

## MUSEUM VISITS IN DAVIS COUNTY



### NAME



# Heritage Museum of Layton

### Address

403 N Wasatch Dr  
Layton, UT 84041

### Phone Number

(801) 336-3930

### Website

<https://www.laytoncity.org/LC/HeritageMuseum>

### Contacts

Bill Sanders, Director

### Overview

A large and well-endowed museum, with substantial artifact and photo collections. The museum enjoys a well designed, purpose built structure. Guests can self guide through various displays, most dedicated

to family home life from pioneer time to post WWII, though there are exhibits displaying prehistoric and Native American life in the Layton area. Also, there are broader economic developments in Utah, such as the railroads.

City owned building and artifacts, run by 501c3 started in 1972. Fund raising from 1972-76 generated enough money to build the structure on city land. By agreement, 501c3 turned the building and artifacts over to city in 1980. Nonprofit has managed the museum by agreement with city since 1980. Had a big boost from Federal funds in 1976 when designated a Bicentennial Project.

### **Takeaways**

This museum has generated and maintained broad public support and appeal, and has enjoyed close relationship with the city government.

The recent passage of the RAMP Tax by Layton has generated a steady revenue support path and almost entirely eliminated the need to apply for state grant money.

### **Governing Method**

Independent 501c3 non profit board runs the museum, while the city owns and maintains the museum and its' artifacts.



**NAME**

**The Whitaker: Centerville's Heritage Museum**

**Address**

168 N Main St, Centerville, UT 84014

**Phone Number**

801 335-8843

**Website**

<http://centervilleut.net/departments/whitaker/>

**Contacts**

Nancy Smith, Vice Chair of Museum Board

Lisa Sommer Board member

**Overview**

Museum occupies an historic house on Centerville's Main Street, adjacent to the Centerville City Hall/Police Station. Originally built in approximately 1870s and 1880's, it was acquired by the city in 1994. An extensive renovation was begun in 2011, much of it through donated services by local contractors, it is a two story rock, brick and wooden structure. It has been configured as a "Theme Museum" dedicated to the late pioneer period to roughly 1900. It has about 12 rooms with a base and small garage used for storage. It sits on about 6-8 acres including a section of community garden, which the city allows the museum to manage and keep the rents for museum expenses. It is run by a board which include the mayor and city manager, and staffed almost exclusively by volunteers. The Director receives a part time salary from the city.

### Takeaways

- Close cooperation with city government makes for much easier action and responsibility. Running the museum is very much a joint operation between the museum and the city.
- Small size of the historic structure resulted in the theme museum. The museum does not reflect much other than the lifestyles of a small section of life in Centerville's past.
- This museum has been very successful in attracting community support for volunteer rehabilitation work, greatly aiding in keeping costs down and getting community interest and a sense of ownership.
- "Volunteer group is a mainstay of the Whitaker. Volunteers are needed at evening lectures, family events, seasonal parties, decorating the period rooms, and at story nights." (Quote from Centerville City website)
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### Governing Method

Volunteer Committee is appointed by the **Museum** Board, and recognized by the Mayor and **Centerville** City



**NAME**

Farmington Historical Museum

**Address**

110 N Main Street Farmington, Utah 84025

**Phone Number**

801-451-4850

**Website**

<http://www.farmington.utah.gov/i-want-to/learn-history-of-farmington/>

**Contacts**

Annette Tidwell, Director

## Overview

Farmington Historical Museum is located in the former City Hall, just north of the city center. The building had been leased to the Farmington Lions Club, but was transferred back to the city for use as a museum with a local movement to create a museum in 2001-2002. The majority of rehabilitation expenses have been direct from the city, some with matching grants with state preservation commission. All of the display cases, artifacts and furniture are from museum solicited donations. Through careful space utilization, the artifacts are tastefully displayed throughout the building. The museum has a very impressive and growing library for research information on a very large spread of historical topics. Most of the information is in individual packets which are slowly being converted to digital format. There is also a growing collection of photographs and some art work. It also boasts a large collection of oral histories, most collected by Eagle Scout projects. The driving force for about 20 years has been Annette Tidwell. The museum got a big boost to its' initial funding from the sale of a historic cannon, mistakenly thought to have local significance, sold to a Montana collection for \$20,000.

## Takeaways

- Historic Downtown walking tour  
<http://www.farmington.utah.gov/img/File/Historic%20Downtown%20Walking%20Tour.pdf>

## Governing Method

Started with historic preservation commission, transitioned to a separation museum commission, and have a museum board all answering directly to the mayor and city council. The museum has a paid director.



**NAME**

**Bountiful Historic Museum**

**Address**

305 N Main St, Bountiful, UT 84010

**Phone Number**

(801) 296-2060

**Website**

<https://playindavis.com/places-to-play/listing/bountiful-historic-museum>

**Contacts**

Tom Tolman, Director

**Overview**

This is a very impressive museum, celebrating the city of Bountiful, from prehistoric times to present, with emphasis on the pioneer period through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Housed in an historic home on

Main Street on the northern end of the original business district, it is full of artifacts and art work. The building was acquired through the city from a restaurant which had closed. The museum was a long term project in the making and originally started in three rooms in an insurance agency. It has a pioneer cabin on the grounds, moved multiple times after being donated to the city, as the group worked on getting into a permanent building. The building is two stories and a basement, and is being carefully remodeled in sections as funds become available. The grounds are approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre. Parking is limited to the street, but limited car and bus parking is available.

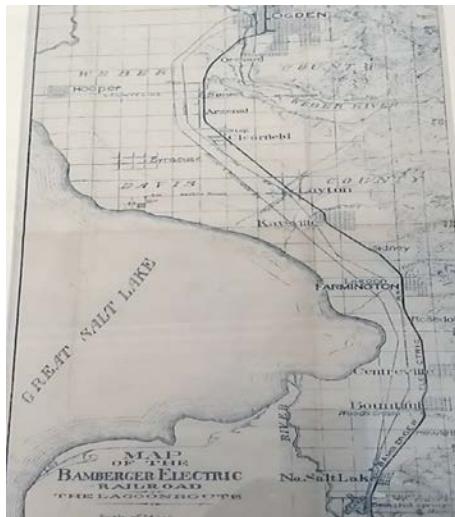
The most impressive features are

- A model railroad, approximately 10 foot by 18 feet, with model buildings and other features replicating North Salt Lake through Bountiful to Lagoon. The back drop is a series of panoramic photos, approximately 24 inches tall of the Wasatch Mountains that corresponds to the portion of the miniature cities on the table.



- Several large displays represent buildings or institutions, such as a print shop and a store which served Bountiful, made up of photos and artifacts donated by the companies.

- Several large maps were displayed, including hand drawn maps of Old Bountiful available for



purchase.

- A working weather station with an interactive video created and donated by a local weather man.

### **Takeaways**

Mr. Tolman stressed the need to closely work with city government, and the steady need for fund raising. He also spoke of the need for dedicated volunteers. He is an incredible driving force, very active in the city of Bountiful.

### **Other information**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TmO3oCsVIA>

<http://www.standard.net/Arts-Culture/2014/11/04/Bountiful-museum-to-relocate-to-downtown-manor>

### **Governing Method**

Started with a loose group of volunteers, transitioned to a semi-independent foundation/commission, evolved into a city affiliated commission. All funds must go through city.

The city dissolved the separate city run preservation council, thinking it no longer useful, only to discover that the formal council/commission was the only way to qualify for state preservation funds. The city recently re-established a preservation commission and will use those state funds to do restoration on the museum building.



**NAME**

**Syracuse City Museum**

**Address**

1891 W 1700 S

Syracuse, UT 84075

**Phone Number**

801-825-3633

**Website**

<https://playindavis.com/places-to-play/listing/syracuse-city-museum>

**Contacts**

Sue Warren, Director

Phil Gooch

Colleen Thurgood

**Overview**

The largest museum in Davis County, housed in a very impressive two building campus, with at least 3 acres and plenty of parking. The original building was constructed on city land, built with plans created by the city after recommendations by the original committee. The majority of initial funding was from long term, aggressive fundraising , well advertised and supported by the city. The museum then had the good fortune to be gifted a second building paid for by the Lions Club donation of about \$84,000. This

second structure, approximately 60' by 120', usually referred to as "the Barn", houses a variety of exhibits reflecting the agricultural nature of Syracuse. There are additional small structures located near the Barn, including a pioneer cabin and a fully stocked barber shop that was donated in total. The museum, though owned and maintained by the city, receives only a small annual budget outlay of approximately \$500 per year. The museum is run with a large and impressive group of volunteers, and maintains an aggressive fund raising effort, often supported by the city through advertising on city utility bill and on the city web site.

### **Takeaways**

- A very strong group of dedicated residents generates a dynamic within the city to create success, both with the citizens and with the city government.
- This group recommends making use of training available from the state and other museum organizations such as DUP to maintain a very professional approach.
- It is amazing to see what volunteers have accomplished.
- The majority of high quality display cases (approximately 5-10) were built and donated by the Clearfield Job Corps woodworking classes. Volunteers had only to add glass and appropriate metal plaques noting the donation.

### **Governing Method**

Started as a city recognized volunteer non profit. Now a 501c3 run by a board with a rotating president and direct liaison with the city government.