BCCT Boone Historical Society

Darren: We are holding a series of conversations with folks from different organizations in our community who have been aided by the Boone County Community Trust over the years and one of those Is one very close to my own heart the Boone County History and Culture Center. They have a magnificent museum and are sort of the repository of the history of our county and all the fascinating people that have come through here over the years. And we are joined by their executive director Chris Campbell Chris. Welcome. Good to see you.

Chris: Thanks Darren It's good to be here.

Darren: Tell me a little bit more about Boone County History and Culture Center because on the surface the name kind of describes what you guys do but it's so much more than that isn't it?

Chris: It is, and a lot of things are always happening out there by the way for your listeners who maybe haven't heard of us or don't quite know what that means. The History and Culture Center is owned and operated by now the 101 year old Boone County Historical Society. We're a non-profit. We're that place out south of Grindstone off highway 63 with a big red metal roof and all the flags flying out in front. You may have wondered what it is, but that's where we are and you're right. We are a 19,000 square foot museum with another 9 000 square feet of curated homes and historic buildings that we manage out there in Nifong Park. We are member driven member and volunteer driven. We've got a phenomenal collection of 22 000 historic artifacts from Boone County's history, another 516 000 photographic negatives, of which we're very proud in every Boone Countian should be proud to know that the Smithsonian believes that our collection of over 500 000 photographs might be the largest aggregate community collection of photography in the nation. And we're digitizing those by the way of our website's boonehistory.org and we've already got 51 000 of those photographs on the site. So I invite people to go look but, we've got the largest civic non-university art gallery in the community in the Montminy Gallery, which is now 32 years old this year with a great exhibit right now called Echoes of Missouri, I invite you to go to the montemanygallery.org and take a look at that, but yeah family events once a month that are becoming really popular, a couple of very large history galleries, a museum store, a genealogy library. We produce the annual Boone County Hall of Fame and very proud to curate that each and every year you and I were just talking about the fact that this year's new enshrines are going to be Karen Miller, former Boone County southern commissioner, the Columbia Cosmopolitan luncheon club is the business or service organization and the posthumous is going to the late great Dr. Frank L. Mitchell, Jr., Who is a pioneer in trauma care not just here in Missouri, but across the nation. So we're looking forward to that.

Darren: Yeah, there's a lot going on Chris. We could talk a long time about what's going on now and what has happened as the History and Culture Center has grown. But tell me a little bit about the involvement of Boone County Community Trust because there have been several times over the years where new things have been added to the history and culture center and I understand they've played a big role in that.

Chris: They might be one of our longest serving and best friends, truthfully. I pulled some information that was provided by my good friend Robbie Price and I have found that since 1975 that wonderful Boone County Community Trust has given us a total of one hundred twenty seven thousand eight hundred and ninety six dollars. And it's for it's for so many things.

A lot of the funds we've received in those last 50 years have gone to support Maplewood House this wonderful treasure here in town, the1877 Country mansion on the National Historic Register in Nifong Park But like all of us know who've ever lived in or had an old house those require money upkeep so thanks to the community trust tens of thousands of dollars have gone into maintaining that beautiful home. But they've also helped us with our Hank Waters digital imaging lab where we're digitizing those 500 000 photographs and also thousands upon thousands of original Boone County records when I say that I mean Handwritten records from the 1820s the 1830s the 1840s. Those are on our website as well BCCT has helped us with um the Montminy Art Gallery when it opened they provided money for the concourse and The benches that we're still sitting on today enjoying the artwork and a great number of other things.

Darren: And you can find out more about the trust find out how you can get involved and hear about a lot of other organizations like the Boone County History and Culture Center that they support with funding and other help and it is at their website. It is bcc trust dot org bcc trust dot org and we've been talking with the Executive Director of the Boone County History and Culture Center, Chris Campbell. Chris always a pleasure good to talk to you.

Chris: Always a pleasure. Thank you for having me.