

Duffer, Erin

From: justmytype398@charter.net
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Duffer, Erin
Subject: LCHS Museum Planning Studies in 2022 Budget

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Dear Ms. Duffer,

As a member of La Crosse County Historical Society and a citizen of La Crosse, I would like to express my support for funding the LCHS Museum Planning Studies in the 2022 city budget.

A full-fledged museum would benefit La Crosse in several concrete ways:

- 1) It would be a draw for tourism, attracting more revenue to the city. With several river cruise boats docking here, including Viking River Cruises starting in 2022, the opportunity for growth in tourism has increased substantially. A high quality, well-planned museum represents an enticement to spend time and money in our community, drawing people to La Crosse from around the Tri-State area.
- 2) A museum celebrating La Crosse's history would be an important educational tool for the children in our schools. Programming with class visits would highlight the heritage of the area and the people that were important in our past, enriching school curriculums.
- 3) 3) The current La Crosse County Heritage Center includes small exhibits on the Ho-Chunk, Hmong, and African American cultures. A full-fledged museum would greatly expand this, sharing more stories about the diverse peoples of the area. Awareness and knowledge of diversity can help to unite different groups to work together for the good of all, with a renewed pride in their heritage.
- 4) The city of Winona boasts a fine museum sponsored by the Winona Historical Society. The La Crosse County Historical Society has the volunteers and ability to create a museum to equal or excel that. If you attended the 2020 Silent City program directed by Diane Bresser, saw the performance of the Enduring Families Project, or visited the Juxtapose exhibit at La Crosse Public Library featuring historical costumes, you know how popular a well-designed presentation or exhibit can be. The talent to create a top-notch museum is there, along with the will to make it happen.

The LCHS Museum Planning Studies would activate a professional group to assist in planning layout, content and future fund-raising for a La Crosse History Museum. Speaking as a long-time La Crosse resident, I believe this would greatly benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carole Mullen