

Mackinac Associates 2019 Annual Meeting Recap

It is my pleasure to provide an update from our annual meeting. Thank you to everyone that attended the event. We had a great turnout and Historic Mill Creek provided a great location. It was great to see so many in attendance take advantage of the Adventure Tour and the various demonstrations following the meeting.

We enjoyed record turnout at our events earlier this summer. We had 217 in attendance at the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac celebration which was held at the cottage of Michael and Wendy Young and Skip and Rachel Young. The Governor joined us for a portion of the cocktail reception. Our Red, White and Blue Celebration was our largest ever with nearly 200 in attendance. Members also attended the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Art Contest reception for which we sponsor \$2,500 of the prize money.

We want to thank you for your generous support of our fall and spring appeals. We surpassed our original goal for the fall 2018 appeal and raised over \$100,000 for the new Native American Museum that will be built at the Biddle House and will open next summer. Our spring appeal raised just over \$12,000 for our unrestricted funds.

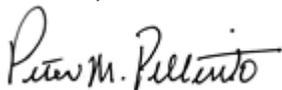
Your support through membership dues and unrestricted donations allowed Mackinac Associates to fund several needed projects at Mackinac State Historic Parks this past year. At Fort Mackinac we funded the new Office exhibit in what was formerly called the Post Headquarters that highlights officers that had served at the Fort as well as the history of the Fort during its time as a National Park. We also provided funding for new bunting. At Colonial Michilimackinac the Barracks exhibit was redone and new entry signs were provided. Mackinac Associates also funded a variety of collection, interpretation, printing and marketing needs as well as general park improvements including archival cabinets, camera equipment, a reprint of *Werewolves and Will O the Wisps*, and outdoor interpretive signs. Projects to be completed this fall under the current budget are the corner landscaping at Marquette Park on Mackinac Island and the water-power exhibit here at Historic Mill Creek. We also provided funding for the second year of our commitment to the PBS documentary Mackinac: Our Famous Island which premiered this past February and continues to be aired on public television stations across the state. In total we provided \$126,050 in support of these projects.

We continue to support the education outreach programs which to date have reached more than 250,000 children in classrooms around the state through over 4,800 programs, engaging and entertaining them as they learn the important history and natural history of the Straits of Mackinac. Additionally, we continue to be able to provide grants to 25-30 schools a year to support their visit to one of Mackinac State Historic Parks sites.

I would like to thank the two members who went off the board at this annual meeting as they have served the maximum number of terms. Mary Jane Barnwell and Mark Mercer and their contribution as board members have been critical to the growth of Mackinac Associates and we will greatly miss their contribution at board meetings. In their place we welcome Stephen Murray and Sheldon Smith. You can find the full press release [here](#).

Thank you again to all of our members for your continued support and generosity.

Sincerely,



Peter Pellerito, President
Mackinac Associates Board of Trustees