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**Minnesota Historical Society**

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<https://www.mnhs.org/>

### AT A GLANCE

- The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) preserves and provides access to Minnesota's past
- MNHS averages more than 1 million in-person customers each year including visitors to historic sites, museums, and the Gale Family Library; visitation was lower in COVID years, most recently approximately 450,000
- MNHS hosts 4,300,000 visits each year to its award-winning website
- MNHS preserves more than 1,000,000 items in the collection:
  - 340,394 photographs
  - 502,499 publications
  - 6,556 works of art
  - 251,790 objects
  - 50,800 cubic feet of manuscripts
  - 65,000 cubic feet in State Archives, plus 100 terabytes of digital records

### PURPOSE

Created in 1849 by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) serves as the repository of state archival, documentary, photographic, archaeological, and museum collections, and as a center for research. MNHS also preserves and operates the statutorily-defined historic sites network, consisting of 26 sites throughout the state. As an educational organization, MNHS uses collections and sites to engage, inform, and inspire the people of Minnesota. These efforts, as well as MNHS' partnerships in heritage preservation, support the MNHS mission:

**We serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.**

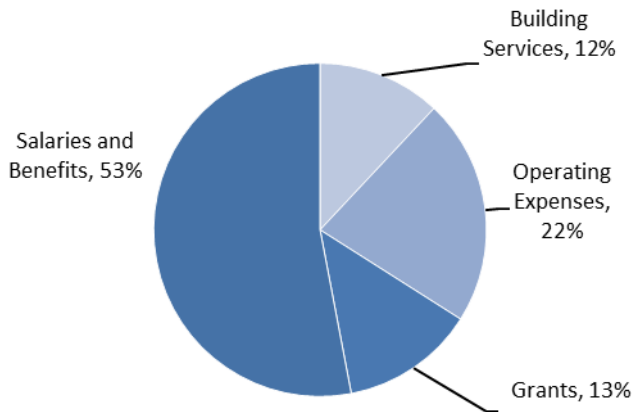
By sharing the stories of our state's past, MNHS's goal is to create community for all Minnesotans, whether new arrivals or those whose families have been in Minnesota for generations. MNHS supports the goal of having a well-informed citizenry that understands how people and events of the past have shaped the Minnesota of today.

### BUDGET

Approximately two-thirds of MNHS's funding comes from the State of Minnesota. MNHS delivers 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 [ACHF]) support for new statewide history programs, including grants for local history organizations.

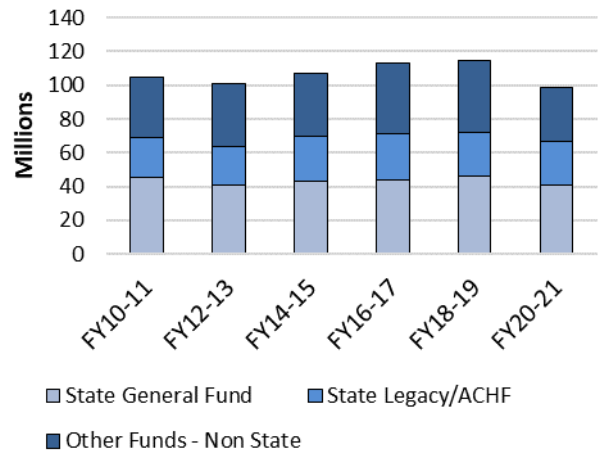
MNHS supplements state appropriations through private fundraising and earned revenue. Gifts from donors and members support everything from general operations and school field trips to important acquisitions, conservation work, and community outreach. Endowment funds give MNHS strength for today and tomorrow. 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.

### Spending by Category FY 2021 Actual



Source: MNHS Audited Financial Statements

### Historical Spending



Note: "Other Funds - Non State" includes admissions, fees, retail sales, memberships, and other donations. These funds do not pass through the state treasury.

Sources: Consolidated Fund Statement and MNHS Audited Financial Statements

## STRATEGIES

- Collect and preserve Minnesota's cultural heritage for today and future Minnesotans.
- Maintain and operate a network of historic sites and museums across the state to reach Minnesotans and visitors in order to share history where it happened.
- Provide resources and training for teachers, and support and inspire students through participation in programs like National History Day and the Northern Lights MN Studies textbook.
- Engage with diverse communities throughout Minnesota and reflect the diversity of Minnesotans in MNHS collections, programs, staffing, and governance.
- Advance new efforts to collect and preserve digital materials that document the state's history and culture.
- Serve as a customer-oriented and accessible repository of state archival, documentary, photographic, archaeological, and museum collections.

The MNHS Mission, Vision and Values can be found at: <https://www.mnhs.org/about/mission>

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 138 provides guidance for administration of Minnesota's history and historical organizations. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=138&view=chapter>)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>								
1000 - General	22,968	23,518	23,968	23,918	23,918	23,918	35,356	26,932
2301 - Arts & Cultural Heritage	14,763	10,849	15,498	33,947			18,004	18,977
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,731</b>	<b>34,367</b>	<b>39,466</b>	<b>57,865</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>53,360</b>	<b>45,909</b>
Biennial Change				25,233		(49,495)		1,938
Biennial % Change				35		(51)		2
Enacted Budget Change from Base								51,433
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								108

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Enacted Budget	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1000 - General								
Direct Appropriation	22,968	23,518	23,968	23,918	23,918	23,918	35,356	26,932
Expenditures	22,968	23,518	23,968	23,918	23,918	23,918	35,356	26,932
Biennial Change in Expenditures				1,400		(50)		14,402
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				3		(0)		30
Enacted Budget Change from Base								14,452
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								30

**2301 - Arts & Cultural Heritage**

Balance Forward In	9,018	9,827	16,361	13,356				
Direct Appropriation	15,572	17,383	15,588	20,591	0	0	18,004	18,977
Cancellations			3,095					
Balance Forward Out	9,827	16,361	13,356					
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>14,763</b>	<b>10,849</b>	<b>15,498</b>	<b>33,947</b>			<b>18,004</b>	<b>18,977</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				23,833		(49,445)		(12,464)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				93		(100)		(25)
Enacted Budget Change from Base								36,981
Enacted Budget % Change from Base								

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
<b>Direct</b>				
<b>Fund: 1000 - General</b>				
<b>FY2023 Appropriations</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>47,836</b>
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>47,836</b>
<b>Change Items</b>				
Maintain Current Service Levels		1,538	2,539	4,077
Support for Statewide Programs - Earned Revenue Recovery		375	375	750
Commission to Redesign State Emblems		35		35
Historic Sites Asset Preservation		9,390		9,390
Farmamerica		100	100	200
<b>Total Enacted Budget</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>35,356</b>	<b>26,932</b>	<b>62,288</b>
<b>Fund: 2301 - Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage</b>				
<b>FY2023 Appropriations</b>	<b>17,497</b>	<b>17,497</b>	<b>17,497</b>	<b>34,994</b>
<b>Base Adjustments</b>				
One-Time Legacy Fund Appropriations		(17,497)	(17,497)	(34,994)
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>17,497</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Change Items</b>				
Funding Extension - Correction to 2022 Session Law	3,094			
Legacy Historical Grants and Programs		16,779	18,977	35,756
Legacy Grants		1,225		1,225
<b>Total Enacted Budget</b>	<b>20,591</b>	<b>18,004</b>	<b>18,977</b>	<b>36,981</b>

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
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**Maintain Current Service Levels**

This provision provides additional operating funds to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS).

<b>1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>5,078</b>
Expenditures	0	1,538	2,539	4,077	2,539	2,539	5,078

**Support for Statewide Programs - Earned Revenue Recovery**

This funding will support increased staffing and services for statewide historic sites and museums and enhanced in-person school programs. This funding represents bridge funding to replace earned income lost during COVID closures while MNHS continues to rebuild attendance at historic sites and museums.

<b>1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	375	375	750	0	0	0

**Funding Extension - Correction to 2022 Session Law**

This item is a correction of a drafting error in 2022 bill language which caused this amount to be cancelled at the end of FY 2022. It reinstates the cancelled amount and extends its availability.

<b>2301 - Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	3,094	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Commission to Redesign State Emblems**

This funding will support the work of State Emblems Redesign Commission created by the legislature to redesign the state seal and state flag.

<b>1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	35	0	35	0	0	0

**Historic Sites Asset Preservation**

This funding will pay for capital improvements, betterments, and landscaping at state historic sites, buildings, exhibits, markers, and monuments. MNHS will determine the projects funded based on need.

<b>1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	9,390	0	9,390	0	0	0

**Farmamerica**

This funding will provide additional grant support to Farmamerica, an agricultural interpretive center near Waseca.

<b>1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	100	100	200	0	0	0

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
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### Legacy Historical Grants and Programs

This funding will be used by the Historical Society for several initiatives: historic and cultural grants to governments or organizations for activities that preserve historic or cultural resources; historic and cultural programs related the overall heritage of the state; history partnerships or preservation efforts involving multiple organizations; a statewide survey of historical and archeological sites; and a digital library for historical materials.

<b>2301 - Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,779</b>	<b>18,977</b>	<b>35,756</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	16,779	18,977	35,756	0	0	0

### Legacy Grants

This funding will be used to provide grants to a number of specific organizations for specific projects, including the Litchfield Opera House, the Lawshe Memorial Museum in Dakota County, the George Stoppel stone house and barn in Olmstead County, the Minnesota Transportation Museum, and Special Guerrilla Units Veterans and Families of the USA

<b>2301 - Arts &amp; Cultural Heritage Fund Cost (Savings)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Expenditures	0	1,225	0	1,225	0	0	0