

The Unveiling Event

Last December's unveiling event was truly incredible. During the weekend, we had about 1,000 people come see the assembled carousel. After 65 years in storage, the carousel went together remarkably well, and it was extraordinary to have the curtain drawn back and see it assembled and spinning along with the horses aboard prancing up and down. To our great surprise and delight, we have two elaborately carved chariots, and our ponies have intricate details not usually found on traveling carousels.

Many thanks to Dave Nygren for the great lighting job and curtain effects; to the Bonner County Fairgrounds board and staff for all of their assistance; and to EVERYONE who helped pull the weekend off. LOTS of work, but so worth the effort! We learned a great deal about our machine and what's needed for restoration.

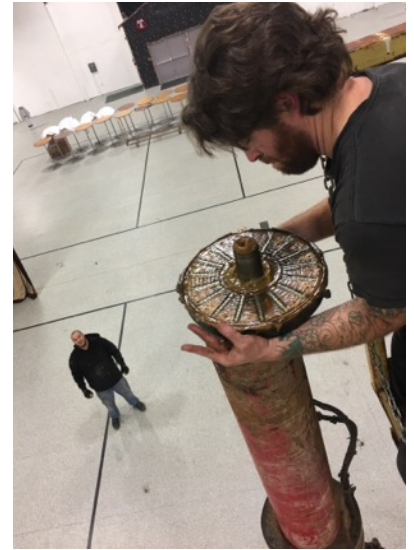


To revisit the event, Scott Rulander's *"The Unloading Event"* video is linked from our homepage, along with a fun time-lapse video of the carousel's assembly — Check Them Out!

This picture is worth a thousand words!!!
Credit to Mary Malone, Boner County Daily Bee.
Mary won 3rd place with this photo in the Associated Press' 2018 news photo contest.
Congratulations Mary!

The Assembly Process

A few shots of the carousel as it was assembled



Fundraising Kickoff

Though the Unveiling Event was not intended to be a fundraising event, it turned out to be a kickoff to our fundraising efforts. During the weekend, one of the outside row ponies was adopted, along with one of the *Southern Belle* rounding board shields, and several of the brass pony poles. The website has pictures of all of the ponies, (three of which have now been adopted) and info for all of the various “adoption” opportunities that will bring this incredible carousel back to life, spinning again here in Sandpoint. Check them out — adopt a piece of history and *create a family legacy...*



The Artwork for Fundraising Program



3 of the 6 ponies in Gabe Gabel's *Mini Herd*

The *Artwork for Fundraising* program was also launched during the Unveiling weekend.

The first pieces of original art in this program were on exhibit and available for purchase.

Gabe Gabel's bronze *Mini Herd* (6 original bronze horses based on selected actual ponies from the carousel).

The limited edition & signed print of Valeria Yost's original painting — *Chasing a Dream*.

Details on these beautiful art pieces, generously donated to the cause by the artists, can be found on the website, along with info on how to purchase them in support of the carousel's restoration efforts.

(or just drop us an e-mail)
inbox@thecarouselofsmiles.org



11" X 14" Limited Edition Print by Valeria Yost

BTW; Our 501 c3 is fully up and running with its not for profit status confirmed by the IRS.

Restoration Work Commences

— Volunteers

We are overwhelmed by the number of enthusiastic and talented volunteers that have expressed interest in working on the myriad aspects of the project and its restoration. We do want to utilize everyone who desires to be a hands-on part of this project, and we ask for your *Patience...Please...*

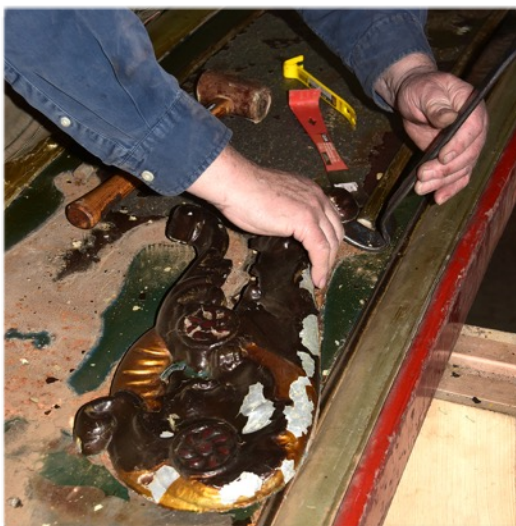


We have commenced some initial work fundamental to figuring out our methodologies and approach, and the scope of work for the many and varied aspects of the restoration.

— As for the painting, so many of you are especially eager to start the repainting of the ponies and the other parts of the carousel. We are still a ways away from being ready for paint, with lots to do on the wood restoration, but in October we are planning to have a series of informational presentations combined with a hands on Painting Workshop with Bette Largent.

(Bette at left with a Spokane Looff Horse)

Stay tuned for a more in-depth newsletter on the restoration to follow as we get further along. There is plenty of work to do on the wood side of the restoration, so we will be adding more members to *The Godfather Squad* & *The Gear & Greece Gang* as work increases in pace and volume, but following is a glimpse of what we have been up to.



The gang at *Full Circle PowderCoating* have generously contributed their efforts, stripping the sweeps and rounding boards down to bare wood - enabling a little bit of forensic investigation!

- The Mechanism -

Our Chief of *The Gear & Greece Gang*, Ken Keeler, has done considerable exploratory dismantling of the sweeps and rounding boards, some of the primary components of the mechanism. Basically, he has removed all of the wiring and brackets from the sweeps, and dismantled the rounding boards down to their core frame.



With the paint off, it is interesting to see where some of these pieces were broken and repaired over the years. As the entire carousel is really hung from the sweeps, this is an important step in determining what restoration is needed prior to turning them over to "the paint department".

- Pony Restoration -

The initial team of *The Godfather Squad* (6 intrepid souls), have been working on the wood restoration of 6 selected ponies. Named the "Godfather Squad" as it has been determined that an initial part of the wood restoration process is the need to detach the heads of the ponies in order to remove the overabundance of metal nails, which in many cases is all holding them to their bodies.



Working name "Stormy"

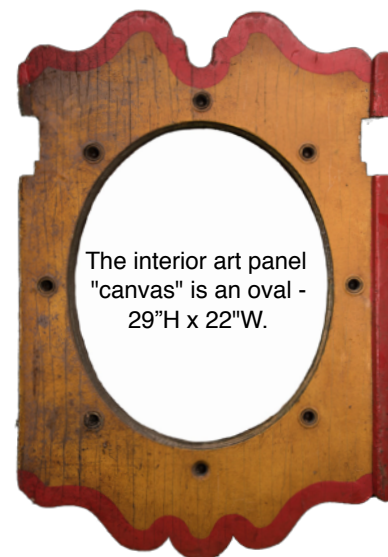
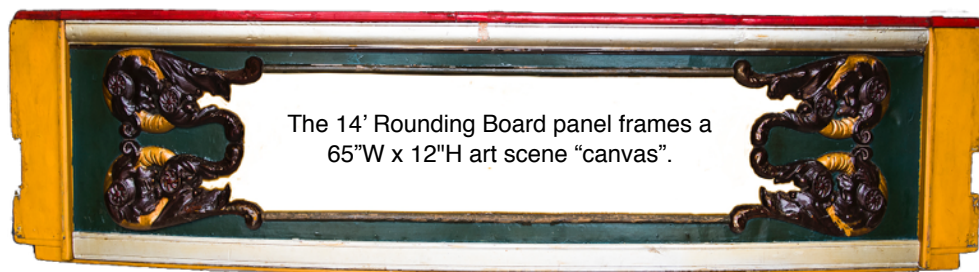


There are 60 + hours of work to get a pony ready for paint. All of the initial 6 will be in primer paint by October.



The Art Panel Project

Our carousel's 14 rounding boards and 14 interior art panels (one which is the Allan Herschell sign) are of prominent focus: it is these art panels that impart the character and theme; the heart and soul of its carousel.



For *The Carousel of Smiles*, these panels present 28 specific opportunities for individual artists to create a unique art piece, showcasing their talent and showcasing the collective artistic talent based here in Bonner County. This collection will create the identity for *The Carousel of Smiles*, and be reflective of its new home here in N. Idaho.

Many artists have signed up to be considered for one of these opportunities, and we encourage all who desire to participate to go ahead and sign up on our website, where you can also find more detail about this program. Check it out, and also stay tuned for additional e-mail information as we get closer to launching phase 1 of this program — the interior art panels.

Business Friends of the Carousel

A newly created part of our sponsorship program is *The Business Friends of the Carousel*. Many local businesses have expressed an interest in helping with this project, either with needed and useful “in kind services” or an outright donation. As a way to recognize these “business sponsorships”, our webmaster is creating a business sponsorship page with a linkable scrolling logo banner.



Some of the initial members of this program include: Trinity Cafe; The Paint Bucket; Full Circle PowderCoating and Bedliners; RailQuest USA; Spartan Arc & Panel. We encourage support of these businesses that are supporting the carousel.

Look for this program on the website soon, and If interested in participating, fire us an e-mail: inbox@thecarouselofsmiles.org.

From The Horse's Mouth

With the encouragement of Bob Witte (KSPT 1400am) Reno has started a radio show update. This 10-15 minute monthly segment is broadcast on the last Thursday of every month at 12:15 pm +/-, as part of *North Idaho Thursday with Bob Witte*.

Reno provides updates and interesting tidbits about project specifics and carousels in general. Tune in to hear tidbits - *from the horse's mouth...*



4th of July 2018



The Carousel of Smiles will march in Sandpoint's 2018 4th of July Parade. This is a great event organized by the Lion's Club, and for this year we will march with all 36 of our horses — represented by hobby horses reined in by a team of enthusiastic (mostly young) supporters.

If you have a son/daughter/grandchild/friend that would like to join this team (or if you want to yourself), drop us an e-mail - inbox@thecarouselofsmiles.org. We only have 36 horse wrangling spots, and many are already filled, so contact us soon!

Keep in touch,
the journey continues...

