

DATE: August 14, 2025

MEMO TO: Elizabeth Hough, President
Preservation Foundation Board

FROM: Alyssa Firkus
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a grant of \$1,800 from the Bess Bower Dunn Museum Fund to create an updated accreditation animation.

FINANCIAL DATA: As of March 31, 2025, the balance of the Bess Bower Dunn Museum Fund was \$87,040.04. There are no outstanding grants from this fund.

If awarded, the \$1,800 will be disbursed as a single payment in 2025.

BACKGROUND: As the 501(c)3 charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves, the Preservation Foundation's mission is to extend and accelerate the Lake County Forest Preserves goals through private philanthropy to restore and preserve Lake County's natural and cultural resources in perpetuity.

Initial funding for the Bess Bower Dunn Fund came from the transfer of assets from the Friends of the Lake County Discover Museum, and revenues to this fund continue to grow due to solicitation efforts by both the Museum and Foundation staff. As stewards of the fund, the Preservation Foundation created a process for staff to submit a grant request to support the priorities of the Dunn Museum and the Forest Preserves, such as piloting a new initiative, extending or accelerating existing work, or securing matching funds.

In accordance with this process, a request for a one-year grant in the amount of \$1,800 has been submitted for review and approval at the August 14 Board of Directors Meeting.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director of the Preservation Foundation, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, and Forest Preserves Executive Director

GRANT REQUEST:

Department	Education
Project Name	Celebrating the Dunn Museum Accreditation
Project Lead (if not Director)	Steve Furnett
Total Amount Requested	\$1,800.00
Grant Period	One Year
Grant Purpose	Extend or accelerate an existing project
Project Description	<p>The Dunn Museum has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded to the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.</p> <p>Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, roughly 1,100 are currently accredited. The Dunn Museum is one of only 32 museums accredited in Illinois.</p> <p>In 2011, the Friends of the Discovery Museum supported the creation of a short, animated video to celebrate the museum's accreditation. The animation was used by the museum for promotion and was also shared across the American Alliance of Museums' social media channels.</p> <p>The Dunn Museum staff requests \$1,800 to update this animation to celebrate our reaccreditation.</p> <p>In addition to updating the museum name and branding, the "Congratulations from..." portion of the video will be updated to the Preservation Foundation.</p>
Project Impact	Updating the video provides us with an important tool to share the news of our accreditation with the public and highlight the connection between the Dunn Museum and the Preservation Foundation.
Additional Funding	n/a
Impact if not funded	The original video cannot be used as it reflects the Discovery Museum branding.

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:

Date: _____

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____

Voice Vote Majority Ayes: _____ Nays: _____