A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

This year we opened the History Center’s first permanent exhibit devoted to Native American content, Minnesota students earned a whopping 10 medals at National History Day, and MNHS Press exceeded its sales goal by double digits—no small feat in an otherwise devastating year marked by COVID-19, the forced closure of MNHS historic sites and museums, extensive layoffs of MNHS staff, and the murder of George Floyd, which galvanized local and international protests against police brutality and institutional racism.

On March 12, we made our first big announcement related to COVID-19—National History Day in Minnesota competitions would move online. The next day we announced the closure of all MNHS historic sites and museums. Over the next few months, the resulting strain on the operating budget forced the difficult decision to furlough 63% of our workforce and later lay off 216 employees, or 36% of our staff.

This year MNHS announced the appointment of Avi Viswanathan as the new director of the Department of Inclusion and Community Engagement and Briana Joyner as the new chief inclusion officer. Kate Beane took over as director of Native American Initiatives, helping MNHS build stronger relationships with Indigenous peoples across Minnesota and beyond. With these changes, along with a new Equity & Inclusion Council, MNHS is better positioned to ensure that equity work and deep intercultural competence is shared across the organization so that we can strengthen our relationships with all communities.

"THANK YOU for the communication and for giving these students a chance to show all of the work that they have done this year!! This is the ONE thing still on my daughter’s ‘calendar’ and I’m just excited that she can still participate in this event!!"

—History Day parent

Left: Micco Sampson performs a hoop dance at the Our Home: Native Minnesota exhibit opening

Front cover: Photo of Split Rock Lighthouse, courtesy Nathan Klok Photography
On May 25, the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis sent shock waves across the globe. MNHS responded by listening to the needs of community members who were, and still are, hurting. We shared historical resources to help Minnesotans understand how we got to where we are today and to help people build bridges that let us cross the divide that separates us. Moving forward, MNHS will continue to engage with Minnesota’s Black communities to build a shared understanding about how to best document this tragic event.

Through the hardship and grief of the past several months, MNHS has offered moments of inspiration. Staff have developed new ways for people to engage with history in this historic time: lighting the Split Rock Lighthouse beacon on April 10 as a show of solidarity and hope during the pandemic; sharing online resources under the “History at Home” title; launching a new effort to document our experiences called “History is Now;” and creating virtual programs like the “Week of Remembrance,” marking 100 years since the lynchings of three black men—Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie—by a white mob in Duluth.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, there were important accomplishments during the year. In December, we opened Our Home: Native Minnesota, the first permanent exhibit at the History Center devoted exclusively to Native American content. Led by a team of Native exhibit developers, curators, and outreach staff, the exhibit shares the stories of Native Americans—Dakota, Ojibwe, as well as people from other tribal nations—and their enduring presence and deep connection to the land.

Last fall, at the direction of an MNHS Executive Council-appointed task force, MNHS launched a statewide effort to gather public input on Historic Fort Snelling, including a possible name change, in light of the ongoing revitalization and expanded stories being shared at the site. The task force prepared a report on the public input process and shared it with the Executive Council’s programs committee in the spring. The next step is for the Executive Council to consider what action it might take. If it decides to recommend a name change we would then share that with the Minnesota Legislature for consideration and approval.
In June, construction got underway for the multimillion dollar revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling. Work began with the demolition and removal of the old visitor center and preparations for the renovation of Building 18 into the new visitor center.

Other capital projects included fire and safety updates to the James J. Hill House, HVAC replacement at the Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, work to add ADA-compliant restrooms at the History Center, and interior and exterior design and construction projects at Historic Forestville, Mille Lacs Indian Museum, and the Folsom House.

These projects and the ongoing maintenance of the state’s network of historic sites and museums represent enormous fixed costs that cannot be decreased in times of financial downturn.

MNHS is especially grateful this year for the many ways it receives support, including from the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, both of which support Native American history, art, and education; and from our many donors including Robert Byrd, Betty and Whitney MacMillan, the Rosen Family Foundation, and the Thomas and Julianne Youngren Family Foundation.

The legislature did not pass a bonding bill in fiscal year 2020, but did provide additional flexibility for Legacy Amendment expenditures due to challenges resulting from the pandemic. The Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund supports statewide programs that preserve and share Minnesota history.

We also received support from people like you, individuals who value history and want to make a difference. We are grateful our membership numbers have remained strong despite the pandemic. MNHS also relies on revenue from attendance, events, and facility rentals.

As the new fiscal year began, MNHS was able to reopen Jeffers Petroglyphs, Lower Sioux Agency, Minnesota History Center, Oliver Kelley Farm, Split Rock Lighthouse, and the Trading Post at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, but we are treading carefully.

Robert Byrd was an award-winning documentary filmmaker and a program director at the Jerome Foundation. MNHS has a number of Byrd’s films in its collections, including: Questions of Racism, Diary: Native American Minnesotans, and A Red Star in Minnesota. He graciously donated art by Julie Buffalohead to MNHS.

“The guides were very involved and showed their enthusiasm for the site. That made it really special.”
— Jeffers Petroglyphs visitor

With uncertain financial and health concerns we made the decision to delay the opening of our remaining sites until 2021 at the earliest.

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of the people of Minnesota. We are thankful for our visitors, legislators, members, donors, interns, volunteers, governing board, and staff, past and present.

David Hakensen, president
Kent Whitworth, director and CEO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY20 HIGHLIGHTS</th>
<th>BY THE NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>633,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trip visitors</td>
<td>92,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member households</td>
<td>19,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagements with MNHS social media</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People visited our website, MNHS.org, 4.3 million times</td>
<td>2.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers and interns contributed more than 48,000 hours</td>
<td>Nearly 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print and ebooks sold, which beat our sales goal by 13%</td>
<td>112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique users viewed 859,238 pages on MNopedia</td>
<td>397,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items added to the collection</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages now available on the Digital Newspaper Hub</td>
<td>3.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota students earned medals at the first-ever online National History Day competition</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund</td>
<td>$6.3 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

110 newly digitized family photo albums
Santa suit worn by Leo Treadway who performed as St. Nick for 30 years
Flight goggles owned by Charles Lindbergh
Archives from the Warner Nature Center, which closed its doors in 2019 after 50 years
Love letters by Robert and Marion Thorstensen, who wrote nearly every day during World War II
A mask from artist Maggie Thompson’s Ribbon Mask Project for frontline workers
Uniform worn by Kirby Puckett when the Twins won the World Series in 1991
Humanize My Hoodie sweatshirt, a slogan coined by Hamline University professor Jason Sole
“Essential Worker Portrait #1 - Grocery Cashier and Bagger,” pastel by Carolyn Sue Olson
Archives of artist Mike Lynch, including his journals, sketches, paintings, and more
HISTORY CENTER
EXHIBITS
First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota’s Mainroom
Prince: Before the Rain
#MeToo in the Irvine Community Gallery
Our Home: Native Minnesota

MNHS PRESS
AWARD WINNERS
A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota
Edited by Sun Yung Shin
Bowwow Powwow
by Brenda Child and illustrated by Jonathan Thunder
Slavery’s Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State
by Christopher P. Lehman
My Mighty Journey: A Waterfall’s Story
by John Coy and illustrated by Gaylord Schanilec

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY
MEDALISTS
Thanhtruc Mai, Columbia Academy, Columbia Heights
Jack Randolph and Jackson Nguyen
Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis
Natalie Miller, East High School, Duluth
Julianna Velgersdyk, Avail Academy, Edina
Lilly Smith and Sarah Ragoonan
Folwell Performing Arts Magnet School, Minneapolis
Annika Hellmark, Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake
Aiko Mattie and Emma McCarthy
Open World Learning Community, St. Paul

Right: Our Home: Native Minnesota exhibit
2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
As a nonprofit organization, we serve the people of Minnesota. Our annual budget of $57.5 million comes from three sources that work together to bring the public vibrant, crucial programs, and services: private funding, earned revenue, and public funding, including significant funding from the State of Minnesota.

Public funds, including funding from the state’s general fund, provide a foundation of support and enable us to leverage non-public funds to create a nationally recognized history program. Typically, two-thirds of our operating funds come from the State of Minnesota. We deliver functions designated by law, such as preserving historic landmarks and resources, managing critical records and collections, and operating cultural destinations important to tourism. State support also includes capital funding to preserve historic buildings and construct new ones, as well as Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) support for new, statewide history programs, including grants for local history organizations.

The Minnesota Historical Society also receives support from donors and members. Their gifts support everything from general operations and school field trips to important acquisitions, conservation work, and community outreach. Endowment funds give MNHS strength for today and tomorrow. Finally, earned revenue from rental events, museum stores, admission fees, publication sales, and many other activities also provide a base of funding while keeping history accessible and at family-friendly prices.

During fiscal year 2020, COVID-19 forced the closure of MNHS historic sites and museums through the fourth quarter, which resulted in a $3 million reduction in earned revenue. To address this, MNHS furloughed roughly half of its staff, used reserves, and relied on state appropriations and non-state restricted funds to support reduced operations.

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA
- Library and collections 17%
- Historic sites and museums 28%
- Edu., outreach & content dev. 20%
- Heritage preservation 15%
- Management and general 19%
- Development and membership 3%

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE
- Private contributions 10%
- Federal grants 2%
- State operating appropriation 39%
- State legacy appropriation 25%
- Earned income 16%
- Investment return 8%

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET
As of June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>Plant Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and investments $12,829</td>
<td>7,474</td>
<td>1,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves            2,742</td>
<td>55,202</td>
<td>1,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum shop inventories 1,075</td>
<td>4,878</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment net 90,596</td>
<td>7,347</td>
<td>34,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets        $16,446</td>
<td>90,596</td>
<td>7,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities   12,148</td>
<td>90,596</td>
<td>7,347</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUPPORT:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private contributions</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>1,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal grants</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County and other grants</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State operating appropriation</td>
<td>22,647</td>
<td>22,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State legacy appropriation</td>
<td>14,798</td>
<td>14,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State legacy appropriation return</td>
<td>(201)</td>
<td>(201)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total support        26,726</td>
<td>14,597</td>
<td>2,254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REVENUE:
- Admission fees 2,001
- Museum store sales 1,834
- Publication sales 1,388
- Program fees 768
- Contract service fees 1,484
- Library sales and fees 224
- Investment return 1,633
- Endowment payout 1,029
- Change in value of split-interest agreements 24
- Rental, parking, food services 892
- Other sales, fees, and memberships 791
- Total revenue 11,988

Total support revenue 38,714

Net assets released from program restrictions 57,462

EXPENSES:
- Program services:
  - Library and collections 9,420
  - Historic sites and museums 14,391
  - Education, outreach, and content development 11,212
  - Heritage preservation 7,472
  - Total program services 42,495

- Supporting services:
  - Management and general 10,823
  - Development and membership 1,902
  - Total supporting services 12,725
  - Total expenses 55,220

Net assets at beginning of year 9,906

Net assets at end of year 12,148

These statements are condensed from MNHS’s audited financial statements available at www.mnhs.org/reports.
HELP HISTORY CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU!

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the donors who provided matching grants for the launch of our Help History Campaign in June 2020.

The Help History campaign was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the funds will help MNHS engage the issues of today, bridge a growing funding gap, and help to continue to safely reopen our sites to the public.

Help History Campaign gifts are doubled, thanks to a $325,000 matching grant generously funded by the MNHS Executive Council, the Rosemary and David Good Family Foundation, the Marjou Fund – Nora McNeely Hurley and Michael Hurley, the Thomas & Julianne Youngren Foundation, and two anonymous donors.

We still need your help! If you would like to donate to Help History, please visit mnhs.org/helphistory.

THANK YOU!

Tom and Julianne Youngren’s commitment to Minnesota history has deepened over the past decade and strengthened MNHS’s ability to deliver high-quality programs and services. We thank them for the many ways they continue to demonstrate history matters!

NORTH STAR CIRCLE

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following donors in our North Star Circle for their leadership support from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The commitment and generosity of our North Star Circle members sustains our work to transform lives through the power of history and maintains the excellence of our ongoing programs, sites, and services.

DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE

$50,000+

Betty and Whitney* MacMillan* "Tom and Julianne Youngren"

GUARANTOR

$32,000 - $49,999

Suzanne Blue
Kathy and Jim Cargill
Mark and Mary Davis*
Nora McNeely Hurley and Michael Hurley
John and Ruth Huss*
Art Kramer*
Barbara G. Koch*
Stephen Nelson*
"Tom and Julianne Youngren"
Karlin Rosen*
Reid Rosen*
Wade Rosen* 

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Fred and Winston

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$2,500 - $4,999

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Joel and Elizabeth Sullivan
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Marian Elizabeth Glaw  
Glenna and James Goldmann  
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Curis and Brinna Helmer  
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Jennifer A. Jones  
Kathleen Jones  
Karen Kaczor  
Phyllis Kuhn  
Margaret V. Kinney  
Anders and Sally Knutzen  
Jeffery and Gretchen Chasely Lang  
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McCrea  
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Beth Naughton  
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Karen Nelson  
Marybeth Nelson  
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Todd and Martha Nicholson  
David and Billie Novy  
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Ben and Debbrn Vander Kooi  
Rebecca and Jim Vanderinde  
Joanne Von Blon**  
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Nancy and Ted Weyerhaeuser  
Kart and Sarah Whittworth  
Arb and Emily Williamson  
Philip Jefffaffinger Willis  
Merideth and Martha Wood  
Robert J. Wood MD  
Warren and Margaret Zaccaro**  
Edward J. Zapp*  
Charles and Julie Zelle

** Charter Member  ** Matching Gift  * Honorary  ** Deceased
MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

 Gifts were received in honor of the following individuals.

MEMORIALS

Lyle A. Affeldt
John Louis Anderson
Kathleen Anderson
Elizabeth Bancroft Cammack
Cliff Benison
Alexandra O. Bjorklund
Duane Blomberg
Karen Bloomer
Kurt Bluedog
Joseph H. Schwartz
Ann Schwind
Karen S. Smith
Robert Weyerhaeuser

TRIBUTES

Patrick Colema
Elk River HS Class of 1954

Right: Elsa Carlson (11th grade) from Open World Learning Community School in St. Paul earned first place at the National History Day virtual contest for her project on Shirley Chisholm. Before the national contest, Elsa received her medal from the state competition, a yard sign, and a bag of memorabilia to celebrate.

ENDOWMENT & SPECIAL PROJECT DONORS

The following donors made commitments in support of special initiatives in fiscal year 2020:

$500,000+

Betty and Whitney MacMillan and the WDH Foundation

$100,000 - $499,999

Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Spirit Paul and Minnesota Foundation
Estate of Elayne R. Hengler
Estate of Elizabeth M. Ringer
Estates of Janet D. Velt and Brian Schumacher

$25,000 - $99,999

Russ and Kathy Adams
Estates of Eleanor and Edna Aglin
Annette Atkins and Tom Joyce
Estates of Edie Ernst
Estates of Donald and Arvonne Fraser
Ray and Neena Gada
Bill and Kay McReavy
Judy A. Schwartz

$10,000 - $24,999

Anonymous
Charles Advancement Foundation

Robert and Teri Crosby
The Longview Foundation
Edward and Sherry Ann Dayton
Debbra and Phil Ford
Thomas M. Kurihara
Charles and Hope Lee
Hugh and Marilyn Madison
Morrow Foundation
Ruth A. & Raymond A. Reiter
Oslund Family Trust
Estates of Brynild Rowberg
Jean and Mark Schroepfer
Robert Weyerhaeuser

MNHS lost a wonderful friend and supporter this past year with the passing of Whitney MacMillan. Whitney and his wife Betty have been members since 1963 and over the years have generously supported many MNHS programs, including field trips, National History Day in Minnesota, the revitalization of the Oliver Kelley Farm, and the creation of Mill City Museum and the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Education Center at the History Center.
Thank you to the Rosen family for their generous support of MNHS. Tom Rosen and his children, Karin, Wade, and Reid, share a love of history and enjoy making frequent visits to the History Center and several of our sites. Their third-generation family agricultural business, Rosen’s Diversified, Inc., based in Fairmont, will be celebrating 75 years in 2021. They support of MNHS. Tom Rosen and his children, Karin, Wade, and Reid, share a love of history and enjoy making frequent visits to the History Center and several of our sites. Their third-generation family agricultural business, Rosen’s Diversified, Inc., based in Fairmont, will be celebrating 75 years in 2021. They look forward to using resources in the Gale Family Library to learn more about their family history.
MINNESOTA LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are grateful for the special commitment of these visionaries, whose generosity has included support of the Minnesota Historical Society by including MNHS as a beneficiary of a will or other planned gift.

Jeff Allman
Mary Anne Anderson
Charles W. and Margaret Amason
Thomas J. Amason
William Asp
Annette Atkins and Thomas Joyce
Sharon and Terry Avent
John Baird*^*
Doris and Earl*^* Bakken
Mary Bang
Glenn E. Bartsch
Jarvi/H. Gross
Patricia and Preston*^* Haglin
Mark and Kathryn Hokaid
David and Kim Hakensen
Charles and Earleen Hanson
Mavis E. Hogan
O.C. Hognander Jr.
Karen A. and Charles W. Humphrey
Judy and John Huss
Bruce and Terry*^* Hutcheson
Lanora Jodense
Victoria Johnson
Eric and Margit Johnson
Harry N. Kabalt
James and Jane Kaufman
Dorothy Kettner
Thomas and Jean King
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Stephanie Kroeger
Colles and John*^* Larkin
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Lydia Lucas
Hugh and Marilyn Madison
Diane Manolis
Marylin Mattson
Margaret Moier
Rowanne Michelson
Evelyn Miller
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Judge James D. and Leanna M. Rogers
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