

Agenda Item

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2023
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: TERENCE T. QUINN, AICP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT *JK-ForTQ*
CC: BRITTANY CASSELL, CURATOR
LAUREN PULVER, PLANNING SUPERVISOR
KATI CARTER, AICP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING RESOURCES
SUBJECT: NEW DOUGLAS COUNTY VIRTUAL MUSEUM

SUMMARY

In 2022 Community Development staff, working with the IT Department, selected Argus as the new vendor to update the museum software for curation of artifacts. County staff and contracted staff have worked to develop a new virtual museum with the Argus database. Staff is prepared to launch the new virtual museum to the public on October 21, 2023, which coincides with International Archaeology Day.

BACKGROUND

The old museum database platform of PastPerfect became cumbersome and limited in the virtual museum capabilities. Staff requested a more robust database that could accommodate the variety and size of collection of artifacts located at the Douglas County History Repository. Another benefit sought from a new database was a better virtual museum experience for the public. Staff desired a more interactive museum that could provide more educational materials, was researcher friendly, and incorporated the historic sites.

Interpret Site LLC was contracted to help develop the new virtual museum. Todd McMahon, founder of Interpret Site LLC, is the former State Curator and brings interpretive and curation expertise to the project. The virtual museum now offers a Douglas County timeline and breaks up human occupation by time periods to tell the story of Douglas County history. It is designed to educate the public on archaeology and historic information and offers links to lesson plans for teachers. The virtual museum will offer access to the entire Douglas County curated collection which is now over 22,000 artifacts.

NEXT STEPS

Staff is prepared to provide a demonstration of the virtual museum.