



MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

VOLUNTEER & INTERN ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020



Nearly 2,000 volunteers and interns contributed more than 48,000 hours despite MNHS historic sites and museums being closed for part of the year due to COVID-19.

USING THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

EFFICIENCY

Getting more done

EFFECTIVENESS

Achieving desired results

ENGAGEMENT

Making MNHS a great place to volunteer and intern

The Volunteers & Interns Program and the Department of Inclusion and Community Engagement worked together to offer internships to students from all communities, through fellows, the Heritage Studies and Public History Program, college, and high school intern programs.

"I enjoy contributing to the MNHS mission and the broader societal goals of preserving historic sites and educating the public about past lives and events."

— Volunteer

HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

1,986 volunteers, interns, and fellows
48,002 hours

VOLUNTEERS

1,864 volunteers
30,098 hours

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS

21 high school interns
861 hours

COLLEGE INTERNS

55 college interns
9,058 hours

FELLOWS

25 fellows
2,582 hours

HERITAGE STUDIES AND PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM

21 Heritage Studies Program interns
5,403 hours





"MNHS is grateful for the significant findings volunteers have documented and the research and recommendations they continue to donate. We are so thankful to have them as part of our team!"

— MNHS employee

VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Volunteers re-housed 137 boxes containing more than 13,000 files from the Ramsey County District Court criminal cases dated 1858-1930 in archival quality folders, prolonging preservation.
- Eighty-eight volunteers assisted with more than 172 events at MNHS historic sites and museums, supporting various events and activities.
- Volunteers with National History Day in Minnesota filled 1,065 shifts, contributing more than 5,775 hours helping to enrich students' experiences.
- Eleven volunteers spent more than 700 hours engaging visitors within the *First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota's Mainroom* exhibit.

INTERN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- An intern at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul cataloged and inventoried more than 222 unique items, adding descriptions, quantities, and location information to aid in future research.
- An intern wrote articles for *Minnesota Good Age* magazine on history topics such as the legacy of environmentalist Sigurd Olson.
- Heritage Studies and Public History Program graduate students worked on projects related to museum access, community engagement, digital archives, and tribal self-governance.
- The summer intern at the Charles Lindbergh House and Museum in Little Falls created a compendium on Lindbergh's conservation and environmental efforts in the 1960s and '70s.

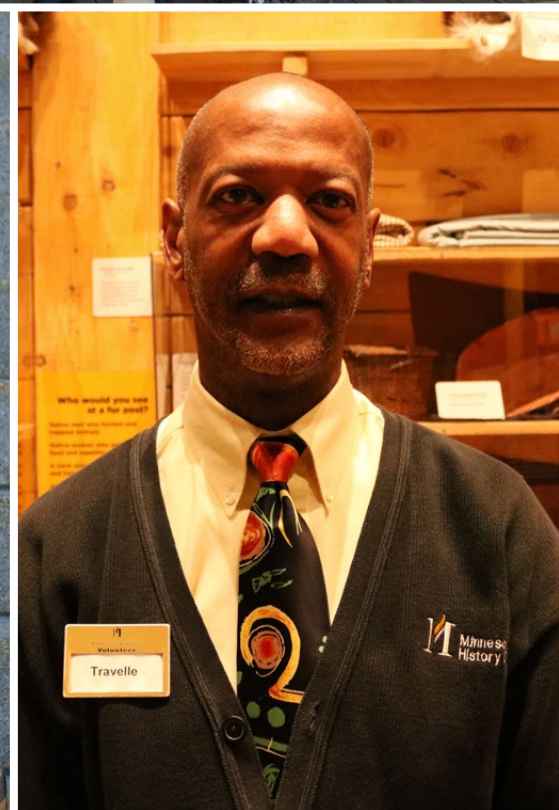
"In school, we learn about American history, but not how individuals felt about what was going on in the world. Hearing their stories was inspiring."

— Intern

MNHS IS CERTIFIED AS A SERVICE ENTERPRISE

The MNHS volunteer program is recognized by the affiliate Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA) and the National Points of Light Foundation for meeting rigorous standards. MNHS was the first historical society in the country to be certified. This is the gold standard in volunteerism.





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Using the Power of History to Transform Lives
PRESERVING • SHARING • CONNECTING