The Mai Wah Society, Inc. has embarked on a $70,000 capital renovation of the Mai Wah buildings and have been granted $17,500 from the State of Montana’s Cultural Trust. Authorized by the 2007 legislature, the funds will be released as a match to funds raised by the Mai Wah Society.

After nearly 15 years in our hands we will make long lasting improvements to the buildings and improve visitor services and experiences. A new plumbing and heating system will allow us to hold events and programs in the buildings year round. Exterior brick work and window repairs will not only improve the buildings’ overall appearance but will increase our energy efficiency.

The Mai Wah Museum has become an integral part of the Butte’s cultural community and in order to represent the diversity of our city we must have a center that can be enjoyed by all. We want our building to represent Butte and our Chinese heritage and community in a positive light.

For every $1000 contribution, the Cultural Trust will grant $333. Our fundraising goal is $38,500.

Montana’s Cultural Trust Funds Mai Wah Improvements

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Butte Chinatown’s Big Dig

The Mai Wah Society, Inc. has long envisioned an archaeological dig in Butte’s Historic Chinatown. Now, thanks to funding from Butte’s Urban Revitalization Agency (URA), it is a reality. Initial fieldwork started on July 16 and will be completed by the August 8th.

The Mai Wah Society’s Speaker Series will be launched with a talk by Jim Griffin at the Lewis and Clark Caverns on July 20th at 8:00 PM. Jim will speak about the history of the Chinese in Montana and will be available on site to answer questions about the dig and lead scheduled tours of the site for tourists and locals alike.

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