By any measure, this has been a significant year for the Minnesota Historical Society. The retirement of Nina Archabal was followed by the interim leadership of Michael Fox while we completed the search for our new Executive Director. On behalf of all who have been touched by the Minnesota Historical Society, I would like again to express our deep appreciation to Nina and Michael for all they did.

Our new director, Steve Elliott, comes to the Society with an extensive and impressive background and we are very happy to have him on board. Steve was drawn to the Society because of its stellar national reputation. His skills were promptly put to the test with the state shutdown and budget cuts. Steve is addressing the challenges facing the Society with the same strong leadership skills, insight and imagination that his predecessors exercised in building the Society.

Our state will benefit from the continued development and excellence of the Minnesota Historical Society. An understanding of history – the problems faced before and how they were addressed – is especially important in trying times. The Minnesota Historical Society will continue to illuminate the past to shed light on the future. The Society has a remarkable staff, a dedicated governing board and a growing number of members. Thank you all for your support.

William R. Stoeri, President, Minnesota Historical Society
My service as director began May 1, and how fortunate I am to be a part of this remarkable organization. Every day I am impressed by the dedication, creativity and sheer output of the Society’s staff. My thanks to my predecessor Nina Archabal for her vision of excellence on behalf of the people of Minnesota, and to Michael Fox for his leadership during the transition.

I arrived at the Society during a time of both high achievements and troubling uncertainty. The achievements were fueled by the 2008 strategic goal to increase our service to schoolchildren and their families and by an infusion of Legacy Amendment dollars that came with a mandate to create programs that would have an enduring benefit for Minnesota. The uncertainties were born of a staggering state deficit and the probability that the Society’s base budget – and thus infrastructure – would be cut once again.

Circumstances soon demanded that we begin planning for a possible state government shutdown. Those unprecedented three weeks when the Society’s sites and museums were closed are now history – and we are doing our work to record the 2011 state shutdown as part of the Minnesota story. But the challenges for the state’s economy and for the Society remain. We are working hard and having success at increasing earned income, contributed income and our endowment, and we have begun a process to evaluate all that we do and to set a realistic course for the future.

I believe it is at times such as these, when the future is uncertain, that the work of history is most needed. After all, the essence of what we do is to illuminate the past to light the future. As tough funding decisions are made, we must ask: What are the values that have sustained our state that we wish to preserve for future generations? Answers can be found in the Society’s collections, publications, exhibitions, historic sites, school curriculum – in all we do.

The continuing reach and excellence of our work is made possible with the support of our members, volunteers, benefactors, elected representatives and friends across the state. I have met many of you, and I look forward to meeting many more in the months to come.

Thank you for your warm welcome and for your abiding interest in the mission of the Minnesota Historical Society.

D. Stephen Elliott, Director and CEO
SOCIETY WELCOMED D. STEPHEN ELLIOTT AS DIRECTOR AND CEO

Stephen Elliott was named the Society’s director and CEO in March 2011. A proven leader in the field of history with a strong commitment to education and a passion for history, Elliott was previously the head of the New York State Historical Association. He began his career at Colonial Williamsburg, where he spent 28 years in various capacities, including vice presidencies of education, administration and planning, followed by a five-year stint as executive director of the First Freedom Center in Richmond, Va. Elliott also has served on numerous museum, history, education and civic boards and is currently the national chair of the American Association of State and Local History. He replaced longtime Society Director Nina M. Archabal, who retired at the end of 2010.

REDUCED FUNDING AND UNPRECEDENTED STATE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PRESENTED NEW CHALLENGES

The 2011 Minnesota Legislature and Governor faced the challenge of solving an unprecedented $6 billion deficit in the state’s budget. After a state government shutdown in the first month of fiscal year 2012 and a special session, a final budget package was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Ultimately, the budget deal brought mixed results. The Society’s operating budget, of which just over 50 percent comes from the state’s general fund, was reduced by $1.6 million for each year of the biennium, or by approximately ten percent of its program budget. This resulted in the elimination of 19 full-time equivalent positions at the start of the new fiscal year. But at the same time, the Legislature provided significant funding through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the state’s Legacy Amendment. Legacy funding increased from the last biennium for statewide programs operated by the Society, as well as for grant funds that will be available to local and regional historical organizations. In total, $24.1 million for the biennium was made available for Minnesota history programs and projects from Legacy Amendment funds. And, as the special session came to a close, the Legislature passed a capital budget, or bonding bill, of just under $2 million for preservation and repair of buildings for the historic sites operated by the Society.
A new website with updated content and design for Historic Fort Snelling that more thoroughly tells the stories of this important historic site was launched in May. Visitors to the website will find information about educational programs offered at the fort campus (which includes the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota), a more detailed History section with information about American Indian history, the story of the fort’s military service, the role of Dred Scott and slavery in Minnesota history, and collection items related to the historic site. The website also allows visitors to gain a better understanding of the importance of the site as a place of major social, cultural and historical significance to all of the people who have inhabited the region.

An appropriation from the Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund allowed the Society to expand its interactive educational experience for fourth- through sixth-grade students using video-conferencing. “History Live” beams live, active lessons about important chapters in Minnesota history from the History Center into classrooms across the state. Museum educators portray historical characters who guide students in the analysis of historical objects, photos and documents, and also encourage students to get out of their seats to role play, interacting in real time with the historical characters. The program received a Pinnacle Award from the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration for outstanding educational programming through video conferencing.

Another Legacy-funded program, Sharing Community Stories, allowed inter-generational participants to preserve their stories for their own communities as both tangible and digital products posted on the Society’s website, donated to local libraries or senior centers, or through showings of documentaries and exhibits in galleries and coffee shops. Students at Gordon Parks High School in St. Paul documented the changes light rail is bringing to businesses along University Avenue. At Red Lake, students created a documentary about winter traditions passed down from tribal elders.

Legacy funding also helped the Society to partner with other organizations for the Asian-American and Chicano-Latino Oral History Projects, the Ojibwe People’s Dictionary and the Neighborhood Leadership Program, which brings a diverse group of St. Paul residents to the History Center to learn about Society resources that can help them make improvements in their communities.
The Society kicked-off its commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in April. The first four of 58 flags to be conserved in an ambitious project to protect these compelling symbols of the valor of Minnesota’s soldiers were returned to the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda. The special event marked the beginning of the war in April 1861. Historic battle flags from the Civil and Spanish-American Wars have been displayed at the Capitol since they were placed in the new Capitol building in 1905. As the remaining flags are restored, they will go on display in rotation, four at a time. The painstaking process of conserving the flags takes approximately 80 hours each. Also undergoing conservation were the original Cass Gilbert-designed display cases, artifacts themselves. Funding for the project includes a grant from the federal Save America’s Treasures program, a matching grant from the Minnesota Legislature and a special grant from the Tawani Foundation.

Programs and events will mark the Civil War sesquicentennial over the next four years. In April, *76 Faces of the First*, an exhibition of portraits of members of the legendary First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment by painter Jay Wittenberg, went on view in the James J. Hill House art gallery. Displayed along with the paintings were Civil War artifacts from the Society’s permanent collection, including photographs, letters and military objects. Other resources and initiatives commemorating the war include related collections online, artifact displays in the Gale Family Library and a Civil War Daybook with events, both major actions and moments from everyday life, posted online each day.

The Society’s colorful and popular map of historic sites and museums was distributed statewide, promoting visitation and membership. In partnership with the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, the Society hosted “Minnesota History Day” at the State Fair, welcoming thousands of Minnesotans with history programming in Carousel Park, information, displays, and history activity books and crafts for children. Funded by the Legacy Amendment, fairgoers were treated to a History Walking Tour of the State Fair, so popular that it was expanded to include a cell phone component.
The Society continued to utilize the burgeoning field of social media to bring the stories of Minnesota and Minnesotans far and wide. “Likes” on Society Facebook pages jumped 56 percent over fiscal year 2010. Twitter “followers” increased a phenomenal 82 percent over the same period. The website was accessed 3.8 million times by 2.2 million visitors. At the same time, nearly 230,000 visitors came to the History Center’s exhibits, library and programs, nearly 55,000 of them schoolchildren and chaperones. Two traveling exhibits, *Chocolate*, from Chicago’s Field Museum, and *Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon*, proved especially popular attracting more than 100,000 visitors, many of them experiencing the History Center for the first time. One of the concerts drew a record crowd for a single program at the History Center, with more than 2,000 people crowding the grounds for a Beatles-themed tribute held in conjunction with the exhibit *The Beatles: A One-Night Stand in the Heartland*. Across the river, in its second year of charging admission, “Mill City Live” continued to be a popular attraction with a total attendance of 2,660 for seven concerts outdoors in the dramatic Mill Ruins Courtyard. Historic sites attendance remained strong with more than 550,000 people visiting museums and historic sites statewide, including 200,000 schoolchildren. And Split Rock Lighthouse saw a 20-percent jump in attendance with more than 140,000 visitors joining in the iconic site’s centennial celebration.

When students step into *Our Minnesota* in late 2012, they will enter an exhibit like no other. For the first time, they will experience a 21st-century field trip designed just for them. Instead of being told to put away their hand-held devices, students will use them as an integral part of the exhibit that encourages them to ask questions and think critically. Using technology in this way will allow students and teachers to capture elements of the exhibit and use them in their own classrooms. Funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, *Our Minnesota* will take visitors to three distinct areas that make up the state: Prairie, City and Forests. The exhibit is being designed primarily for schoolchildren and families and incorporates the advice of dozens of teachers who participated in focus groups on the project.
The Minnesota Historical Society Press had a banner year, surpassing its print sales goal by nearly three percent, while academic sales rose 27 percent and e-book sales soared 250 percent over the previous year. The best-selling e-book was *The Emigrants*, the first of Vilhelm Moberg’s four-part saga of Swedish settlement in Minnesota in the mid-1850s. The year’s top-selling hardcover title was *Minnesota’s Hidden Alphabet*, by David LaRochelle and photographer Joe Rossi, reflecting the Press’s growing children’s book program developed to better serve children and families.

Building on the critical success of *Ojibwe in Minnesota*, which was awarded the Library of Congress Best Book of 2010, Anton Treuer’s *The Assassination of Hole in the Day* was another best-selling new title in 2011. Along with *Anishinaabe Syndicated*, by Jim Northrup, it was featured in national media venues, including *Indian Country Today* and *Native America Calling*. In a major Dakota language initiative, the press also released *Takoheya Dakota Iapi Kin*, a beginning Dakota language workbook for students, with a companion teacher’s edition.

And nearing completion at the end of the fiscal year, MNopedia, the Society’s innovative free online encyclopedia supported by the Legacy Amendment, was poised to make learning about the vast breadth and scope of Minnesota’s history available with a simple click.

Legacy Amendment funding allowed the Society to partner with AMPERS, the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations, to produce “MN90: Minnesota History in 90 Seconds,” a series of 90-second radio spots designed to educate listeners about Minnesota history and its relevance to current life in the state. Topics ranged from sports, politics and agriculture, to business, weather and pop culture. The features, 125 in all, were not only entertaining but encouraged listeners to discover for themselves the Society’s resources, including collections, web resources, and historic sites and museums.
CRUMP COLLECTION BRINGS NOTABLE ARTWORK TO SOCIETY’S COLLECTIONS

When Robert L. and Patricia Kennedy Crump, two of Minnesota’s most ardent art enthusiasts, died several years ago, their family decided to donate much of their art collection to the Society. The items, which became part of the Society’s permanent collections in May 2011, include more than 100 paintings, photographs and 3D objects. Robert Crump was an author, historian and expert on Minnesota printmaking. Patricia Crump was a founding member of the Old Town Artists cooperative. Both were working professional artists who specialized in nature and Minnesota’s outdoor landscape. The Crumps also collected the work of others, including legendary Minnesota artists Cameron Booth and Paul Kramer, both of whose works are part of this collection. Through the vision and generosity of their five children, the Crumps left behind a lasting legacy for future generations of Minnesotans.

Other notable items that became part of the Society's collections in 2011 were the papers and memorabilia of famed aviator Charles W. “Speed” Holman, first chief pilot of Northwest Airlines after whom St. Paul’s downtown airport was named; an 1848 Colt Baby Dragoon revolver owned by Alexander Ramsey; a “Sioux Spelling-Book,” the first book published in the Dakota language for native learners in 1836 with the original cloth and paper binding; a Split Rock Lighthouse log book kept by lighthouse keeper Orren P. Young from 1910-1913; and a fiberglass statue of Poppin’ Fresh, the Pillsbury Doughboy, which was displayed in the lobby of Pillsbury’s Riverside Technology Center in Minneapolis from 1995-2010.

AUTHENTIC HUEY HELICOPTER ANCHORS NEW 1968 EXHIBIT

A Huey helicopter, an icon of the Vietnam War, will serve as the centerpiece of the Society’s 1968 Exhibit. The ambitious, state-of-art, multi-media exhibit looks at how the experiences of the year created a persistent, yet often contradictory, sense of identity for the people who lived through it and those who came after. Inside the reconstructed helicopter, visitors will see a presentation about extraordinary events of this pivotal year. To achieve this goal, 20 dedicated volunteers, some of whom are Vietnam veterans who served as Huey pilots or mechanics, put in more than 2,200 hours on the project. Other elements of the 5,000-square-foot exhibit, organized chronologically by the months of the year, include three interactive “lounges” focusing on music, design, and music and television where visitors can use mobile devices to access an online calendar of 1968 events, film footage and oral history excerpts. The 1968 Exhibit, whose honorary chair is Tom Brokaw, was developed in an innovative partnership between the Society, the Atlanta History Center, the Chicago History Museum and the Oakland Museum of California. It began a nationwide tour on Oct. 14, 2011, at the History Center. The exhibition is supported by an IMLS grant and an NEH Chairman’s Special Award.
The year 2012 will be the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, a tragic time in Minnesota's history. The Society is planning to mark this year with a wide range of initiatives and programs. Funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Society staff spent much of fiscal year 2011 interviewing Dakota and European American descendants, researching all aspects of life in Minnesota at this tumultuous time. A comprehensive website that looks at life in Minnesota before and after the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 will debut in spring 2012. The interactive site, being developed with Dakota community and educational advisory groups, will use primary resources, maps and oral histories and provide a forum for discussion about life in Minnesota, the war and its effects on Minnesota’s original inhabitants and later settlers. A Treaty Computer Interactive that will be a unique exhibit component of the upcoming Our Minnesota exhibit focuses on early white/native interaction, treaties, settlement and the U.S.-Dakota War and its aftermath. A Minnesota River Valley cell phone tour will introduce travelers to historic events and locations of the war along the scenic byway. And in collaboration with the Native American Community Development Institute of Minneapolis and All My Relations Gallery, the Society will sponsor an art exhibit featuring the work of American Indian artists opening in August 2012. A smaller version of the exhibit will travel to the James J. Hill House in November of that year.

Despite a continuing slow economy, support for the Society by members and donors remained strong. Elizabeth and Whitney MacMillan made a major commitment to the Society to create the MacMillan Field Trip Grants Program. This program offers financial assistance to offset transportation and lodging costs for greater Minnesota schools visiting the Society’s Twin Cities’ metro-area museums and historic sites. The Nina M. Archabal Fund, named in honor of the Society’s former director, grew to $2,012,043 at the end of the fiscal year, while membership reached 20,215. And, as part of the Society’s new sponsorship program, Xcel Energy and Explore Minnesota Tourism became premier partners, helping support the Society’s museums and historic sites as well as sponsoring specific events and programs. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsored Mill City Museum and its popular “Mill City Live” music series. The support of members, donors and sponsors played an important role in enabling the Society to continue to bring its services and programs to the people of Minnesota.
Fiscal year 2011 saw the introduction of cell phone tours to two historic sites.

At the State Capitol visitors can enjoy “History on the Spot” guided by audio narration on their cell phones that provides an overview of the more than 20 monuments and memorials on the Capitol grounds, with information about the artists who created each piece. The tour includes memorials recognizing World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans, a commemorative garden in honor of Minnesota suffragists; and sculptures honoring such diverse figures as Charles Lindbergh and Norwegian explorer Leif Erickson.

At Historic Fort Snelling, visitors can learn about the history of the fort and the surrounding area at two locations within its walls, from the top of the Round Tower and Half Moon Battery. Each location provides five different stops and covers topics including the development of the city of Mendota; the role of the Mississippi River to American Indians, fur traders and pioneers; and the issues surrounding the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

Two of the Society’s historic sites were newly designated National Historic Landmarks – Split Rock Lighthouse and Grand Mound – bringing the state of Minnesota’s total to 25. Other National Historic Landmarks in the Society’s historic sites network are Historic Fort Snelling, the Charles A. Lindbergh House, the Oliver H. Kelley Farm and Mill City Museum’s Washburn A Mill. Ten properties were listed on the National Register through the Society’s State Historic Preservation Office in fiscal year 2011. They were: St. Paul Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Almond Township, Big Stone County; Chaska Historical Marker, Chaska, Carver County; Waterford Bridge, Waterford Township, Dakota County; Abbot Hospital, Minneapolis, Hennepin County; Schubert Theatre and Building, St. Paul, Ramsey County; Duluth Armory, Duluth, St. Louis County; William Ingersoll Estate, Ingersoll Island; Adolph Levin Cottage, Kabetagoma Narrows; Monson’s Hoist Bay Resort, Voyageurs National Park; I.W. Stevens Cottage, Voyageurs National Park; Holmes Street Bridge, Shakopee, Scott County; Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children, Owatonna, Steele County; and Wood Lake Battlefield Historic District, Sioux Agency Township, Yellow Medicine County.
The second full fiscal year of the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program was a resounding success with $5,920,701 in grants awarded to 247 historical and cultural organizations in 75 counties across the state. Among eligible categories for history projects, grants for collections care were most numerous, funding 64 projects, followed by historic properties with 48 grants. Seventy-five grants were made both for the rehabilitation of historic properties listed and for work on those eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society also awarded $602,000 in grants to nine capital preservation projects from state bond funds appropriated by the legislature, and $110,594 in 32 Certified Local Government grants through federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

In fiscal year 2011, the first year of its administration of Minnesota’s new Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit, the State Historic Preservation Office processed 24 applications, representing a potential $63.2 million in state historic tax credits. After years of concerted effort, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 290.0681 and 297I.20 was signed into law on April 1, 2010, as part of a jobs bill to stimulate job creation, community revitalization and private investment in historic properties. The state tax credit, covering 20 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs, must be used in conjunction with the 20-percent federal historic preservation tax credit. The program is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Revenue.
The Society received $33.5 million in support from the State of Minnesota in fiscal year 2011, or 32.6% of total support and revenue. This represents a decrease of $2.7 million from fiscal year 2010 and was expected due to not receiving a capital appropriation in fiscal year 2011.

Contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations totaled $9.5 million, or 14.8% of total support and revenue, which is an increase of $5.6 million from fiscal year 2010. This increase is from significant endowment gifts received during fiscal year 2011.

Federal grants of $2.0 million were received in fiscal year 2011, or 3.2% of total support and revenue, which is an increase of $.6 million over fiscal year 2010, due primarily to receiving a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for The 1968 Exhibit.

Investment return of $8.7 million was achieved from the Society’s endowments during fiscal year 2011, or 13.6% of total support and revenue, which is a $4.6 million increase over fiscal year 2010. Included in investment returns were significant amounts from realized gains of $1.8 million and unrealized gains of $2.5 million.

Other earned revenues were $10.1 million during fiscal year 2011, or 15.8% of total support and revenue, which is a $.9 million increase over fiscal year 2010. This increase is due primarily to a $.6 million increase in new contract fees related to exhibits, newspaper digitization and archaeology contracts.

Total expenses for fiscal year 2011 were $57.2 million which represents an $8.7 million increase over fiscal year 2010. This increase is due primarily to increased Legacy Fund expenses of $10.0 million and a decrease of State of Minnesota bond funded projects of $2.5 million. A significant portion of Legacy Funds were carried forward from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2011 due to the fact that fiscal year 2010 was the first year of the Legacy funding. Fiscal year 2011 Legacy expenses included $6.3 million in funds granted to other organizations.

In addition, more than 2,250 volunteers contributed more than 44,500 hours at the Society's museums and historic sites across the state, the largest number ever in the history of the Society’s volunteer program.
### SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

#### Support:
- Private contributions: $2,082
- Federal grants: $1,972
- County and other grants: $48
- State operating appropriation: $22,139
- State legacy appropriation: $11,420
- State capital appropriation: $(31)

#### Revenue:
- Admissions fees: $1,423
- Museum store sales: $3,568
- Program fees: $1,067
- Digital product fees: $405
- Investment return: $689
- Auxiliary services: $1,067
- Other sales, fees & memberships: $456

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### EXPENSES:

#### Program services:
- Library collections & archival services: $9,377
- Publications: $1,687
- History Center museum: $11,022
- Historic sites: $10,747
- Outreach and preservation: $13,150

#### Supporting services:
- Management & general: $7,925
- Development & membership: $1,727

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North Star Circle

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following donors in our North Star Circle for their leadership support from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. These friends contributed a minimum of $1,000 to maintain the excellence of our ongoing programs, sites and services.

The collective contributions of those recognized in our North Star Circle are the foundation of our annual support, providing nearly a million dollars.

DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE: $50,000+
David A. and Barbara G. Koch† Richard V. DeLeo* David and Janis Larson

GUARANTOR: $25,000-$49,999
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BENEFACCTOR: $15,000-$24,999
Terry and Sharon Avest* Mark and Mary Davis* Ruth and John Huss* Betty and Whitney MacMillan*

FOUNDER: $10,000-$14,999
Suzanne Blue Art and Martha Kaemmer** Susan and Edwin McCarthy* Onan Foundation* Ken and Nina Rothchild* Emily Anne Staples Tuttle Fund of Minnesota Community Foundation*

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PATRON: $1,000-$2,499
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If you are interested in being recognized in our North Star Circle, we would be delighted to include you; please call Shelly at 651.259.3126.
North Star Circle donors will be listed throughout the year on our website, including gifts received after 6/30/11.

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Sustaining: $500–$999
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Valeria Barlau
Bernard and Nancy Beckman
Kristin Beckmann and Robert Richman
Keith and Mary Bednarowski
George and Denise Bergquist
Rolf and Idelle Bjelband
John Bloom
Muriel Bochnak
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