

Cleveland County Historical Society
Report to City Finance Committee
Feb 20, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

As requested in January, the following is an updated report on the Cleveland County Historical Society's request for City funds to operate the Moore-Lindsay Historical House at 508 N. Peters, Norman, Oklahoma, for fiscal year 2014. For the fiscal year 2013 CCHS received \$31,500. We are requesting \$31,700 for the fiscal year 2014, which begins on July 1, 2013.

I. History of the Cleveland County Historical Society and the Society's guardianship of the Moore-Lindsay Historical House Museum.

Historical minded citizens of Norman incorporated The Cleveland County Historical Society (CCHS) in 1967 when 600 charter members pledged, to "research, preserve, publicize and perpetuate the history and genealogy of Cleveland County, Oklahoma and its people," and to "assemble and display objects of historical interest and significance."

In the 1970s, when citizens in cities and towns across the United States became concerned about the deteriorating condition of older historic homes in their areas, many state and city governments formed historical preservation committees to help organize the preservation of homes and designate historic districts. Norman was one of those communities. The mayor of Norman set up the "Mayor's Committee on Historic Preservation" with the goal to back citizen's efforts to preserve the history of Norman through its architecture. Working with members of the Historical Society, the city of Norman purchased the Moore-Lindsey House at 508 N. Peters in 1973. Soon after the purchase, the City allocated funds to renovate the House to its original Victorian style, which represents the early settlement and statehood of Oklahoma.

The Cleveland County Historical Society's stewardship of the Moore-Lindsey Historical House began in 1973 when they signed a contract with the City to open the historic house to the citizens of Norman. From the generosity of the citizens of Cleveland County, through donations of artifacts and money, the historical society was able to decorate each room in the historical house to represent the life of Victorian America at the turn of the twentieth century. Today the Historical Society maintains their partnership with the City as guardians of the Moore-Lindsay House.

The City of Norman was also responsible for hiring a director for the historical house, who was an employee of the City of Norman. It was the historical society's responsibility to supervise the director. That relationship ended in 1996 when the City offered the historical society a yearly contract, and an allocation of funds at the beginning of each fiscal year, for the operation of the Historical House. The City grant is principally used to hire a museum curator, whose duties include maintaining the Historical House, using

the Historical Society's collection to create displays, and to offer tours of the Victorian House museum to visitors, including school and civic groups.

II. Archives and Paper Collections

The people of Norman and Cleveland County, many whose families made the land-run in 1889, donated most of the materials in the archival collection, which represents the history and culture of the region. Materials in the collections also reflect Native American people, who lived in Indian Territory before statehood.

In the collection there are numerous books that date from the nineteenth to the early twentieth-first century. The manuscript collection includes diaries, family histories, letters, monographs, maps and photographs, all of which describe and depict Indian Territory before white settlement and the opening and settlement of Native lands by whites in the land-run of 1889. Beside the manuscript collections, the archive also houses audio/ visual materials, which include fifty 78 rpm sound recordings, 4000 slides recently donated by the Norman Chamber of Commerce that reflect Norman over the last 40 years, and an assortment of paintings. The archive also includes Textiles—women's men's and children's clothing; shoes, hats and gloves.

III. Officers

President: Vernon R. Maddux,

Vice-President: Riley Million;

Secretary: Mr. Ted Smith;

Treasurer: Sue Schrems.

Members freely join the Society each year. At present, there are 65 dues paying 2012-13 members of the Society besides the board members and officers. We have eight corporate sponsors. Republic Bank; Cain and Cain; Nancy Yoch Real Estate; Flager and Flager Attorneys at Law; Fitness Together; The Spirit Shop; Banc First and; Arvest Bank.

IV. Museum Curator

The Curator of Moore-Lindsay Historical House Museum is Erin Smith, who holds a master's degree in Museum Science from at OU. Erin maintains the House Museum's displays and is responsible for security and housekeeping. With the help of volunteers, Erin conducts and/or supervises tours of the House Museum. She represents the museum at various city organization meetings, and supervises the process of cataloguing the collections to an online database. The curator is also the editor of the Historical Society quarterly newsletter and is responsible for planning and executing special events.

V. Visitors

Walk-in visitation for the year totals 1062 (the number of people who signed the guest book.) Events were very successful this year, especially the Christmas open house, which increased the number of visitors significantly.

VI. Events

In December, the Historical House was open for Victorian Christmas. The event coincided with the 2nd Friday Art walks. A horse drawn carriage transported visitors from Main Street to the historical house. The event again drew record attendance.

VII. Renovations

Moore-Lindsay House Museum: Spring 2013, James Briggs is letting contracts to repair and replace cracked plaster and re-wall paper each room. The upstairs is complete and is open to visitors.

Carriage House: The exterior of the Carriage House will be painted this spring and the interior will be remodeled and made ready for public view and will be wheelchair friendly.

VIII. Sources of Income for the Cleveland County Historical Society:

Primary source for the Society caretaking the Moore-Lindsay House Museum is the Norman City Grant. The 2012-13 City Grant was \$31,500.00.

Membership Dues: CCHS initiates a membership drive in the Spring of each year. 2012-13 membership drive to date equals \$765.00. This year we have 24 new members; total membership to date is 65 members.

Corporate Sponsors: Republic Bank; Cain and Cain; Nancy Yoch Real Estate; Flager and Flager Attorneys at Law; Fitness Together; The Spirit Shop; Banc First and; Arvest Bank.

Spring Estate Sale: scheduled March 2013. The Estate Sale last year brought in \$921.00.

Donations: Donations from visitors to CCHS average around \$100.00 a month.

IX. Grants:

Grants applied for represent the period during which our current CCHS board serves. Over the last forty years, our files indicate that numerous grants have been applied for and granted from several charitable foundations, State and National humanities councils and museum organizations.

1. 2008- American Association for State and Local History
 - a. Alderson Internship: grant to fund a summer internship for an individual to work on collections. Grant denied
 - b. Norman Arts Council grant for Woody Guthrie performance at the Sooner Theatre. In partnership with the Norman Public Library in the Read

Oklahoma program about literature and art in the Great Depression, CCHS received a \$1500.00 grant to present "An Evening with Woody Guthrie" a performance by K.C Mathey at the Sooner Theatre.

2. 2009 -Sarkeys
 - a. Requested funding for two educational projects to enhance the Society's educational outreach to the citizens of Norman and Cleveland County. The two projects were inline with the mission of the Society to research and educate citizens to the history Norman, Cleveland County, and Central Oklahoma. CCHS proposed to interest the community in two ways; through a quarterly lecture series and outreach to schools that incorporates **new technology** (PowerPoint), and through **digitizing our collections** so that those researching the history of our region have access to our documents, which include manuscripts, diaries, letters and photographs. Grant denied.
3. 2009- Impact Oklahoma (letter of intent was not accepted)
4. 2009 –Save Americas Treasures Grant-\$150,000
 - a. Save America's Treasures grants for preservation and conservation of historic structures, which are on the National Register of Historic Places. After lengthy application process, the Moore-Lindsay Historical House, on the National Register since 1985, was not considered because the Victorian House was previously written on the register as only having local significance, and to qualify, the Historical House had to have national significance.
5. 2010 -NEH grant for collection assessment
 - a. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Assistance Grant to support a professional preservation consultant, to assess the collection overall and oversee the environment in which the collection is stored at the Moore-Lindsay Historical House Museum. Grant denied
 - b. Grant to Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board for "Threats to your Collection" opportunity. Grant was for protection of the collection during the period of the Historical house renovations. Grant denied. (Note: a similar grant was written in 2003 and the money was granted.
6. 2010- Oklahoma Department of Libraries Grant to purchase archival materials to preserve CCHS collections. Award was granted for \$1100.00 (to purchase materials only)
7. 2011- Integrated Business Core Entrepreneurship Program. Grant for the restoration of a rosewood Victorian square grand piano and Victrola. Grant denied

X. Future Revenue Projects

Sue Schrems and Vernon Maddux have contracted with Arcadia publishing to compile a photographic history of Norman for Arcadia's 'Image of America' series. This book of early photos, entitled, *Norman, 1889-1949*, is on track to be published in the fall of 2013. We intend to make these books available at a minimum fee to all Norman Municipal entities and town events.

Photographic Collection: Starting this Spring, there will be a \$3.00 charge for all photo requests, available in email attachments only.

The University of Oklahoma School of Architecture is tentatively planning to use the Museum House as one of its walk-through projects and may rent the House once each semester. This would bring in \$200.00 to \$400.00 each year.

IX. Cleveland County Historical Society/Norman City Budget for the Moore-Lindsay Historical House for FY 2014.

Payroll	\$19,000.00 (Curator)
	4,000.00 (Docents, Asst. Curator)
(Payroll Taxes & FICA	\$ 5,850.00 estimate)
Cox (internet & phone)	\$ 800.00
Association dues/Conference fees	\$ 480.00
Utilities	\$ 1,620.00 (2014 estimate)
Natural gas	
Electricity	
Water, sewer and refuse	
89ers Day/Norman Celebration	\$ 600.00
Open House (Christmas)	\$ 600.00
Accountant	\$ 1600.00
Web and domain	\$ 150.00
Newsletter/brochures/adverts	\$ 1,400.00
House Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00
Insect & rat control	
Emergency repairs	
Cleaning Equipment	
Grand Piano, Victrola Rebuild	0.00 (CCHS covers costs)
Furniture and collection maintenance	0.00 (CCHS covers costs)

Total	\$31,700.00