

Response to the 1999 Grand Jury Report

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Edward DeBart Museum**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. ***Do a complete inventory of all exhibits encompassing display items and those items in storage in the museum.***

RESPONSE:

Concur. An inventory of all exhibits encompassing display items and those items in storage will be completed by December 31, 1999.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. ***Initiate a program to upgrade the grounds and structures associated with the museum. Supplement the funding levels for fiscal year 1999-00 through active recruiting of donations and fund raising activities that could take place on the museum grounds.***

RESPONSE:

Concur. EDA is working with the Center for Employment and Training to bring a landscape gardening and ornamental horticulture training school to the Museum. The school would operate Monday through Thursday assisting EDA in upgrading the grounds while providing necessary classroom training and practical landscaping experience to students. In addition, EDA has contracted with the Sheriff's Department to provide a work crew for the grounds on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Staff is working with a local company to donate paint for all the structures on the grounds. EDA will use a combination of volunteers and paid employees to assist with the painting. This project will be completed by the end of October.

Staff is also working with a local engineering firm to donate engineering services for the redesign of the entrance to the Museum and working with a number of local contractors to provide material and labor. This longer-term project should be completed the latter part of the year 2000.

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During the next fiscal year, staff will focus on increasing paid attendance to the Museum and use of the facilities and grounds for various events, i.e., weddings, conferences, concerts, etc. Increasing the use of the entire facility will generate a more stable revenue source than fund raising and/or donations, although staff will continue to work with the Friends of the Edward Dean in their fund raising and/or donation activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

3. *Develop a plan that assigns individual responsibilities to each group currently associated with the museum to utilize their expertise under the auspices of EDA.*

RESPONSE:

Concur.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. *Assign one person to the museum site who would be specifically responsible for the display of exhibits and operation of the museum.*

RESPONSE:

Concur.