



Key Messages

1. Please support funding for history in the 2010 Legislative Session. This includes:
 - **The Capital Budget request of the Minnesota Historical Society** - the Society has requested funding for:
 - **Historic Sites Asset Preservation:** This request would allow the Society to preserve significant buildings in the state's Historic Sites Network, and includes buildings at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Fort Snelling, Fort Ridgely, the Forest History Center and many, many others.
 - **Oliver Kelley Farm Revitalization** will enable Minnesotans to learn about agriculture and farming, past, present and future. The request is for a remodeling and expansion of the Kelley Farm Visitor Center.
 - **County and Local Historic Preservation Grants:** These grants enable county and local governments to preserve their most significant historical structures for future generations.
 - While the Legislature is not expected to make appropriations from the **Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund / Legacy Constitutional Amendment Funds** this year, please be sure to let your legislator know that previous funding for history from this fund will have a major impact for the work of historical organizations and for historic preservation efforts statewide. Funding will next be considered in the 2011 Session. It's never too early to thank them for their support!
 - The Minnesota Historical Society is able to preserve Minnesota's past and to help educate its schoolchildren with generous support from the State of Minnesota's **general fund**. The Society recognizes that the state faces serious budget challenges, and is willing to do its part to help solve this challenge. In these difficult times, our hope is that the state will continue its generous support so that Minnesota citizens can learn from the past to help guide us to a better future.
 - The **Historic Preservation Tax Credit** proposal, which would assist with the preservation of significant, non-publicly owned historic structures.

2. **History Matters because history is really about creating a better future. We educate Minnesota's children and adults, add value to our State's tourism industry, preserve our cultural heritage for present and future generations, and help people make connections to our shared past.**

Each year, about 275,000 Minnesota schoolchildren visit our sites and museums on field trips. Nearly 25,000 students participate in History Day each year - a program for which Minnesota is heralded as a national leader. For the first time, Minnesota history is a required part of the State's educational system, with thousands of student statewide using the Society's award-winning curriculum, "Northern Lights" as their guide.

The Minnesota Historical Society supports the State's tourism industry through its 26 historic sites and museums located throughout the State and through their ongoing programming and events. In total, nearly one million people visit our sites and museums each year. Each individual historic site plays an important role in its area's ability to attract tourists, as well as local visitors, which in turn promotes the area's economic growth.

3. **The Society and history partners reach into every corner of the State, through our historic sites and museums, statewide historic preservation work, our publications, our expansive website and the work of county and local historical organizations.**

Over ten million people use our services each year by visiting our sites, museums, library and website, and by taking part in our educational programs. The Minnesota Historical Society has nearly 19,000 members - more than any other state historical organization in the country. And, a network of 400+ historical organizations expands the reach of history to every part of our state.