



# Lake County Forest Preserves

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**DATE:** December 4, 2023  
**TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Nan Buckardt  
Director of Education

**Agenda Item #** 10.5

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving a Statement of Organizational Support for the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Communication, Education, and Outreach and Leadership

**FINANCIAL DATA:** There is no financial impact at this time.

**BACKGROUND:** The Lake County Forest Preserve District (“District”) owns and operates the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (“Museum”). The Museum has achieved the highest national standard of recognition afforded the nation's museums: accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (“AAM”). Accreditation has been earned by only three percent of the museums in the United States and typically is renewed every ten years.

The Museum first earned accreditation in 1995 and, after an extension, was reaccredited in 2010. The Dunn Museum received an additional five-year extension to accommodate the complete renovation and relocation of the facility to the District’s General Offices building in Libertyville. Museum staff will be starting the 12-month reaccreditation process in early 2024, with the goal of earning reaccreditation in 2025.

In addition to the five core documents that were approved at the November 15, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting, AAM requests that the governing body of each accredited museum approve a Statement of Organizational Support indicating that the Lake County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners:

- values the Museum as an intellectual and educational resource
- embraces the Museum and its collections as an essential component of the District
- is committed to the Museum’s continued success in fulfilling its mission and its public trust responsibilities, especially in regard to the collections
- is committed to follow the Museum’s approved Collections Management Policy.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Museum Operations Manager, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE     )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2023**

**MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** presents herewith “A Resolution Approving a Statement of Support for the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County,” and requests its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: 12/4/2023    Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
                           Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: 0

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE  
BESS BOWER DUNN MUSEUM OF LAKE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (“District”) owns and operates the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (“Museum”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act, 70 ILCS 805/8(a), the District is authorized to adopt all necessary rules and regulations for the management of the property and the conduct of the business of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, District approval of the Statement of Support is required for continuing accreditation of the Museum through the American Alliance of Museums;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois THAT:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals set forth above are incorporated as part of this Resolution by this reference.

**Section 2. Approval of Statement of Support.** The Statement of Support, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby approved.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angelo Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gagnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_

The Lake County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners confirms its support for the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County by:

- providing regular funding for the Museum operations, staffing, education programming, exhibitions and care of its collections
- providing support for the solicitation of grants and donations that provide additional exhibition services, educational programming and collections care and conservation
- valuing the Museum as an intellectual and education resource for the Lake County community
- being committed to the Museum and its collections as an essential component of the work of the District
- being committed to the Museum's continued success in fulfilling its mission
- valuing the collections and understanding the importance of the Collections Management Policy.