



Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History
2016 Quarterly Report
2nd quarter
APR-MAY-JUNE

Roger Moore
Director



SHEERAR MUSEUM *of Stillwater History*

SHEERAR CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTER

702 S. DUNCAN STREET

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074

PHONE 405-377-0359

STILLWATER MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

July 6, 2016

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

Dear Mr. McNickle,

This letter is to serve as the July 2016 quarterly report. The summer issue of the *Stillwater Muse* is enclosed. But first, a brief introduction.

For the last eight years Ammie Bryant served as Director of the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History. Ms. Bryant completed her tenure as director June 30, 2016. I, Roger Moore, after approval from the Stillwater Museum Association Board of Trustees in early June became the new museum director. I am a 1985 Stillwater High School graduate and earned both a B.A. and M.A. from Oklahoma State University in history. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1990-95 — I served with the First Armored Division in the Desert Storm campaign of the first Persian Gulf war — I returned to Stillwater. From January 1999 to June 2008 I worked as sports editor of the Stillwater Newspress and began working with Stillwater Radio and OSU in various broadcast capacities. The 2016-2017 college wrestling season will be my 15th on the radio broadcast.

My wife, Tara Roberson-Moore, is also a longtime Stillwater resident. She has been employed by the Stillwater Newspress, the Payne County District Attorney's Office under Rob Hudson, the District Attorney's Council in Oklahoma City and currently serves as an instructional developer at Fire Protection Publications in Stillwater. She is completing work on her Ph.D. at OSU, expecting to finish in the Fall of 2017.

As longtime Stillwater residents we have great interest in its past, present, and future. As director of the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History I hope to expand the museum's community role through the collaborative efforts of various entities.

Fourth Quarter Visitation

MUSEUM STAFF

Roger Moore
Director

Brandon Neal Jones
Registrar

The museum was open twenty-six (26) days in April and had 1,567 visitors. Of those visitors, 1,264 attended events and meetings in the auditorium which is an increase from 890 during the same period in 2015. In May, the museum was open for twenty-five (25) days with 1,374 visitors; June included twenty-six days (26) open with 210 visitors. On average, the month of June annually has smaller visitation numbers. The above visitor numbers include those visiting ongoing exhibits in the museum gallery,



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attending events in the auditorium, and those using the upstairs reception area for various reasons.

The museum hours are: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

APRIL

In April, the Sheerar continued its participation in the “Two Books, One Community” program, partnering with the Stillwater Public Library and Mt. Zion Baptist Church as lead sponsors. Discussions of *Great Gatsby* and *Fire in Beulah* are designed to foster a sense of community through a shared arts and reading experience of two novels that explore two very different views of 1920s America. Throughout the month discussions were held at different locations, including the Sheerar auditorium where Sheerar board member Gladeen Allred led a book discussion on the *Great Gatsby* and Roger Moore led a similar discussion on *Fire in Beulah*. Oklahoma State professor Dr. Michael Rabens led a discussion of 1920s Art Deco architecture in the auditorium. Partnering with the Oklahoma State history department, the museum opened the exhibit “Stillwater in the 1920s” to coincide with the “Two Books, One Community” program. The exhibit includes 1920s images, ephemera, uniforms, and items related to Stillwater during that period of our history. Everything on display is part of the Sheerar collection. Through cross-promotion with the Stillwater Public Library and through various means, the museum had almost 900 more visitors compared to April 2015.

Along with a wedding and a number of voice and music recitals in the auditorium, the month of April also saw the return of the award-winning education program, “*How Oklahoma Began*,” for area elementary students. This program, now in its third year, was developed and presented in partnership with the Oklahoma WONDERtorium and is available beginning in March. Most elementary schools wait until after spring break and state tests before enrolling. The 2016 program began in April. Students (third graders) from area elementary schools took part in exercises detailing Oklahoma history, highlighted by an inclusive map activity describing the period immediately before and after the Land Run of 1889. Elementary schools are encouraged to bring a small group of parents to aid teachers through map exercises, learning early settler children’s games and craft-making, plus a tour through the museum gallery where many of the items discussed are explored through the Sheerar’s “Hands-On” displays. Many of those parents return with additional family members and spend additional time in the museum.

The Sheerar and WONDERtorium will continue with this free program thanks to ongoing public support. This program would not be possible were it not for the many community volunteers, who aid in the implementation of each station within the 90-minute duration of the exercises.

MAY

The education program and “*How Oklahoma Began*” continued its run during the month of May. From May 3 through the 18th, students from Highland Park, Skyline, Sangre Ridge, and Perkins-Tryon participated in the program described above in the June summary.



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Preparations for the Sheerar's annual fundraiser "Puttin' on the Ritz" continued with ticket sales opening. This 1920s-themed event was scheduled for Sunday June 12 at Backstage Stillwater, owned by Russ and Julie Teubner.

May also included the beginning of a transition in leadership at the Sheerar. The Stillwater Museum Association sought applications for the director position to replace Ammie Bryant. A number of applications were received and six candidates were interviewed by a selection committee comprised of SMA board members. The SMA hired Stillwater resident Roger Moore and a start date of June 10 was set. Due to the nature of the job duties, Ammie Bryant was retained through the month of June to help with the transition.

JUNE

The Stillwater Museum Association, board members, staff, and volunteers worked together in the implementation of the 2016 fundraiser "Puttin' on the Ritz" on June 12 at Backstage Stillwater. Russ and Julie Teubner donated the use of the venue for the 1920s-themed event which featured music from 5th Edition Jazz, a catered meal provided by Stillwater Medical Center Foundation, and a silent auction with items donated by various local patrons. The theme was part of a larger community theme from the first quarter of 2016 with the Stillwater Public Library and the "Two Books, One Community" program that featured discussions of two 1920s-themed books. Most importantly, however, the guests came together in support of the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History. The money raised from this fundraiser plays an important role in the operations and programs of the museum.

The museum also said good-bye to Ammie Bryant on June 30 with a reception in the Sheerar auditorium. Bryant served as museum director for the past eight years and has done great work in almost every aspect of the museum, proven by the Oklahoma Historical Society 2013 award for outstanding local history museum and the Oklahoma Museum Association's 2014 award for outstanding education program. She will remain a supporter, but in a different role. During the July 18 City Council meeting, Bryant will be recognized for her service to the Stillwater community.

LOOKING AHEAD

This July, the Sheerar will host the tenth season of the Cool Classics Summer Concert Series with four performances on Fridays beginning July 8th and continuing through July 29th. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free to the public thanks in part to funding from the Oklahoma Arts Council and its generous grant. The series features a wide array of musical genres and is performed by professional musicians, including those who perform with the Tulsa Symphony, Tulsa Ballet, and Tulsa Opera.

July also means the end of "A Story Unfolding: The 30th Anniversary Celebration of Two Sister Cities." Opening last October, the exhibit will be dismantled with the items returned to the many generous supporters. This exhibit highlighted the history of the sister city relationship between Stillwater and Kameoka, Japan.



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The month of August will include preparation for an exhibit set to open September 1 focusing on the 100 years of Oklahoma State's ROTC program. In 1916, OSU, then Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC), was one of the charter programs of ROTC. Working with the current leadership at OSU ROTC, Edmon Low Special Collections, the American Legion, and other community entities, this exhibit will detail the many aspects of the last 100 years of ROTC at OSU.

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

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