

Havre Beneath the Streets- Havre, Montana

We have applied for the MHP Grant because we are determined to preserve the history of Havre, Montana. Havre Beneath the Streets opened its doors for tours in 1994 and has had over 230 thousand tourists visit our site. Havre Beneath the Streets is an hour-long tour of the passageways and rooms where part of Havre's history originated. In 1904, there was a horrendous fire that leveled 4 city blocks and nearly 60 important Havre businesses. As a result of the disaster, several determined and adventurous pioneers of Havre decided to continue their operations by working out of their cellars. Our tours offer a glimpse of that early Havre life through the displays available on the tour. However, recently we have had to close off part of our tour in one of the vaulted sidewalk areas because of water damage to both the physical structure and displays. With the MHP Grant funds, we would be able to make vital repairs, return to our original tour format, and once again be able to access our handicap stair-lift.

With financial assistance from the MHP Grant, we would be able to complete the intended rehabilitation project. The completed project would not only allow us to maintain the legacy and character of Havre but also promote the continuation of our original tour format which emphasizes not only human interactions but also the appreciation of artifacts and architectural designs of the time period through factual history, the actual sites and interesting local lore.

It is important to preserve the legacy of Havre and Montana through the experience of the guided tours we offer at Havre Beneath the Streets. Our tours also help the economy of Havre and the state of Montana through the tourism dollars spent by both local and out of state visitors. We have tourists from all over the world take our tours and often our tours are a part of a travel plan that promotes hotel stays, restaurant usage, gasoline purchases, and stops at local shops and other businesses, not only in Havre, but around the state.

With MHP funding one of our goals would be to utilize local contractors and supply chains as much as possible. Such efforts would also promote local employment opportunities for the construction project and further hiring of new employees from our community. Also with the project, we would promote media interest and therefore promote advertising opportunities. We are also continuing our fundraising efforts in the community through special events and raffles.

The vaulted sidewalk area is one of the main features of the underground tours. The completion of this project would allow us to repair our original tour path once again where visitors will see the original stone foundation walls, unique architecture and former windows. The determination and endurance of our Havre pioneers must be preserved and promoted through our tours. Our heritage is intertwined with the history of Montana and the Havre Beneath the Streets tour allows both local and non-local visitors to experience the educational information we offer through words and viewing actual historical places. History tells us the story of our past and relates both the hardships and the successes of the people that in our case chose to make Havre and Montana their home. Sharing the retelling of such history both promotes the historical significance of our area, but it also insures the inheritance of the factual local stories through lore and artifacts unto future generations of Haverites and Montanans.

Thank You for your valuable time and for the consideration of our project. - HBTS