

THE  
CAROUSEL  
OF SMILES

CAROUSEL RESTORATION PROJECT

a Carousel for Sandpoint

*Imagine*

*The Magic*

**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**

*The Carousel is approx 85% restored (Sept 2024)*



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

# *After Restoration - A New Home*

## **Envisioning “The Stable”**

**502 Church Street - in the Warehouse/Arts District of Sandpoint**  
**A Private (non city owned) Location**



# *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.



She never let go of that dream

# In 2000

## A “lost” carousel is found



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



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



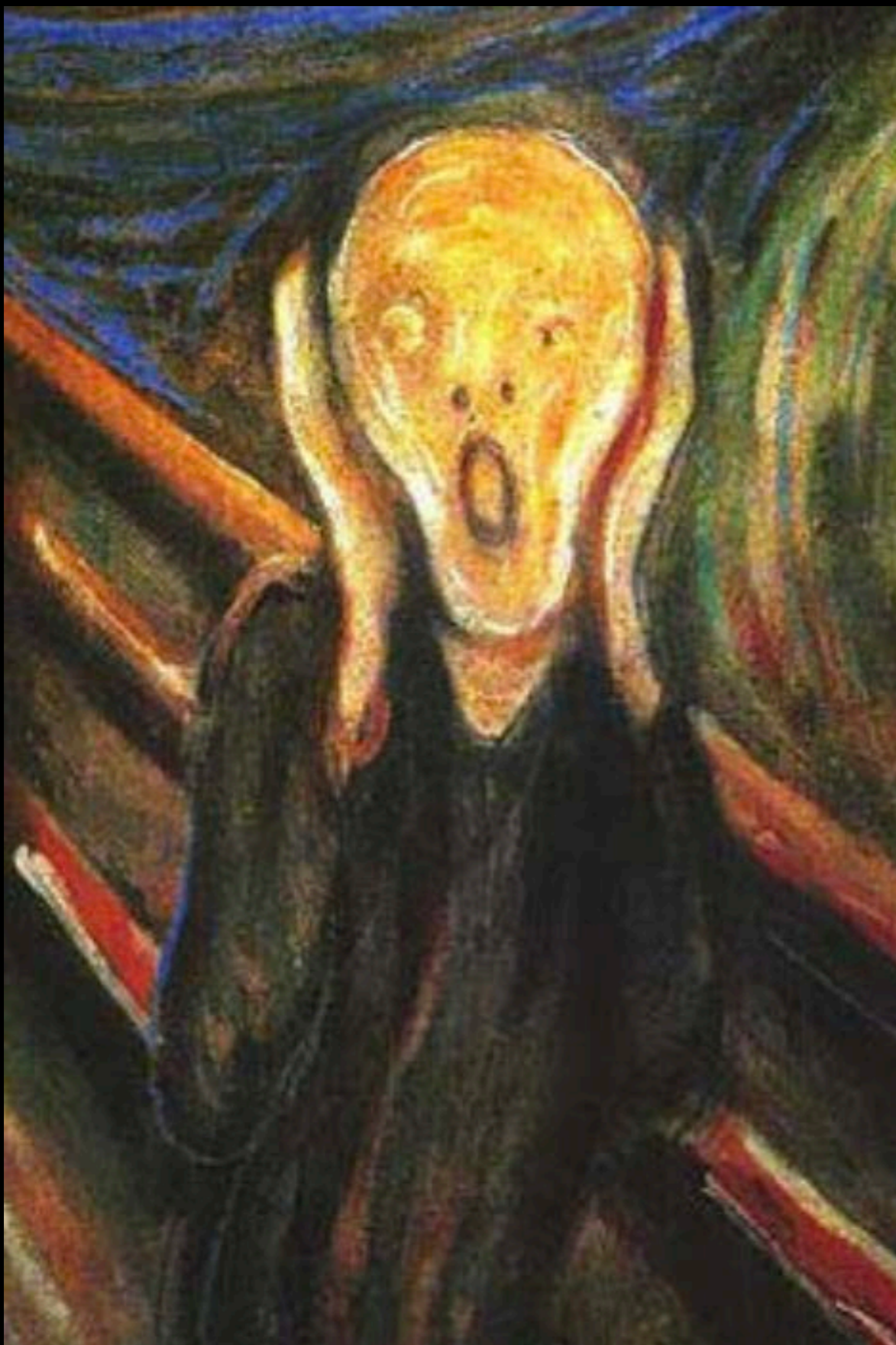
# Based on a few photos





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...**

**We found an  
incredible resource  
and joined.**



*National Carousel Association™*

***“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...**



**Reno & Clay with the ponies**

**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

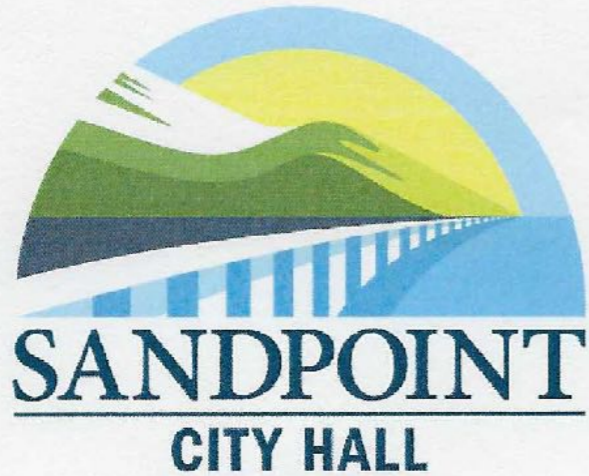
# In August, 2016

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. Carousels 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

or some other appropriate location. As you know, the City will be developing a master plan for a

**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.**



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# 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





**all metal & nails are removed**



**extremities are removed,  
repaired and restored**



**The Dentist**



**micro-finishing**









Northern Viking



Southern Belle



Eastern Prince



Western Indian



Northern Viking



Southern Belle



Eastern Prince



Western Indian

# *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**



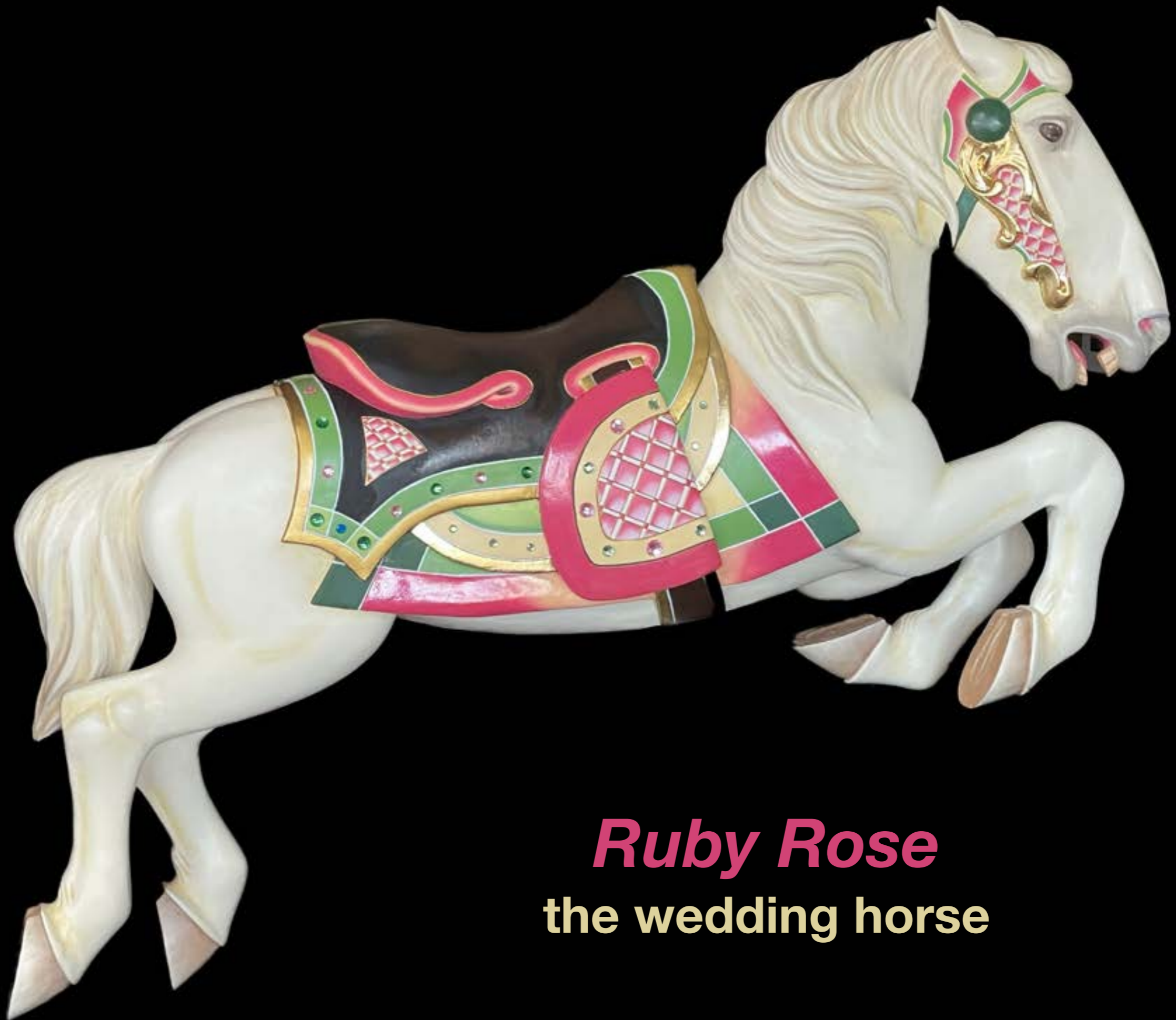


**With Individual Specialties**









***Ruby Rose***  
**the wedding horse**





**A work in process**





# The First 18



**THE CAROUSEL OF SMILES**  
CAROUSEL RESTORATION PROJECT

*a Carousel for Sandpoint*



# A few other bits & pieces



# The ADA Chariot

Single Bench  
Chariot Panel  
Donated by  
NCA member  
Dale Docter



# The Four Winds

Created By  
Ward Olver

A long time artist with  
Alan Herschell



Northern Viking



Southern Belle



Eastern Prince



Western Indian

# The Four Winds

Created By  
Ward Olver

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



Northern Viking



Southern Belle



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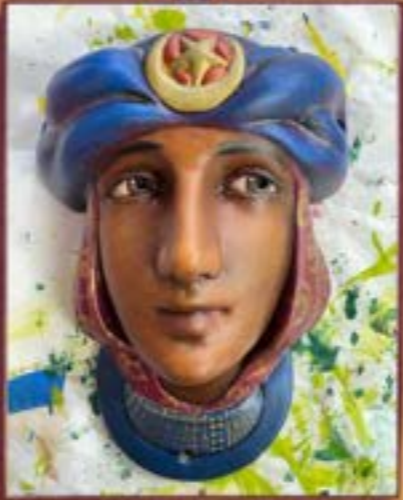
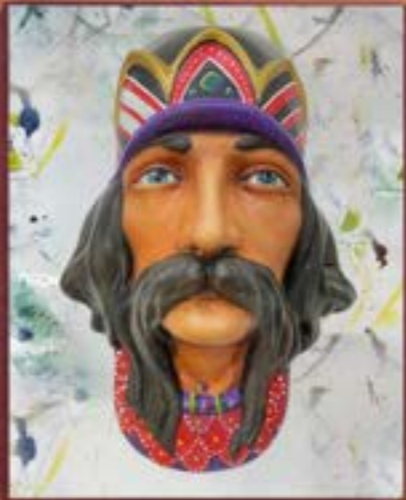
# The Four Winds

N

S

E

W



# The Interior Art Panels



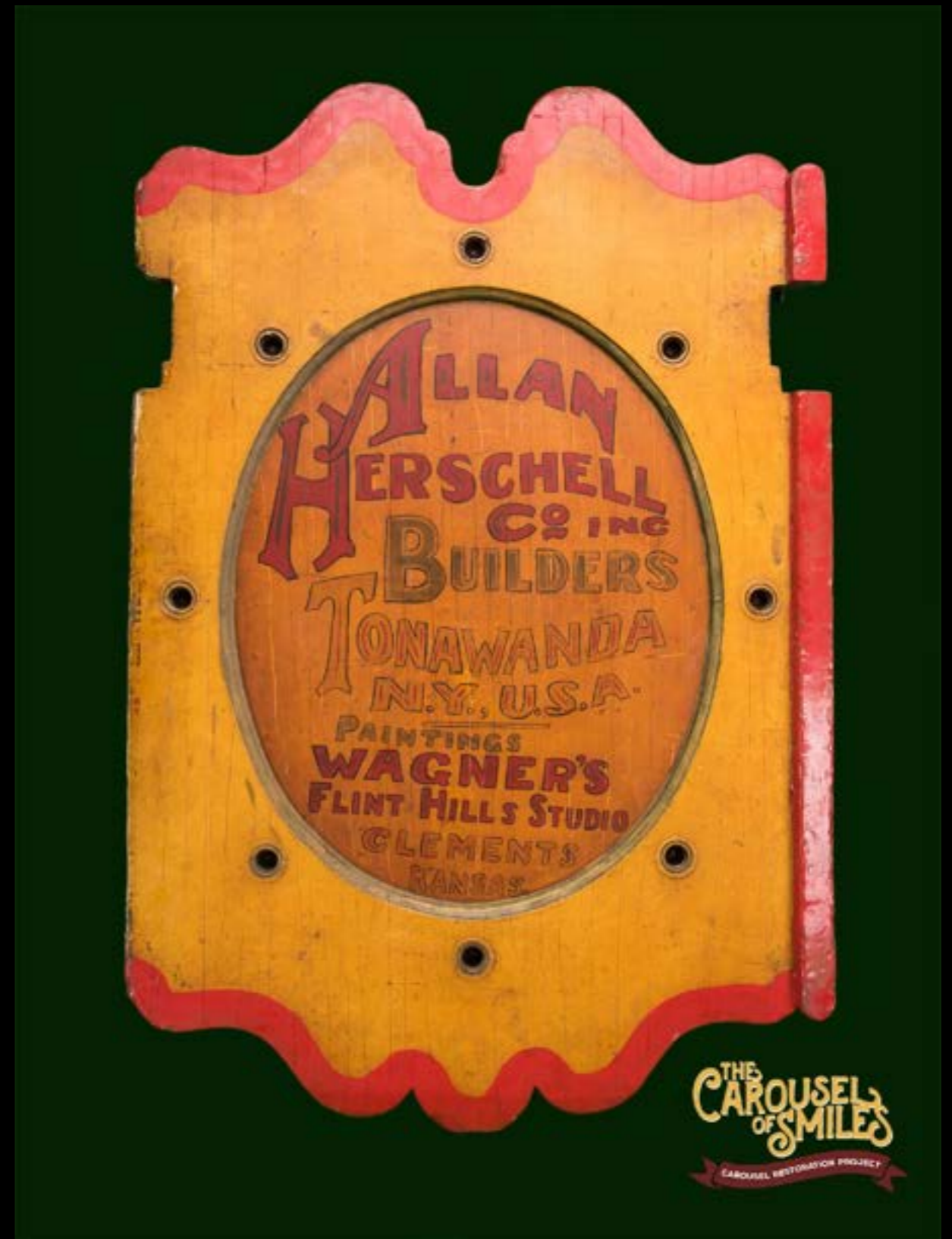
Signed by L. Wagner  
"Davis"

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





Lottiva Wagner "Davis"



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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 *L. Wagner Davis* 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

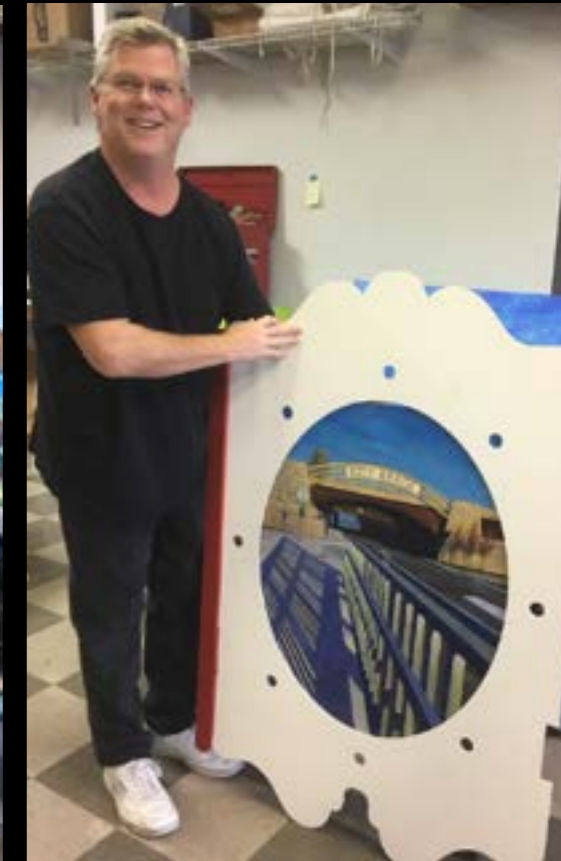
New Scenes & Themed exhibits -  
Local Artists adding the flavor of North Idaho



**Rounding Boards**

**Interior Art Panels**

# 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 the largest Public Art Project in the state of Idaho.”**

# *And now - the Location* **Envisioning “The Stable”**

**A New Direction - a private (non city owned) location in the  
Warehouse/Arts District of Sandpoint**

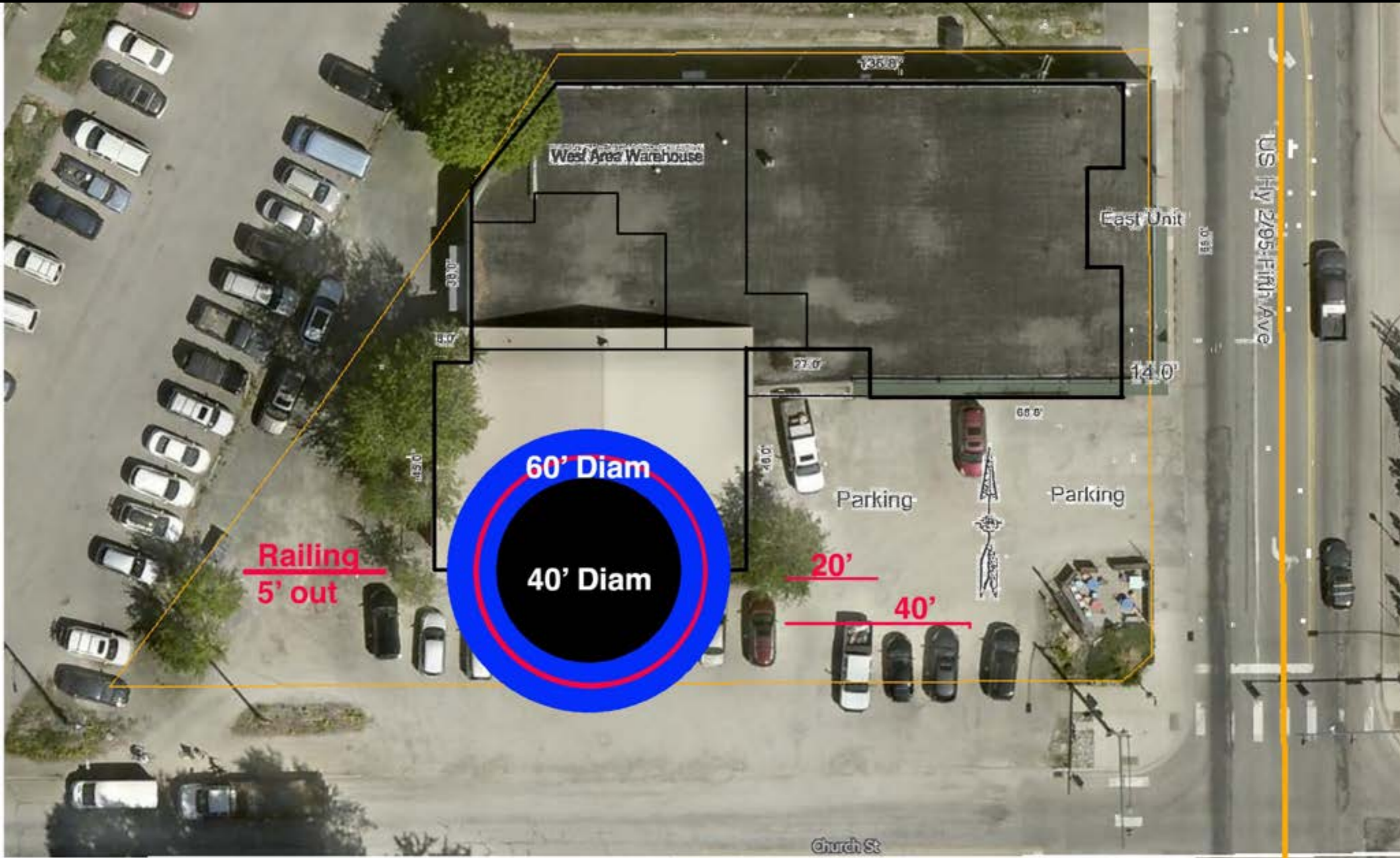


# 502 Church Street

The Old Co-Op, and more recently home of CAL's Bizarre Bazaar thrift store



Plans and operational concepts for this new space are in the works



# *Imagine 3.0*

*this could be the permanent home for  
The Carousel of Smiles*



*Turning Dreams into Reality ... Hop-on & Join the Ride*  
Help the Ponies with their **Barn Raising** Capital Campaign

# *Activities & Events*

**unlimited potential**

**Design of the Carousel Pavilion & Art Center  
its programs & activities  
is inspired by the community.**

- **Expressed desires for more year-round activities**
- **Greater opportunities to engage in and support the arts and culture**
- **Grow and maintain a robust downtown core and balance of life**

**Ideas - put forth in various City Master Plans and documents.**

**Sandpoint Comprehensive Plan(s) — 2009 & 2023/4**

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan — 2020**

**Art, Culture & Historic Preservation Plan — 2021**

# Activities & Events 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 *Scarouse!* - 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

A venue to host Museum quality traveling packaged exhibitions



# *A few Activities*



Halloween at the  
**Scareousel**





Thanksgiving

Food  
Drive



***Holiday Magic***

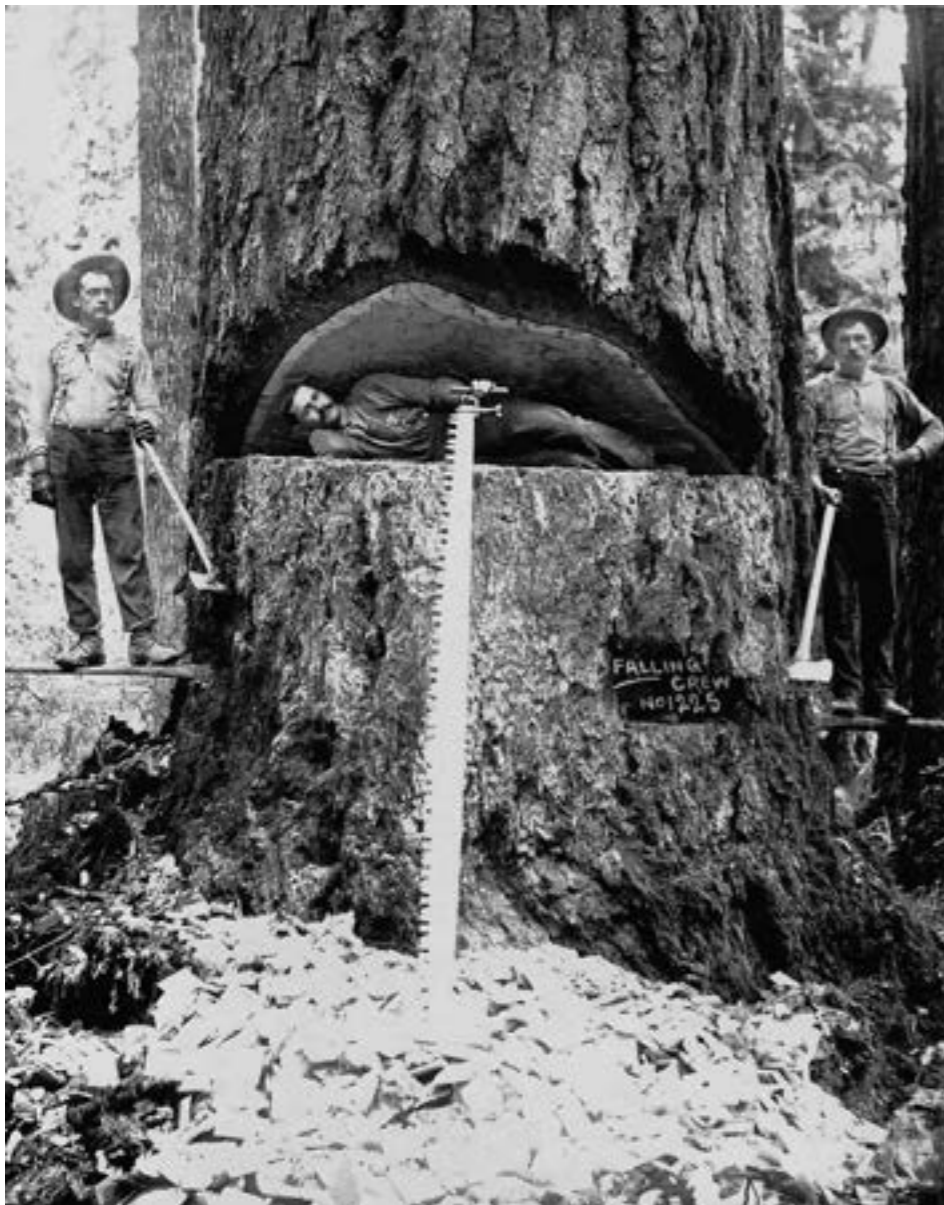
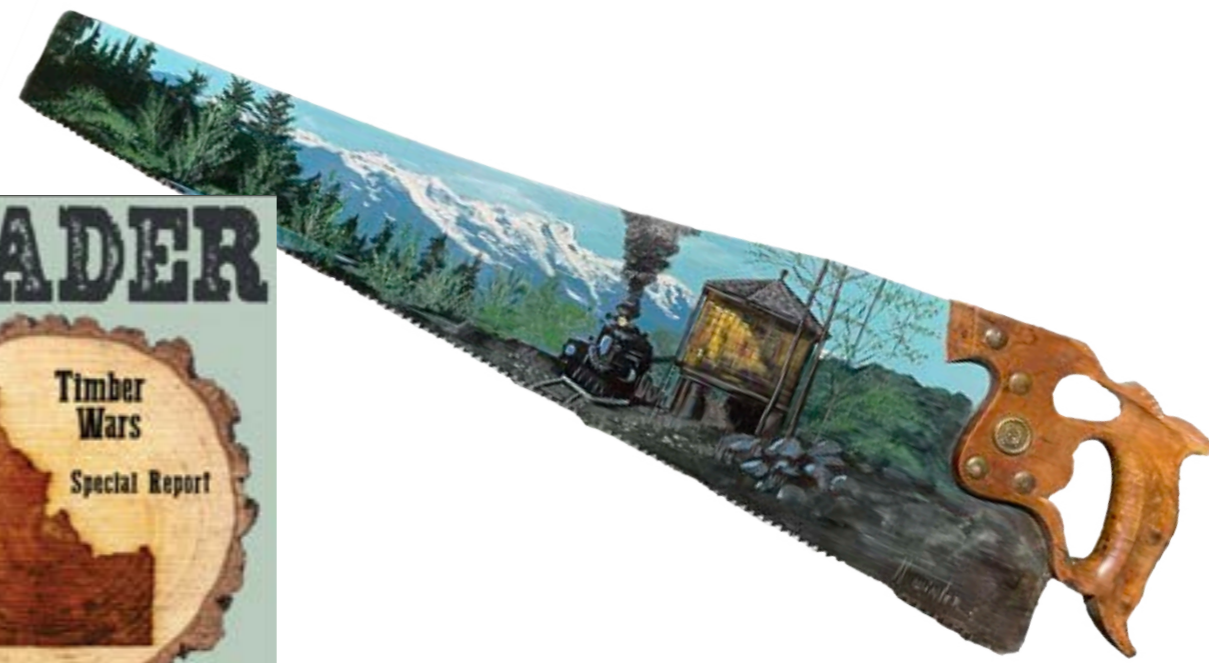
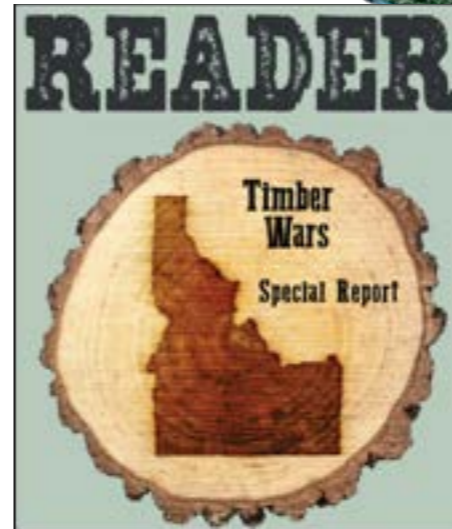
# Wintertime Activities



An Exhibition Space  
with unlimited concepts

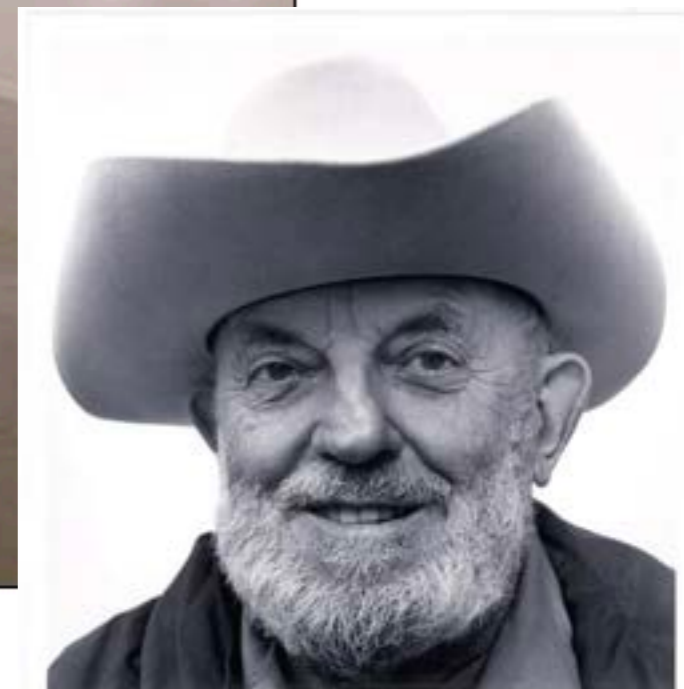
# Timber

A multi disciplinary exhibit showcasing  
the history of the Timber Industry in Idaho,  
to the Art that is inspired by — *Timber*.



# ANSEL ADAMS: MASTERWORKS

From The Collection of  
The Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding, CA



## 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*

**A few of our supporters**

**Local and National**



**Golden Rule Mfg**  
"We can manufacture anything you dream up"



**SYSTEMTHREE**

**SELKIRK CNC**







**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!

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**For further information, contact:**

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