



## FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



# 2025 Funding Request

Prepared for: City of Deadwood, S.D.

Prepared by: Richard Carlson, Digital Specialist

June 1, 2024

**Amount requested: \$20,000**



## FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The Fassbender Photographic Collection is a significant photographic resource for historians of the American West. It contains an estimated 800,000 images and hundreds of photographic artifacts and archival materials.

Joseph Fassbender was a prolific photographer, recording many of the most important events in the Black Hills during the 20th century. His photographs appeared in *Life Magazine*, *Time*, *Ford Magazine*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*. He also purchased historic photos shot by other Black Hills area photographers, including some of the first to arrive in Dakota Territory.

The communities of Spearfish, Lead, and Deadwood purchased the Fassbender Photographic Collection in 2010. Each community appointed individuals to a board of directors to oversee organization and conservation efforts for the collection and have been supporting the efforts with funding. Beginning in 2016, funding from Lawrence County was added to the cause.

**For 2025, we are requesting the following amount from the city of Deadwood: \$20,000**

Currently the digital specialist position at Deadwood History has a primary focus on making the collection accessible to the public and also to the volunteers that assist with the conservation efforts. A new exhibit has opened at the Days of '76 Museum dedicated to the Fassbender Photographic Collection.

Conservation efforts remains an important part of the mission. In addition, educational opportunities and field trips related to photography and the history of the area have enhanced the awareness of the general public.

We have continued our participation in various history conferences in addition to publicly presenting information about the collection to various groups in the three communities. In addition, we've fulfilled requests for images used both commercially and privately. In past years, our efforts were mostly focused on sorting and cataloguing. More recently, we've had exhibits in Lead and Spearfish.

All of these efforts have been enhanced by the stewardship agreement with Deadwood History, Inc.(DHI) that commenced on January 1, 2022. The agreement formalized a more streamlined management of shared staff resources, exhibit opportunities at DHI properties, financial record-keeping, public outreach and education opportunities.

A quarterly newsletter that debuted in 2017 continues to be popular and highlights our activities and discoveries. Newsletters can be found at <https://www.historicblackhillsstudios.org/Newsletters>

Please consider continued funding of the Fassbender Photographic Collection, feel free to contact me with questions.

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BYLAWS  
of the  
FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION, INC.

ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND PURPOSES

**Section 1.01. Name.** The name of the organization is FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION, INC.

**Section 1.02. Purpose.** The Corporation is organized for the charitable and educational purposes to preserve and conserve the historic Fassbender photographic collection for public enrichment of the Northern Black Hills history.

ARTICLE 2  
MEMBERS

**Section 2.01. Classes.** The membership of the corporation shall consist of three members, namely the serving Mayor of the City of Lead, the City of Spearfish, and the City of Deadwood. Members may establish and provide for associate, non-voting classes of membership to individuals and corporations which support the mission and the purposes of the organization, and who provide in-kind services or other financial support to the corporation.

**Section 2.02. Qualifications.** The Board of Directors may establish one or more classes of associate, non-voting membership, and establish dues or other financial requirements for obtaining associate membership. Associate members shall have no voting rights. The Board may also provide for suspension or termination of associate members who become ineligible for associate membership, or whom shall be in default in the payment of dues or other financial contributions.

**Section 2.03. Meetings.** The annual membership meeting shall be held in March of each year, or at any other time established by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall also set the time and place of each annual meeting.

**Section 2.04. Quorum.** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members attending in person or through teleconferencing. All decisions will be by a majority vote of those present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the members present may adjourn any meeting until a quorum be had. Notice of any adjourned meeting need not be given.

ARTICLE 3  
AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

**Section 3.01. Authority of Directors.** The Board of Directors is the policy-making body and may exercise all the powers and authority granted to the Corporation by law.

## Fassbender Collection 2024 Budget

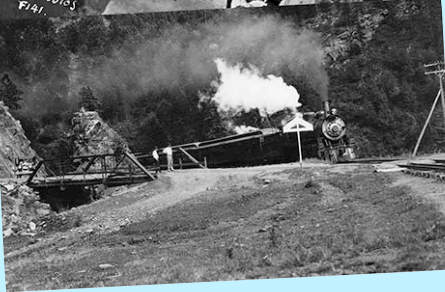
Income	Budget	Break Down	
Transfer from Fassbender Board	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	Deadwood
DHI Support	\$ 18,589.00	\$ 5,000.00	Lawrence County
Misc Income	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	Lead
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 74,589.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,000.00</b>	Spearfish
		<b>\$ 56,000.00</b>	
		<b>\$ 18,589.00</b>	Deadwood History
		<b>\$ 74,589.00</b>	
Expenses			
Administrative Expenses	\$ 420.00		
Collection Storage Expenses	\$ 10,560.00		
Marketing and Web Management	\$ 2,250.00		
Collection Insurance	\$ 1,500.00		
Conservation/Exhibits	\$ 4,280.00		
<b>Sub Total Expenses - Operations</b>	<b>\$ 19,010.00</b>		
Personnel			
Wages	\$ 38,467.00		
FICA	\$ 2,943.00		
Health Insurance	\$ 12,864.00		
Retirement	\$ 1,154.00		
Workmans Comp	\$ 100.00		
Unemployment	\$ 51.00		
<b>Sub Total Expenses - Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 55,579.00</b>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 74,589.00</b>		
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		

# HISTORIC BLACK HILLS STUDIOS

HOME OF THE FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

## Prints for Sale

Select images will soon be on sale in the gift shop at the Days of '76 Museum in Deadwood. The print size will be 13"x19".



## Photography Quote:

"If you are out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you're not out there, you'll only hear about it."

– Jay Maisel



## Exhibit at Days of '76

An exhibit featuring both photography and equipment from the Fassbender Photographic Collection is now on display at the Days of '76 Museum in Deadwood. Most of the photographs have been stored at the Homestake Adams Research & Cultural Center and Lead City Hall. However, most of the rest of the artifacts have been in cold storage. The new exhibit will finally give visitors a look at some of those previously stored darkroom, studio and camera items.

**Right:** Deadwood History, Inc. curator of collections Sherri Hall moves an old projector to storage to make room for artifacts and photos from the Fassbender Photographic Collection.



**Below:** Members of the Fassbender Photographic Collection board visit the exhibit after a recent meeting. Pictured are Vicki Dar, John Martinisko, Jerry Krambeck, Paul Young, Denelle Sprigler and Elise Fowlkes.

The exhibit can be viewed at the Days of '76 Museum in Deadwood from 10am-4pm daily and 9am-5pm daily beginning May 1.





### Recently Digitized

Variety of views of Lee St. and railroad in Deadwood ca. 1960s.



### Photography Community

- Black Hills Focus Group ([historicblackhillstudios.org/BHFG](http://historicblackhillstudios.org/BHFG))
- Black Hills Photography Club ([blackhillsp photographyclub.com](http://blackhillsp photographyclub.com))
- Black Hills Photo Shootout and related photography events ([blackhillsp hotoshootout.com](http://blackhillsp hotoshootout.com))

### Exhibit at Days of '76 (cont. from pg. 1)



**Above:** A couple of darkroom timers typically used for processing film and exposing light-sensitive papers for printing. The Gralab Model 168 darkroom timer, left, is a model from the 1950s. The Time-O-Lite M-49, right, was produced in the 1940s.



**Left:** DHI Curator of Collections Sherri Hall and Archivist Tia Stenson Cunningham prepare to mount a large print to foam core. Large images provide a background to the other objects featured in the exhibit.

**Below:** Conley Folding Bed Revolving Back Camera for 5x7 plates circa 1907.

