



Mendocino County Museum

MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD

400 East Commercial Street ♦ Willits, CA 95490
(707) 234-6365 ♦ www.mendocinocounty.org/museum

April 21, 2023

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Subject: Support for transfer of Bittenbender trust donation.

Dear Supervisors,

At a recent Museum Advisory Board meeting we were all very excited to hear about the Museum directed donation of \$500,000 from the estate of widely respected Mendocino County resident William L. Bittenbender. After an extensive discussion, it was clear to the entire Board that the gift could provide significant progress toward ensuring the Museum's future financial sustainability.

It is the consensus of the MAB that adding the Bittenbender donation to the Community Foundation Museum Endowment (which consistently earns 4% per annum) would provide a much better income than the County Museum Endowment Fund. Depositing it with the Community Foundation also means that our Mendocino County community members can benefit from it. It is expected that investing the Bittenbender donation in the Community Foundation Museum Endowment could result in earning \$23,000 in interest every year. That amount alone could go a long way towards programing, exhibits, and supplies thereby reducing the burden placed on the general fund.

The Museum Advisory Board approves the transfer of \$490,000 from the County Museum Endowment to the Community Foundation Endowment, approves the additional \$10,000 be used for fiscal year 23/24 to pay for programming and exhibits, and asks you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent E. Walker".

Brent E. Walker
Chairman, Museum Advisory Board