

Hermosa Beach Museum Expansion Project

Project Summary [Draft 10/1/25]

Project Overview

The Hermosa Beach Museum is seeking to expand into a City-owned records room, converting it into a **multi-purpose space** that directly supports our mission of preserving and sharing Hermosa's history. This innovative project will create:

- **Open Collections Storage:** Secure, climate-stable collections storage that doubles as a visible, accessible experience for the public.
- **Staff Workspace:** Dedicated office space for our growing staff team.
- **Oral History Recording Studio:** A quiet, professional space for capturing community voices and stories.
- **Volunteer Research Area:** A resource center for volunteers, researchers, and students.
- **Lifeguard Display:** A dedicated exhibition celebrating Hermosa's iconic lifeguard history.

This expansion is **community-driven** and already supported by **committed funding from local donors** who believe in the museum's growth and future impact.

Strategic Alignment

This project directly advances the Museum's **25-Year Strategic Plan**, addressing all seven board-prioritized goals across core policy areas:

1. **Positioning** – Enhance the Museum's visibility and reputation as a vital cultural resource.
 2. **Finances** – Build long-term financial sustainability through expanded donor engagement and community support.
 3. **Facilities** – Expand and optimize physical space to meet current and future needs.
 4. **Governance & Management** – Strengthen board and staff collaboration to guide responsible growth.
 5. **Collections Management** – Provide proper storage and public access to artifacts, ensuring preservation and transparency.
 6. **Programming & Events** – Offer new experiences, including behind-the-scenes collections access and oral history engagement.
 7. **Staffing** – Create space for additional staff to support expanded programming, collections care, and community outreach.
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Why This Matters

By converting this space, the Museum will:

- Safeguard Hermosa's history for future generations.
- Assist the City with historical record keeping and access.
- Provide innovative public access to collections and support research, education, and storytelling.
- Expand capacity for staff, volunteers, and programs.
- Celebrate the unique identity of Hermosa Beach through exhibitions like the lifeguard display.
- **Advance the next steps toward museum accreditation by meeting national standards for collections care, staff support, and community access.**

Facilities & Renovation Note

The museum is committed to making this expansion both safe and sustainable. As part of the project, we will **subsidize the cost of asbestos removal**, ensuring that the space meets health and safety standards while minimizing the financial burden on the City. This investment reflects our dedication to preserving community resources responsibly.