Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History
2016 Quarterly Report
3rd quarter
JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

Roger Moore
Director

SHEERAR MUSEUM *of Stillwater History*

SHEERAR CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTER 702 S. DUNCAN STREET STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074 PHONE 405-377-0359

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October 2, 2016

Norman McNickle, City Manager
City of Stillwater
P.O. Box 1449
Stillwater, OK 74076

Dear Mr. McNickle,

This letter is to serve as the October 2016 quarterly report. The 3rd Quarter, Fall 2016 edition of the *Stillwater Muse* is enclosed.

3rd Quarter Visitation

From July 1 to Sept. 30 the museum was open seventy five (75) days – 25 in July, 26 in August, and 24 in September. July visitation was 750, including 581 who attended events in the auditorium. In August, 105 visited the museum with 101 attending events in the auditorium. September's numbers show 188 visitors to the museum with 248 attending events in the auditorium. For the third quarter, there were 1,392 visitors total for the museum and auditorium. For the third quarter 2015, there were 1,062 total visitors.

The Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History was open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends from 1-4 p.m. The museum is closed for holidays and on Mondays for cleaning. During the 3rd quarter, the museum was closed for the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends.

JULY

The highlight of July was the 10th edition of the Cool Classics Summer Concert Series. Concerts were held each Friday during the month — Appassionata Viola & Harp Duo on the 8th, Arabesque on the 15th, Grice Duo on the 22nd, and Trio Aleszky on the 29th. Concerts were free to the public, beginning at 7:30 p.m., and made possible thanks in part to funding provided by a grant from the Oklahoma Arts Council. These concerts include professional musicians who are members of the Tulsa Symphony, Opera, and Ballet, and who also perform throughout the state on an annual basis. Each year, the Sheerar and Mahlon Halleck, the co-founder of Cool Classics, give local high school musicians one of the concert dates. It gives young musicians an opportunity to gain experience in a live setting. Jacob and Beth Grice participated in 2015 and again in 2016.

In addition to the music, the Stillwater Museum Association teamed with four local organizations for receptions following each concert. The League of Women Voters, the Payne County Historical Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) all provided their organization's information and post-concert snacks to concert-goers each Friday night. The Sheerar auditorium seats 180. The four free concerts totaled 580 attendees, an average of 145 per Friday.

The month of July also included a transition from out-going director Ammie Bryant to new director Roger Moore. Bryant's last day was June 30, 2016.

AUGUST

The month of August saw the end of the exhibit "Stories Unfolding: The 30th Anniversary Celebration" and the building of a new exhibit, "1916-2016: A Century of Cowboy Cadets." The Stillwater Museum Association, the Sheerar staff and volunteers wish to thank all those involved with "Stories Unfolding," an exhibit that highlighted the history of the sister-city relationship between Stillwater and Kameoka, Japan. The exhibit opened in October of 2015 thanks to a large collaborative effort. Items exhibited throughout the last year have been returned to those gracious contributors and supporters.

Museum staff and volunteers, along with Oklahoma State work-study students and an intern, quickly disassembled the previous exhibit in the inner gallery and prepared the space for the coming exhibit for September.

The Stillwater Art Guild began its seasonal use of the Sheerar auditorium the first Monday of August. SAG meets in the auditorium once a month.

On August 13, the auditorium hosted a beautiful wedding ceremony.

SEPTEMBER

September included the opening of a new exhibit, "1916-2016: A Century of Cowboy Cadets," detailing the first 100 years of the Oklahoma State University Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The Stillwater Museum Association hosted a reception on Sept. 7 for the opening of the new exhibit which features a mix of Sheerar Museum collections, items donated by the OSU ROTC program, the OSU University Archives and Special Collections department, and also from community members. Stillwater and OSU have a rich military history, from one of the city's founders, Robert Lowry, to the Berry family, to current OSU President Burns Hargis. The exhibit explores the founding of the ROTC program, tracks its progress and growth over the last century, and identifies many familiar names to the community. Major General Douglas Dollar, the founder of the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame, was an honored guest and spoke to the crowd gathered for the opening. Guests included President Hargis, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives Wes Watkins, the American Legion, and OSU Air Force ROTC. Graduates of the ROTC Blades from 1972 to 1976 held a reunion in Stillwater the 16th and 17th of September. The group of 30 visited the museum on the 17th with MG Dollar leading a small discussion of the ROTC's history. Since its opening, the museum has seen a steady stream of visitors interested in the exhibit.

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The Sheerar has a long relationship with the Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University. The museum auditorium is the alternate location in the event of inclement weather for the fall concert series. On Sept. 17th, with threatening weather, the decision was made to have the Saturday kids' concert at the Sheerar. An estimated 150 attended the concert, the first time weather has forced the move of the concert indoors. The Sheerar is happy to continue this relationship with the Botanic Garden at OSU.

Museum director Roger Moore and registrar Brandon Jones attended the annual Oklahoma Museum Association Conference, Sept. 21-23. It should be noted that the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History has a solid reputation within the state's museum community. The exchange of ideas from various non-profit entities, especially museum leadership, allows for new and interesting ways to contribute to the community's cultural and educational mission. Keeping Stillwater's museum of history among the best in Oklahoma is vital to earning the support of the community.

Looking ahead

The final three months of 2016 include planning for a big 2017, the annual recital season in the auditorium, and a Christmas gathering at the museum.

"How Oklahoma Began!," the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History and Oklahoma WONDERtorium's collaborative educational program for area 3rd graders, is already in the planning stages. The award-winning program runs from the end of March through May 19, 2017, and already has participants from three area schools signed up.

In February of 2017, the Sheerar is planning a fun event around a Grand Opera House replica model originally built in the early 1980s that has been restored by Barbara Mintmire. The model is approximately 6' by 6' and will be displayed in a new exhibit case with historical signage in the auditorium's entryway. The Antique Mall currently sits where Stillwater's original entertainment venue welcomed musicians, orators, boxers, theater groups, and the first movie during its run from 1902 to 1932. A reception with a variety show are planned.

November and December mean recitals at the Sheerar. Annually, Stillwater High School, Oklahoma State, and local music students use the classic Sheerar auditorium to fulfill public recital requirements. The Sheerar is happy to provide this service to local musicians.

The Museum will be closed Nov. 24-27 and Dec. 24-25 for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, respectively.

The Sheerar Museum is very appreciative to the City of Stillwater for its annual support that helps us maintain a safe and aesthetically appealing environment for our patrons. We are committed to continuing the preservation of Stillwater's local history, sharing it with the community, and contributing to the cultural environment of our city.

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Sincerely,

Roger Moore, Director
Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History

Pat Jaynes, President
Stillwater Museum Association

Enclosures:
Summer 2016 Stillwater Muse produced by the Stillwater Museum Association