



*Merrick County Historical Museum, Inc.*  
211 E Street  
Central City, NE 68826

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## **Sustainability Statement**

We often get asked, “When the new building is open, how will you keep it running?” The Board of Directors have planned for the future and continue to work on sustainability as we fundraise to complete the new Museum. This sustainability statement will help answer questions about how we will continue to fulfill our mission after the new building is complete.

Planned sustainability will include:

- Continuing to increase the endowment fund at the Merrick Foundation to at least 1 million dollars. From the endowment we will continue to withdraw funds up to the 5% allowed by law for operation expenses.
- We will continue to request funds from the Merrick County Board of Supervisors.
- Membership dues will continue to contribute to the Museum’s income. We expect an increase in membership with expanded membership drives, incentives and interest with the new building.
- With the opening of the new building we will be implementing admission fees for entry to the Museum and grounds.
- Grants will be written and utilized for special projects and exhibits.
- The Museum will continue to participate in special fundraising events such as Go Big Give.
- The new building will have a catering kitchen, meeting rooms and gallery. These spaces will be rented for a fee.
- Educational opportunities will be developed and offered to area schools for a per student fee. This may include: a day at the one room school, special viewing and tours of traveling exhibits, local history special events and guided tours.
- The new Museum will also have a dedicated Archive and Library that will facilitate more genealogy and research. We will charge a fee for research and photo reproduction.
- The Museum will also have a gift shop specializing in regional history books and gifts.
- In time the Museum will be the beneficiary of a generous, gift of a ½ section of land in trust. Of this property, at current land use practices, cash rent values are \$250.00 per acre with approximately 289 acres of irrigated land. After taxes the income on this property will be \$49,250.00. There is also the rental of the house and grain bins at this site that can potentially bring in \$8,400.00 per year.