

**SHERIDAN COUNTY**  
*APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS*

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015  
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Sheridan County Historical Society    PHONE: 675-1150

CONTACT PERSON: Mary Ellen McWilliams    ADDRESS: 1004 Big Goose Road, Sheridan

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$20,000\*    AMOUNT APPROVED:

TAX STATUS: 501 C (3)    FEDERAL ID NO: 83- 6007540. Group number 1833 indicates our designation as an affiliated chapter of the non-profit Wyoming State Historical Society.

EMAIL: [jmcwilli@wavecom.net](mailto:jmcwilli@wavecom.net)

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: 'To Preserve and Share our Rich History with Present and Future Generations,' and for visitors... 'Presenting a Local Perspective on the History of the American West.'

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS; A Nominating Committee is appointed each year. Nominations must be approved by the full board, and then voted upon by the SCHS membership at our annual meeting. Interim appointments may be made and then voted upon at the next annual meeting.

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: Up to 12    TERM: Staggered from one to three years

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS: Tim Barnes, Katie Curtiss, Mark Demple, Linda Grosso, Helen Laumann, Robert Legoski, Mary Ellen McWilliams, Judy Musgrave, Susie Ponce, Colleen Rolston. Also, note our strong and active Advisory Board on our letterhead.

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; Indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax fund are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

The 1c Sales Tax Funds are most needed by our organization as an operational subsidy, for our Sheridan County Museum. General operations, including salaries and building operations, is our greatest need and most difficult to raise, as foundations, businesses, and individuals prefer to donate to special projects.

We are applying also to the City, which is presently funding us at \$30,000 per year. We also have income available from Museum admissions; memberships; Museum Mercantile sales; special fund-raisers; investment income; and donations, grants, and awards.

The Museum and associated activities cover and benefit all Sheridan County citizens, as well as interested visitors, who choose to take advantage of them.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which fund are requested):

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1- \$20,000, or more if available (2011-12)	General Operations, including salaries*
2- \$20,000, or more if available (2012-13)	General Operations, including salaries*
3- \$20,000, or more if available (2013-14)	General Operations, including salaries*
4- \$20,000, or more if available (2014-15)	General Operations, including salaries*

\*NOTE: With the downturn in the economy, and despite budget cuts, we could make good use of extra sales tax funds. We well realize however that this is unlikely in this economy, and would be grateful to receive the same as now. If income sources increase in the future, however, we ask you to consider adding additional funds.

General operations would not include SCHS expenses, but rather, only the Museum expenses. We presently have money in our cash accounts, paid in Sept. 2009, from the Watt Foundation to pay for parking lot resurfacing, log work, converting garage to work space for exhibit creation, and adding electric outlets to the porch. Our budget is more than usual due to these maintenance additions for this year. We also have received funds from the Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation to help fund Nathan Doerr's salary and education program this year, and will be applying again in Nov. for 2011, though as ongoing income, this is by no means assured.

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE;

- 1- Operate a first class, professionally managed history Museum, with a variety of exhibits, up-dated regularly.
- 2- Provide Collections preservation and management for area artifacts, photos, materials.
- 3- Provide a strong and popular educational program for children, serving the schools, organizations, and families. Interpretive panels for children are included in exhibits..
- 4- Provide historical programs, tours, and host events such as Regional History Day.
- 5- Provide community outreach services, including training programs. We provide information, historical photos, and assistance to other organizations and individuals.
- 6- Publish books, booklets, and an SCHS & Museum newsletter, 'The Log'.
- 7- Promote tourism in the area through region-wide, multi-state distribution of materials, and through our web site. We provide 72 spaces for advertising materials from other businesses, museums, and historic sites in the area. We also brought in the national Order of the Indian Wars to headquarter here for several days, visiting the Museum's "*Crook, Crazy Horse and the Battle on Rosebud Creek*" exhibit; and planned and guided the WY Dept. of Transportation's Tour of Sheridan's Main Street, and the Museum.

In addition, our Museum Staff, and Board members serve throughout the community. Our Museum Director, Dana Prater, performs in several community bands and orchestras, and founded the NEW Sheridan Cornet Band which performs music from the original Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. She serves on the City of Sheridan Mayor's Landmark Commission. Education Director Nathan Doerr is a member of the board of the Sheridan Heritage Center and President of the Civic Theater Guild. Both Dana and Nathan work actively with professional State and Regional History organizations.

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

The Sheridan County Historical Society won the award for Best Chapter in Wyoming last year for a cooperative project with the Big Horn City Historical Society, the Sheridan County Library and the families of Henry A. and Herbert Coffeen, and of Elsa Spear Byron. Dana Prater and Judy Slack have worked to scan, catalog, identify, preserve, and eventually make available to the public, the historical photos of Herbert Coffeen and Elsa Spear Byron.

The museum staff consists of two full time and two part time positions and operates the museum open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, from May 1 through December 16. Annually the full time museum professionals design and fabricate exhibits, with special emphasis on activities for children; man the admissions desk and museum mercantile; develop and market merchandise unique to the museum and to Sheridan to raise funds to support the museum; conduct tours; host special events and children's summer programs; conduct the Junior Curator program; and provide instruction and support for a national History Day regional competitions for grades 6 through 12.

They catalogue artifact collections; conduct interviews and research with artifact and photo donors; scan photo collections; developed an interactive touch screen program of Memorials which honor and highlight the lives of departed donors and members; host many school tours, including from Gillette and Casper schools; assist tourists and provide information on places of interest in Sheridan County; host special events, historical programs and workshops; answer historical inquiries from the public and assist researchers; and prepare mailing of promotional materials. They began a program of Casual History Conversation to engage residents and provide outreach to the Senior Center; hosted regional museum professionals with a workshop on disaster preparedness and artifact collections care, edit and publish 'The Log' newsletter; assist the Historical Society with its monthly dinner and program meetings, and manage the daily upkeep and maintenance of the Museum and grounds. The staff serves on the board and committees of regional professional museum organizations, the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums and the Mountain-Plains Museum Association, and are members of the America Association for State and Local History, the National Association for Interpretation, and the American Association of Museums.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEARS AND PURPOSE.

Yes. We are requesting \$30,000 per year, for 4 years, also for General Operations, and also with the request that the amount be increased if additional money from sales tax becomes available.

\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).

\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

\*\*PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable).

SIGNED:

*Mary Ellen McWilliam*

Title: Member SCHS Board; Finance Committee Chair; Nominating Committee member.

Date:

*March 30, 2010*

Please complete this application. You may provide additional information if you wish.