

ERNEST C. OBERHOLTZER FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission: We foster Ober's legacy and North Woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal, and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits, and the natural world.
Gi-bezhig-oomin

Vision: We envision a world where people understand and honor their relationship with the arts, indigenous culture, and nature.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE

Goal: Strengthen financial capacity and operational stability to support long-term growth.

- Diversify and expand funding sources, including grants, individual giving, and corporate partnerships.
- Expand the Foundation's endowment and investments to meet mission needs by actively seeking estate gifts and other pathways to planned giving.
- Enhance board governance through ongoing development and training.
- Invest in staff capacity and infrastructure to support operations.

2. MISSION DELIVERY: PROGRAM IMPACT AND EXPANSION

Goal: Enhance and expand programs to better serve our community and deliver our mission.

- Evaluate and refine existing programs for greater effectiveness.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for program growth and innovation.
- Strengthen partnerships with aligned organizations to amplify impact.

3. OBER'S LEGACY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

Goal: Increase visibility of Ober's legacy and the work of the Foundation.

- Develop a comprehensive communications and outreach strategy.
- Develop relationships with the next generation of volunteers, donors, and partners.
- Leverage the organization website and other digital and traditional media to expand reach and awareness.

4. CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES

Goal: Foster indigenous leadership and imbed indigeneity into the Foundation's organizational practices.

- Continue developing meaningful relationships with Rainy Lake First Nations and other Indigenous peoples.
- Actively recruit the next generation of Indigenous board and committee leadership.
- Explore expanded opportunities for Elder-led cultural teachings and practices

5. THE MAGIC OF MALLARD: PRESERVING AND ENHANCING MALLARD ISLAND AND THE OTHER REVIEW ISLANDS

- Use findings from Historic Structures Report and Cultural Landscape study to develop a long-range facility management plan.
- Identify and prioritize physical improvement needs and projects.
- Explore ways mitigate effects of climate change and bolster water treatment and waste management systems to be more resilient and ecologically sound.

The Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation is at a pivotal moment in its history. This strategic plan, coupled with a detailed operations plan, serves as a blueprint for sustainable growth, deeper community engagement, and stronger financial resilience. By staying committed to our mission and embracing collaboration, we will continue to preserve Ober's legacy while evolving to meet contemporary challenges and opportunities. Through careful stewardship, cultural respect, and forward-thinking strategies, we will ensure that Mallard Island remains a place of inspiration, renewal, and connection for generations to come. **Together, we carry Ober's vision forward, honoring the past while building a vibrant and sustainable future.**