Welcome!

Welcome to The Extreme History Project’s first Year in Review! 2017 was the five year anniversary of our The Extreme History Project! This year, we continued our lecture series and walking tours and added a few new events along the way, all of which were resounding successes. We traveled to Virginia and Nevada City, garnered new sponsorships, moved to a new office location, and launched a new walking tour. Thank you all for your support over the last year, we couldn’t do what we do without you! In 2018, look for our brand new podcast, Making History Relevant workshop series, jam-packed lecture schedule, and a new walking tour.

Walking Tours

This year’s walking tour season was a tremendous success. Several new walking tour guides joined our ranks, as well as a brand new tour. 2017 also brought changes to our reservation system. In the past, tour reservations had to be made by email or phone call. This year we used Eventbrite, an online reservation system allowing people to register online and pay by credit card. Over 150 people used Eventbrite to register for tours. In March, we trained nine walking tour guides, six returning and three new. Our season launched Memorial Day weekend with large numbers, and in June, we debuted our newest tour Upstream: Uncovering Bozeman Creek. This tour was developed in partnership with Mountain Time Arts, and focused on Bozeman Creek, its development over time, and the importance of water to our community. The launch of the tour coincided with the launch of Mountain Time Arts Upstream Project, which brought awareness to water, water conservation, and Bozeman Creek through various artistic mediums. The 2017 walking tour season wrapped in late September with a record 1,124 attendees. Our walking tours this year included: Murders, Madams, and Mediums, From Tents to Town, Gracious Gables, China Alley, Upstream: Uncovering Bozeman Creek, Ghosts of Bozeman’s Past, Family Matters, and The Contrasting Styles of Fred Willson.
Lecture Series

“A Sense of Place” was the theme for our 2017 lecture series; we hosted a few newcomers to the Museum of the Rockies stage as well as some seasoned lecturers. Robert Briwa, Anthony Wood, and our group of April speakers were all graduate or undergraduate students at Montana State University. We were honored they chose to share their research with us. The lecture series not only emphasized the importance of place in our comprehension of history, but also the diversity of our Montanan history: Meg Singer, of ACLU Montana, spoke about Native American Reservations, Crystal Alegria shared her research on Lizzie Williams, an African American entrepreneur in 1870s Bozeman, Shane Doyle lectured on Native American perspectives of geography and place, and Mark Johnson spoke about Montana’s Chinese communities. Other notable lectures included Toby Day’s presentation on historic orchards in Montana, and John Russell’s research about John Colter.

This year we implemented Facebook live videos at most of our lectures making them available to those not able to attend in person. Click here to view the Facebook Live videos. The lecture series had 1,466 attendees in 2017, plus an additional 1,436 people reached through Facebook live videos. Thank you to all of our sponsors for the 2017 Lecture Series: Vicky York, Cashman’s Nursery, CTA Architects and Engineers, Museum of the Rockies, and the Big Sky Wind Drinkers.

Pecha Kucha

In September, we partnered with Bozeman’s Pecha Kucha board to bring a history themed event to the Ellen Theatre. Pecha Kucha is a presentation style created in Tokyo that only allows presenters to speak about a topic with 20 images for 20 seconds each, for a total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds per presentation. Held in the historic Ellen Theatre in downtown Bozeman, this event sold out two nights, reaching over 800 people. The presentations ranged widely from histories of Spiritualism in the West and Bozeman’s Madames to artifact preservation at Museum of the Rockies and the Mystery of Sammy Willliams. Many of the presentations are available on Pecha Kucha Bozeman’s YouTube channel. We received positive feedback about this event and hope to do another collaboration with Pecha Kucha in the future. A big thank you to our presenters, thank you for sharing your research with the Bozeman public!

Nevada City Cemetery Project

Our efforts to document all the graves at the Nevada City Cemetery progressed in 2017. This four year project included GIS mapping, grave documentation and the creation of an online database. A plaque will soon be erected at the site honoring the many unmarked graves. In August, we hosted an open house in Virginia City telling local residents about our work on this project. We gave a presentation on the project, lead a walking tour through the Virginia City Cemetery and chatted with interested people in the Thompson Hicks Library.

Wonderlust

Another new program and collaboration for us this year was Wonderlust, a life-long learning program for adults. Over the course of four weeks fifty-two life-long learners, discussed Bozeman history with Crystal Alegria and Bekah Shields. The first week covered an overview of Bozeman history, while the following weeks dove into Bozeman’s historic African American and Chinese communities.
The last week’s session brought the discussion to the present; participants learned why we live in a community that no longer has a diverse population, and how can we learn from Bozeman’s past to make the community a better place to live today.

Extreme History in Salem, Massachusetts

Extreme History initiated a new office in Salem, Massachusetts in October of 2016 when co-founder Marsha Fulton moved to Boston with her husband. Initially the office was established as a place where Marsha could write up the backlog of research that had been collected for the Fort Parker project. Soon, however, it became apparent that The Extreme History Project had a significant role to play contributing to telling Salem’s historical stories.

2017 started out with an exciting development when Megan Donoghue joined the Salem team. Megan brings her passion and knowledge of local history to helping the Salem office engage in the local history environment. We are grateful to have her expertise and enthusiasm!

The Extreme History Project has initiated two projects in Salem that will continue through 2018 and beyond. First, we are partnering with Salem State University and local business the Gravestone Girls to document and create an online database for the historic Charter St. Burial Ground in Salem. The Cemetery dates back to 1637 and contains some prominent members of the Salem community including Nathaniel Hawthorne’s grandfather. The Cemetery is centrally located and gets much foot traffic, especially in October when tourists flood the city for a month-long Halloween celebration. The City of Salem has recently received a large grant to preserve and secure the cemetery and The Extreme History Project will work with students from Salem State University to document and create a digital map of the cemetery, much like Extreme History did with the Nevada City Cemetery in Montana. If successful, we hope to broaden the project to include two other historic cemeteries in Salem.

With the ongoing plans of the Charter St. Cemetery under discussion, it became very clear that Salem was in need of a comprehensive history museum. Though much of Salem’s tourist trade engages in the history of the notorious witch trials through a variety of different venues, the remainder of Salem’s important history is nowhere to be found. The Extreme History Project has teamed with the Salem Historical Society and Salem State University to plan a comprehensive, community-focused history museum in Salem. Ongoing meetings through 2017 have produced a mission statement and presentation which will be offered to the public in the near future. We are thrilled to be a part of such an exciting project with a great group of committed people.

Fundraisers

We participated in several fundraisers in 2017, raising over $5,000 for The Extreme History Project. 2017 was our third year participating in Give Big Gallatin Valley and it was our best year yet! We held our Tea with a Historian Donor Lounge at Townshend’s Teahouse on Main Street, inviting supporters to come down and visit with our volunteers and board members during the Give Big event. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with our community and their interest in Bozeman history.

Every year we partner with Bozeman Brewing Company and Bridger Brewing Company to raise funds for our nonprofit. Both of these breweries have programs set up to benefit local nonprofits by donating $.50 or $1 for every beer purchased during a certain time period. Thanks to both Bozeman Brewing and Bridger Brewing for their wonderful sponsorship over the years.

In October, we held our newest fundraiser, History After Dark, a self-guided walking tour that brought to life some of Bozeman’s darkest past. Ten actors dressed up and acted as historic Bozeman characters stationed throughout downtown on a Friday and Saturday evening. Participants met Louisa Couselle and Lizzie Woods, both Bozeman Madams, heard about a gruesome murder, and listened to two mediums discuss their businesses. Nelson Story and John Bozeman were also on hand to talk about some of their shady dealings. This event was incredibly well attended with over 240
people between both evenings. We saw many brand new faces at this event and we were excited to reach a whole new part of Bozeman’s population we don’t usually reach.

Social Media and Web Presence

The Extreme History hosts two websites, our own webpage at www.extremehistoryproject.org and our walking tour webpage at www.adventurethroughtime.org. Cumulatively, these websites received 12,842 views in 2017 with 5,309 individual visitors. 2017 saw a total of thirteen blog posts for our websites, ranging from the History behind the Standing Rock Reservation and the Dakota Access Pipeline to a History of Beer in Bozeman. Click on the links above to read these blog posts.

We are also active on social media, with several Facebook pages, Twitter, and Instagram. Our main Facebook page posts our original content, relevant historic articles, and event pages for our fundraisers and lectures. Follow us if you haven’t already! In total, we reach 7,374 people via our websites and social media.

Guiding a walking tour during the summer months requires a large amount of dedication and initiative. We are so thankful for our wonderful tour guides in 2017: Jennifer Dunn, Linda Rowe, Cheryl Hendry, John Olson, Alex Newby, Jessica Jones, Brittany Hackwell, Nelson Fortenberry, Richard Brown, and Bekah Schields.

The Historical Activist Manifesto

We, the Historical Activists, are committed to bringing cultures together through dialogue, history, archaeology, stories or ANY MEANS NECESSARY; Eradicating ignorance and promoting unity through education and interaction; connecting people with places and objects that express the HISTORICAL MOMENT; Exploring and creating new avenues of transmitting knowledge; Actively engaging in political / social REVOLUTIONARY PARADIGM SHIFTS; Committing RANDOM ACTS OF HISTORY.

The Truth Agenda

THE EXTREME HISTORY PROJECT is dedicated to eradicating political and social agendas from traditional historical narratives and pursuing a more balanced and honest expression of the past.
• To examine historical narratives from multiple voices.
• To view historical narratives through multiple lenses. Political, Economic, Gender, Cultural, and Social.
• To provide new facts that revise past fallacies based on certain agendas.
• To differentiate fact from legend in historical accounts.
• To expose lesser known historical narratives which shift the understanding of the historical era or event to a more balanced perspective.
• To promote historical writings that follow the TRUTH AGENDA.
In 2017, we reached a total of 3,689 people with our message of preservation.

Walking Tour Numbers
- From Tents to Town: 279
- Gracious Gables: 106
- China Alley: 48
- Upstream: Uncovering Bozeman Creek: 20
- Ghosts of Bozeman’s Past: 281
- The Working Class Hero: 5
- Murders, Madames, and Mediums: 314
- Family Matters: 25
- The Contrasting Styles of Fred Willson: 46

In generated income from sponsorships, programming sales, and donations.

$27,554

Sponsors and Partners
- Townshend’s Teahouse
- Gallatin Heritage Consortium
- Bozeman Chamber of Commerce
- Indigenous People’s Day
- Bozeman Preservation Alliance
- Bozeman Humanities Initiative
- Bozeman Newcomers Club
- Optimist Club
- Red Chair
- Western Café
- Dokken—Nelson Funeral Service
- Sola Café
- MSU Department of Architecture
- Vicky York
- Cashman’s Nursery
- CTA Architects and Engineers
- Museum of the Rockies
- Big Sky Wind Drinkers
- Leslie Crismond and Chris Faehl