In December of 2014, the Imperial Valley Desert Museum Society, Inc., was awarded a $265,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to build a one-million dollar endowment. This was the largest grant given by the NEH to any museum in California in 2014.

An endowment had been a dream of Jay von Werlhof, and seed money of $4,500 was given for an endowment upon his passing. Until the award of the NEH grant, however, a million dollars seemed like a pipe dream. Not so today. We are really close!

The grant is matched 3:1 over a five year period. Meaning every three dollars we have is matched by a dollar from the NEH. The match must be made every year, and any dollars not matched are forfeited. In 2014 we matched the grant with $165,000 from Pattern Energy. In 2015, we matched the grant with $196,000 from Tule Wind. Over these two years, we have also had numerous fundraising events.

Today, the endowment sits at $544,535.00, and last year we transferred $25,000 in investment earnings to our budget to pay for our Head Curator position.

What We Need Today

We have until July 31, 2017, to make our match this year. That is just 6 weeks away! And this year, there are no big clean energy dollars coming. In our grant fundraising plan, this is the year we knew it would be up to us and our local community. This is also the key year—we are able to use pledges to make our match and we have the next two years to pay the pledges off.

We are asking every member to consider making a pledge. We have a goal of raising $25,000 in pledges from our membership. If only one-tenth of our member pledged $1,000, we would be at the goal. Permanently staffing the Desert Museum has been a dream of the Society for many, many years. We are so close. Please help us finish this grant and fully fund the endowment!

All donations and pledges will go to support the Museum’s Endowment Fund, currently being matched 3:1 by a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.

Contact the Society:
PO Box 2455
El Centro, CA 92244
IVDMsociety@gmail.com

Contact the Museum Staff:
(760) 358-7016
ivdmuseum@gmail.com
education@ivdesertmuseum.com

Museum Hours
Wednesday-Sunday: 10-3pm
Monday-Tuesday: Closed
Support the Museum: Renew your Membership today!

Yes, I want the Imperial Valley Archeology Collections saved. I would like to support the Museum with:

- ☐ Annual Membership $35.00
  (Individual)
- ☐ Life Membership $1,000.00
  (Individual)
- ☐ Save the Childers Collection $145.00
  (Includes Annual Membership)
- ☐ Friend of the Museum annual pledge $500.00
  ($2,500 over 5 years)
- ☐ Supporting Membership $100.00
  (Includes Annual Membership)
- ☐ I want to make a general donation
  in the amount of $_________
- ☐ I want to make a donation in the
  amount of $________________

In Memory of: ____________________________________________

Name(s) __________________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________ City ___________ State _____ Zip__________

Phone _______________ E-mail Address_______________________________________________

Make checks payable to IVDMS and mail to:        IVDMS
                                                 P O Box 2455
                                                 El Centro, CA 92244
NEH CHALLENGE GRANT PLEDGE LETTER

In support of your National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant #CH51230 for the establishment of an endowment to permanently fund two staff positions, I/we hereby pledge the sum of $_____________ to be used to match and to be expended for the approved purposes of this grant. I/we will make payment on this gift directly to the Imperial Valley Desert Museum on or before July 15, 2017, but in no event later than July 15, 2019.

Sincerely,

(Must Include Signature),

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

Date ____________________________________________

Our Endowment Fund is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.