

a carousel for Sandpoint

This self-paced presentation is designed to accompany the fast paced video overview of the Carousel of Smiles project

Imagine The Magic

set to music played on our own Wurlitzer Band Organ. (Beer Barrel Polka)

> - link to the video is our website www.thecarouselofsmiles.org

And don't forget to sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about our activities and progress



A restored Golden Age Carousel operating in a fabulous year-round venue In Sandpoint, Idaho This is a Community Project by the community for the community NO local tax \$ is being used or requested Funding is through private donations and grants

The Carousel of Smiles, Ltd. is an Idaho registered 501(c)(3)

Sandpoint's Carousel - a c1920, Allan Herschell #2 Special

The Assembled Carousel - 14 sections (sweeps) - 40' diameter 36 horses, 2 chariots, 14 Rounding boards & Shields, 14 Interior Art panels



When fully restored and operational, *Sandpoint's Carousel* will be an important part of the National Collection of saved *Golden Age* Carousels

The Carousel Pavilion with *The Stable* Sandpoint's Arts & Activities Venue



The Cultural House At Sandcreek

The Story Begins 1973 Butte, Montana

Where Reno Hutchison grew up

The Columbia Gardens

Established by the Copper Kings in 1899

Like many children of Butte, Reno spent much of her summers enjoying the Magic of *The Columbia Gardens,* with its pavilions, gardens and rides - especially the beloved carousel



In November 1973

The Carousel and the Pavilions were completely destroyed in a mysterious fire.

This tragedy sparked in Reno a dream

To one day find and restore a *Golden Age* Carousel, bring it to her hometown (Sandpoint, Idaho since 1981) and recreate the *Magic* she enjoyed as a child.



In 2000

A "lost" carousel is found





It had been stored in two trailers, and left in a farmer's field outside of Kansas City - **for 48 years**.

This forgotten carousel last operated at the 1952 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS (The county seat of Reno County, KS)



Based on a few photos









Reno & Clay Hutchison purchased the carousel, saving it from being broken up and sold at auction.

They moved it, still in its trailers, to this barn in NY State, where It remained - for another 16 years.



Now What???

A frequent question we asked ourselves

What does one do with an almost 100 yr old carousel in this day and age??

Fortunately, we found some answers...



"With its purpose to promote conservation, appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of the art of the classic wooden carousel, especially the preservation of complete operating carousels."

https://carousels.org/index.html

Abandonment, Fire & The Collectable Craze —



Of the 5,000 - 6,000 carousels carved during the Golden Age only around 160 have survived.

Fewer still are carousels remaining intact with their original mechanism and animals together.

And we had — tucked away in trailers in our NY barn, a forgotten, intact, and unknown *Golden Age* gem...



By Working with the NCA



and visiting carousels around the country, we found our mission.

To use the carousel as a catalyst to support and create synergy for our community.

The Guiding Premise

"A significant benefit of almost all carousel projects in the last 45 years has been economic and community development."

"Find out what your city needs, and work with that"

Bette L. Largent

President - The National Carousel Association Curator - Spokane's 1908 Loof Carousel



THE OPPORTUNITY

In August, 2016

The City of Sandpoint Idaho announced a Master Plan process for its *City Beach* park

The desire of city officials was to develop year round activity for this "underutilized Gem of Sandpoint".

"In the wintertime, here we have this gem that sits right out of our downtown core, which has the ability to support business drawn tourists and be a huge resource year-round."

J. Stapleton, City Administrator - Bonner County Daily Bee - August 2016



"welcome the public"

A Simple Directive - Get the Public Involved!

September 6, 2016

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison,

Thank you for your interest in bringing a classic carousel to Sandpoint. The City appreciates your desire and willingness to bring a historical artifact of this caliber to our town. Carousel's are recognized as an important part of our American heritage and have brought delight to children and families for generations.

For this reason we welcome the public to consider placement of your carousel at our City Beach or some other appropriate location. As you know, the City will be developing a master plan for a new and improved City Beach over this next year. The public will be invited to consider this carousel as an option within the new master plan. If through this planning process it is determined that incorporating your carousel into the park would be desirable, the City may be willing to contribute space to accommodate.

Thank you for your interest in making our community a better place.

Sincerely,

we welcome the public to consider placement of your carousel at our City Beach

As you know the City will be developing a most

In October 2016, "the Ponies left the Barn" and journeyed West To Sandpoint, Idaho.



Building Passion and support in the Community

The Ponies are Coming!!!

First Introduction to the Community The Unloading Event - December, 2016

After 64 Years in Hibernation





The "Herd" was freed...





Along with all the parts







L to R: Jan Griffitts, Clay & Reno Hutchison, Bette Largent

Confirmation: a complete, intact, original c1920 Allan Herschell Carousel

A year later - December 2017 -We had the *The Unveiling Event* @ The Bonner County Fairgrounds





The unrestored carousel was assembled and unveiled to the public launching the restoration effort.



The unrestored carousel was assembled and unveiled to the public launching the restoration effort.

2018 The Restoration Begins

Being accomplished by 3 named groups of volunteers: individuals & businesses - a collaborative effort

The Gear & Grease Gang - carousel frame & mechanicals

The Godfather Squad - wood restoration of the ponies

Painters of the Lost Art - artistry with paint

Top to Bottom - a full restoration

The restoration is about 70% complete, and is expected to be substantially finished by early Fall 2024

The Gear & Grease Gang



Mechanical Types & help from Regional trade businesses



The Entire Carousel & all of the weight is hung from the Center pole



Wood Restoration by **The Godfather Squad**



"Restore, not Replace"




















Wood Restoration Workshops





120







all metal & nails are removed

extremities are removed, repaired and restored

























Northern Viking

Southern Belle

Eastern Prince

Western Indian

Northern Viking

Eastern Prince

Painters of the Lost Art

Creating New & Exceptional Art



A series of painting workshops learning special techniques for ponies on a working carousel



Special Saddle Technique





Painting is accomplished with a collaborative group approach







Lots of other work besides the ponies







With Individual Specialties





Ruby Rose the wedding horse 3





A work in process









A few other bits & pieces













Northern Viking

Eastern Prince

Southern Belle

The Four Winds

Created By Ward Olver

A long time artist with Alan Herschell

Western Indian





Northern Viking

Eastern Prince

The Four Winds

Created By Ward Olver

Restored by The Gear & Grease Gang **Painters of the Lost Arts**

Southern Belle

Western Indian



























The Interior Art Panels



Signed by L. Wagner "Davis"

Lotteva Wagner Davis March 12, 1910 - December 29, 1993



The *L. Wagner Davis* Interior Art Panels Connecting the past to the present

Lottiva's well known parents - a colorful family story



Gus Wagner - "the most artistically marked up man in America" tattooing his wife Maud



Maud (Stevens) Wagner in 1907

A circus performer & The first known female tattoo artist in the US

The <u>L. Wagner Davis</u> Art Panels - A traveling exhibition Connecting the past to the present — Connecting Sandpoint



Painstaking Professional Restoration

Favorite tool is a Q-Tip



The Art Panel Project

a rotating curatable exhibition space - on the carousel

New Scenes & Themed exhibits -Local Artists adding the flavor of North Idaho



A few of the initial submissions





New frame panels - created with the traditional Allan Herschell motif North Idaho Artists - adding the flavor of Idaho Over 50 Volunteers So far have already contributed about 20,000 hrs into this restoration effort.
Juta Geurtsen Community development Director (Former) Idaho Commission of the Arts

"There is great creative and economic impact in this endeavor, and I am excited for the creative placemaking effect of a project of this size and scope for the community of Sandpoint and for the State of Idaho"

> "This may well be <u>the largest Public Art Project</u> in the state of Idaho."

And now - the Location

Envisioning "The Stable"

Working with the city of Sandpoint, Idaho to find a permanent home for *The Carousel of Smiles* and its associated activities.

An Evolving Process

April 2019 - September 2020 The City Parks Master Plan was launched and adopted.

After Tremendous Community Collaboration & Involvement 2 potential sites for the Carousel were identified



The CITY BEACH CONCEPT



The <u>City Parks Master Plan</u> April 2019 - September 2020



With Sandpoint's Parks & Recreation Master Plan completed, the SANDCREEK site is selected as the Proposed home for *The Carousel of Smiles Pavilion* & Arts Center



The Sandcreek Site



This site is currently owned by The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Donation of this parcel to the city of Sandpoint is expected to be finalized in 2024

The Sandcreek Site - Gateway to Sandpoint's City Beach Park



The Pleasant View - Summer Time

The Sandcreek Site - Gateway to Sandpoint's City Beach Park



The Not So Pleasant (No Waterfront) Winter Months

Design of the Carousel Pavilion & Art Center and the anticipated programs & activities has been inspired by the community.

Expressed desires for more year-round activities, greater opportunities to engage in and support the arts and culture, and to grow a robust downtown core and balance of life are put forth in various City Master Plans and documents.

<u>Sandpoint Comprehensive Plan(s) — 2009 & 2023/4</u> <u>Parks and Recreation Master Plan — 2020</u> <u>Art, Culture & Historic Preservation Plan — 2021</u> The following renderings and designs were created in collaboration with architect Tim Boden and his team.

This is a <u>Concept Mass Model</u> Textural Finishes and Details are still to be determined



Google Earth - view of the site - currently a parking lot



Boden Architecture - Site plan



The Carousel Pavilion with *The Stable* Sandpoint's Arts & Activities Venue



The Cultural House At Sandcreek



Solar Panel Opportunity - an educational & practical aspect = ongoing teachable moment

Entrance



Possible use of translucent roof panels + radiating wood beam rafters Entrance Statement Column - A showcase for wood

The Second Floor - viewing gallery and event rooms





2nd Floor inspired by the:

PTC #62 Carousel in the 1916 LOOFF Hippodrome on the Santa Monica Pier



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Activities at Sandpoint's Carousel Pavilion & Cultural House

This is a Blank Slate – creating community connections,

- synergistic, year-round activities & cultural events
- educational opportunities focused on history & the arts.

The Carousel: provides the opportunity to ride on a piece of history and living art. It is the anchor of the activities plan and the catalyst for numerous other activities.

Accessible Saturday & Other Community Year-Round programs

Art workshop programs / Artist in Residence program

Seasonal Events

Summer (largely takes care of itself) Fall - Halloween at the Scarousel - November food drive Winter - Holiday Magic - First Night Event -Weekly Friday night s'mores at the bonfire Spring - Easter event - Flower Festival

Event Rental Space(s)

birthday parties, weddings, private events

Exhibition Space(s)

Curated multi-disciplined exhibitions - locally envisioned & created Connection with the Bonner County Museum Program of Museum quality traveling packaged exhibitions



So why all the fuss?

"The ingredients that go into the universal love of carousels are definitely unique. No other aspect of our heritage can claim to combine the nostalgia, innocence, and fantasy of childhood with the innovations of the Industrial Revolution, and the exquisitely talented craftsmen of turn-of-century America.

The carousel, has etched a place not only in our history, but in our hearts."

Tobin Fraley: *The Great American Carousel*

The Carousel Pavilion with *The Stable* Sandpoint's Arts & Activities Venue



The Cultural House At Sandcreek



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When Dreams, Ideas & Collaboration Coalesce amazing things can be accomplished...

- True Magic Happens -

- Reno Hutchison







A few of our supporters Local and National













Golden Rule Mfg "We can manufacture

anything you dream up"















SELKIRK CNC







THE

CAROUSEL MUSEUM

Bristol, CT

Connections to nationwide entities for support and exhibition

With the enormous help of a broad community, this dream is being realized

This couldn't be done without you



Hop On & join the ride!!!

Thank You!





Beer Barrel Polka by Brown & Voda

Played on our own 145-B Wurlitzer Band Organ Donated by Art Thompson of Nenana, Alaska



For further information, contact: Reno & Clay Hutchison inbox@thecarouselofsmiles.org

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