

STURGEON BAY

Historical Society Foundation, INC

P.O. Box 827 | Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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Greetings from the Door County Granary! We hope this finds you well. We are writing to thank you for your support and to provide you with an update on exciting news.

As you know, in August of last year, the upper bin and headhouse levels of the Teweles and Brandeis Grain Elevator were reattached to thirty, first-floor support columns, making the building whole again for the first time since it was dismantled in 2018 to avoid a raze order. Putting a 75-foot historic wooden structure back together again was quite an engineering feat. This was the culmination of years of work by the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society that included, among other things, two moves over the bay, negotiation of a development agreement with the City of Sturgeon Bay, driving 51 new pilings into the lakebed to lay a new foundation, development of architectural plans, acquiring state permits, and raising approximately \$2.5M in private funds.

In December of 2022, we learned that the Door County Granary Project was earmarked for \$3.3M in congressionally directed spending (CDS), based on its historical significance as a rural landmark. We were thrilled! It's incredibly gratifying to have the significance of our project reaffirmed on the national level.

Since hearing this news, we have been working diligently on the following:

- 1. Revising our construction plans and schedule.** The CDS funding will allow us to complete the design/build process in one phase rather than two. This will result in efficiencies and cost savings. We anticipate that the dollars raised to date from private contributions and the committed CDS funding will cover *the total construction costs* of approximately \$5.8M. We will be raising additional funds to pay expenses incurred prior to receiving the USDA funding and for components like interpretation, signage, marketing materials, etc.

We will also, in the months ahead, be working to hire an executive director. A venture of this magnitude requires staffing beyond the ½-time person we currently employ. An executive director will give the organization the depth it needs to ready the Granary for operation, ensure its long-term sustainability, and plan for future SBHSF projects. Until we have final construction costs from our general contractor, we do

not know exactly what our end fundraising goal is. We look forward to sharing that number when we have it.

- 2. Completing the application for CDS funding.** The CDS funding is administered through the USDA's Rural Development agency. Our project team is working with USDA staff to submit the dozens of organizational documents, budgets, and reports required to access the \$3.3M. This has required detailed coordination of our entire team – project manager, construction manager, architects, board of directors, and Granary steering committee. The USDA's review process could take up to three months or more before the funding will be available.

So, while there is much to be done and funds yet to be raised, ultimately, the news is good! Larry Desotell, a local historian, presented a lecture in early March on the role wooden grain elevators played in the growth of our country. After showing numerous images of elevators that have disappeared from the American landscape, he called our granary, "the little granary that could."

We expect to finalize architectural and engineering plans for the revised project and to apply for state permitting in the coming weeks. Construction documents will be put out to bid in late spring. Light and preparatory construction will take place over the summer with full-fledge final construction beginning in early fall.

We have made it this far because of your support and faith in the value of this venture. We would not be here without you. Thank you! Please feel free to reach out to us or any of the board members listed on this letterhead if you have questions, thoughts, and/or ideas to share. We'd love to hear from you! Also, please share this update and good news with family and friends who are interested in our project's progress.

We will be working to create a vibrant community gathering space and world-class museum, and we are proud of the fact that Door County will be home to the only interpreted, wooden grain elevator remaining on the Great Lakes. We look forward to celebrating together!

Sincerely,

Laurel Hauser
President, Sturgeon Bay Historical Society

Nicole Matson
Project Manager, Door County Granary