MNHS ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023

252 prisms of light. 7,000 pounds of majestic beauty. A year-round engagement with history-MNHS sites are cultivating curiosity across our state. Our network of sites saw more than 675,000 VISITORS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, an increase of 46% over the previous year.

That’s just the beginning of the impact we’re making at the Minnesota Historical Society. Read on to learn how our mission is being carried out through our books, our online presence, our programming, our collections, and more!

"Visitors to our sites are experiencing historic adventures as they gain a deeper understanding of our state’s history. But it doesn’t stop there. We are transforming access for Minnesotans—providing new ways to engage with history from beyond the borders of our existing properties."

Kent Whitworth, Director and CEO
Minnesota Historical Society

738,389
PAGES ADDED TO THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER HUB
5.5+ MILLION
PAGES NOW AVAILABLE

4.5 MILLION VISITS TO MHNS.ORG
2.5 MILLION
INTERACTIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded a 2023 Award of Excellence to MNHS and Twin Cities Pride for our joint project: TWIN CITIES LGBTQ+ HISTORY TOURS. The project inspired the Going Out, Coming In exhibit at Mill City Museum.

The Dr. Dash Foundation Rotunda is the first space at the MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER named in recognition of an organization chaired and founded by a person of color.

The Alexander Ramsey House prepared to welcome the public for the first time in three years.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EXHIBITION brought detectives from around the world to the Minnesota History Center. Thousands of guests from 36 states, 19 countries, and six different continents attended during the exhibit’s six-month run from October 2022 to April 2023. Visitors learned how to participate in a process that’s very similar to the study of history—gathering and analyzing evidence, thinking critically about the world, evaluating many different perspectives, and figuring out how past events affect the present day.

The Minnesota History Center welcomes four new draft horses, the new programming that’s drawing in crowds to meet them.

History fans are now able to explore HISTORIC FORT SNELLING in the winter! The Plank Museum & Visitor Center is open year-round.

In partnership with the Lower Sioux Indian Community, an extensive effort to update the interpretive signs at the LOWER SIOUX AGENCY historic site is underway.

A replica of the Third Order Fresnel Lens that sits atop the lighthouse is the centerpiece of a new exhibit at SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE, the site’s most extensive programmatic update in a generation.

View Full Report Online:
mnhs.info/arfy23

PHOTO BY TONY WEBSTER
$6 million provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for 161 Legacy Grants

17,000 students at 150 schools participated in National History Day in Minnesota in 2023. The theme was Frontiers in History: Places, ideas.

122,000 print and e-books sold
Second record-breaking year in a row for sales of MNHS Press books!

18,245 Member Households
A more than 8% increase over FY22

295 North Star Circle Members

104 Legacy Society Members

$27M received in gifts and pledges

True North Cabin Cookbook was featured as one of the 12 Best Cookbooks for Every Type of Home Chef by the Wall Street Journal when Minnehaha Followed with Whiskey won the 2023 Minnesota Book Award in the Minnesota Nonfiction Category. Seven of the top ten best-selling print books were by Indigenous authors, including three children’s picture books.

More than 435,000 unique users visited 683,000 pages on MNopedia in FY23. The most-read entry of the year was on the American Indian Movement which logged nearly 1,300 pageviews.

Preservation of the Pavilion in Gaylord Oaks Lakeside provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for statewide historic destinations. State support includes funding from the state’s General Fund, Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) for statewide history and grant programs, and capital funding to preserve historic structures.

Minnesota Historical Society Summary Financials
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Statement of Activities ($ in Millions)

Support
MN State Appropriations $ 10

Contributions & Memberships 27

Total Support 37

Revenue
Earned Revenue 11

Investment Return 16

Total Support & Revenue 68

Total Support, Revenue & Investment 102

Balance Sheet ($ in Millions)

Assets
Cash $ 11

Investments 115

Property & Equipment (Net) 115

Other Assets 12

Total Assets $ 352

Liabilities & Net Assets
Liabilities $ 10

Net Assets 342

Total Liabilities & Net Assets $ 352

Expenses
Sites & Museums $ 20

Library & Collections 10

Education & Outreach 9

Heritage Preservation 52

Program Expenses 22

Management & General 12

Development & Membership 2

Other Nonoperating Activities 1

Total Admin Expenses 15

Total Expenses $ 67

Change in Net Assets $ 35

Expenses by Category

Sites & Museums 56%

Library & Collections 16%

Heritage Preservation 16%

Education & Outreach 20%

Management & General 8%

Development & Memberhship 3%

Other Nonoperating Activities 2%
The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following donors in our North Star Circle for their leadership support from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The commitment and generosity of our North Star Circle members sustains our work to serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

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