

IRM BUILDING FUND FOR BRHS ARCHIVES

The BRHS has recently embarked on a fund-raising program to relocate the Archives to the Illinois Railway Museum located in Union, Illinois. The decision to relocate the Archives was discussed at the Long-Range Planning Meeting held on July 18-21, 2023, in Aurora, IL. The reasons for relocating the Archives is due to space constraints at our current location of 1000sf with Lake States Railway Historical Society in Baraboo, WI, as well as the availability of volunteers in the Chicago area, and to create exposure of our organization at IRM's Main Street USA development.

The Board of Directors has entered into an agreement for the construction of an 11,000sf building to be shared with the Strahorn Library at IRM, of which approximately 3500sf will belong to the BRHS for our Archives and an area to promote the history of the CB&Q as well as the membership of the BRHS! This project requires the BRHS to contribute between \$400-\$500,000 for the construction of the building and facility. We are currently in the design phase with architects from IRM, and property has been allocated for the construction of the building. The BRHS will join other railroad historical societies, the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago & Northwestern on Main Street at IRM! More information on the Main Street USA concept at IRM can be found on their web site at www.irm.org.

Our fund raising was brought to life by a \$100,000 donation from one of our members, a \$20,000 transfer of funds from our General Fund, and has grown to approximately \$160,000 to date, with other pledges on the horizon. It is extremely important that we keep the momentum going for this project which will solidify a permanent home for the BRHS for the future, ensure that the history of the CB&Q will not vanish, and that a repository of historical items will be available for generations to come.

In order to do this, it requires donations from our membership and other entities, grants, and fund-raising programs. The following is a list of ways in which you can help and make a difference in the future of the BRHS with your financial contribution. No amount is too small, but larger sized donations will make it possible to reach our goal sooner rather than later.

- Donations can be made on the home page of our website at www.burlingtonroute.org and can be made as one-time, monthly or yearly to the BUILDING FUND
- Make a planned donation is to include the Burlington Route Historical Society in your will or trust. You can decide for the BRHS to receive either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the remainder of your estate. If you have included the BRHS in your will or trust, please contact our business office at the above address and let us know so that we may include your contribution in our planning.
- Bequests and large donations are often directed to the BRHS General Fund, where the money is allocated by BRHS management to an area of need such as the BUILDING FUND.
- Employers often offer matching grant funds for employees who donate to qualified organizations. Check with your employer for such programs or if your family members are employed urge them to inquire of their employer of such programs.
- Name the organization as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement plan. When children or anyone other than your spouse are named as a beneficiary of these plans, they receive just a fraction of the plan's face value because the inherited assets are subject to estate and income taxes. As a tax-exempt organization, the BRHS will typically receive the full amount of the plan's value.
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals age 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity, and the gift can be excluded from your taxable income.
- Lastly, we are developing a Tribute Wall consisting of 4"x 8" and 8"x 8" engraved bricks to be permanently displayed on the interior wall of our new facility. Currently this program has not been finalized but will consist of donation amounts of \$100-\$200 for the 4"x 8" bricks, and \$300, \$500, \$1000, \$5000 and up for the 8"x 8" bricks. More information will be forthcoming.

We are currently exploring other options to raise the necessary funds to complete this project. As we progress in exploring other avenues of revenue, please consider the following, if each of the approximate 1100 members could donate \$200, we would raise \$220,000. Although the price tag of \$500,000 seems ominous, it is not out of reach.

Please join me in supporting this new chapter in BRHS history, and to provide an avenue to continue the history of the CB&Q Railroad!

Thomas J Whitt
President, BRHS