



**DATE:** November 16, 2023  
**MEMO TO:** Nels Leutwiler, Chair  
Preservation Foundation Board  
**FROM:** Nan Buckardt  
Director of Education

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a \$2,500 grant to support new programming related to the *Celebrating Cicadas* initiative in spring 2024.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The Lake County Forest Preserves has committed significant funding to this project, including a special allocation of \$46,585.00. The requested funds are for projects beyond the initial budget and will enable staff to extend our outreach and provide additional summer programs.

As of September 20, 2023, the balance of the Bess Bower Dunn Museum fund is \$87,110.71, and there are no outstanding grant awards. Initial funding 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.

The requested funds will be paid as a single disbursement in January 2024 from the Bess Bower Dunn Museum Fund.

**BACKGROUND:** In early summer 2024, both the 17-year and 13-year periodical cicadas will begin to emerge simultaneously in Lake County – a phenomenon that has not occurred since Thomas Jefferson was president. The emergence will occur a few weeks after the Foundation kicks off the public portion of the endowment campaign.

District staff has been planning a series of opportunities to learn more about this occasional natural phenomenon. A temporary exhibition at the Dunn Museum is in development. Engaging presentations for schools, families and adults are being written. A promotional plan has been written and is being implemented.

The requested funding will support bringing Dr. Gene Kritsky, the foremost expert on this cicada brood, to Lake County. During his visit, Dr. Kritsky would present at three events: a cocktail event for Foundation donors, a small group program to watch cicadas emerge after dark, and participate in a large special event.

**SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS:**

As a sponsor of *Celebrating Cicadas*, the Preservation Foundation’s logo will be featured on programming-related materials such as our website and advertisement. The Foundation will be mentioned in all program introductions as a sponsor.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Environmental Education Manager, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Director of Finance, Director of Administration, Chief Operations Officer, Lake County Forest Preserves Executive Director, Preservation Foundation Executive Director

**PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: \_\_\_\_\_