



# MINNESOTA HISTORY

## Building a Legacy

January 2026



Report to the Governor and the Legislature on Funding for History Programs and Projects Supported by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund





## LETTER FROM MNHS DIRECTOR AND CEO

From elementary school students on a field trip to veterans sharing their military experience, Minnesotans have a deep connection to our state's history and cultural heritage. Funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund provides unparalleled opportunities to foster these connections by preserving and enhancing access to our shared history.

At the Minnesota Historical Society, we are immensely appreciative that the people of Minnesota voted to approve the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Since 2008, these funds have made a statewide impact:

- More than 1,000 organizations representing each of Minnesota's 87 counties have received more than 3,600 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants to support projects in their communities.
- Statewide history programs have engaged diverse audiences through exhibits, interpretive signage, digital and traditional publishing, and even podcasts.
- History partnerships have created collaborations between dozens of organizations for history initiatives and greater access to historic and cultural resources across Minnesota.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will find wide ranging examples of history at work. I encourage you to review the feature projects on pages 1 - 3 and to continue learning about each of the grants, programs, partnerships, and statewide initiatives funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Thank you to the Legislature, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and the people of Minnesota. We are grateful for your continued support of history in our state.

Thank you,

Kent Whitworth, director and CEO

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**Cover:** (top to bottom, left to right) Split Rock Lighthouse; Oliver Kelley Farm; Founding members of the WARM Gallery getting the space ready at 414 First Avenue North in Minneapolis, 1976; State Capitol Mall Historic District archaeology project; Charlie Parr concert at Historic Forestville; *Minnesota Unraveled* podcast interview; audience at Charlie Parr concert at Historic Forestville; Two Harbors community members view and learn about artifacts recovered from the Agate Bay archaeological investigations now curated at the Minnesota History Center





## FEATURED PROJECTS

### Regional Daily Newspaper Digitization

Newspaper digitization makes available important sources of history, bringing forward the experiences of people, their towns and cities, and the events and experiences that shape Minnesota. Through the Regional Daily Newspapers special project, the Minnesota Historical Society digitized 1.26 million pages of daily newspapers in Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, and St. Paul. Most of the newspapers will be available in the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub, a free searchable website that contains geographically and culturally diverse newspapers published between 1849 and today ([mnhs.org/newspapers/hub](http://mnhs.org/newspapers/hub)).



### Streetcar Boat 'Minnehaha' Restoration

The 'Minnehaha' is Minnesota's only remaining active steam-powered passenger-for-hire vessel, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Over 24 seasons, the 'Minnehaha' has carried more than a quarter million passengers, allowing them to experience water transportation that occurred on a steamboat in the early 20th century. Currently, four sections of the hull are in need of repairs, rendering the 'Minnehaha' unfit for carrying passengers. With support from a Legacy-funded grant, the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society is conducting a rehabilitation project so the steamboat can be re-certified to carry passengers and resume its role as a living museum.

Photo courtesy: Lake Minnetonka Historical Society



### Accessible Mississippi River Environmental History

The Minnesota Historical Society's Forest History Center in Grand Rapids, Minnesota launched the accessible Mississippi River environmental history project, offering pontoon tours as a way to create greater access for visitors to the site. The Forest History Center has offered kayak tours of the Mississippi River for five seasons; adding pontoon tours provides an accessible experience on the water. Both tours offer an interpretation of environmental history as well as how this section of the river has been impacted by people over time. Visitors learn about the creation of the Mississippi River, the many animals who use the river to survive and thrive, the history of humans and the Mississippi, and how the river is used by humans today.



### African American Historic and Cultural and Context Study

Through funding from a legacy-supported grant, the Community Planning & Economic Development Department in the City of Minneapolis conducted a first-of-a-kind historic and cultural context study to provide a narrative history of Africans and African Americans in Minneapolis from the 1820s to the present. The context study includes seven themes: Arrival; Residential Life and Neighborhoods; Religion and Houses of Worship; Employment and Professional Growth; Community, Social Organizations, Recreation, and Education; Arts, Design, Music, and Culture; and Segregation, Discrimination, Civil Rights, and Reclamation. The study will lead the way for the recognition and preservation of important places to the African American community in Minneapolis.

Central High School (top), Frederick McKinley Jones (left), places and people included in the African American Historic and Cultural Context Study.



### *Girlhood (It's complicated)*

*Girlhood (It's complicated)*, a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution, brought a fresh perspective on women's history to the Minnesota History Center. *Girlhood* originally opened at the National Museum of American History in 2020 during the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage. The History Center is among a limited number of museums capable of hosting an exhibit of this scope and scale, which ran from September 7, 2024, through June 1, 2025. In addition to the traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian, the MNHS exhibits department developed a local component called *Minnesota (where girls shoot hoops)*, which highlighted the long history of girls' basketball in the state, dating back to 1892. From the exhibit's development, to its opening, to special events, Minnesota sports pioneers were ambassadors for the exhibit. They gave their stories, loaned their memorabilia, and shared their passion with their communities.





### Greater Minnesota Two-Spirit & LGBTQIA+ History Project

The Greater Minnesota Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ History Map project features 150+ stories of Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people, places, and events significant to Minnesota history. LGBTQIA+ stories have always been community history, and this map aims to highlight overlooked Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ sites, people, and themes. Focusing on Greater Minnesota, the map reveals that queer history has unfolded in every corner of the state, from Worthington to the Boundary Waters. Community Engagement staff traveled to 15 locations around the state to raise awareness and increase engagement in this new participatory storytelling project, through local community events and public programming.



### MNHS 175 History Hunt

The Minnesota Historical Society celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2024 and launched a celebration to engage Minnesotans in a statewide scavenger hunt. The MNHS 175 History Hunt encouraged users to dive into our state's history with tasks such as visiting historic sites, answering trivia questions, and exploring Minnesota communities. Minnesotans completed more than 15,000 tasks through the app, deepening their understanding of our state's history. More than a dozen people completed all 175 tasks. One of the finishers summed up their feelings by saying, "I want to let you know this adventure has opened my eyes and heart even wider for Minnesota, its history, present, and future. And this has been one of my better summers in recent memory."



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**Above:** MNHS 2013 NAAIR Master Beadwork Artist Jessica Gokey (Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) in her 2024 oral history interview.

# INTRODUCTION

On November 4, 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment to preserve and enhance some of the most important elements of our state. This amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, often referred to as the “Legacy Amendment,” created four funds, one of which is the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF).

The Legacy Amendment mandates that a portion of the ACHF be used “to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage” (Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Sec. 15). Each January, the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is required to submit an annual report to the governor and legislature detailing expenditures it has made from the ACHF.

This report details all ACHF grants awarded, and projects and programs funded, through MNHS, **for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)**, the year ending June 30, 2025.

## **ACHF history projects are benefiting Minnesotans statewide by:**

- Preserving our state’s most valuable historical and cultural resources for future generations
- Sharing our state’s stories and treasured resources with ever-growing audiences including students, teachers, scholars, researchers, genealogists, and the general public
- Connecting Minnesotans of all ages to each other and to history—history that is becoming more accessible than ever before

## APPROPRIATIONS

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund receives 19.75% of overall Legacy funding. In 2023, the legislature appropriated \$36.981 million from the ACHF to MNHS for the two-year period July 2023-June 2025. That appropriation breaks down to \$18.004 million for fiscal year 2024 and \$18.977 million for fiscal year 2025. In 2024, the legislature appropriated an additional \$1.201 million in FY25. The legislature divided the fiscal years 2024 and 2025 appropriations to MNHS into the following six categories:

Category	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Appropriation
Statewide Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants	\$6,451,000	\$7,035,000
Statewide History Programs	\$7,395,000	\$8,125,000
Statewide History Partnerships	\$2,183,000	\$3,067,000
Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites	\$375,000	\$375,000
Minnesota Digital Library	\$375,000	\$375,000
Additional Projects	\$1,225,000	\$1,201,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,004,000</b>	<b>\$20,178,000</b>



Estimated cost of preparing and printing this report (as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.197): \$ 1,373.45

Upon request this report will be made available in alternate format such as Braille, large print, or audio tape.

For TTY contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for the Minnesota Historical Society.

For more information or for paper copies of this report contact MNHS at: 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St Paul, MN 55102, 651-259-3000.

This report is available at the MNHS website: [mnhs.org/legacy](https://mnhs.org/legacy).



## AT A GLANCE

**\$6.8**  
MILLION

PROVIDED BY THE ARTS AND  
CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND FOR

**185 LEGACY GRANTS**  
IN FY25

**\$3.45**

### PER PERSON PER YEAR

**LESS THAN THE COST OF A SIDE  
OF FRENCH FRIES**—that's how much  
each Minnesotan pays annually for the  
programs, partnerships, grants, and other  
statewide initiatives detailed in this report<sup>1</sup>

**2.6 TO 1**

DEMAND FOR **HISTORICAL  
& CULTURAL HERITAGE  
GRANTS** OUTWEIGHED  
AVAILABLE RESOURCES<sup>2</sup>

**76**

COUNTIES  
HAVE RECEIVED

**\$100,000** OR  
MORE

Since July 1, 2009, Legacy history funds have  
supported grants in all 87 counties.

**19,000**

**STUDENTS GRADES 6-12**

from around Minnesota  
participated in National History  
Day in FY25

**59**

**STUDENTS**

represented  
Minnesota in  
the national  
competition

**THOSE STUDENTS  
WERE AWARDED:**

**4**

**MEDALS**

**5**

**FINALISTS**

**7**

**HONORABLE  
MENTIONS**

1. Based on the 2024 population estimate from the Minnesota State Demographic Center and the FY25 appropriation of \$20,178,000

2. Based on \$17,730,638 in overall request in FY25 and \$6,797,683 appropriated

# HISTORIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility for administering this competitive grants program lies with the Minnesota Historical Society. The initial Legacy appropriations bill from 2009<sup>1</sup> established the Historic Resources Advisory Committee:

“The Minnesota Historical Society shall appoint a historic resources advisory committee, with balanced statewide membership and representatives of local, county, and statewide historical and cultural organizations and programs, to provide policy and grant-making guidance on expenditures of funds from this paragraph. This membership shall include but is not limited to members representing the interests of historic preservation, local history, archaeology, archival programs, and other cultural programs related to the history of Minnesota. This committee shall seek input from all interested parties, and shall make recommendations for expenditures from these funds to the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society; all expenditures must meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 138.01.”

## MEMBERS

The Historic Resources Advisory Committee consists of thirteen members serving two-year terms and two ex-officio members. They represent a variety of disciplines and are from diverse areas of the state. The committee roster for the calendar year 2024:

### **Tisha Allen**, Minneapolis, Chair

- Senior Project Coordinator, Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design, LLC, Minneapolis MN
- Master in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania
- Qualified in historic preservation, grant-making, and community development
- Served 1 term (expired on December 31, 2024)

### **Milissa Brooks-Ojibway**, Duluth

- Liberal Arts Associate of Arts degree, Fond du Lac Community College
- Collections Manager at Glensheen Historic Estate
- Qualified in collection policies, object care, grant writing, and grant implementation
- Currently serving 2nd term (expires on December 31, 2025)

### **Crystal Boyd**, Burnsville

- Master of Science, Museum Studies at University of Colorado Boulder, CO
- Museum Consultant with Crystal Boyd Consulting LLC Burnsville, MN and Grant Program Manager at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bloomington, MN
- Qualified in local history, collections, exhibits, museum interpretation, grant writing, project management, and grant program management
- Currently serving 2nd term (expires on December 31, 2025)

### **Kate Dietrick**, Saint Paul

- Archivist, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- M.S., Library and Information Science from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- Qualified in archiving, research, collections management, and fundraising
- Currently serving 2nd term (expires on December 31, 2025)

### **Melissa Ekman**, Minneapolis

- Architect at Miller Dunwiddie
- Master of Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Meets the SOI professional qualification Standards for Historic Architecture
- Qualified in historic preservation, and project management
- Served 1 term (expired on December 31, 2024)

### **Margaret Hedstrom**, Grand Marais

- Professor Emerita, University of Michigan
- Ph.D. in History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Qualified in archives, digital preservation, and grant reviewer
- Currently serving 1st term (expires on December 31, 2025)

### **Heather Hoagland**, Minneapolis, Deputy Chair

- Sr. Project Manager at 106 Group
- Master in Museum Studies from the George Washington University, Washington DC
- Qualified in collections management, exhibit development, grant writing, registrar, and museum services
- Served 2 terms (expired on December 31, 2024)

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1. Laws of Minnesota, 2009, Chapter 172, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 4(b)(ii)

**Dr. Maureen Kelly Jonason, Moorhead**

- Executive Director, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
- Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning: Higher Education from the University of North Dakota
- Qualified in museum services, grant writing, and community development
- Currently serving 1st term (expires on December 31, 2025)

**Anne O’Keefe-Jackson, Morton, Deputy Chair**

- Human Resource Director at Jackpot Junction Casino
- M.A. Business, M.A. Leadership from Augsburg University
- Board member of Southwest Minnesota Arts Council
- Qualified in compliance, leadership, grant management, and Tribal community
- Served 2 terms (expired on December 31, 2024)

**Merlin Peterson, Glenwood**

- Executive Director/Administrator at Pope County Historical Society
- Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts from Moorhead State University
- Qualified in grant writing, management and implementation, non-profit administration, local history, collections, exhibit development and construction, museum interpretation, project management, fundraising, and public speaking
- Served 1 term (expired on December 31, 2024)

**Katrina Phillips, Saint Paul**

- Assistant Professor (American Indian History, American West) at Macalester College, History Department
- Ph.D., University of Minnesota, History
- Qualified in teaching history, research, writing, and public speaking
- Currently serving 2nd term (expires on December 31, 2025)

**Hillary Swanson, Brainerd**

- Executive Director, Crow Wing County Historical Society and Museum
- Master of Arts in Art History from the University at Buffalo
- Qualified in historic preservation, grant-making, and community development
- Currently serving 1st term (expires on December 31, 2025)

**Dr. Kathleen Thomas, Afton**

- Heritage Commission for the City of Afton
- Ph.D. in History, University of Minnesota
- Qualified in DEI administration, historian, grant recipient, author, conference presenter, and curriculum and program development.
- Currently serving 1st term (expires on December 31, 2025)

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

**Peter M. Reyes, Jr.**  
MNHS Board President

**Thomas M. Forsythe**  
MNHS Board Treasurer



**Above:** The Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC) meeting at the Minnesota History Center on September 26-27, 2024.



## THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

All grant recommendations for the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program and the Heritage Partnership Program are reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Historical Society governing board, the Executive Council.

Below is the list of members as of June 30, 2025:

### OFFICERS:

**Peter M. Reyes Jr.**, President  
**Thomas M. Forsythe**, Vice President, Treasurer  
**David R. Hakensen**, Immediate Past President  
**Kent Whitworth**, Secretary

### ELECTED MEMBERS:

**Ford W. Bell**  
**Sharon Sayles Belton**  
**M. Mitchell Davis**  
**Joanell M. Dyrstad**  
**Richard E. Engebretson**  
**Carolyn M. Essig**  
**Stephanie L. Fehr**  
**Thomas M. Forsythe**  
**Jesse Bethke Gomez**  
**David R. Hakensen**  
**Dustin B. Heckman**  
**Elizabeth Driscoll Hlavka**  
**Bridget A. Larson-Lindner**  
**Linda Mona**  
**Jennifer J. Murray**  
**Richard C. Nash**  
**Krista E. O'Malley**  
**John Pacheco Jr.**  
**Peter M. Reyes Jr.**  
**Daniel J. Schmechel**  
**Diana L. Schutter**  
**Daniel W. Shogren**  
**Roger J. Sit**  
**Anton S. Treuer**  
**John R. Tunheim**  
**Noelle P. Turner**  
**Kyle R. Ward**  
**Gwen N. Westerman**  
**Kent Whitworth** (Nonvoting, Director & CEO)

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

**Tim Walz**, Governor  
**Peggy Flanagan**, Lieutenant Governor  
**Steve Simon**, Secretary of State  
**Julie Blaha**, State Auditor  
**Keith Ellison**, Attorney General

## MINNESOTA HISTORY COALITION

The Minnesota History Coalition is an advisory group composed of representatives of various history organizations in Minnesota. Using public input and members' expertise, the History Coalition developed recommendations for the legislature on how the FY25 ACHF appropriation for history projects and programs could best serve Minnesotans.

### MINNESOTA HISTORY COALITION MEMBERS:

**Council for Minnesota Archaeology**  
**Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums**  
**Minnesota Archaeological Society**  
**Minnesota Association of Museums**  
**Minnesota Digital Library**  
**Minnesota Genealogical Society**  
**Minnesota Historical Society**  
**Minnesota History Advocates for Research**  
**Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office**  
**Minnesota State Historical Records Advisory Board**  
**Minnesota's Historic Northwest**  
**Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps**  
**Rethos**

### ACCOUNTABILITY

The Minnesota Legislature has reiterated the mandate that every project and program supported by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund report "actual measurable outcomes, and a plan for measuring and evaluating the results."

MNHS staff and partners are strongly positioned to ensure that ACHF projects and programs use best practices, current scholarship, and when appropriate, incorporate state-of-the-art technology for demonstrating measurable outcomes. During FY25, MNHS continued to evaluate the impact of ACHF projects and programs to ensure that they demonstrate measurable outcomes as well as economic value for citizens. These results will be shared on a website explained below.

### TRANSPARENCY

The Minnesota Historical Society has an obligation to the citizens of Minnesota to ensure that ACHF dollars entrusted to our care are invested in ways that are transparent and will produce the greatest measurable impact on lives, enabling our state to thrive.

To meet this goal, MNHS has assisted in the building of a website that informs the public about all ACHF initiatives funded through MNHS. Minnesota's Legacy, [www.legacy.mn.gov](http://www.legacy.mn.gov), was created by the Legislative Coordinating Commission and contains information on all Legacy-funded projects. Through the end of the biennium, MNHS will continue to post the most current information about history-related ACHF initiatives ensuring transparency and responsible stewardship of the funds.

# ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND HISTORY APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

**Session Law Reference: Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 40, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 4**  
**Subd. 4. Minnesota Historical Society, FY2024: \$18,004,000. FY2025: \$18,977,000**

**(a)** The amounts in this subdivision are appropriated to the governing board of the Minnesota Historical Society to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and its cultural and historical resources. Grant agreements entered into by the Minnesota Historical Society and other recipients of appropriations in this subdivision must ensure that these funds are used to supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding. Funds directly appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society must be used to supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding. The appropriations in this subdivision are onetime, and any unencumbered balance remaining under this subdivision in the first year does not cancel but is available for the second year. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, for historic preservation projects that improve historic structures, the amounts are available until June 30, 2027. The Minnesota Historical Society or grant recipients of the Minnesota Historical Society using arts and cultural heritage funds under this subdivision must give consideration to Conservation Corps Minnesota and Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, or an organization carrying out similar work, for projects with the potential to need historic preservation services.

## **(b) Historical Grants and Programs**

### **(1) Statewide Historic and Cultural Grants**

\$6,451,000 the first year and \$7,035,000 the second year are for statewide historic and cultural grants to local, county, regional, or other historical or cultural organizations or for activities to preserve significant historic and cultural resources. Money must be distributed through a competitive grant process. The Minnesota Historical Society must administer the money using established grant mechanisms with assistance from the advisory committee created under Laws 2009, chapter 172, article 4, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), item (ii).

### **(2) Statewide History Programs**

\$7,395,000 the first year and \$8,125,000 the second year are for historic and cultural programs and purposes related to the heritage of the state. Of this amount, \$50,000 the first year and \$50,000 the second year are for the production and distribution of "Making Minnesota" on Minnesota's natural resources, legacy, culture, and history, to be made available free of cost.

### **(3) History Partnerships**

\$2,183,000 the first year and \$3,067,000 the second year are for history partnerships involving multiple organizations, which may include the Minnesota Historical Society, to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and cultural heritage in all regions of the state.

### **(4) Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites**

\$375,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for one or more contracts to be competitively awarded to conduct statewide surveys or investigations of Minnesota's sites of historical, archaeological, and cultural significance. Results of the surveys or investigations must be published in a searchable form and available to the public cost free. The Minnesota Historical Society, the Office of the State Archaeologist, the Indian Affairs Council, and the State Historic

Preservation Office must each appoint a representative to an oversight board to select contractors and direct the conduct of the surveys or investigations. The oversight board must consult with the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources.

### **(5) Digital Library**

\$375,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for a digital library project to preserve, digitize, and share Minnesota images, documents, and historical materials. The Minnesota Historical Society must cooperate with the Minitex interlibrary loan system and must jointly share this appropriation for these purposes.

### **(6) Grants**

(1) \$100,000 the first year is for a grant to the Litchfield Opera House to repair and update the Litchfield Opera House;

(2) \$275,000 the first year is for a grant to the Dakota County Historical Society to upgrade and improve the Lawshe Memorial Museum;

(3) \$500,000 the first year is for a grant to Olmsted County Historical Society to rehabilitate the historic George Stoppel stone house and barn and to construct an accessible pathway to the farmstead;

(4) \$100,000 the first year is for a grant to the Minnesota Transportation Museum for programming at the historical Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul to preserve and share the history and culture of railroads in Minnesota; and

(5) \$250,000 the first year is for a grant to Special Guerrilla Units Veterans and Families of USA, Inc. to collect, document, archive, preserve, and make available to the public Hmong Special Guerrilla Units veterans' histories and for programming and educational efforts to teach the public about their history serving as proxy soldiers for the United States during the Secret War in Laos.

**(c) Balance Remaining**

Any unencumbered balance remaining under this subdivision the first year does not cancel but is available the second year.

**Session Law Reference: Laws of Minnesota, 2024, Chapter 106, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6.  
Subd. 6. Minnesota Historical Society, FY2024: \$0. FY2025: \$1,201,000**

**(a)** The amounts in this subdivision are appropriated to the governing board of the Minnesota Historical Society to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and its cultural and historical resources. Grant agreements entered into by the Minnesota Historical Society and other recipients of appropriations in this subdivision must ensure that these funds are used to supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding. Funds directly appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society must be used to supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding. The appropriations in this subdivision are onetime.

**(b) Grants**

(1) \$100,000 the second year is to facilitate negotiations for the purchase by the state of the Wizard of Oz ruby slippers through a combination of available state funds and nonstate sources of funding;

(2) \$400,000 the second year is for statewide historic and cultural grants to cultural community organizations, historical organizations, and veterans organizations for activities to commemorate 50 years of Southeast Asians in Minnesota. Money under this paragraph must be distributed through a competitive grant process. The Minnesota Historical Society must administer the grants using established grant mechanisms with assistance from the advisory committee created under Laws 2009, chapter 172, article 4, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), item (ii).

(3) \$200,000 the second year is for activities to prepare and coordinate community commemoration programs celebrating 50 years of Hmong Americans in Minnesota. The Minnesota Historical Society must form an advisory task force consisting of members of the Hmong community to advise the society on the design and implementation of these activities and programs;

(4) \$200,000 the second year is for planning and outreach, in collaboration with the Minnesota Humanities Center, for Minnesota's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Minnesota Historical Society and Minnesota Humanities Center must enter into an agreement between the organizations on how best to maximize the impact of this grant and of collaboration with statewide partners;

(5) \$50,000 the second year is for a grant to the Greater Litchfield Opera House Association to repair and update the Litchfield Opera House; and

(6) \$251,000 the second year is for a grant to the Dakota County Historical Society to design and build exhibits at the Lawshe Memorial Museum.



# REPORT OF MINNESOTA HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund supported two grant programs. The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program offers a significant opportunity for nonprofits, educational institutions, government entities, and federally recognized Tribes throughout Minnesota to preserve and promote the state's rich history and cultural heritage. The Commemorating 50th Anniversary of Southeast Asian Communities in Minnesota supported cultural community organizations, historical organizations, and veterans organizations for activities to commemorate 50 years of Southeast Asians in Minnesota. This year's report reflects 12 months of grants awarded from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Utilizing a competitive process, the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program awarded 185 grants in this time frame, totaling more than \$6.8 million in 54 counties to 153 organizations across Minnesota. Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are available in two tiers:

- Small or Structured Grants of \$10,000 or less
- Large Grants of more than \$10,000

Overall, 3,628 grants totaling more than \$89.9 million have been awarded to 1,028 organizations in every county in Minnesota since the Legacy Amendment was passed in 2008. This year's report reflects 12 months of grants awarded from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

The Commemorating 50th Anniversary of Southeast Asian Communities grant program, through a competitive process, awarded \$400,000 to 11 organizations.

These grant programs are administered by the Minnesota Historical Society with award funding based on recommendations from the Historic Resources Advisory Committee, ensuring that valuable historical initiatives receive the support they need. Ten percent of grant funding is used to administer and ensure the success of the grant programs. The funds allow MNHS to lead statewide grant-writing workshops and webinars, assist applicants with technical information critical to submitting a successful grant application, and support recipients throughout the life of their project.

To ensure transparency and measurable project outcomes, grants staff members conduct monitoring visits required by the Minnesota Office of Grants Management and monitor the progress of all awarded grants throughout the grant life cycle.

Minnesota Statutes Section 129D.17 requires organizations granting Legacy dollars to report whether projects awarded funding have been completed. Each grant entry in this section indicates whether projects have been completed or anticipated completion date.

In addition, this section of statute requires recipients to report on whether "funding has been distributed" and "funding not yet expended." For the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program, all grant funds have been awarded; these funded projects are described in the following section of this report. For this grant program, a completion schedule is described on each grant description in this report

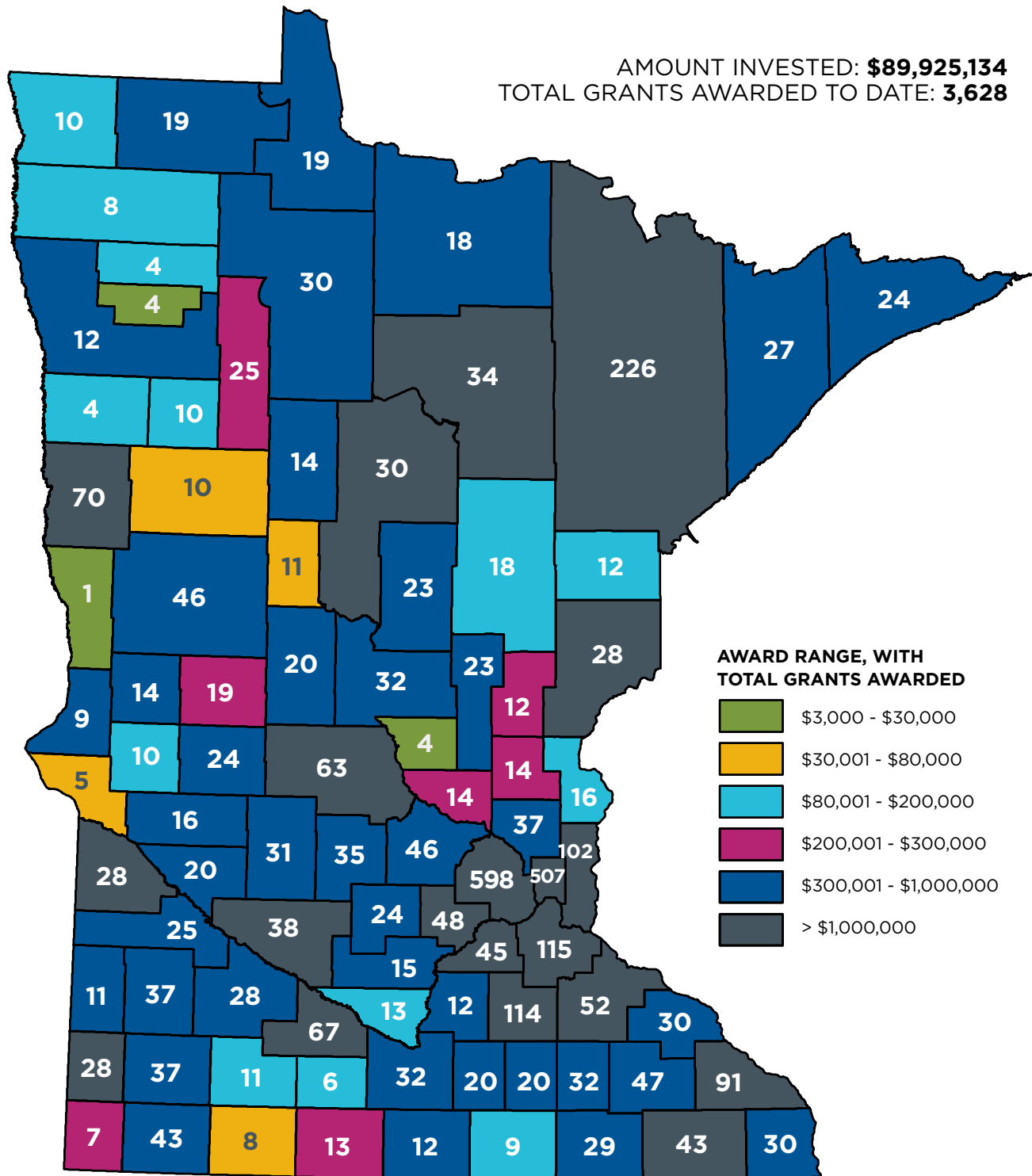
**All grants awarded between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 are listed on pages 16-31.**

Information on projects funded through future grant rounds will be available at [www.legacy.mn.gov](http://www.legacy.mn.gov).

**Appropriations Language—Statewide Historical and Cultural Grants:** \$6,451,000 the first year and \$7,035,000 the second year are for statewide historic and cultural grants to local, county, regional, or other historical or cultural organizations or for activities to preserve significant historic and cultural resources. Money must be distributed through a competitive grant process. The Minnesota Historical Society must administer the money using established grant mechanisms with assistance from the advisory committee created under Laws 2009, chapter 172, article 4, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), item (ii).

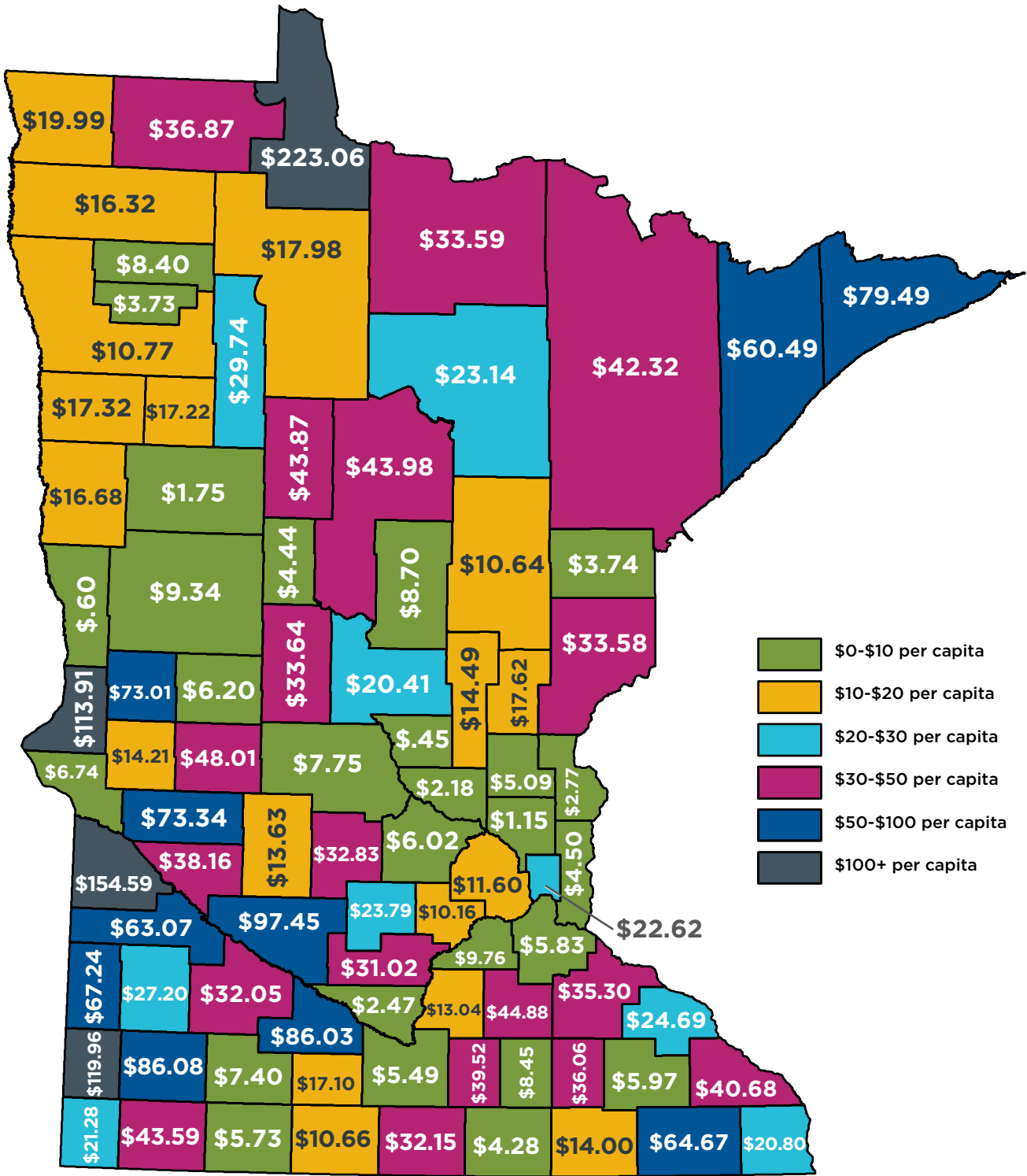
**MINNESOTA HISTORICAL AND  
CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS**  
JULY 1, 2009-JUNE 30, 2025

AMOUNT INVESTED: **\$89,925,134**  
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED TO DATE: **3,628**



## TOTAL GRANT AWARD DOLLARS PER PERSON BY COUNTY\*

JULY 1, 2009-JUNE 30, 2025



*\*County population data from the Minnesota State Demographic Center*



### Senate District 1, House District 01A

#### **Roseau County Historical Society, Organizational Inventory and Record Updates for Roseau County Historical Society, \$10,000**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Roseau, Roseau County*

#### **Roseau County Historical Society, Archival Collection Consultant for Roseau County Historical Society, \$9,487**

To hire a qualified consultant to create an archival collections storage plan for Roseau County Historical Society. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.  
*Roseau, Roseau County*

### Senate District 2, House District 02A

#### **Beltrami County Historical Society, Beltrami County Historical Society Collections Rehousing - Phase I, \$49,261**

To provide appropriate shelving and storage materials for museum collections. Completed.  
*Bemidji, Beltrami County*

#### **Manidoo Ogitigaan, Anishinaabe Language and Lifeways, \$10,000**

To document in 8 oral history interviews the experiences of Ojibwe elders and first language speakers of Ojibwemowin to increase language preservation. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.  
*Bemidji, Beltrami County*

#### **Turtle Lake Township, Historic Turtle Lake Schoolhouse/Town Hall Rehabilitation Phase I - Archaeological Survey, \$60,500**

To hire qualified professionals to carry out an archaeological survey of the Buena Vista Archaeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.  
*Bemidji, Beltrami County*

### Senate District 3, House District 03A

#### **Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, Collect Updated Hesper Shipwreck Site Data, \$5,196**

To hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct an updated assessment of the Hesper shipwreck. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Silver Bay, Lake County*

#### **Bois Forte Tribal Government, Heritage Center Lighting Assessment, \$8,250**

To hire a qualified museum lighting professional to develop a museum lighting plan. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Nett Lake, St. Louis County*

#### **Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, General Conservation Assessment and Long-Range Preservation Plan for the Bois Forte Heritage Center, \$5,500**

To hire a qualified museum consultant to conduct a general preservation needs assessment survey and long range collections preservation plan. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Nett Lake, St. Louis County*

#### **City of Tower, Assessment and Design Development Documents - Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Passenger Station, \$42,170**

To hire qualified professionals to create assessment and design development documents including construction drawings and documents, photographs, and the scope of work for the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Passenger Station, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed.  
*Tower, St. Louis County*

#### **Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation, Historic Structures Report/Cultural Landscape Report, \$178,390**

To hire qualified professionals to create a Historic Structures Report and Cultural Landscape Report for the Ernest C. Oberholtzer Rainy Lake Islands Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.  
*Duluth, St. Louis County*

### Senate District 3, House District 03B

#### **St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Construction Documents for St. George Church Restoration, \$53,880**

To hire qualified professionals to produce construction documents for the roof, tower, and masonry restoration of the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.  
*Duluth, St. Louis County*

#### **Lake County Historical Society, Two Harbors Depot Roof Replacement & Chimney Stabilization, \$155,955**

To hire qualified professionals to replace the roof and stabilize the chimney of the Duluth & Iron Range Company Depot, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.  
*Two Harbors, Lake County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

#### **Senate District 4, House District 04A**

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Ambbs Moody Painting Conservation, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified conservator to restore a significant painting in the museum's collections. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Digitizing Thortvedt Family Recordings, \$10,000**

To digitize a collection of archival recordings of an early Moorhead family, allowing for greater public access to these historic resources. Completed.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Photographing HCSCC's 3-D Collection: Phase 10, \$10,000**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Gladys Ray Legacy Oral History, \$7,000**

To document in up to 20 oral history interviews the legacy of Minnesota Native American community activist Gladys Ray. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Digitizing Orabel Thortvedt's Scrapbooks, \$10,000**

To digitize a collection of archival scrapbooks, allowing for greater public access to these historic resources. Completed.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, LGBTQIA+ Friendly Places Moorhead, \$9,500**

To hire a qualified historian to conduct primary source research on LGBTQIA+ history in Moorhead, MN. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Rollag Schoolhouse Construction Drawings, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents for the preservation of the 1892 District No. 3 School (Rollag Woodland School), listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

##### **City of Moorhead, Hjemkomst Center Security Camera Installation, \$62,579**

To hire qualified technicians to install a security system to protect the collections from theft or vandalism. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Moorhead, Clay County*

#### **Senate District 4, House District 04B**

##### **Grong Lutheran Church, Grong Lutheran Church National Register Nomination, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to complete the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Grong Lutheran Church in Hawley, MN. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Hawley, Clay County*

#### **Senate District 5, House District 05A**

##### **City of Hackensack, Hackensack Conservation Building Phase I Preservation: Stabilization, \$305,952**

To hire qualified professionals to do stabilization work on the Hackensack Conservation Building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Hackensack, Cass County*

##### **City of Park Rapids, Park Rapids History Trail Phase II, \$22,771**

To design, produce, and install interpretive markers in the City of Park Rapids. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Park Rapids, Hubbard County*

#### **Senate District 7, House District 07A**

##### **City of Hibbing, Hull Rust Mahoning Exhibit Plan, \$106,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an exhibit plan for the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Open Pit Iron Mine. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Hibbing, St. Louis County*

#### **Senate District 7, House District 07B**

##### **United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Phase 2 of Operation: Service Story--Oral History Transcriptions, \$9,000**

To document in up to 50 oral history transcripts the history of veterans in northeastern Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Chisholm, St. Louis County*

**Minnesota Discovery Center, Hall of Geology Exhibit Implementation, \$99,517**

To hire qualified consultants to fabricate and install an exhibit on geology in St. Louis County. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Chisholm, St. Louis County*

**Senate District 8, House District 08A**

**Rethos, Duluth Harbor North Pierhead Light Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the 1910 Duluth Harbor North Pier Light, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Duluth, St. Louis County*

**Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, Morgan Park Warehouse National Register Evaluation, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to complete an evaluation to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the Morgan Park Warehouse, Duluth, MN. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Duluth, St. Louis County*

**Regents of the University of Minnesota (Glensheen), Glensheen Mansion Exterior Preservation - Masonry Phase 1, \$185,000**

To hire qualified professionals to preserve exterior masonry at the Congdon, Chester, and Clara Estate (Glensheen), listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Duluth, St. Louis County*

**Senate District 9, House District 09A**

**Grant County Historical Society, Acquire Primary Resources on Microfilm, \$5,940**

To add 73 rolls of microfilmed Grant County newspapers to make primary records more accessible to the public. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Elbow Lake, Grant County*

**Grant County Historical Society, Acquire Microfilm Reader/Printer/Scanner, \$9,900**

To purchase a microfilm reader/printer/scanner to make microfilmed records more accessible to the public. Completed.

*Elbow Lake, Grant County*

**City of Barrett, Barrett Lakeside Pavilion National Register Nomination, \$6,071**

To hire a qualified historian to complete the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Barrett Lakeside Pavilion. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Barrett, Grant County*

**Senate District 9, House District 09B**

**City of Henning, Construction Documents for Repointing, Masonry, and Foundation Repairs for Lewis House & Medical Clinic, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents for the preservation of the Lewis House & Medical Clinic, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and used as a community center. Completed.

*Henning, Otter Tail County*

**Senate District 10, House District 10A**

**Friends of Linden Hill, Inc., Exterior Barn, Carriage House and Greenhouse Rehabilitation, \$272,500**

To hire qualified professionals to repair or replace the siding and flashing on the exterior Barn, Carriage House, and Greenhouse Link of the Weyerhaeuser, Charles A. and Musser, Richard "Drew" Houses, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed.

*Little Falls, Morrison County*

**Senate District 11, House District 11A**

**Carlton County Historical Society, Hazardous Building Materials Assessment, \$9,687**

To hire a qualified consultant to conduct a hazardous building materials assessment of the circa 1919 Shaw Memorial Library, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Cloquet, Carlton County*

**Carlton County Historical Society, Modernizing Our Collections Management System, \$9,996**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Cloquet, Carlton County*

**Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Nagaajiwanaang Dibaajimowinan, \$49,000**

To hire a Tribal historian to research the history of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Nagaajiwanaang) in preparation for a future exhibit. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Cloquet, Chippewa County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

### **Senate District 11, House District 11B**

#### **Kanabec County Historical Society, Coin School Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the Coin School, eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Mora, Kanabec County*

#### **Pine County Historical Society, Inventory of Collections - Phase 9, \$9,966**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Askov, Pine County*

### **Senate District 12, House District 12A**

#### **City of Clinton, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Depot Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the circa 1885 Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Depot, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed.

*Clinton, Big Stone County*

#### **Preserve Appleton's Heritage Inc., Appleton City Hall Phase 1A Masonry, Roof, and Foundation, \$372,552**

To hire qualified professionals to repair masonry, roof, and foundation of the Appleton City Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Appleton, Swift County*

#### **Pope County Historical Society, American Institute for Conservation Conference Attendance, \$4,120**

To provide professional development for two staff members at the national American Institute for Conservation conference in Minneapolis, May 27-31, 2025. Completed.

*Glenwood, Pope County*

#### **City of Appleton, Website Development and Tourism Materials Enhancement for the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway, \$75,450**

To develop a new website and related materials that enables better public access to the history of the Minnesota River Valley. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Appleton, Swift County*

#### **Pope County Historical Society, News Photo Digitizing: Phase III, \$10,000**

To digitize part of a large collection of newspaper photo negatives (1966-1970), allowing for greater public access to this historic resource. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Glenwood, Pope County*

### **Senate District 12, House District 12B**

#### **Douglas County Historical Society, Building Native American History Scholarship in Douglas County, \$9,800**

To hire a qualified historian to conduct research from Native perspectives on Native American history in Douglas County. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Alexandria, Douglas County*

### **Senate District 15, House District 15A**

#### **Minneota Public Schools (ISD #414), Indigenous-Related Resources to Help Meet Standards, \$6,000**

To add Minnesota and Indigenous culture and history resources to the school's classrooms to help them meet education standards. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Minneota, Lyon County*

#### **Lyon County Historical Society, Initial Exhibit Research for "Life on the Prairie" Exhibit Gallery, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to research the early history of the Lyon County area in preparation for a future exhibit. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Marshall, Lyon County*

### **Senate District 15, House District 15B**

#### **Brown County Historical Society, BCHS Comprehensive Inventory Phase 6, \$9,731**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Completed.

*New Ulm, Brown County*

#### **Brown County, Restoration of All Wood Windows and Jambs on the New Ulm Post Office, \$269,088**

To hire qualified professionals to restore the original windows of the New Ulm Post Office - Brown County Museum, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*New Ulm, Brown County*

### Senate District 16, House District 16A

#### **Meeker County Historical Society, Acquire Primary Meeker County Resources on Microfilm, \$9,947**

To add 110 rolls of microfilmed Meeker County newspapers to MCHS' holdings to make primary records more accessible to the public. Completed. Litchfield, Meeker County

#### **Lac qui Parle County Historical Society, Dakota Oral History Interviews, \$8,357**

To document in 5 oral history interviews Dakota speakers discussing Dakota Wičoharj (ways of life), plants and medicines of the Dakota People, and Dakota family values. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Madison, Lac qui Parle County*

#### **Bird Island Cultural Centre, Tinnes-Baker House Development: Construction Work, \$137,447**

To hire qualified professionals to repair infrastructure and restore interior and exterior structural elements of the Tinnes-Baker House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Bird Island, Renville County*

### Senate District 16, House District 16B

#### **Kandiyohi County Historical Society, Albert & Jennie Sperry House Improvements, \$115,076**

To hire qualified professionals to repair the wood features, address degraded building additions and area wells in and around the Albert & Jennie Sperry House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Willmar, Kandiyohi County*

### Senate District 17, House District 17B

#### **Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Incorporated, Carver Stories: Oral Histories, \$10,000**

To document in 8-10 oral history interviews residents' recollections of the historic 1965 Minnesota River flood and the 1985 fire that destroyed the Riverside Ballroom. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Carver, Carver County*

#### **West Union Lutheran Church, West Union Lutheran Church Youth Hall Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the 1905 West Union Lutheran Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Cologne, Carver County*

### Senate District 18, House District 18A

#### **Nicollet County Historical Society, Collections Management System Conversion, \$9,925**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Peter, Nicollet County*

### Senate District 18, House District 18B

#### **Minnesota State University, Mankato (Library Services), This Statue, This Place: Abraham Lincoln Statue at Minnesota State University, Mankato, \$74,633**

To hire qualified consultants to fabricate and install an exhibit around the Lincoln Statue at MSU Mankato that will include text focusing on Native American and African American perspectives. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Mankato, Blue Earth County*

### Senate District 19, House District 19A

#### **Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour, Guild House Water Infiltration Assessment, \$9,900**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a water infiltration assessment of the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour's Guild House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed.

*Faribault, Rice County*

#### **Rice County Historical Society, PastPerfect to CollectiveAccess Transition, \$9,924**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Faribault, Rice County*

### Senate District 20, House District 20A

#### **City of Red Wing (Cannon Valley Trail), Research for a History of the Cannon Valley Trail, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to research the history of the Cannon Valley Trail in preparation for a future book. Completed.

*Cannon Falls, Goodhue County*

#### **Minnesota Special Education Leaders Foundation (MNSSELF), Publish: Educating Minnesota's Children with Disabilities, Volume I: A History (1840-1960), \$9,954**

To hire qualified professionals to publish a book on the early history of educating Minnesota children with disabilities. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Red Wing, Isanti County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.



**Cannon Falls Area Historical Society, Final Publication Phase on History of Mineral Springs Sanatorium, \$10,000**

To hire qualified professionals to publish a book on the history of the Mineral Springs Sanatorium near Cannon Falls, MN. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Cannon Falls, Goodhue County*

**The Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Masonry Restoration for the Historic Residence at Tower View, \$125,000**

To hire qualified professionals to correct water intrusion, preserve interior finishes, and prevent deterioration of the Georgian Revival Residence at Tower View, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Red Wing, Goodhue County*

**Senate District 20, House District 20B**

**City of St. Charles (St. Charles Public Library), Creating a Local Access Point for Community History: Acquire Microfilm Reader/Printer/Scanner, \$9,995**

To purchase a microfilm reader/printer/scanner to make microfilmed records more accessible to the public. Completed.

*St. Charles, Winona County*

**Project Get Outdoors, Inc., Abolitionists of Southeast Minnesota Oral History Project - Phase Two, \$10,000**

To document in 10-12 oral history interviews the history of abolitionists living in Southeast Minnesota prior to the Civil War. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Wabasha, Wabasha County*

**Senate District 21, House District 21A**

**Murray County Historical Society, Acquire Primary Resources on Microfilm, \$3,044**

To add 35 rolls of microfilmed local newspapers to the historical society's holdings, making primary records more accessible to the public. Completed.

*Slayton, Murray County*

**Murray County Historical Society, Collections Management Software Migration & Upgrade, \$7,618**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Slayton, Murray County*

**Jasper Area Historical Society, Poorbaugh Building Exterior Rehabilitation Construction Documents, \$49,650**

To hire qualified professionals to design construction documents that illustrate construction work to rehabilitate the Poorbaugh Block, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Jasper, Pipestone County*

**Fulda Heritage Society, Fulda 1880 Depot Foundation Repairs, \$170,000**

To hire qualified professionals to repair the foundation, regrade site, and install an ADA ramp at the 1880 Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad Depot, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Fulda, Murray County*

**Rock County Historical Society, Museum-Quality Collection Storage, \$111,722**

To improve collections care and management through proper shelving storage. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Luverne, Rock County*

**Lake Benton Opera House, Inc., Opera House Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the Lake Benton Opera House and Kimball Building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Lake Benton, Lincoln County*

**Senate District 21, House District 21B**

**Nobles County Historical Society, Collections Management Software Conversion & Upgrade, \$9,675**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Completed.

*Worthington, Nobles County*

**Nobles County Historical Society, Digital Conversion of Photographic Negatives 1966, \$9,860**

To digitize part (1966) of a large collection of photo negatives, allowing for greater public access to this historic resource. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Worthington, Nobles County*

**Nobles County Historical Society, Exhibit: Nobles County - A Home For Immigrants, \$281,177**

To hire qualified consultants to fabricate and install an exhibit on immigration in Nobles County from the 1870s to the present. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Worthington, Nobles County*

**Jackson County Historical Society, Collections Inventory Phase 3, \$7,600**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Lakefield, Jackson County*

**Senate District 22, House District 22A**

**Faribault County Historical Society, Walter Mondale Boyhood Home National Register Nomination, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to complete the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Walter Mondale Boyhood Home in Elmore, MN. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Blue Earth, Faribault County*

**Senate District 23, House District 23A**

**Truman Historical Association, Truman History in the Pages: Acquire Microfilm Reader/Printer/Scanner, \$7,920**

To purchase a microfilm reader/printer/scanner to make microfilmed records more accessible to the public. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Truman, Martin County*

**Senate District 23, House District 23B**

**City of Adams, First National Bank of Adams Rehabilitation Project, \$212,204**

To hire qualified professionals to replace the roof and tuck-point the masonry of the First National Bank of Adams, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Adams, Mower County*

**Senate District 24, House District 24A**

**Dodge County, Wasioja Town Square Phase I Archaeological Survey, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct a survey of the Wasioja Town Square, part of the Wasioja Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Mantorville, Dodge County*

**West Concord Historical Society, Accessible for All: Construction Documents for ADA Compliant Restrooms, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents for the construction of ADA compliant restrooms in the 1936 West Concord High School gymnasium, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*West Concord, Dodge County*

**Dodge County Historical Society, Wasioja School Rehabilitation Project, \$183,410**

To hire qualified professionals to repair roof, mortar, and window features at the 1860 Wasioja School, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Mantorville, Dodge County*

**Senate District 25, House District 25A**

**City of Rochester (Community Development), Toogood Farm Stone Wall Conditions Assessment, \$9,998**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the historic stone wall on the former Toogood Farm property, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Rochester, Olmsted County*

**Senate District 25, House District 25B**

**Rochester Art Center, Updated General Preservation Assessment, \$6,320**

To hire a qualified museum consultant to conduct a general preservation needs assessment survey and long range collections preservation plan. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Rochester, Olmsted County*

**Senate District 26, House District 26A**

**Pickwick Mill, Inc., Pickwick Mill Window Restoration, \$95,120**

To hire qualified professionals to restore 34 windows on the exterior of the Pickwick Mill, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Winona, Winona County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

**Winona County Historical Society, Research the Life and Influence of Matilda Bunnell, \$6,274**

To hire a qualified historian to conduct primary source research on the history of Matilda Bunnell, who was part of a fur trade family in what would become Winona County, Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Winona, Winona County*

**Senate District 26, House District 26B**

**Preston Historical Society, Interpretive Plan Development, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an interpretive plan for the Preston Historical Society. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Preston, Fillmore County*

**City of Hokah, History of the Turbine, Flume, and Mills of Hokah, \$3,891**

To design, produce, and install a historical marker about the turbine, flume, and mills in the City of Hokah. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Hokah, Houston County*

**City of Wykoff, Ed's Museum Front Facade Stabilization & Restoration, \$44,000**

To hire qualified professionals to stabilize the structure and replace and restore windows in Ed's Museum, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Wykoff, Fillmore County*

**Senate District 27, House District 27A**

**Sherburne County Historical Society, Herbert M. Fox House Conditions Assessment, \$9,999**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the Herbert M. Fox House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Becker, Sherburne County*

**Senate District 27, House District 27B**

**Mower County Historical Society, Nonintrusive Archaeology at the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan Preserve, \$9,999**

To hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct a survey of the Grand Meadow Quarry Archaeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Austin, Mower County*

**Senate District 28, House District 28A**

**East Central Minnesota Pride, First Rural Pride Historic Marker, \$7,030**

To design, produce, and install a historical marker commemorating LGBTQ Pride events in Pine City. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Braham, Pine County*

**Isanti County Historical Society, Acquire Microfilm Reader/Printer/Scanner, \$6,920**

To purchase a microfilm reader/printer/scanner to make microfilmed records more accessible to the public. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Cambridge, Isanti County*

**Senate District 29, House District 29A**

**Delano Franklin Township Area Historical Society, Permanent Exhibit Phase 1: Exhibit Plan, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an exhibit plan focused on the history of the City of Delano and Franklin Township. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Delano, Wright County*

**Senate District 29, House District 29B**

**Zion Lutheran Church, Marysville-Swedesberg Lutheran Church Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the 1891 Marysville-Swedesberg Lutheran Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Buffalo, Wright County*

**Senate District 30, House District 30A**

**Hanover Historical Society, Archaeological Survey of the Original Hanover Dam/Sawmill Ruins, \$9,887**

To hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct a survey of the 1850s Hanover Dam and Sawmill ruins. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Hanover, Wright County*

**Senate District 32, House District 32B**

**Anoka County Library, Acquire Microfilm Reader/Printer/Scanner, \$6,840**

To purchase a microfilm reader/printer/scanner to make microfilmed records more accessible to the public. Completed.

*Blaine, Anoka County*

## Senate District 33, House District 33B

### **Scandia Heritage Alliance, Oral Histories of Scandia, Minnesota, \$10,000**

To document in oral history interviews the history of post World War II Scandia, Minnesota. Completed.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Gammelgården Museum, Minnesota History and Immigration Books for Gammelgården Museum's Library, \$1,186**

To add 35 Minnesota history books to Gammelgården Museum's library holdings to make this information more accessible to the public. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Scandia Heritage Alliance, Research Report on History of Men's Fast-Pitch Softball in Scandia, \$10,000**

To hire qualified consultants to research the history of men's fast-pitch softball in mid-20th century Scandia, in preparation for future programming. Completed.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Stewards of Marine Mills History, General Conservation Assessment and Long-Range Preservation Plan, \$4,950**

To hire a qualified museum consultant to conduct a general preservation needs assessment survey and long range collections preservation plan. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Marine on St Croix, Washington County*

### **Scandia Heritage Alliance, Water Tower Barn Scandia Interpretive Plan, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an interpretive plan for a planned heritage center in Scandia, MN. Completed.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Scandia Heritage Alliance, Indigenous History in the St. Croix Valley - Stillwater to Taylors Falls: Research, \$10,000**

To hire qualified consultants to research the history of Indigenous people in the St. Croix Valley in preparation for future programming. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Washington County Historical Society, Research Project: Stillwater Area High School's 150th Anniversary, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to research the history of Stillwater Area High School to celebrate the Stillwater Area School District's upcoming 150th anniversary. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.  
*Stillwater, Washington County*

### **City of Stillwater, Dutchtown Historic District, \$30,000**

To hire qualified professionals to establish a Local Historic District, and refresh a 1990s Neighborhood Inventory, for the Dutchtown Neighborhood (formerly known as Charlottenberg). Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.  
*Stillwater, Washington County*

### **Gammelgården Museum, Security Survey, \$8,185**

To hire a qualified and experienced security firm to evaluate the current level of museum security. Completed.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Gammelgården Museum, Temperature/Relative Humidity Data Loggers for Preservation Monitoring, \$4,680**

To monitor, assess, and make necessary changes to environmental controls at the museum. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

### **Gammelgården Museum, Create a Disaster Response Kit, \$5,159**

To purchase materials to assemble a Disaster Response Kit that will be used to respond to museum collections emergencies. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.  
*Scandia, Washington County*

## Senate District 34, House District 34A

### **City of Champlin, District No. 99 School Conditions Assessment, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified architect to conduct a conditions assessment of the District 99 School (Dunning School) in Hennepin County, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.  
*Champlin, Hennepin County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

**Yaj Neej Tshiab, In Their Own Voices: The Untold History of the Hmong Women 50 Years Late, \$24,572**

To document in 50+ oral history interviews the history of Hmong women in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Champlin, Hennepin County*

**Senate District 35, House District 35A**

**Anoka County Historical Society, Echoes of Bravery: Gathering Oral Histories from the Families & Employers of Vietnam Veterans, \$10,000**

To document in 10 oral history interviews the history of Minnesotans related to or employers of Vietnam veterans. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Anoka, Anoka County*

**Senate District 36, House District 36B**

**White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, Acquire Primary Resources (White Bear Press) on Microfilm, \$4,397**

To add 39 rolls of microfilmed newspapers (2006-2019) to make primary records more accessible to the public. Completed.

*White Bear Lake, Ramsey County*

**City of White Bear Lake, White Bear Law Enforcement Research Project, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to conduct primary source research on the history of law enforcement in the City of White Bear Lake. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*White Bear Lake, Ramsey County*

**White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, Gerald "Gerry" Spiess Audio Tape to Digital Transfer Project, \$9,823**

To digitize a collection of audio tapes to digital, allowing for greater public access to this historic resource. Completed.

*White Bear Lake, Ramsey County*

**White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, Sophie Wirth Camp Exhibit Development, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to develop a script for the upcoming exhibit on the Sophie Wirth Camp. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*White Bear Lake, Ramsey County*

**White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, White Bear Town Hall Permanent Exhibit Design Phase, \$9,994**

To hire a qualified consultant to research the historic White Bear Town Hall in preparation for a future exhibit. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*White Bear Lake, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 41, House District 41B**

**Life Tabernacle Church, Treatment Plan and Construction Documents for Stained Glass Window Repair, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents and a treatment plan for the preservation of stained glass windows in the 1861 Hastings Methodist Episcopal Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Completed.

*Hastings, Dakota County*

**Dakota County, Vermillion River Greenway Interpretive Concept Design, \$65,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an interpretive concept design plan for the Vermillion River Greenway. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Hastings, Dakota County*

**City of Cottage Grove, Cottage Grove Historical Markers, \$5,546**

To produce and install historical markers at 7 significant historical sites around the City of Cottage Grove. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Cottage Grove, Washington County*

**Senate District 44, House District 44A**

**Maplewood Area Historical Society, Unveiling a Hidden Legacy: The Story of James and Frances Hughes and the Black Neighborhood in Maplewood, \$9,700**

To hire a qualified historian to conduct primary source research on the history of the Hughes Neighborhood in Maplewood, MN. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Maplewood, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 46, House District 46A**

**Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest, The Enduring Impact of BBYO in Minnesota at its Centennial, \$10,000**

To document in 12 oral history interviews the history of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest, Jews in Germantown Book Publication, \$9,065**

To hire qualified professionals to publish a book on the history of Jewish people in Brown County, Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*



### **Senate District 46, House District 46B**

#### **Meetinghouse Church, Phase 1: Archive Assessment & Recommendations Project, \$9,000**

To hire professionals to assess and write a collections plan for a historically significant collection, which will allow greater public access to this resource. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Edina, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 47, House District 47A**

#### **Woodbury Heritage Society, Inventory of Collection: Phase 1, \$9,999**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Completed.  
*Woodbury, Washington County*

### **Senate District 48, House District 48A**

#### **Carver County Historical Society, HVAC Evaluation for CCHS Museum, \$9,300**

To hire a qualified and experienced HVAC engineer to evaluate how well the current system controls the museum environment. Completed.  
*Waconia, Carver County*

#### **St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Parish Rectory Construction Documents, \$9,750**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents for the preservation of the 1876 St. Nicholas Church parish rectory, listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing part of the Carver Historic District. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Chaska, Carver County*

#### **Carver County Historical Society, Cultural Landscape Report for the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead, \$80,236**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a Cultural Landscape Report of the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.  
*Waconia, Carver County*

### **Senate District 50, House District 50A**

#### **The Paper Lantern Project (fiscal sponsor Springboard for the Arts), Healing Histories: Uplifting Women and Femmes Who Created the Path from Southeast Asia to Minnesota, \$48,947**

To research, develop, and facilitate community storytelling programs with Southeast Asian women in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed June 1, 2026.  
*Edina, Hennepin County*

#### **World Without Genocide, The Memory Keepers: The Legacy of the Holocaust Book Project, \$9,847**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a manuscript on the experiences of Holocaust survivors in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **PACER Center, Review and edit "PACER Center, Inc.: Minnesota's Groundbreaking Parent Organization," \$9,976**

To hire qualified professionals to edit a manuscript on the history of the PACER Center. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Afton Historical Society Press, "A Minnesota Treasure: Fifty Years of Nongame Wildlife Conservation" Book Printing, \$10,000**

To hire qualified professionals to publish a book on Carrol Henderson's historic work at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.  
*Edina, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 50, House District 50B**

#### **Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum, Creation of a Disaster Response Kit and Prevention Checklist, \$3,275**

To purchase materials to assemble a Disaster Response Kit that will be used to respond to museum collections emergencies. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.  
*Bloomington, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 51, House District 51B**

#### **Science from Scientists, Including Historical and Modern Contributions of Minnesota American Indian Tribes in Science Learning, \$10,000**

To hire consultants to research the historic and modern contributions of American Indians in Minnesota to the sciences. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.  
*Bloomington, Hennepin County*

#### **Bloomington Historical Society, BHS Museum Collections Inventory Access System, \$2,550**

To improve collections care and management through an updated collections management system. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.  
*Bloomington, Hennepin County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

### **Senate District 52, House District 52B**

#### **Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism, Phase 1.1 Accessioning and Basic Processing of the Philip and Mary Flom Collection, \$7,460**

To digitize a collection of archival video cassettes from the founding members of the Twin Cities Pagan movement, allowing for greater public access to these historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Eagan, Dakota County*

#### **Caponi Art Park, Conservation Treatment for “Snake” Iconic Symbol of Caponi Art Park, \$12,710**

To hire a qualified conservator to restore a significant sculpture in the museum's collections. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Eagan, Dakota County*

#### **City of Mendota Heights, Oheyawahi Interpretive Design, \$60,000**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an interpretive plan for Oheyawahi - Pilot Knob. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Mendota Heights, Dakota County*

#### **Caponi Art Park, Anthony Caponi Collection Detailed Processing: Phase VII, \$9,516**

To provide better organization of the museum collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*Eagan, Dakota County*

### **Senate District 53, House District 53A**

#### **City of West St. Paul, The 1974 Explosion in West St. Paul, \$10,000**

To document in 8-10 oral history interviews residents' recollections of the 1974 propane explosion in West St. Paul. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*West St. Paul, Dakota County*

#### **City of Lilydale, Lower Lilydale: A Lost Neighborhood, \$9,560**

To document in 10 oral history interviews the history of the former residents of Lower Lilydale. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Lilydale, Dakota County*

### **Senate District 55, House District 55B**

#### **Jordan Area Historical Society, Accessible Storage for Jordan Area Historical Society Artifacts, Documents and Ephemera, \$10,000**

To improve collections care and management through proper storage. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Jordan, Scott County*

### **Senate District 58, House District 58A**

#### **Northfield Historical Society, Research for a History of the Northfield Historical Society, \$9,100**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a manuscript on the history of the Northfield Historical Society. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Northfield, Rice County*

#### **Independent School District #659, Revision of City of Schools: A History of Public Schools in Northfield, Minnesota, \$6,500**

To hire qualified professionals to publish a second edition of a book on the history of public schools in Northfield, MN. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Northfield, Rice County*

#### **Norwegian-American Historical Association, Digitization of the Jacob Stefferud Papers, \$10,000**

To digitize the Jacob Stefferud papers, allowing for greater public access to these historic archival resources. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Northfield, Rice County*

#### **Church of St. Wenceslaus, St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Chapel National Register Nomination, \$8,682**

To hire a qualified historian to complete the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Chapel, New Prague, MN. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*New Prague, Scott County*

#### **Carleton College, 100 Years of Minnesota's First Arboretum at Carleton College, Phase Two: Writing, Editing and Design, \$49,935**

To hire qualified professionals to complete the writing, editing, and design for a manuscript on the history of Carleton College's Cowling Arboretum. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Northfield, Rice County*

### **Senate District 59, House District 59B**

#### **Midwest Food Connection, Research History of African American Food in Minnesota, \$9,950**

To hire qualified historians to research and write the history of African American food traditions in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Streets MN, Impacts of State and US Highways on Minnesota Communities through Four Case Studies, 1950s-Today, \$9,600**

To hire a qualified historian to research and write the history of historic communities in Minnesota that were disrupted by highway development. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis Community-Based Organizations Archives, \$75,500**

To provide better organization of the community's archival collections, allowing for greater public access to historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minnetonka, Hennepin County*

#### **Our Streets, Re-Connecting the Twin Cities Oral History Project, \$34,630**

To document in approximately 25 oral histories the history of how the Frogtown and Union Park neighborhoods in St. Paul have been affected by highway construction and urban city planning. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 60, House District 60A**

#### **Diverse Emerging Music Organization, The Minnesota Music Archive System Project: Preserving Minnesota's Musical Heritage, \$68,750**

To hire professionals to complete development of the Minnesota Music Archive System that will document and preserve Minnesota's rich musical history and culture. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, 30 Years of Art-A-Whirl Oral History Project, \$10,000**

To document in 10 oral history interviews 30 years of Art-A-Whirl history. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Firefighter's Hall and Museum, Concept Planning and Design Initiative for a New MNFM Permanent Exhibit, \$89,717**

To hire a qualified consultant to write an exhibit plan for a new exhibit at the Firefighter's Hall and Museum in Minneapolis. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 60, House District 60B**

#### **Twin Cities Cable Arts Consortium, A History of Early Community Access Television in Minnesota, \$9,975**

To hire qualified consultants to research the history of community access television in Minnesota, in preparation for a future documentary film. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **Regents of the University of Minnesota (University of Minnesota Press), Making Mill City: Flour and Fortune in Minneapolis Book Printing, \$10,000**

To hire qualified professionals to print a book on the history of Minneapolis flour mills. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **University Baptist Church, University Baptist Church National Register Evaluation, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to complete an evaluation to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the 1920s University Baptist Church. Completed.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

#### **First Congregational Church of Minnesota - United Church of Christ, Decker Memorial Window Rehabilitation, \$96,000**

To hire qualified professionals to rehabilitate the Decker Memorial window in the First Congregational Church of Minnesota UCC, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

### **Senate District 61, House District 61B**

#### **Green Card Voices, Ukrainian Voices of Minnesota: Manuscript, \$9,850**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a manuscript on the history of Ukrainian refugees in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.

**Portal Research, Why are MN nurses leaving the profession?, \$9,965**

To document in 10 oral history interviews the history of the nursing profession in Minnesota and reasons for its recent decline. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**The Park Place, From Mexico to Minnesota: Sharing Migrant Stories, \$10,000**

To document in ten oral history interviews the history of Mexican migration to Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Senate District 62, House District 62A**

**Illusion Theater and School, Inc., 50 Years of Catalyzing Change: A Documentary about Illusion Theater & School's Impact on Minnesota, \$19,900**

To hire qualified consultants to research the history of Illusion Theater and School in preparation for a future documentary film. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Hennepin History Museum, Cataloging our Textile Collection, \$9,966**

To provide better organization of the museum's textile collections, allowing for greater public access to the community's historic resources. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Senate District 62, House District 62B**

**Minneapolis American Indian Center, Bringing the Minneapolis American Indian Center's Story to Life, \$28,350**

To hire qualified consultants to write an interpretive plan for the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**SEALIT Center (fiscal sponsor Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota), American Laodyssey at 50, \$24,500**

To pay qualified professionals to write and publish manuscripts of prose and poetry on the histories and experiences of Lao Minnesotans. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Southside Family Charter School, Southside Family Charter School Oral History Project, \$9,800**

To document in 10 oral history interviews the 50th anniversary of Southside Family Charter School, Minneapolis, MN. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Minnesota's Black Community Project, Spotlight on Minnesota's Triumphant African American Community: An Interpretive Educational Documentary on Minnesota's 21st Century African American Community, \$25,000**

To complete a comprehensive documentary on the history of 21st century African Americans in Minnesota based on an earlier book project, "Minnesota's Black Community in the 21st Century". Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Senate District 63, House District 63A**

**Friends of Christ Church Lutheran, Christ Church Lutheran: Historic Structure Report Updates, \$92,000**

To hire qualified professionals to prepare professional updates to the 2012 Historic Structure Report for Christ Church Lutheran, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*Minneapolis, Hennepin County*

**Senate District 64, House District 64A**

**Macalester College, Histories on the Run 50 Years after the Secret War: Activating the Hmong Archives, \$10,000**

To bring together history professionals to discuss the significance of the Hmong Archives ahead of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Southeast Asians arriving in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Unity Baptist Church DBA Anointed Faith Missionary Church, Construction Documents for the Historic Woodland Park Baptist Church, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare construction documents for the preservation of the 1907 Unity Baptist Church (Woodland Park Baptist Church), listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Germanic-American Institute, GAI: Accessible Entrance and Bathroom, \$235,000**

To hire qualified professionals to create an accessible entrance for the George W. Gardner House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 64, House District 64B**

**Highland Heritage Project, Jewish-Christian Cooperation in Highland Park Documentary, \$10,000**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a documentary on the history of Jewish and Christian inhabitants of the Highland Park neighborhood in St. Paul, MN. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**St. Paul Public Schools (ISD #625), African StoryTelling Translation Project, \$8,550**

To translate open access digital stories on the African Storytelling platform to Somali and make them available for language preservation. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**St. Paul Public Schools (ISD #625), Hmong Phonics Curriculum, \$8,730**

To use established methodology to enhance Hmong culture and language preservation in Minnesota schools. Scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 65, House District 65A**

**Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, The Spirit of the Rondo Athlete, 1940-1970, \$8,400**

To hire a qualified author to produce a manuscript on the history of Rondo athletes. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Hmong Cultural Center of Minnesota, 50 Years of Hmong in Minnesota Publication, \$24,750**

To produce and publish a special issue of Hmong Studies Journal on the 50th anniversary of Hmong Americans in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Hmong Museum, Capturing Memories in Minnesota: Hmong American Experiences, \$30,000**

To develop a new website that enables better access to Hmong Minnesotan history. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**In Progress, Qhia Dab Neeg Film & Dialogue Series, \$40,000**

To research, develop, and facilitate screening and dialogue events on the history of Hmong filmmaking in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**The Catholic Cemeteries, Calvary Cemetery National Register Nomination, \$9,944**

To hire a qualified historian to complete the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 65, House District 65B**

**Asian Economic Development Association, Celebrate Southeast Asian American Diaspora and Experiences, \$30,709**

To develop, produce, and document community history and culture exhibitions across the Southeast Asian American diaspora community in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, Saint Paul Public Library Collections Management and Storage Plans, \$7,500**

To hire professionals to assess and write collections management and storage plans for a historically significant library collection, which will allow greater public access to these resources. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) (fiscal sponsor Springboard for the Arts), The FAWK Hmong Super Show, \$24,000**

To develop, produce, and perform a live comedy show about Hmong women's history and evolving roles in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**The Historic Irvine Park Association, Printing of Irvine Park Historic District Guide Book, \$7,265**

To hire qualified professionals to produce a guide book on the history of Irvine Park in St. Paul. Completed.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

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Grants awarded July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Project locations reflect where grant work is being accomplished.



**Ramsey County Historical Society, Planning the 50th Anniversary of Hmong Culture in Minnesota Exhibition, \$9,975**

To hire a qualified consultant to research the history of Hmong culture in Minnesota, in preparation for a future exhibit. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Society, SPCO Archive Collection Rehousing, \$10,000**

To provide appropriate storage area and materials for an archival collection. Scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Ramsey County Historical Society, HVAC Design for RCHS Landmark Center Storage Spaces, \$10,000**

To contract with qualified professionals to prepare HVAC construction documents for collections storage spaces in the Landmark Center, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Ramsey County Historical Society, Ramsey County Assessor Field Card Digitization, \$165,471**

To digitize approximately 2.5 million Ramsey County Assessor Field Cards from 1915-2007, allowing for greater public access to this historic resource. Scheduled to be completed by December 1, 2025.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Ramsey County Historical Society, Engineering Research Associates (ERA) Oral History Project: Phase 2, \$6,000**

To document in up to six oral history interviews the history of Engineering Research Associates (ERA), a business formed in Saint Paul in 1946. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, Gatsby at 100, \$9,840**

To develop programs centered around the 100th anniversary of St. Paul native F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Center for Policy Design, Kindred Spirits: The Story of John F. Thomas, \$10,000**

To hire a qualified historian to research and write the final chapters for a book on the history of Minneapolis resident John F. Thomas. Scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 66, House District 66A**

**Regents of the University of Minnesota (Minnesota Veterinary History Museum), Preserving the UMN Historic Anatomy Collection, \$9,974**

To provide appropriate storage space and materials for museum collections. Scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Theater Mu, Performance Recording and Process Making of Video documenting HMONG FUTURES, a new play by Katie Ka Vang at Theater Mu, to Celebrate 50 Years of Southeast Asians in Minnesota, \$27,538**

To document and make available a play based on Hmong storytelling and oral histories. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Transforming Generations, Hmong LGBTQ+ and Advocates Timeline, \$50,000**

To research, develop, and fabricate an exhibit on Hmong LGBTQ+ history in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 66, House District 66B**

**East Side Freedom Library, East Side Freedom Library: Establishing a Community Digital Repository, \$199,290**

To create a community-curated digital repository and initiate a pilot phase for digitizing four current collections with two community partners. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*

**Senate District 67, House District 67A**

**The Urban Village Inc., Myanmar to Minnesota: Stories of "Resettlement, Resilience, Repair," \$74,984**

To document 20 oral histories and use the interviews to create multimedia exhibits and publications related to the Myanmar diaspora in Minnesota. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

*St. Paul, Ramsey County*



# REPORT OF STATEWIDE HISTORY PROGRAMS



The Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving, sharing, and connecting people with history since 1849. With support from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the people of Minnesota are investing \$15.520 million this biennium in history programs that will bring the power of history to Minnesotans of all ages in all corners of the state. This Legacy report presents a look back on how funds were used for Statewide Programs in FY25. Minnesota Statutes 129D.17 requires recipients of Legacy funds to report on funding not yet expended. Approximately \$863,000 of FY25 appropriations for Statewide History Programs have not been expended at the end of FY25; appropriation language permits the expenditure of these funds until June 30, 2026. These funds were expended in the first quarter of FY26.

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**Appropriations Language–Statewide History Programs:** \$7,395,000 the first year and \$8,125,000 the second year are for historic and cultural programs and purposes related to the heritage of the state. Of this amount, \$50,000 the first year and \$50,000 the second year are for the production and distribution of “Making Minnesota” on Minnesota’s natural resources, legacy, culture, and history, to be made available free of cost.

**Above:** Oxford Community Center Oral History Project narrators Linda Roberts and Lisa Lissimore at Jimmy Lee Rec Center in 2024. Photo by John Noltner

## ARCHAEOLOGY

### **Archaeology Digital Catalog, \$54,686**

A significant number of archaeological collections at MNHS were acquired before digital documentation was possible, including collections received as early as the 1880s. This project focuses on creating detailed digital catalog records at an individual item-level for archaeological collections that were acquired before digital documentation technology was available. This work increases the accessibility and research value of the MNHS archaeological collections. It also brings curation of these collections up to current standards and increases the number of archaeological objects that the public can search and view through different electronic databases. In this past year, object-level inventories were completed for archaeological collections along the Minnesota River Valley and at the Snake River Fur Post. Additionally, archaeological site item-level inventories were completed for archaeological sites beyond the MNHS network. Completing digitization for these collections allows for more convenient access to the collections and eliminates the need for additional storage space required to maintain physical access. Digitization of the artifact collections includes artifact photography, updated artifact descriptions, and narrative writing. The project also supports undergraduate and graduate internships and graduate theses in anthropology/archaeology and museum studies, providing critical learning and development experience in archaeology, collections, collections management, and research.

### **Care of Abandoned Archaeology Collections, \$76,940**

Over the last 10 years, several archaeological collections have been abandoned in the state as universities, institutions, organizations, and private contractor firms closed their doors. In those instances, the archaeological collections are deposited with the Office of the State Archaeologist and/or at the Minnesota Historical Society Archaeology Lab in St. Paul. This project addresses those challenges by taking inventory of those archaeological collections, beginning and completing the processing and curation for those collections excavated from non-federal public lands, identifying ownership of collections from private land, engaging landowners on return of the collections or gift agreements, and planning/implementing as needed. Over the past year, this work was completed for archaeological collections from the former Trunk Highways programs and archaeological projects, and work began on archaeological collections received from Bemidji State University. This work resulted in updates to previous archaeological site forms and the submission of new site forms with

the Office of the State Archaeologist, expanding our understanding of archaeological sites across the state. This project works in collaboration with the Office of the State Archaeologist and assists with updating guidance on current curation guidelines and standards (e.g., repository agreements for active projects, abandoned collections); developing new guidance as needed; and engaging partner organizations, historical societies, universities, agencies, and the professional community on any revised guidelines and standards.

### **Archaeology Curation, Research, Education, \$44,012**

This project provides funding for the Archaeological Curator position at MNHS to:

- Manage archaeological collections and public use materials at the Minnesota History Center and Kellogg Center,
- Provide access to archaeological collections,
- Identify and promote the research needs within the MNHS archaeological collections,
- Assist other museums, institutions, colleges/universities with their research priorities,
- Engage communities around Minnesota's archaeological heritage through objects and community curation programs,
- And develop innovative education opportunities and resources for K-12 and university students.

### **Ground Penetrating Radar, \$117,163**

The Archaeology Remote Sensing Project provides funding and support for the Archaeology Department to specialize and manage emerging and advanced technologies in archaeology, including the development and execution of use with unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and terrestrial remote sensing technologies. This includes the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR), aerial and terrestrial LiDAR, and large-scale photogrammetry. The project supports the use of this advanced technology at archaeological sites across Minnesota, including providing these technologies and expertise to local researchers and historical societies in their research across the state. These approaches are non-invasive and provide access to larger areas while also limiting the time and cost. This technology and methodologies supported several projects and archaeological sites across the state, including in Kittson, Lake, Renville, Cottonwood, and Freeborn counties. The program was expanded to include infrastructure/conditions assessments at MNHS historic sites, including Mill City Museum and Split Rock Lighthouse. The project supports a cultural resources internship every semester and through the summer, providing opportunities for undergraduate and graduate interns and fellows in anthropology/archaeology, geology/earth sciences, and computer science. This is a unique internship that provides

critical learning and development experience in cultural resources, geology, geography/GIS, and more.

#### **Jeffers Petroglyphs Digitization Project, \$83,279**

The Jeffers Petroglyphs Digitization Project facilitates archaeological site management and conservation to monitor previously identified petroglyphs and cultural features, update archaeological records and collections, and complete documentation for new petroglyph and cultural feature inventories on-site at Jeffers Petroglyphs and along the Red Rock Ridge in southwestern Minnesota. The digitization project updates and creates new inventories and digital catalog records for Jeffers Petroglyphs and archaeological collections through aerial and terrestrial photogrammetry while increasing accessibility and research value. This includes merging records collected from previous years as early as the 1880s and geospatially connecting these records together. The project also completed background research to plan for a non-invasive aerial survey via LiDAR on non-federal, public land to document surface features that may be present and contribute significant knowledge to Jeffers Petroglyphs and nearby archaeological sites. This work supports ongoing efforts to nominate Jeffers Petroglyphs for the National Historic Landmark program, explore the potential of the Red Rock Ridge as a potential UNESCO World Heritage nomination. It is supported and in collaboration with several Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), including Lower Sioux Indian Community, Upper Sioux Community, and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

#### **Archaeology Collection Inventory, \$103,908**

The MNHS archaeological collections contain nearly 2.25 million artifacts from over 7,000 distinct collections and span more than 10,000 years of human occupation in the state. These collections represent over 175 years of archaeological research in the state of Minnesota and surrounding regions. MNHS continues to add to its archaeological holdings in the present day, primarily in accordance with the Field Archaeology Act (Minn. Stat. 138.31 - .42) and its designation as the repository for archaeological collections recovered from Minnesota public lands. Several different catalog systems have been used throughout MNHS's collecting history, which has resulted in the creation of multiple catalog numbers for some of the earlier collections. In addition, many of the collections were created prior to the implementation of electronic recordkeeping, and any associated documentation exists only as paper records. Some more recent collections were documented with technology that is now obsolete, such as on floppy disks or CDs. The result is a patchwork of associated documentation, including detailed catalogs, not accessible through the

institution's collections management system (CMS). The box-level inventory improves accessibility of archaeological collections to MNHS staff, researchers, and other stakeholder communities through the completion of an inventory, digitization of paper records, enhancement of digital tracking records, and rehousing of artifacts. The completion of a box-level inventory for all archaeology collections housed at MNHS establishes physical and digital control over current location data. The identification and linking of paper and digital catalog data with accession records in the CMS will improve recognition of the research potential of archaeological collections. In total, the archaeology collections are stored in approximately 2,800 boxes, and this year the project reached 60% completion.

## **COLLECTIONS**

#### **Collections Acquisitions and Conservation, \$98,855**

Guided by rigorous collecting priorities and principles, the MNHS Collections department enhanced its holdings across manuscripts, fine art, 3D, sound/visual and maps/rare books. As stewards of these collections, MNHS understands these items are imperative to creating powerful engagement with history and providing learning opportunities for all Minnesotans. Acquisitions in FY25 include:

- A two-page letter written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1934 that provides pivotal evidence of the strong influence of Fitzgerald's St. Paul Academy education on his career trajectory.
- Two landscape photographs by Terry Evans, portraying the Mincora taconite mine in Virginia, MN, which document how Minnesotans can understand our responsibility for caring for our natural resources.
- Five fine art photographs by Frank Gohlke of urban landscapes related to grain elevators. The acquisition gives MNHS an exceptional and unique selection of Gohlke's work that will complement other local collections of his work.
- Six photographs by internationally acclaimed Hmong American photographer Pao Houa Her. The works build on MNHS's longstanding commitment to fine art portraiture, while helping to make this dimension of the collection more fully representative of Minnesota's multicultural and transnational history.



## EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

### History Center Programs, \$111,060

These funds supported two Program Associates who develop and execute public programs related to History Center Museum exhibitions, support MNHS events, and host community programs.

### Legacy Field Trip Support Fund, \$102,357

In FY25, this funding allowed 10,347 Minnesota students to attend field trips. This fund supported scheduling staffing and scholarships to offset the cost of transportation for 106 schools to participate in field trips.

### Field Trip Development, \$160,219

MNHS completed work on initiatives for field trips across multiple sites including automated pre-visit communication with field trip teachers; site-specific data analysis of field trip attendance; redesign of field trip web pages; and the creation of teacher accessibility guides, social narratives, and access maps for sites.

### Curriculum and Teacher Professional Development, \$277,693

In FY25, Legacy funds were utilized by the Teacher Education and Curriculum Development Team for staff time and other costs with a focus on teacher training and curricular product development. Staffing costs supported Teacher Education staff time spent developing and delivering new teacher professional development workshops and webinars geared toward numerous in-classroom teacher constituencies, including elementary teachers, 6th grade Northern Lights curriculum teachers, and secondary history and social studies teachers.

In addition to staffing costs for workshop development and facilitation, funding also supported staffing costs for outreach and training sessions provided to college-level pre-service teachers in social studies teacher preparation programs and college-level social studies methods instructors and professors. This unique program reaches those preparing to become teachers before they have formally entered the field, making them aware of the many education resources available to them from MNHS.

A significant curriculum product refresh was also made possible with Legacy funds. Project expenses for updating the Ojibwe Shoulder Bag Activity Kit, a popular supplemental curricular product, were also covered by this fund and help keep the product relevant as classroom technology changes and appealing to new audiences of educators.

### MNHS Podcast *Minnesota Unraveled*, \$317,189

Season one of *Minnesota Unraveled* took listeners on a journey across the North Star State, taking a curious look around and asking questions that pulled them into the past. For fifteen episodes, host Dr. Chantel Rodríguez and her guests led audiences through up-close stories of how and why our state is the way it is. Episode highlights include Searching for Bison in Minnesota History, Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox in Bemidji, Meatpacking in Minnesota: How Migration and Labor Transformed Worthington, and The African Americans who Built the Capitol. *Minnesota Unraveled* won a gold distinction in the History category from The Signal Awards, which recognizes the most potent, meaningful and unprecedented audio projects being made today. In FY25, funds were used to launch, produce, and promote *Minnesota Unraveled*, Season one.

### Rondo Film Project, \$25,000

*The Brothers of Rondo* chronicles the life stories of four men—Lewis Scott, Russel T. Balenger, Readus W. Fletcher, and Carl Griffin—who grew up in the Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul, enrolled at Minnesota State University Moorhead, and went on to become leaders in their respective areas of work and study. Their stories demonstrate the importance of Black culture and community, and how the Rondo neighborhood—and its destruction for the construction of I-94—were instrumental in laying a foundation of resilience in their lives. In the face of displacement, racism and economic adversity, the Brothers channeled lessons learned in Rondo to make a profound impact in their careers, communities, and the state of Minnesota. FY25 funds were used to complete production and promote the film with advertising, outreach, and community engagement.

### Digital Programming, \$24,322

Digital programming and production enables MNHS to make impactful video, audio, and interactive content for the people of Minnesota. Staffing was utilized for media in exhibits and projects honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian migration to Minnesota and the end of the Vietnam War, among other projects. In FY25, funds were used to provide salary to MNHS staff working on multimedia productions.

### Interpreter Training, \$92,559

All new interpreters at MNHS are required to take the Foundations of Interpretation Training course (also known as FIT). This five-hour training suite provides a basic understanding of what MNHS expects from interpreters across its sites and museum network. All four sections of FIT were updated to reflect current interpretive practices across the field as well as key areas that MNHS site staff highlighted as training needs, including navigating challenging

conversations with guests. Additional training hours were dedicated to allow interpreters to visit other MNHS sites together as a cohort. This program allows interpreters to experience MNHS sites from a visitor's perspective and observe different interpretive techniques, which strengthens their own work at their home site.

### **Statewide Program Support, \$253,903**

The Interpretive Programs team works to develop and enhance MNHS's delivery of history to visitors. Sites were supported in transitioning program materials to standard documentation templates to increase consistency of practice and programming across the network. Interpretive Frameworks were converted into an Interpretive Overview format to streamline the document and make it more accessible. Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, and Split Rock Lighthouse completed their Interpretive Overviews in FY25. Oliver Kelley Farm also updated their Interpretive Overview.

*A Recipe for Adventure* launched in May 2025. This culinary passport program encouraged guests to visit MNHS historic sites and collect unique recipe cards to complete a cookbook highlighting Minnesota's diverse food histories.

Select pages of MNHS Press' *Rings of Heartwood* were printed as an outdoor story walk and shared with guests at the Oliver Kelley Farm, Historic Forestville, Forest History Center, and Charles Lindbergh House and Museum over the summer.

Additional resources were purchased for the IP team library, focused on interpretation, which are shared with site program teams across the state.

### **MNHS175, \$35,769**

2024 marked MNHS's 175th year of operation. To celebrate, a statewide digital scavenger hunt was held over the summer. Participants were asked to visit different locations, read MNopedia articles, and more. Nearly 2,000 people registered, and 14 people completed all 175 challenges across the state! Funding was also used to produce a commemorative edition of *Minnesota History* magazine celebrating the milestone.

## **EXHIBITS**

### **Collections Gallery Exhibit, \$34,558**

These funds supported graphic design, project management, and exhibit development staff time to create and design content for the inaugural exhibit in the Minnesota History Center's new Collections Gallery, *The Stories We Keep: 25 Objects from MNHS Collections*, opening in November 2025.

*The Stories We Keep: 25 Objects from MNHS Collections* draws on the depth and breadth of the MNHS collections, inviting visitors to connect with the past through the power of objects. Notable items featured in the exhibit include a Milk Carton Kayak made by David Garron for the first Minneapolis Aquatennial Milk Carton Boat Race in 1971; dyed fabric samples for Prince's Purple Rain, Parade, and Sign o' the Times tours; and a Dakota-language hymnal with a beaded cover.

Together, these 25 objects highlight what we keep, what we share, and how they shape our understanding of Minnesota and our shared history.

### **Girlhood (It's complicated), \$868,701**

These funds were used to bring the Smithsonian traveling exhibit *Girlhood (It's complicated)* to the Minnesota History Museum and to develop, design, and fabricate an additional section focused on girls basketball in Minnesota. The exhibition, which opened in September 2024, engages visitors of all ages and showcases how girls have spoken up, challenged expectations, and have been on the frontlines of social change. These unexpected stories uplift and amplify timely conversations about women's history and promote a deep understanding of the lived experience of girls in America and specifically Minnesota.

These funds also supported programming showcasing the stories and talents of girls in Minnesota, including musical performances, dance, sports demonstrations, trivia, a bookclub, and programs highlighting Japanese girlhood in Minnesota during WWII, and Jewish sororities.

### **Jeffers Petroglyphs Exhibit, \$33,869**

A new permanent exhibit will open at Jeffers Petroglyphs in May 2026, and these funds were used to support content development. This exhibit will explore how this sacred landscape holds a continuous relationship with people from across the continent up to the present. Through its stories and interpretation, the exhibit will encourage visitors to reflect deeply on the meaning of the site, to explore multiple perspectives, and to celebrate Native American achievement and resilience. The exhibit will also highlight the importance of preservation, inspiring guests to take positive action in protecting sacred places and honoring the enduring relationships between people and the land.

### ***MN Cooks: Small Bites from the Collection & Women with Taste, \$18,102***

These funds were used for the development, design, production, and installation of two exhibits created in conjunction with the traveling exhibition *Julia Child: A Recipe for Life*, on display at the Minnesota History Center. Funds directly supported *MN Cooks: Small Bites from the Collection* at the History Center Museum and *Women with Taste: Culinary Visionaries of the Twin Cities* at the Mill City Museum. Both are on view from September 2025 through May 2026.

*MN Cooks: Small Bites from the Collection* highlights community cookbooks from the Minnesota Historical Society's collections. The exhibit showcases a little-known collection that reflects the sociocultural history of Minnesota across both geography and time, connecting visitors with the stories, people, and traditions that have shaped everyday life.

*Women with Taste: Culinary Visionaries of the Twin Cities* is a panel exhibit on display at the Mill City Museum. In this exhibition, visitors learn about eight women who have transformed how Twin Cities residents eat, think about, and value food. Each featured woman identified an issue within her sphere of influence, developed an innovative solution, and helped redefine dining in Minneapolis and St. Paul, opening doors for future generations of women to be recognized as culinary visionaries.

### **Native American Exhibits, \$11,059**

*Our Home: Native Minnesota* draws on the depth and breadth of MNHS collections, archives, and objects on loan to present the history and contemporary stories of Native communities in Minnesota. *Reframing Our Stories* provides visitors with a powerful lens to see the resilience and strength of Native communities in Minnesota through stories reframed by their own experiences, perspectives, and in their own words. These funds were used for graphic design, production, and installation of updated graphics in both exhibits.

### ***Then Now Wow, \$40,171***

These funds were used to engineer and fabricate technology upgrades to *Then Now Wow* interactives at the Minnesota History Center Museum. This included a full refurbishment of the Street Car interactive. These upgrades enhanced the hands-on experience for children and their families in this 14,000 square foot Minnesota history exhibit that explores the "wow" moments that helped shape the state.

## **HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS PROGRAMMING**

### **Interpretive Signage Project, \$204,778**

In close collaboration with colleagues from Research, Native American Initiatives, Historic Sites, Community Engagement, Archaeology, and MNHS Press, the Exhibits team continued the work of producing outdoor interpretive signage across the MNHS historic sites network. Over the course of FY25, research, drafting of content, and updates to outdoor interpretive signage took place at the following sites: Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Mill City Museum, Jeffers Petroglyphs, Marine Mill, Split Rock Lighthouse, Historic Forestville, Harkin Store, Lower Sioux Agency, Charles Lindbergh House, Fort Ridgley, Birch Coulee Battlefield, Sibley House, Snake River Fur Post, Grand Mound, and Forest History Center. FY25 Legacy funds directly supported installation of new frames and signs at Birch Coulee Battlefield (32 signs), Sibley House (7 signs), Mill City Museum (2 signs), Harkin Store (1 sign), and Snake River Fur Post (18 signs). Finally, Legacy funding supported the purchase of additional signage frames and hardware that will support the project going forward with necessary inventory.

### **Draft Animal Programming, \$183,409**

Legacy funding supported programming at the Forest History Center and the Oliver Kelley Farm to further develop and deliver interpretive draft animal programs, which have proven to be popular and engaging experiences for visitors. At the Forest History Center, funding was used to expand the offering of daily horse-drawn trolley rides to the logging camp during the summer and sleigh rides during the winter, as well as to further refine a 60-minute horse-drawn guided trolley tour experience. A special equine care experience was added for the general public, which enabled people to learn how to groom and harness a draft horse. Funding was also used to pay for a draft horse handler position, acquire and maintain equipment, purchase hay and feed supplements, manage pastures, and cover veterinarian and farrier expenses. At the Oliver Kelley Farm, funding was used to expand program demonstrations of historic farming with draft animals (horses and oxen), cover the salary of a draft animal handler, pay for hay and feed supplements, acquire and maintain equipment, and provide veterinary and farrier care.

### **Historic Forestville Programming, \$124,019**

Based largely on the last DNR Visitor Survey of state park visitors, the daily program at Historic Forestville was redesigned in 2023-2024. The new program is self-guided and designed to be more accessible to the families visiting our state park who

may not want to commit to an hour-long guided tour. The new program increased participation rates. Before the program redevelopment, about 57% of people who stepped foot in the gift shop at the site participated in a program we offered. Participation rates increased to 63% by the end of summer 2024 and 72% in summer 2025.

#### **Historic Forestville Music in the Barn, \$2,800**

With the goal of increasing access to Historic Forestville to all Minnesotans, Legacy funding covered the cost of bringing three Minnesota artists for free concerts in the historic barn during the summer of 2025. During the concerts, visitors also had free access to the Foster/Meighen General Store. The site hosted Becky and the 48s for a bluegrass concert on June 7, Bob Bovee for an old-fashioned barn dance on June 21, and Charlie Parr for a blues concert at the site on August 29.

#### **Bicycle Tours at Historic Fort Snelling, \$2,078**

In its second year, the bicycle tours program at Historic Fort Snelling created opportunities for visitors to learn and engage with the history of the greater Fort Snelling site by providing access to the Upper Post and surrounding area. Legacy funds primarily supported staffing to conduct the tours in FY25.

#### **Jeffers Petroglyphs Program Development and Delivery, \$80,920**

Legacy funds supported staffing at Jeffers Petroglyphs that uses expert knowledge of site history to develop and deliver new programming and tours to foster wider audience engagement. In addition, the position assisted with creating and implementing staff training and advanced training for specialized programs. The Program Assistant collaborated with site leadership to develop a new traveling exhibit and outreach program featuring 22 informational panels. The project also created an Indigenous Knowledge Keepers series that highlighted traditional knowledge keepers who presented and demonstrated on a wide variety of skills and knowledge on Saturdays throughout the summer. Finally, Legacy funds bolstered programs by replacing broken elements and replenishing program supplies for public programs.

#### **Forest History Center Adventure Program, \$148,579**

Legacy funds supported a full-time program associate and two summer program facilitators at the Forest History Center. These staff members created and facilitated two new on-site walking tours: "Mosses and Ferns," and a tree identification walk. Kayak tours were also available, and participants were excited to have the opportunity to paddle and were pleased with how much could be learned on the tour.

#### **Forest History Center - Accessible Mississippi River Environmental History Learning Project, \$102,283**

Forest History Center staff launched a new program to increase accessibility for visitors to take historic tours on the Mississippi River. Funds were used to purchase a new pontoon, handicap accessible dock, six passenger golf cart, and training for staff to drive the pontoon. The dock includes several accessibility features such as its size, layout, and ability to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers. The dock also features a system that makes getting in and out of kayaks much easier. The pontoon tours began in FY26.

#### **Access to Minnesota History, \$337,131**

MNHS is dedicated to ensuring that *all Minnesotans* have an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history through our exhibits, programs, and activities. Several programs offer free admission to historic sites and museums and public programs. These include free Thursday evenings at the Minnesota History Center, four Free Admission Days each year at historic sites and museums (modeled after free state park days), and the national Museums for All program, which permits visitors of limited means to access historic sites and museums for free. In FY25, nearly 45,000 visitors were able to participate in these programs and learn about our rich past.

## **INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **Native American Initiatives, \$389,336**

The Native American Initiatives (NAI) team is an advocate for Native communities at MNHS that serves as a bridge between community needs and MNHS resources. The team actively engages with Native communities throughout the state and ensures that Native voices, stories, and concerns are addressed in MNHS work at all levels. Yearly initiatives undertaken by the NAI team include conducting research, providing Tribal Nations training, preparing content for the community and MNHS, and creating programming and engagement opportunities across the state.

This work would not be possible without Legacy funds. This year, Legacy funds supported this work by:

1. Providing equipment and training for the Cultural Resource Stewardship and Burn Program to promote and implement preservation work across the historic sites network related to their respective natural environments. Having access to these resources enables MNHS to ensure that the landscapes of these significant places are stewarded for visitors across the world to

access for generations to come. These funds have provided the opportunity to obtain chainsaws, personal protective equipment, and numerous safety and equipment trainings in order to complete cultural resource preservation projects.

2. Supporting the formal business of the Indian Advisory Council (IAC) which is composed of representatives appointed by each of the 11 federally recognized Tribes, educational representatives, at-large representatives, and honorary members. IAC business included regularly scheduled meetings as well as additional meetings for the NAGPRA and Education subcommittee to assist in developing policies, narrative construction, and interpretation review. Full committee meetings are conducted each quarter, with subcommittee meetings conducted as needed in between full meetings.
3. Supporting programming related to the traveling exhibit *Girlhood (It's complicated)*. NAI was able to consult with multiple Native community members who were highlighted in the Minnesota portion of the exhibit. As a result of this collaboration, MNHS was able to offer Native-specific programming tied to girlhood and womanhood experienced within Native American communities, which led to community workshops and higher engagement with the *Girlhood* exhibit.

#### **Community Engagement Initiatives & Programs, \$349,344**

The Community Engagement Legacy Programs help fund relationship building that leads to telling different stories and histories of various communities across Minnesota. In FY25, the Community Engagement team worked to build relationships across the state to lift up stories from all corners and to deepen relationships with different cultural communities. One of the larger projects included the Greater Minnesota Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ History Map project which features 150+ stories of Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people, places and events significant to Minnesota history.

The Community Engagement team continued to build relationships with several communities through events such as artist and writer workshops, film screenings, history display panels, and speaking engagements.

#### **Veterans Relations, \$103,953**

This funding supported a staff position tasked with assessing and developing sustained engagement between MNHS and the veteran community. This position provided support for veteran and military-related programs and exhibits and served as a resource for other MNHS staff. Highlights include

supporting 13 programs during year 38 of the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table program series at the Minnesota History Center and maintaining the Veterans Advisory Group to engage Minnesota's veteran community, to advise and assist MNHS in programming and content, and to create sustained engagement between MNHS and veteran communities in order to provide continual representation of veterans and the military experience that connects to Minnesota history and Minnesota today. The Program & Outreach Manager facilitated tours for several groups and expanded relationships with US Army Reserve units based out of Fort Snelling and with the Minnesota Army National Guard.

#### **College Internship Program, \$425,392**

The Minnesota Historical Society has a robust internship program that offers practical professional experience to both undergraduate and graduate students. The goal of the internship program is to cultivate future leaders and critical thinkers by connecting them with professionals in their field and engaging them in the meaningful work of a cultural organization.

MNHS utilizes Legacy funding to provide all students with a paid internship, which helps to recruit a diverse pool of students. This opportunity allows students from various backgrounds to gain experience in fields such as museum work, archaeology, library, and education.

In FY25, MNHS hosted 59 interns from 23 colleges and universities, contributing 11,017 hours to projects that emphasized research, creative production, technical skills, and community engagement. Interns supported initiatives such as editing oral history interviews; contributing to the Northern Lights textbook revision; and assisting with public programs including MNHS's 175th anniversary celebration, the Minnesota State Fair, and the History Forum series. They also gained experience in communications, design, and digital collections, and contributed to research and projects such as the Minnesota Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ History Map. They supported donor engagement and fundraising efforts, and built hands-on skills in fieldwork, geospatial technologies, collections care, and preservation.

Through diverse experiences, interns strengthened their professional skills while making meaningful contributions to MNHS's mission of preserving and sharing Minnesota's history. Legacy funding also supported the Fife and Drum internship program at Historic Fort Snelling, which provided four internships. Legacy funds also provide administrative support, recruitment efforts, and program development for the internship program.



## **LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

### **Digitization of Minnesota's Newspapers, \$1,575,284**

Legacy funding is key to the digitization of newspapers from across Minnesota for long-term preservation and online access in the Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub. To ensure that the Hub remains sustainable and available to researchers for years to come, work was started in FY25 to migrate the system to a new platform, that launched in September 2025 featuring an initial collection of over 1.2 million pages of newspapers digitized from microfilm (the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the St. Cloud Daily Times, the Duluth Herald, and the Rochester Post-Bulletin). As well as this important system update, FY25 Legacy funds supported the in-house digitization of 719,299 pages of print newspapers, with over 1.5 million new pages added to the Hub representing papers from all 87 counties.

### **Digitization of Archival Collections, \$360,348**

Legacy funding supports digitization of the MNHS archival collections, which includes manuscript holdings, government records, photographs, and audiovisual recordings. In FY25, 1,377 photos as well as over 75,300 pages of materials from paper and microfilm were imaged for online researcher access in addition to digitization of 678 audiovisual items. Notable work included a project to provide high-resolution images of photographs from the Louis W. Hill papers to the Blackfeet Community College of Montana for use by the Blackfeet Nation and digitization of deteriorating audiovisual recordings from the 1950s-1960s in the Governor Orville Freeman campaign and administration collection covering topics ranging from natural resources and conservation to education and business development.

### **Research Scholars, \$18,399**

For FY25, the Gale Family Library Legacy Research Fellowship program supported six fellows with topics ranging from a retrospective look at African American girls' sports at Oxford Recreation Center from 1960-1975 to insights from James Ford Bell's diaries between 1907 to 1960. (Note: Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, two of the fellows were unable to complete their projects during the fellowship year.)

Each fellow gave a presentation which was open to all MNHS staff and interns and members of the public invited by the presenter. The presentations were held between January and June 2025, which meant early presenters held discussions of their work in progress. The fellows are encouraged to share details on materials which they uncover while researching MNHS collections, and this is an especially validating

experience for behind-the-scenes staff to experience how their work increases access to our vast collection and in turn, culminates in new research.

The final result for each fellow was either creating and publishing a MNopedia article on their topic or submitting a paper to be cataloged and entered in the library and archives collection. Some fellows are continuing their research by working on publishing books and Minnesota History articles on their topics. Others have presented their research at local historical societies or for other groups and organizations which are interested in or have deep connections to the topics.

The Legacy funding supporting the Program is spent to support researchers directly through Fellowship awards of \$3,500 per scholar, as well as funding research copies, distance research services, and the presentation events.

### **Oral History Projects, \$260,239**

The Minnesota Historical Society's Oral History Program collaborates with the people and communities who share Minnesota as their home in documenting, sharing, and preserving life stories. The Oral History Program's collection spans the early 20th century through contemporary life encompassing people of all backgrounds, helping us to understand what it means to be Minnesotan.

In FY25, the MNHS Oral History Program rolled out several new oral history projects, implementing MNHS's strategy of expanding authority and expertise, and entered the early stages of testing a new finding aid platform that will support MNHS's aim of transforming access and creating a sustainable future. Eighteen new oral history interviews were created, and 106 interviews from archival back log were processed, cataloged, and archived.

New projects include:

- **The Women's Art Registry of Minnesota (WARM) Oral History Project**

An artist collective founded in 1973, the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota (WARM) presented art by 40 rotating members, hosted lectures, traded slides, developed a mentor program, published a triennial journal, and advocated for women artists across the State of Minnesota and the United States. The organization opened a gallery in the Warehouse District of Minneapolis in 1976, and as we approach the 50th anniversary of the founding of WARM Gallery, this oral history project documents the lives, careers, and experiences of the artists involved with WARM from the founding of the

collective to the extensions of its legacy through the work, mentorships, and lasting foundations the organization established. This project is also a collaboration with MNHS Curators to build a deeper understanding of WARM's existing collections in Manuscripts, Fine Art, Sound and Visual, and Books.

- **Oxford Community Center Oral History Project**  
Formerly known as Oxford Playground and the current site of the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center in Saint Paul, the Oxford Community Center has been an important institution in the Rondo and Summit-University neighborhoods for generations. This project documents the life stories of people who played, coached, officiated, socialized, and worked at Oxford from the late 1950s to the 1970s after the construction of I-94 destroyed the historic African American Rondo neighborhood. The goal of this research project is to discover and share the history of this important site, one that sits at the intersection of African American, Minnesota, and women's history; of the Rondo and Summit-University neighborhoods, and of athletics, culture, and community.
- **Disability in Minnesota Oral History Project**  
The project will expand awareness of and deepen understanding about the lived experiences of disabled people and those who have experienced disablement in Minnesota. The primary focus of the first phase of this project in FY25 is to work collaboratively across MNHS departments (Collections, Community Engagement, and Research) and with community partners (AmplifyMN) to create a growing archive of stories of disabled Minnesotans that tell a broader and more complete story of Minnesotan life. In listening to the people most familiar with disability, we create new spaces in archives, in public history, and in communities across Minnesota to think deeply about how disability shapes our state and how it's a central shared history relevant to every body.
- **Collections and Curatorial Oral History Projects**  
The MNHS Oral History Program is working with colleagues in Collections, Curatorial, and Native American Initiatives to create deeper understanding about MNHS Collections by recording oral histories with the people behind the holdings. In FY25, the MNHS Oral History Program began rolling out this collaboration by partnering with MNHS's Native American Artist-in-Residence (NAAIR) Program to create the NAAIR Oral History Project. The project documents former NAAIRs, their life histories, practices and traditions, and how they have both learned from and shaped the knowledge and

history in MNHS Collections. This project also creates an opportunity to work with the Native American Museum Fellowship (NAMF) to help train new oral history practitioners.

- **ArchivesSpace Pilot**

The MNHS Oral History Program began a planning and development phase in FY25 for piloting the use of a new finding aid system, ArchivesSpace (known as ASpace), working across departments with collaborators in Collections, Technical Services, and Library, Archives, and Cataloging.

### **Minnesota State Capitol and Public Art at MNHS, \$105,638**

The Capitol Art Exhibit Advisory Committee (CAEAC) exhibit program in the Third Floor Exhibit Gallery at the Minnesota State Capitol is an extension of the Capitol Preservation Commission (CPC).

Core contributions in FY25 include:

- Support for the CAEAC for the installation, promotion, and celebration of two exhibits:
  - *Willmar: What Comes to Your Mind?!*, by photographer John Salgado Maldonado, May 9, 2024 through Oct. 31, 2024.
  - *Portraits of Indigenous Authors and Artists*, a 30-year project by photographer John Ratzloff, Dec. 1, 2024 through Sept. 1, 2025.
- Support for artist Anne Labovitz for the Fall 2025 installation of *122 Conversations: Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders-The Archive*.
- Developing and implementing a new process for Call for Proposal for new artist shows in the Capitol Gallery.
- Collaborating with external partners to support the gallery and artists, including the Metropolitan Airport Commission/MSP, the CAAPB, and the MN Department of Administration.
- Facilitating CAEAC public meetings, which included the development and dissemination of meeting packets, established technology, collaboration with the Interim Chair for alignment on priorities, and meeting minutes for committee archives.
- Recruiting and recommending new CAEAC board members and leadership.

With the CAAPB:

- Led the Nellie Stone Johnson plaque design process, community engagement, production and installation; installed May 2025.
- Served on the Capitol Artwork Review Committee (CARC) for the USS *Ward* gun removal application and coordinated MNHS review and recommendations process.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

### Legacy Coordination, \$31,080

The Legacy Amendment/Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) supported an ACHF Program Manager position. This role manages statewide ACHF-funded programs, partnerships, and initiatives, ensuring their integration, quality, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with MNHS's overall use of ACHF funds. The ACHF Manager also oversees organization-wide Legacy-funded implementation initiatives.

### Finance, \$1,448,320

Administrative costs reflect a portion of the “shared services” costs, such as human resources, payroll, financial accounting, reporting and payment processing, as well as technology infrastructure and space related costs for those services. These services are necessary to support the day-to-day operation of Legacy funded programs and partnerships. MNHS works to provide these services at a reasonable cost; these services are directly related to and necessary for MNHS's legacy programs.

## PUBLICATIONS

### MNopedia Digital Encyclopedia, \$119,225

MNopedia, MNHS's free online encyclopedia of Minnesota history, grew to contain 1,130 entries in FY25. It migrated into mnhs.org, and the redesigned site is mobile-friendly. Entries added over the year included the common loon, Washburn A Mill, Purple Rain, the honeycrisp apple, the Replacements, Frontenac State Park, the flooding of the Red River in 1997, the Underground Railroad in Minnesota, and the battle flag of the Twenty-eighth Virginia Infantry Regiment.

### Making Minnesota Activity Book, \$288,353

*Making Minnesota* is a free activity book geared toward children aged seven and up. Funding was used to pay for printing of 100,000 copies, for distribution of the books, to pay the author and illustrator honoraria for programming to promote the book, and for promoting the book. Nearly 118,000 books were distributed without charge to individuals, schools, and other institutions.

### Design, Editing, and Printing for *Rewind* by T Williams, \$9,395

This fund supports the publication of *Rewind*, a memoir by Theatrice (“T”) Williams, a Minneapolis African American leader whose career spans the 1960s to the present. *Rewind: Lessons from Fifty Years of Activism* published on May 13, 2025.

## RESEARCH & EVALUATION

### Research, \$265,780

The MNHS Research Department provides research and historical interpretation support for organizations across the institution. Major projects in FY25 that involved Legacy-funded staff included:

- Conducted primary and secondary historical research, developed interpretive content, and consulted with in-house staff and partner communities to create a new generation of interpretive trail signs (more than 45 in all) for the Lower Sioux Agency, Snake River Fur Post, the Birch Coulee Battlefield, and the Henry Sibley House.
- Conducted primary and secondary historical research, wrote historical context reports, conducted critical text reviews, and consulted extensively with Teacher Education Department, Community Engagement, and Native American Initiatives staff on the revised third edition of MNHS's sixth-grade Minnesota history textbook, *Northern Lights*.
- Took a leading role in proposing episodes, conducting primary and secondary research, conducting guest interviews, developing scripts, providing critical draft reviews, and recording voiceover for all Season 1 episodes of the MNHS *Minnesota Unraveled* podcast series. Within FY25, the Research Department conducted speculative development and created viability reports for select Season 2 episodes.
- Provided historical research and interpretive support for ancillary exhibits and programs tied to the *Girlhood (It's complicated)* exhibit and *MN Cooks: Small Bites from the Collection*.

### Program Evaluation, \$150,294

The Evaluation Specialist, along with support from Wilder Research, provided technical assistance, consultation and support to staff to evaluate Legacy-funded projects and programs.

- For the fourth year, participated in American Alliance of Museum's Annual Study of Museum Goers to better understand visitor motivations and provide cutting edge research to the entire museum field.
- Data collection was completed for the national research study led by the Institute for Learning Innovation to understand what visitors to history museums find beneficial and the financial cost of those benefits.
- The General Visitor Survey results were combined with attendance data for an in depth review with the Interpretive Programs team and each site.

- John Falk's Card Sort Activity to understand visitor motivations was conducted at the Minnesota History Center, Mill City Museum, James J. Hill House, and Minnesota State Capitol.
- Supported evaluation of History Day and Teacher Education and Development programs, as well as implemented the on-going field trip surveys.
- Evaluated institution-wide public programs such as Minnesota State Fair History on a Schtick and History Forum, as well as site specific programs such as North Star Voices, Walking Tours, Holiday Programs, and Sensory Friendly Days.
- Conducted surveys of Community Engagement partnerships.
- Conducted evaluations for NAI programs including Native-American-Artist-in-Residence, Native American Museum Fellows, and Reconnecting our Roots.
- Implemented surveys for digital programs including the Minnesota Unraveled podcast and virtual tours.

# REPORT OF HISTORY PARTNERSHIPS



Support from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has resulted in partnerships between the Minnesota Historical Society and more than 17 organizations.

It also supports the Heritage Partnership Program, a competitive grant program, that works to build the capacity of two or more independent organizations. In FY25, 19 organizations around the state collaborated through this grant program to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and cultural resources, by supporting the creation and development of sustainable, history-based partnerships.

This Legacy report presents a look back on how funds were used for History Partnerships in FY25. Minnesota Statutes 129D.17 requires recipients of Legacy funds to report on funding not yet expended. Approximately \$2.5 million of fiscal year 2025 appropriations for Statewide History Partnerships have not been expended at the end of FY25; appropriation language permits MNHS until June 30, 2026 to expend these funds.

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**Appropriations Language—History Partnerships:** \$2,183,000 the first year and \$3,067,000 the second year are for history partnerships involving multiple organizations, which may include the Minnesota Historical Society, to preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's history and cultural heritage in all regions of the state.

**Above:** Artist Teneka Graves restores the original Red School House murals inside the Black Youth Healing Arts Center—formerly the historic Red School House.



## EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

### **State Fair Programming, \$45,388**

The state fair show *History on-a-Shtick* celebrated its 10th anniversary and had twice-daily performances throughout the Minnesota State Fair. The show highlights Minnesota places, people, and history in a family-friendly, musical variety show. This year also marked the 15th year of the self-guided State Fair History Walking Tour in partnership with the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, distributing 25,000 tour booklets and highlighting 12 historic locations around the fairgrounds.

### **Minnesota History Day, \$241,926**

Funding for this program supported a portion of staff salaries. The majority of the other funding was used for event costs for competitions, including space and table rentals for eight different Regional contests, table rental for the State contest, printing costs associated with the Regional and State contests, fees for the National Contest, staff school outreach visit costs, honorariums for undergraduate mentors providing classroom outreach, the annual National History Day affiliate fee, and program supplies and software to run a successful program for the year.

## FINANCE

### **Administrative Costs, \$152,382**

Administrative costs reflect a portion of the “shared services” costs, such as human resources, payroll, financial accounting, reporting and payment processing, and technology infrastructure and space related costs for those services. These services are necessary to support the day-to-day operation of Legacy funded programs and partnerships. MNHS works to provide these services at a reasonable cost and these services are directly related to and necessary for MNHS’s legacy programs.

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION

### **Minnesota Main Street Partnership, \$146,020**

The Minnesota Main Streets program, supported through a partnership with Rethos, supports commercial historic districts across the state using a four-point program of economic vitality, design, promotion, and organization. The annual conference was held in Duluth’s Lincoln Park neighborhood and attracted 56 participants from across the state.

### **Preservation Education, \$88,078**

The Rethos Education program focused on preservation education for adult audiences. Classes ranged from DIY classes targeted at fixing and

repairing old homes and buildings, to preservation lectures, to a course providing continuing education credits for realtors marketing older homes. Nineteen programs were offered, reaching more than 400 participants. Classes were held in Duluth, Winona, and the Twin Cities metro area.

### **Building Capacity of History Professionals, \$60,000**

The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) and MNHS collaborate to develop the capacity of history professionals across the state to better serve local communities and the 500+ organizations in Minnesota’s history community. Through this partnership, MALHM provides best practices, training opportunities, resources, and networking opportunities for local history practitioners. MALHM also works to create a reliable collections management system for local organizations with the capacity for online searching across contributing organizations. Fifty-four organizations participate with [mncollections.org](http://mncollections.org). In the past year, MALHM also collaborated with MNHS to create caches of disaster response supplies across the state for museums to access when collections get damaged. The cornerstone of this partnership is the administration of an annual conference that trains paid professionals, volunteers, and board members alike in best practices of history and museum work. The 2025 annual conference in White Bear was a great success with 255 participants and speakers from across the state. The event was held over three days and featured sessions provided by staff, vendors, and volunteers with local history organizations, award presentations, and valuable networking opportunities.

### **Historic Preservation Corps, \$250,000**

This partnership with Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps supports a program to provide preservation skills and training to young adults modeled after the conservation corps programs of the early 20th century. Corps members work in multi-day “hitches” with preservation professionals at older and historic building sites, where they learn techniques to repair and preserve the spaces. By the close of the 2024 crew season, the crews had worked on 9 hitches (12 locations) in the state with nearly 12,000 crew member hours. The crews worked at sites from Grand Portage to Tracy. They were trained, under the watchful eye of preservation professionals, to repair masonry, perform window glazing, engage in cemetery restoration (including cleaning and resetting markers), and even learned about artifact cataloging and preservation.

### **Skill Building for Collections Care, \$105,600**

This partnership with the Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) brought 15 workshops across the state to provide lectures, instructions, and hands-on

demonstrations of collection care and conservation skill building. Topics included safe storage, cleaning of Native American objects, cleaning of house museum collections, pesticide training, caring for photographs, emergency preparedness, and grant-writing. More than 150 people participated in these events at no charge. Evaluations from participants were consistently strong. While open to all, the workshops were targeted to Native American and rural communities.

## HISTORIC SITES PROGRAMMING

### **Astronomy Programs / Bell Museum, \$137,309**

The Bell Museum partnered with MNHS to offer natural history and astronomy programming at Greater Minnesota historic sites. This included the expansion of the Bell's Grand Rapids Summer Camp experience to include the Forest History Center, as well as local school and youth programs and environmental programming at the Forest History Center during the school year. These programs provided immersive experiences for children to learn about the landscape and biodiversity of Minnesota and changes to environment and climate. In Southern Minnesota, the Bell Museum built a relationship with Jeffers Petroglyphs, with programming focused on astronomy and natural history. Jeffers Petroglyphs, along with the Oliver Kelley Farm and Split Rock Lighthouse, hosted Bell programs like the Statewide Star Party, featuring the Bell Museum's mobile planetarium and additional telescopes. The Bell hosted five Community Science Day events at several MNHS sites. These days incorporated the unique history of each site and surrounding community, and brought together community members of all ages through hands-on STEM activities and experiences. During these events, the Bell also distributed 400 STEM Science and Nature Kits. These kits provide four STEM activities with all consumable materials and an activity guide aimed at K-5 school children and caregivers. This partnership has expanded the Bell Museum programs in Greater Minnesota, along with their flagship museum in St. Paul.

## INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **Diversity Outreach, \$248,506**

Diversity and Outreach work centers on diversifying the programs and products of the Minnesota Historical Society, including:

- Adapted the *Going Out, Coming In: LGBTQ+ Spaces in Downtown Minneapolis* into a traveling exhibit hosted by the Quatrefoil Library, and held an exhibit opening celebration with attendance of almost 100.
- Held a girlhood youth writing workshop with Shannon Gibney in partnership with the Loft Literary Center in concert with the exhibit, *Girlhood (It's complicated)*.
- Held the event, *Women Unite the Cities* in partnership with Twin Cities in Motion with speakers Verna Volker and Carrie Tollefson highlighting Native women runners.
- Held a film screening of *KINTSUKUROI* for the Day of Remembrance (in commemoration of Japanese American WWII history) in partnership with the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League (TCJACL).
- Developed history display panels about the WWII Japanese Language School at Fort Snelling in partnership with the History Theatre and the TCJACL for the theatrical production, *Secret Warriors*.
- Development of project, *Legendary Pathmakers: A salute to the foragers of the Black Arts Movement in Minnesota*—a film series in partnership with interdisciplinary artist and educator PaviElle French.

### **Honoring Black & Native History, \$20,000**

In partnership with the Irreducible Grace Foundation, the goal of the Hall of Ancestors Project Part Two is multi-leveled:

- To integrate the Hall of Ancestors film into the daily offerings at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center,
- To preserve and share the cultural history of the site,
- To restore the heritage of Native American Murals,
- To provide educational, and multimedia initiatives through interaction of story telling and visual elements of the Hall of Ancestors.

### **Pedacito de Tierra, \$23,000**

Partnered with José Antonio Zayas Cabán on the storytelling project "Pedacito de Tierra: A Story of the Puerto Rican Diaspora in the Twin Cities," which included the completion of an oral history project with local Puerto Ricans living in Minnesota, to be featured in the forthcoming January 2025 world concert premiere at the Minnesota History Center and to be archived in MNHS Collections.

**Southeast Asian 50th Anniversary Commemoration, \$61,951**

To commemorate 50 years of Southeast Asians in Minnesota, the following organizations received Partnership Legacy funds:

- United Senior Lao American Association, Elk River - To host presentations from historians and members of the community to share with the public.
- MN8, St. Paul - To hold a narrative and storytelling series that will share knowledge from Cambodian community elders.

**SGU Hmong 50th Commemoration, \$70,000**

The Special Guerilla Units Veterans and Families of USA, Inc. received a Legacy Partnership to hold a commemoration to hear stories of Hmong veterans and record and share those stories with the general public.

**50 years of Hmong Americans in Minnesota, \$60,185**

These funds were used for the formation of the Hmong Advisory Task Force to develop programming in commemoration of 50 years of the Hmong community in Minnesota. Highlights include gathering input from 300+ community members at the Hmong New Year celebration to inform decisions for commemorative programs and holding the Hmong 50th commemoration launch event at the Minnesota History Center in partnership with the task force and 30+ community stakeholders.

**Heritage Studies & Public History Graduate Program, \$60,365**

Launched in fall 2017, the Heritage Studies and Public History graduate program is a partnership between MNHS and the University of Minnesota. This program takes advantage of the Minnesota Historical Society's extensive resources and expertise to offer unparalleled training in the theory and methods of heritage and public history studies at the graduate level. This two-year program offers a master's degree in one of three cultural heritage tracks: historical archaeology, historic preservation, and public history. Students in the program gain technical knowledge about the field while also learning how to address issues of inclusion and equity within the practice. Through a number of field experiences, students also learn to work collaboratively with community agencies and organizations to enhance historical narratives or develop cultural resources that ensure more equitable practices. In FY25, there were 17 Heritage Studies internships, totaling 2,809 hours.

**North Star Story Map, \$47,934**

The North Star Story Map, created in collaboration with AIA-Minnesota, is a living collection of people's stories of the buildings in Minnesota that hold meaning for them. The project is both an interactive website and a broader effort that has been incorporated into exhibits, fairs, walking tours, and more, in partnership with entities across the state. The hope is that the story map will redefine what we consider the most "significant" buildings in the state, foster a sense of agency and connection between people and their built environment, and connect people from various walks of life throughout the state through reading others' stories.

**Winona Dakota Advisory Council, \$11,136**

In FY25, the MNHS Research Department collaborated with the Lower Sioux Indian Community, the Prairie Island Indian Community, and the Winona County Historical Society on a mutual oral history project and the creation of a Dakota advisory council. The purpose of the advisory council was to help direct the oral history project and guide WCHS efforts to launch a new initiative to interpret the history of the Dakota people in southern Minnesota. This work was directed by Dr. Erich Lippman, a MNHS staff historian and Gale Scholar (whose position, in turn, was funded by the Gale Family Endowment to the Minnesota Historical Society) and advised by Dr. William Convery, the MNHS Director of Research, as well as Carrie Johnson, Director of the Winona County Historical Society and Tribal Historic Preservation staff from the Lower Sioux and Prairie Island Indian Communities. Under Dr. Lippman's direction, Legacy funding provided financial support in the form of honoraria for twelve Dakota scholars, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and Community Members to serve on the advisory council. The funds also provided oral history stipends for 20 Dakota elders at the Lower Sioux Indian Community and the Prairie Island Indian Community, as well as travel support for MNHS and Winona County Historical Society staff. Using the work conducted with this partnership grant, the Winona County Historical Society will continue to develop an exhibit and other interpretive material in collaboration with Dakota partners.

## HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANTS

### **“Unity Through Culture lens: Celebrating Laotian, Vietnamese, and Chinese Traditions Arts Dances in Minnesota,” \$36,000**

*Partners: Lao Culture Dance Fashion MN, Vietnamese Community of Minnesota (VCM), and Chinese Community Center (CCC)*

This grant establishes a first-time partnership to preserve and document traditional Southeast Asian performing arts for future generations. Each organization contributes cultural performances. Lao Culture Dance Fashion MN performing mixed ethnic Lao traditional dance and Lam Mahasay dance, VCM showcases lion dance, and CCC presenting classical Chinese dances blending opera and martial arts elements. The lead partner coordinates the project, manages documentation through video recording and online platforms (YouTube, websites, social media), and oversees training programs, including 18 dancers practicing 23 hours monthly.

The program focuses on comprehensive preservation through filming training sessions, rehearsals, performances, and interviews to create a lasting historical archive accessible to Minnesotans and global audiences. The partnership aims to build sustained collaboration among Southeast Asian cultural organizations, develop digital resource libraries, expand educational outreach to schools and museums, and engage youth to ensure cultural continuity. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

### **Partnership between the Winona County Historical Society (WCHS) and Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC), \$98,512**

*Partners: Winona County Historical Society (WCHS), Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC)*

The partnership between Winona County Historical Society (WCHS) and the Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC) developed from WCHS's recognition of the need to correct inappropriate and racist representations of Dakota history. In 2024, the Native Advisory Council (NAC) was formed to guide Dakota history representation in Winona County, fostering a developing partnership. The council's goals focus on building long-term relationships and overhauling WCHS's indigenous research through a native-led approach.

The partnership aims to implement a native-led process for reinterpreting Dakota history throughout Winona County, develop oral history training programs for indigenous communities, and create native-authorized research archives. WCHS will provide oral history expertise while taking responsibility for historical misrepresentations through repatriation and

reinterpretation of settler narratives. This collaboration strengthens the partners by providing authentic historical representation, professional training for tribal members to document their own histories, and creating research resources that benefit both indigenous and surrounding communities. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026.

### **Legacy Builders: History Through Gaming and Storytelling, \$42,340**

*Partners: Victoria Theater Arts Center (DBA 825 Arts), African American Registry*

The Legacy Builders project is a collaboration between 825 Arts (Victoria Theater Arts Center) and African American Registry (AAR) to document and preserve the history of the Rondo and Frogtown neighborhoods. The lead partner will oversee project management, train youth in interview techniques, and supervise the creation of historical Minecraft models. AAR, which preserves African American history through storytelling, will handle video production, connect the project with community elders, and host the digital assets in their database.

The project aims to create three professionally filmed videos capturing elder oral histories, document the process of citizen historians gathering stories, and develop interactive Minecraft models of historic structures. Youth participants will be trained in research methods and interview techniques while elders share personal stories for posterity. These videos are intended to be educational tools for schools and community groups. The archives will be accessible through both organizations, preserving the histories of Rondo and Frogtown while modeling how other communities could document their own heritage. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

### **Interpretive Plan Regarding Dance Halls in Southwest Minnesota, \$35,000**

*Partners: Cottonwood County Historical Society, Jackson County Historical Society, Murray County Historical Society, Nobles County Historical Society, Pipestone County Historical Society, Rock County Historical Society*

The Southwest Six History Alliance, comprising county historical societies from Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock Counties, has partnered to create a regional Interpretive Plan focusing on the shared history of local dance halls. Originally formed as a StEPs program workgroup, the cohort has identified the dance hall theme as ideal for transcending county borders while preserving their collective cultural heritage. The partnership aims to transform separate county narratives into a unified regional story. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

The project will follow National Association for Interpretation standards through four phases: Project Structure, Interpretive Framework, Gathering & Documenting, and Interpretive Planning. Museum Directors will work with a contractor to establish project coordination, develop main themes, conduct comprehensive research at each historical society (including books, newspapers, archives, and stakeholder interviews), and integrate findings into a cohesive interpretive framework. This collaborative approach will help the alliance identify effective circulation methods for sharing this historically significant regional narrative. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

#### **Community Media Preservation Strategies and Archiving Workshops, \$69,310**

*Partners: Twin Cities Cable Arts Consortium (DBA Minnesota Media Arts), Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN)*

The partners will preserve and enhance access to legacy community media content across Minnesota. The collaboration was formed to address the urgent need for standardized archiving processes as community media organizations transition to digital platforms, preventing the loss of irreplaceable cultural and historical stories that are on magnetic tapes.

The program aims to digitize and preserve community media collections, through hands-on workshops and online training, and develop a demonstration Mobile Archiving Workstation. By teaching best practices for digital preservation, metadata creation, and cataloging, the initiative will make Minnesota's diverse cultural heritage accessible to future generations while strengthening both organizations' capacities to serve local media makers and cultural institutions. This partnership creates a scalable model that addresses critical preservation challenges faced by community media organizations across the state. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

#### **Black Heritage Trail - Phase 2: Design Development, \$92,950**

*Partners: Building Remembrance for Reconciliation (BR4R), Dakota County Historical Society*

The partnership between Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) and Building Remembrance for Reconciliation (BR4R) will advance the Hastings Black Heritage Trail from concept to interpretive design. Building on their 2018 collaboration and the completion of Phase #1 (concept planning), the two organizations continue their shared goal of recognizing Hastings' African American history and to preserve the history of Hastings' Black community from 1857-1954.

The grant will hire the contractor to develop the interpretive design phase, expand a DCHS staff member to full-time for research, reconvene the stakeholder group for input, and create a final design that includes a complete style guide, heritage trail locations with panels, and draft interpretive text. The partnership ensures equal voice for both organizations, allowing BR4R volunteers to learn DCHS's project management processes while DCHS benefits from community grassroots perspective, ultimately creating a cohesive trail that educates the public about Dakota County's African American history. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026

#### **50 Years - The Diasporic Journey of Southeast Asians in Minnesota, \$58,500**

*Partners: The SEAD (Southeast Asian Diaspora) Project, University of Minnesota Department of Communications Studies, Immigration History Research Center (IHRC)*

In light of the 50th anniversary of significant Southeast Asian immigration to the US, and Minnesota in particular, that began at the end of the Vietnam War, primarily composed of US allies in the region and their families, the partners will capture stories reflective of multiple Southeast Asian community experiences since migration over the ensuing 50 years. The initiative aims to preserve first-person narratives from SEA communities in Minnesota through four storytelling sessions, which will be transcribed, translated into four heritage languages, and compiled into the Digital Storytelling Archives using ArcGIS StoryMaps. This digital platform will feature interactive stories, maps, images, and videos alongside a historically accurate timeline of the SEA diaspora's journey to Minnesota, creating an accessible public resource that documents 50 years of migration experiences while contributing to Minnesota's cultural landscape. Scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2026



## REPORT OF OTHER STATEWIDE INITIATIVES



In addition to grants, programs, and partnerships, the Minnesota Legislature has appropriated funding from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to support initiatives for history, including the Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites, and Minnesota Digital Library. These initiatives support statewide efforts to preserve and share history for future generations.

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**Above:** Padden, Virginia. 1974-03-22. "Women looking at record albums in Brooklyn Center Library, Hennepin County, Minnesota." Hennepin County Department of Public Affairs, Accessed November 19, 2025.

## STATEWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES



The Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites provides opportunities to expand understanding of these sites statewide. Projects are defined by an oversight board and are conducted through competitive-bid contracts. So far three major topics have been addressed by the survey: identification and protection of sensitive historic and archaeological resources; geographic surveys of poorly known areas of Minnesota; and thematic studies of poorly understood historic contexts. To date more than 30 projects have been conducted, which have expanded the number of documented historic and archaeological sites in Minnesota, increased our understanding of where such sites are likely to be located, and illuminated cultural traditions, lifeways, and technologies dating to the earliest human occupations of the state.

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**Appropriations Language-Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites:** \$375,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for one or more contracts to be competitively awarded to conduct statewide surveys or investigations of Minnesota's sites of historical, archeological, and cultural significance. Results of the surveys or investigations must be published in a searchable form and available to the public cost free. The Minnesota Historical Society, the Office of the State Archeologist, the Indian Affairs Council, and the State Historic Preservation Office must each appoint a representative to an oversight board to select contractors and direct the conduct of the surveys or investigations. The oversight board must consult with the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources.

**Above:** An archaeologist is interviewed about the State Capitol Mall Historic District project.

### **An Archaeological Survey of Mower County, Minnesota**

A survey of Mower County in southeastern Minnesota has been completed as a location that is generally poorly understood archaeologically. The county has only a modest number of confirmed precontact archaeological sites, and no recorded Contact Period sites. Additionally, Mower County is important as it is at the very southwestern edge of southeast riverine archaeological region, it has the headwaters of four major rivers with connection only to the south and east, and has had relatively few archaeological surveys. No precontact archaeological sites have ever been professionally excavated, although the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry has been subjected to several detailed surface examinations and Lidar analysis.

### **The Archaic Tradition of Central Minnesota**

This project is a study of the Archaic archaeological temporal period or tradition in central Minnesota (ca.7500 – 500 BCE). In many ways, the Archaic period is the least known precontact, ancestral Native American period in the state, yet is the longest temporal period, accounting for half the known precontact period. The Archaic in Minnesota is usually defined by the lack of certain artifacts and traits that typify the preceding and subsequent periods. It does not have the lanceolate projectile points or the megafauna of the Paleoindian temporal period and lacks the ceramics and burial mounds of the Woodland period. It is the period before the bow and arrow and before the intensive use of wild rice and cultigens. During the Archaic period, archaeologists do not know if there are significant changes in subsistence-settlement patterns, demographics, social, economic and political relationships, and religious practices, although archaeologists have documented periods of dramatic environmental and technological change. Formal ground-stone tools and copper tools are two Archaic innovations, as may be the domestication of the dog. The environment in central Minnesota during the Archaic Period includes the peak of post-glacial warming and drying causing the widespread replacement of trees with prairie, as well as the later onset of cooler and wetter climate resulting in the establishment of the biotic provinces encountered by Euro-Americans.

### **Minnesota State Capitol Area, Part 2: Intensive Survey and Evaluation for the Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District**

This project is a study to identify, investigate, and evaluate contributing elements of the proposed Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District that will include four National Register property types: buildings, structures, sites (archaeological and other), and objects. The proposed Historic District was initially identified in 1995. As envisioned at that time, the district included seven buildings, the mall itself, and nine sculptures located on the mall. In 2008, the boundaries of the proposed district were expanded to include approaches to the mall area. Since that time, numerous changes to the area have occurred, and more resources have been recognized. These previous studies concluded that the historic district was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development through the transformation from Saint Paul neighborhoods to the Capitol and eventually the Capitol Mall, and under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for the engineering and construction of the Capitol itself.

Through interdisciplinary identification of contributing elements, this investigation and evaluation sought to identify all possible criteria (A, B, C, and/or D) and areas of significance for the Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District, and determined the most appropriate boundary and period of significance. Evaluation of the Capitol Mall Historic District, and those resources within as elements of the district, provided important information to support the work of the City of Saint Paul, the surrounding neighborhoods, the State of Minnesota – Department of Administration, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, and others. Archaeological investigations within the proposed historic district demonstrated the presence of significant sites related to the urban life of Saint Paul in the nineteenth century, including archaeology related to immigrant communities and historic neighborhoods, as well as buried remnants of former mansions on Capitol Heights. This study determined that the proposed Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District is also eligible under Criterion D for archaeological information potential.

## MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) supports the discovery, use, and preservation of the rich historical resources of the state's libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other cultural heritage organizations through digitization and online access. In FY25, MDL continued to work with many new and returning partners, each contributing primary source materials to the MDL's searchable portal at [mndigital.org](http://mndigital.org). This portal offers access to more than 330,000 photos, maps, documents, and more. Over 281,000 people visited the MDL website this past year, with many thousands more engaging through other online channels. Additional MDL work focused on outreach to local history organizations through both in-person and virtual education and training. MDL continued to add to its digital storytelling efforts, adding three primary source sets, four exhibits and a new story map. The Scan for Keeps scanner lending program was popular again this year, with eight organizations statewide including public and academic libraries, community heritage organizations, and county historical societies borrowing free scanning kits for in-house use and local events.



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**Appropriations Language—Minnesota Digital Library:** \$375,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for a digital library project to preserve, digitize, and share Minnesota images, documents, and historical materials. The Minnesota Historical Society must cooperate with the Minitex interlibrary loan system and must jointly share this appropriation for these purposes.

**Above:** "Schoolhouse, Delano, Minnesota." Wright County Historical Society, Accessed November 19, 2025.





**Above (top to bottom):** 1894 - 1957. "Mill Creek School, District 123, Chatham Township, Minnesota." Wright County Historical Society, Accessed November 19, 2025.

"Hmong Cultural Center, New Year blessing with Shaman, St. Paul, Minnesota." Hmong Cultural Center, Accessed November 19, 2025.



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