which has purchased the building from the Joint Powers Board. The Sheridan Heritage Center has been restoring the building to its former use, as a historic hotel. In 2005 they obtained ground penetrating radar reports on the Inn, and it was found that the north end of the building had dropped 4 ½ inches, which had caused the building to twist. The engineering reports suggested the building had only 2 to 5 years before it would literally fall down. The board very courageously started the work on the building, with fundraising starting in 2006. The first part involved the stabilization of the building, with the rehabilitation to a hotel as part of the second phase. The Cultural Trust Fund grant is for the rehabilitation of the second and third floors. The first stabilization began with a budget of \$2.3 million...with the work beginning in September 2006. The stabilization work ran into major problems involving rotten beams, sections where the foundation was loose rock (without the cement!), front porch pillars not on a footing, but also on uncemented rocks, and the discovery that the entryway to the restaurant was completely rotted away with nothing supporting the linoleum flooring. The final discovery was that the wood structure overall was not strong enough to support the new drywall, flooring, plumbing, and furnishings of the 2nd and 3rd floor, thus requiring the addition of steel I-beams along every supporting structural beam. The stabilization

process showed that the building didn't have the 2 to 5 year existence -- it was literally down to a few months before the building would have collapsed. The stabilization has been a success, but at a price tag of over \$3.8 million. The second phase rehabilitation ran into problems with the loss of the revenue bonds due to the failing economy. The good news is that the building is now stable, and is re-wired and re-plumbed. The second phase rehabilitation is currently pending its conclusion, awaiting the match to a recent \$1 million challenge. Work has been continuing as funding allows – but at a slower rate than originally planned – and at a significantly higher cost.

Wendy Bredehoft and Susan Moldenhauer, University of Wyoming Art Museum, Laramie

Bredehoft and Moldenhauer reported on two WCTF projects for the U.W. Art Museum – a pilot Master Teacher project and the Sculpture Invitational public art project. The Master Teacher project, which provided a U.W. Art Museum staff member to coordinate and work with teachers around the state and with the College of Education student teachers through the University to create better art education programs which have a broader and deeper impact. The program proved to be so successful, that after the pilot the Art Museum sought to have the position permanently, which would take an estimated five years, such as previous positions requests have taken – and surprisingly the University gave the position in the first try based on the success of the pilot. The sculpture project originated as an idea to keep art in the public's eye while the Art Museum is closed for renovations. The sculpture project has placed 18 pieces in public spaces around the University campus and throughout the Laramie. The exhibit will continue through July 2009. The pieces include work created specifically for the site along with pieces from the Art Museum's collection. There has been tremendous public interest in the project and often ask “when are they going away, and is there anyway we can keep them?” Given the positive response, the Art Museum is looking at how to extend the program and the possibility of two new works this next year (some of the pieces are made of natural materials that will deteriorate/decompose over time, so those will definitely need to come down for safety reasons). While the Art Museum is helping some folks talk to artists about purchasing the work and having it stay in location, the Art Museum overall is more interested in having works change to keep the public interested and coming back for more – and finding more locations for the works around the community. As part of the sculpture project, there will be the Visual Arts Symposium that will be occurring in April 2009. The symposium is being held with the participation of the Wyoming Arts Council.

Public Comments:

No additional public comments.

Grant Extension Policy:

Bovée provided information on the grant extension policy that has evolved over the last year. Requests for time extensions must be submitted in written format (including letter, fax or e-mail). She proposed a formal procedure, whereby any requests for time extension

only exceeding 1 year from the original proposed end date must be forwarded to the WCTF Board for a vote, via e-mail or other written format. Information forwarded to the board shall include a summary of the project and the rationale for the proposed extension. A recommendation from the Administrator will be included the rationale. A simple majority vote by the WCTF Board will prevail. All communication will be documented and recorded in the grantee file. Smith moved to accept the policy and Shonsey seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting:

The board agreed to hold the next meeting on June 19-20, 2009 in Cheyenne. This will be a grant award meeting. Bovée will coordinate the details.

Shonsey moved and Needles seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.