



December 2021

Dear Local History Advocate:

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones happy and healthy during these trying times. The past year proved to be an exercise in perseverance and a time in which we all worked together as a community to move the Wisconsin Historical Society forward. It is the strength, tenacity, and commitment of the Society, as well as the support of our members and affiliates, that keep us steadfast and growing with purpose. I cannot thank you enough for your past support.

I am writing to invite you to the Wisconsin Historical Society's Fifth Annual History Advocacy Day in Wisconsin. This year's event will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The event has historically been an unqualified success thanks to our members and affiliates. Your participation is critical. Dedicated advocates like you are wonderful at creating enthusiasm and expressing the need to preserve and share our cultural heritage from generation to generation.



The legislature has been supportive of the Society and our mission as the premier storyteller in Wisconsin. As you know, we received \$8,321,000 of general fund-supported borrowing to be matched with \$6,000,000 of gifts, grants, and other receipts for Old World Wisconsin, as well as \$4,000,000 of building trust funds to assist with project planning, development, design, site selection, and land and property acquisition. We also received a million dollars from the American Recovery Act supported by the Governor for our statewide historic sites.

It is vital that we thank our lawmakers to reinforce awareness that our organization is a respected and trusted resource for the entire state and is valued in local communities. To do so, we need our history advocates throughout the state to call and thank lawmakers for their continued support and emphasize the critical role that the Wisconsin Historical Society plays in collecting, preserving, and sharing stories.

Christian W. Overland
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
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wisconsinhistory.org

Realizing your time is valuable and to assure personal safety during these trying times, we have organized a virtual event that will be productive, enjoyable, and efficient. As the enclosed agenda outlines, we will begin the day with a virtual welcome and advocacy workshop from our Legislative Liaison, Kate Easton. Kate will walk you through the talking points and review the handouts and schedules in advance of your phone call or Zoom meeting with your legislative offices.

Additionally, we are excited to present a lunch-and-learn virtual presentation from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. featuring a behind the scenes look at our new museum. Please register online for this event by Friday, January 14, 2022, at: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/advocates>

Your advance registration is important to make this day successful. Thank you very much for considering this invitation and demonstrating to state leaders how much we all care about state and local history. I am looking forward to seeing you virtually on February 23.

Thank you for your leadership!

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian W. Overland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

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