

Support Historic Fort Snelling

A Minnesota Treasure

Historic Fort Snelling is Minnesota's preeminent historic site – at the center of the history of the state and its people. It was designated Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark in 1960 and opened to the public by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1970. Since then, millions of tourists and schoolchildren have visited, expanding their knowledge of Minnesota and its impressive role in national events throughout history.

Improvements are needed urgently

Today, Historic Fort Snelling is in desperate need of revitalization – buildings are aging and unable to serve the public, and programs offered are limited. A \$24.8 million capital budget request to the Governor and the Minnesota Legislature would fund a new visitor center and restore historic buildings.

Help Historic Fort Snelling

1. Welcome more visitors

Historic Fort Snelling needs a new visitor center – one that can meet the needs of today's visitors and schoolchildren. Working with acclaimed architect, Joan Soranno, the proposed center draws inspiration from the Mississippi River and the historic fort. The new building will take advantage of the spectacular river views, while making a strong connection to the fort. A scenic path along the river will link the center and the fort. Within the fort, greatly needed classrooms and restrooms will be added.

2. Preserve historic buildings

Four historic buildings near the fort are in a state of disrepair. Funding would stabilize the buildings for future public use. Taking action today will preserve these historic buildings for tomorrow.

3. Tell the whole story

The Minnesota Historical Society is working with the broader community to ensure that the many stories associated with the Fort Snelling area – some familiar and some rarely shared – are told with respect and honor. Ultimately, visitors will experience the lives of the many people who have called this land home, from the Dakota people prior to the 1800s, through the territorial period, the Civil War, the U.S.-Dakota War, World War II and beyond. The stories of American Indians, fur traders, soldiers, settlers, immigrants and African Americans will all come to life.

New programming is already underway. If funding is approved in 2008, the new visitor center could open in 2011.



New Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center

The Minnesota Historical Society is making a \$24.8 million capital budget request to the Governor and the Minnesota State Legislature to fund a new visitor center at Historic Fort Snelling. The new visitor center will be constructed near the historic 1820s fort and feature exhibits on a wide range of topics, exciting new programming, meeting spaces and a museum shop. New classrooms and restrooms will be

constructed within the historic fort. Two nearby 1904 Cavalry Barracks buildings will be stabilized and preserved for future development. The requested funds will be used for construction, exhibits, to address long-standing problems with infrastructure such as drainage and utilities, relocation and occupancy costs. The state's standard inflation factor has been added to these base costs.

Itemized Budget Request

ITEM	COST
Design & Project Management	2,827,500
Construction Costs	18,262,000
Exhibits	1,200,000
1% for Art	82,000
Furnishings, Fixtures & Equipment	1,170,500
Subtotal	\$ 23,542,000
Standard State Inflation Factor @ 15.2%	3,358,000
Total	\$ 26,900,000
Less Funds Appropriated 2005 & 2006	(2,100,000)
2008 State Appropriated Request	\$ 24,800,000

The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 by the Territorial Legislature to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, extensive libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing.

