



Our Museums DO Matter!

Unique experiences & services offered by museums

Not only does St. Joseph boast an extraordinary and unique historical past, the community also contains an impressive number of historical museums which enable it to communicate the important role St. Joseph and Buchanan County played in the development of the West.

The St. Joseph area has an impressive 17 distinctive museums which all tell a part of the overarching story...that St. Joseph really was where the West started getting Wild. But what exactly does that mean (and matter) to a community. How do these Museums play a role in tourism, economic development, and in the quality of life of its citizens?

St. Joseph area museums support this community in various ways; they preserve the area's unique heritage, they act as centers of learning, they provide locations and function as community gathering places, they are key partners in area tourism, and lastly, museums are critical to attracting and retaining major commercial business activity.

There is also a real bond between museums here in the area, having joined together to form the Museum Association of St. Joseph. Through this partnership they have created stronger community collaborations, they benefit from each other's learning experiences, and they support one another through cross-promotion.

Our museums also contribute to economic development by creating reasons for visitors to come and visit. Here in Buchanan County the Direct Economic Impact of Tourism was an estimated \$148 million in 2010. Museums also play a key role in retaining and attracting new business. Businesses not only make decisions on the quality of the schools and tax incentives, but also on access to cultural resources which includes a dynamic museum community.

While our museums and its supporters are passionate about a providing the community with the best possible experience, funding presents limits to what can be accomplished. Museums operate on funding from admission sales, financial donations, collection donations, local, state and federal grants, and through minimal program and activity fees.

So while St. Joseph is incredibly fortunate to have such a remarkable Museum community, it is through the continued support of our visitors and our community that they continue to thrive and offer entertainment, learning and quality of life to its patrons.

For more information on the Museums of St. Joseph please go to www.museumassociationstjoe.com.

Contact Communications Director: Beth Conway for additional information and images.
bconway@stjomo.com

