

Jim Frederiksen has made a \$1 million donation to help make the museum on the grounds of the International Independent Showmen's Association a reality. Shown kneeling in front from left: Wilbur Cooke and Steve Ianni; Standing from left: Phillip Hoskins, Tommy "OT" Arnold, Barbara Larkee, Ivan Arnold, Jim Frederiksen, Jim Elliott, Sherry Bolin, Casper Wynn, Beau Pugh and John McGinley.

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Frederiksen gives \$1 million to Florida carnival museum

Jim Frederiksen started looking at the numbers.

The dollars being allocated and collected for the carnival museum on the grounds of the International Independent Showmen's Association, Gibsonton, Fla., were just not adding up quickly enough.

"I started thinking that

it just wasn't going to happen," Frederiksen said.

He not only wanted it to happen, he also wanted it to happen while he was still alive, and while those long-time members of the industry were still alive. So, he put his money where his heart was.

"I became wealthy in this industry," he said. "I wanted to give back."

Now, the museum will happen. Beau Pugh, on the museum board as is Frederiksen, said Frederiksen's generous donation of \$1 million is just the thing that they needed to begin construction. Pugh said Frederiksen has committed \$100,000 this year and, after the museum is open, another \$100,000 a year until it reaches \$1 million.

"We have hired the architect but now will need to go back in and upgrade the plans," Pugh said. "Hopefully, we will be under construction somewhere in the next three to six months."

The museum is expected to take anywhere from 12 to 18 months for construction. It will be about 33,000 square feet in size on two floors. The price tag for the entire museum is expected at \$2.5 million.

"We already have a considerable amount of stuff to go inside," Pugh said. "But we want this museum to represent every show in America. It will be a museum of the carnival business, from the smallest show to the largest."

Frederiksen said, if he has to, he might end up kicking in a little more. But, he also said, "there is plenty of room on the marquee."

"If there are any more big donors out there, we will certainly take care of you," he said.

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