

THE TRUST

for MONTANA Libraries

FACT SHEET: April 9, 2019

What is THE TRUST?

The Trust for Montana Libraries is a new statewide nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support access to high quality information and library services for all Montanans. Its activities will complement and promote the work of the Montana State Library, in its support of the State's libraries and GIS community.

How was THE TRUST created and developed?

The Trust was created by the Montana State Library using private donations held by the State Library Commission. A steering committee with representatives from across the state spearheaded the Trust's development, under the direction of the State Librarian, and facilitated by a library development consulting firm (Library Strategies).

What is THE TRUST'S relationship to the State Library?

The Trust is a private, independent nonprofit organization governed by its own board of directors. However, the Trust's relationship with the State Library is "hand-in-glove." The Trust complements the work of the State Library and will work primarily to support initiatives of the State Library to advance the work of libraries and the GIS community. The State Librarian and a State Library Commission representative will serve ex-officio on the Trust's board of directors.

What is the current stage of TRUST development?

The Trust is incorporated as a nonprofit organization. The initial board of five directors, and two ex-officio members have been elected, and the by-laws and articles of incorporation approved. The inaugural board of directors are: Sara Groves, President; Judy Meadows, Vice-President; Niki Zupanic, Secretary; John Rogers, Treasurer; Diane Smith; Jennie Stapp, State Librarian (ex-officio); and Jamie Doggett, State Library Commission (ex-officio). An initial list of possible funders for the Trust has been developed and prioritized, and a narrative template for funding proposals is in final stages.

What are the next steps for THE TRUST this year?

The plan is to have a fully functional nonprofit organization in place by the end of 2019. Shortly, the Trust will be filing for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and initial funding proposals will be submitted to foundations. Initial funding requests will be for operational support for the Trust, with on-going requests pursued throughout the year. Initial policies are scheduled for approval by the board, and other operational details will be put in place. A development and fundraising plan will also be developed. Depending on initial support received, the hope is to have a staff person hired, or contractual assistance secured, by the end of 2019.

What are the long-range goals for THE TRUST?

The goal of the Trust is to provide more financial support to libraries of all kinds and the GIS community through statewide initiatives and efforts. The fundraising focus will be on development efforts, and endowment building, to support statewide activities. The Trust will primarily target major state and regional donors that do not conflict with local fundraising or activities. Currently, it is not expected that the Trust will make grants to individual libraries or GIS organizations, but rather support statewide activities or projects affecting multiple organizations. Initial plans project three-years of organizational development before the Trust will be able to provide significant income to libraries or the GIS community. The Trust may also consider an advocacy effort at the state level, although that is not expected to be created for at least 5 to 10 years after the Trust's fundraising efforts are well-established.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRUST? Contact Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, JStapp2@mt.gov