



# Lake County Forest Preserves

General Offices  
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**DATE:** January 6, 2025

**TO:** Sara Knizhnik, Chair  
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair  
Finance Committee

**FROM:** Steve Neaman  
Director of Finance

Alyssa Firkus  
Director of Education

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by \$163,000.00 for expansion of exhibit space at the Dunn Museum.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED:** Organizational Sustainability; Public Access and Connections.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Funding for this project will come from the Museum Relocation Fund and the Preservation Foundation. The Museum Relocation funds, previously designated for the museum’s move from Lakewood Forest Preserve to the General Offices, are still available and were appropriated but not budgeted in the 2025 Budget. The 2025 Budget would be modified to add this project in the following accounts:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
70414100-803100-2112 Improvements to Buildings Expense	\$163,000.00
70412400-413000 Donations Revenue	\$100,000.00

A grant application has also been submitted to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$73,250.00. If awarded, the grant funds will offset donation revenue from the Preservation Foundation.

**BACKGROUND:** Artist Alex Ross (who previously developed the “Marvelocity” exhibit) has contacted District staff proposing that the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (the “Museum”) host a new exhibition which Mr. Ross created for the Museum. Staff recommends that the Museum host the new Ross exhibition and recommends that the District build out the southeast portion of the first floor at the General Offices to host this large exhibition. The new space will also allow the Museum to (i) host larger traveling exhibits, because there will be more room to display items, (ii) dedicate more space in the permanent galleries to feature District collections, (iii) open new exhibits sooner, which is anticipated to increase Museum revenue, and (iv) support the District’s mission.

Both the District and the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves are holding donations that were made for the relocation of the Museum from the Lakewood Forest Preserve to the General Offices. Expansion of this space with these funds would be considered part of that relocation process. The budget for this project is \$163,000.00, of which \$100,000.00 would be provided by the Preservation Foundation, and \$63,000.00 would be allocated from the District's Museum Relocation Fund. Staff has also submitted a grant application to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in the amount of \$73,520.00. If awarded, these grant funds would offset donation revenue from the Preservation Foundation.

The buildout of the space would be constructed by District staff, with a projected opening of the new exhibit in June 2025.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
REGULAR JANUARY MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2025**

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

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** and **FINANCE COMMITTEE** present herewith “An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for Expansion of Exhibit Space at the Dunn Museum” and request its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: 1/6/2025       Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: 0

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

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

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET  
FOR EXPANSION OF EXHIBIT SPACE AT THE DUNN MUSEUM**

**WHEREAS**, on October 9, 2024, the District Board of Commissioners approved (i) an Ordinance approving the District's 2025 Budget ("Budget") and (ii) an Ordinance setting forth the District's annual appropriations for the Year 2025 ("Appropriations Ordinance"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Budget includes costs relating to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (the "Museum"), which is owned and operated by the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has previously established a Museum Relocation Fund ("Fund") for the relocation of the Museum from Lakewood Forest Preserve to the District's General Offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the District desires to expand the Museum's existing exhibit space; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the District to amend the Budget to increase expenses for account 70414100-803100-2112 (Improvements to Buildings) by \$163,000.00 and to increase revenues for account 70412400-413000 (Donations) by \$100,000.00 to facilitate the buildout of expanded exhibit space at the Museum; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds in the Budget, as it will be amended by this Ordinance, to be expended on the Museum expansion have already been appropriated to the Museum Relocation Fund by the Appropriations Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** 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 Ordinance by this reference.

**Section 2: Amendment of 2025 Budget.** The Executive Director or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to amend the Budget by increasing expenses by \$163,000.00 in account 70414100-803100-2112 (Improvements to Buildings) and by increasing revenues by \$100,000.00 in account 70412400-413000 (Donations) for the expansion of exhibit space at the Museum.

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

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Vealitzek, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

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

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