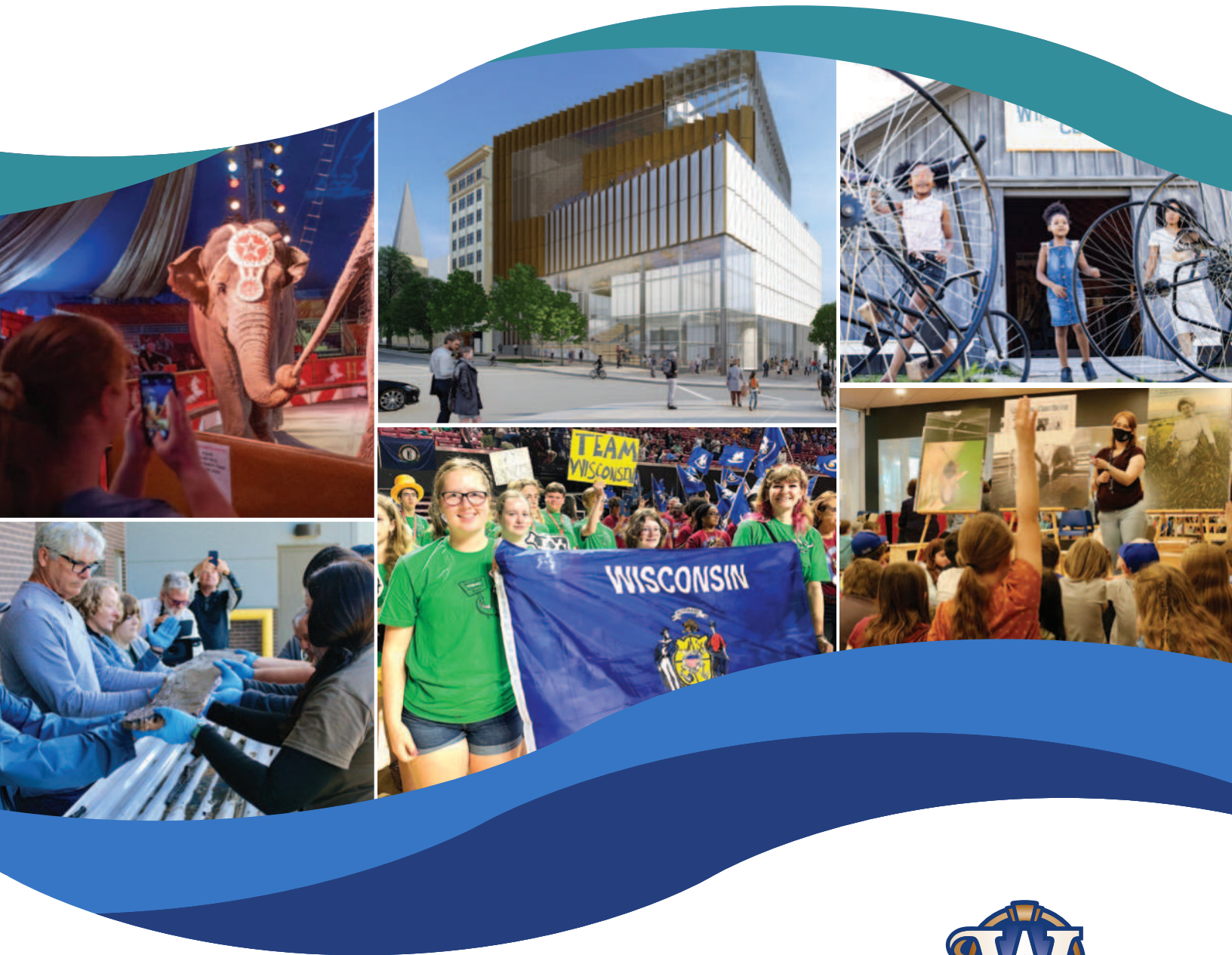


# past FORWARD



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023 FISCAL YEAR**  
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



# Director's message

## WE ARE BUILDING THE FUTURE OF HISTORY WITH YOUR HELP



Dear Friends,

As the calendar year comes to a close and we reflect on the Wisconsin Historical Society's 2023 fiscal year in this annual report, I am filled with pride over the progress made, gratitude for the support received, and enthusiasm for the future of history we are building together.

Our purpose is to connect people to history by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. Staff across our agency served the public in countless ways, strengthening existing community relationships and building new ones, engaging over 225,000 visitors at our 12 historic sites and museums, distributing 51,775 books, serving over 175,000 patrons through our North American history library and archives (millions more online), adding 227 contributing buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and achieving significant milestones on transformative projects like the new Wisconsin History Center.

The theme for this report — "Past Forward" — is fitting, as our organization is moving forward, thoughtfully and purposefully, toward an exciting future that celebrates our shared past.

The flagship of that future will be the \$160 million history center, the largest project in the Society's 177-year history. This year, we shared the first architectural renderings, allowing the public to enjoy a sneak peek at the exterior and interior of this state-of-the-art cultural attraction that will be completed in 2026. None of this would be possible without generous private gifts (now over \$40 million) and strong bipartisan support from the State Legislature and Gov. Tony Evers.

Another mission-based story that continues to amaze is the "Mendota Canoes." As you may have seen in worldwide news reports, the Society's maritime archaeologists, in partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation and Bad River Tribe, uncovered more

evidence of robust tribal commerce around Madison's Lake Mendota thousands of years ago. The underwater recovery of a 3,000-year-old dugout canoe — the oldest known in the Great Lakes region — came less than a year after the recovery of a 1,200-year-old canoe from the same waters.

We cherish our growing partnership with Wisconsin's Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities. As a learning organization, the Society is committed to building a foundation of genuine collaboration. Our work is informed by the many voices and perspectives that make up our state as we continue to listen and learn from those who are living our history.

As part of this report, you will find an insert from the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, our nonprofit partner since 1954. The Foundation provides essential fundraising and marketing services and has been especially vital to the success of the history center project.

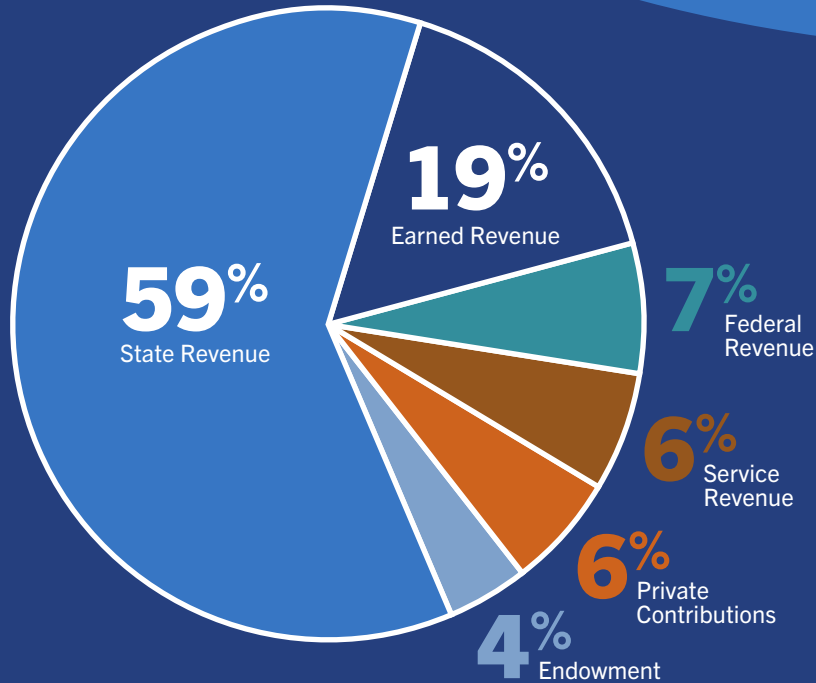
I hope you enjoy these reports and take pride in what you made possible. Everything we do of significance, we do in partnership with others. I am grateful for people like you, who believe in the power of history and support our work.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian W. Overland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

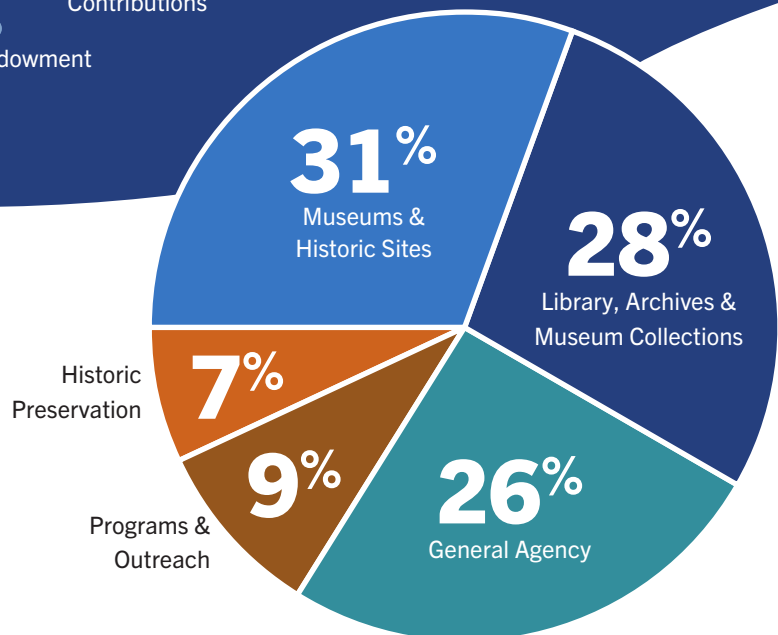
Christian Øverland  
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO

# WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FY23 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



## OPERATING EXPENDITURES: \$29,860,074

\*Note: Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding; totals do not include the Society's debt service appropriation.



The Society's ability to fulfill its mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing stories is made possible by the consistent and unwavering support of the Wisconsin Legislature, the Governor's Office and administration, private donors, and members of the public that provide financial support through the use of Society services.



# Moving forward

## WISCONSIN HISTORY CENTER TAKES SHAPE

It was a fiscal year to remember as the Wisconsin Historical Society's \$160 million new history center project reached significant milestones, capped by the reveal of the first detailed architectural renderings.

Thanks to strong public and private backing and bipartisan legislative support, the five-story, 100,000-square-foot Wisconsin History Center is on track to be completed in 2026 on Wisconsin's Capitol Square. The nation's next great history attraction will provide unprecedented access to the Society's world-class collection of nearly 290 million items while sharing regional stories within the context of American history.

"Wisconsin's new history center will be the result of bringing together some of the nation's top architects, exhibit designers, curators and historians with community voices, perspectives from all of our regions and consultations with the region's Native nations," said Christian Øverland, the Society's Ruth & Hartley Barker Director and CEO. "This will be a welcoming, vibrant place for the community to gather, engage, reflect and share in our history."

A year's worth of memorable milestones culminated with a visionary architectural design for the history center that tells the story of Wisconsin using materials and craftsmanship from our great state. The Society revealed the design at an event in June featuring remarks by



former Governors Tommy Thompson and Jim Doyle, co-chairs of the history center fundraising campaign. Renderings illustrated a vibrant exterior featuring rotated top floors to enhance views that symbolically connect the center to all corners of the state. Inside, guests will enjoy a spacious lobby and mezzanine, a classroom and lunchroom for student groups, multiple exhibition galleries, two outdoor terraces, and a rooftop event space and terrace with spectacular views of Capitol Square and the surrounding landscape.



## A MEMORABLE YEAR

The Society activated numerous agency-wide initiatives to move the project forward during the 2023 fiscal year that ended on June 30. Here are a few:

- Staff across the Society fully engaged with renowned exhibit designers Ralph Appelbaum Associates, international engineering and planning firm SmithGroup, and the award-winning Continuum Architects + Planners to develop the vision and design for the center.
- Design teams completed blocking and massing of the building and worked with the City of Madison and neighborhood and other stakeholder groups to refine the design.
- Society staff held dozens of consultations across the state with key audiences to ensure community perspectives are included in planning. In addition, numerous councils and committees were created to provide ongoing feedback.
- In February 2023, the Society secured its new History Maker Space inside the US Bank Plaza on Capitol Square, allowing public and school group museum programming to continue throughout the history center building process. The first school groups began visiting in March.
- In June, funding for the project was re-enumerated in the state's 2023-25 biennial budget with strong bipartisan support from the state Legislature and Gov. Tony Evers. With the center's cost rising to \$160 million due to inflation and other project costs, it will be supported by \$112 million in state funds and \$48 million in private gifts. As of June 2023, \$40.9 million in private funds has been raised toward the Wisconsin Historical Foundation's goal of \$66.5 million, which includes funds for transition and opening costs.



## MOVING FORWARD INTO 2024

The coming year promises even more significant progress, with demolition of the former Wisconsin Historical Museum and adjacent properties on Capitol Square in the spring, followed by construction.

With the final design phase and ongoing statewide engagement, the Society is moving closer to opening this landmark historical attraction that will welcome more than 200,000 guests annually and double the number of students served to 60,000. Beyond the physical building, the center will digitally connect residents in all 72 counties of Wisconsin and beyond.

"The new history center will serve as an open door to one of the most significant historical collections in the country and will be a legacy project that ensures the stories of our region are properly shared for generations to come," said Øverland. "We are grateful for nearly two decades of growing public and private support, and we are thrilled to see Wisconsin's new history center visible on the horizon."

## GO INSIDE!

Scan the QR code or go to [wisconsinhistory.org/historycenter](https://wisconsinhistory.org/historycenter) to enjoy a virtual tour of the new history center and learn more about the project or make a financial gift.



# History Maker Space

## CAPITOL SQUARE LOCATION WILL BE HUB FOR INTERIM STATEWIDE PROGRAMMING

To ensure that public and school group programming continues uninterrupted during design and construction of the new history center, the Wisconsin Historical Foundation secured a temporary location on Capitol Square for the Society.

The lively History Maker Space is located on the first floor of the US Bank Plaza, across the Square from the former Wisconsin Historical Museum, which closed in November 2022 to make way for the history center. Society education staff began welcoming student groups to the space in March 2023, with more than 4,000 people (including nearly 3,000 students) visiting on tours during the first three months.

“This dynamic new space allows us to stay connected to communities across the state as we prepare for the new history center,” said Christian Øverland, the Ruth & Hartley Barker Director and CEO of the Society. “Student groups from across the state will continue to be able to enjoy the historical programming that has been a cherished part of their Madison field trips for decades and the rest of the public will be able to enjoy ongoing programming in this active space while the new history center takes shape.”

The space is made possible in part by funding from Urban Land Interests, the site’s property management and development firm. It will also include a retail store featuring Wisconsin-themed products and be the hub of the Society’s statewide engagement efforts. It will be a place where the public can come to learn the latest about the spectacular history center taking shape across the Square.

Students from Eagle River to Kenosha, Chippewa Falls to Appleton and dozens of communities in between were among more than 65 groups from across Wisconsin to visit the temporary space in its first semester of activity.

Young learners took part in a new program called “History: In the Making,” designed to teach both historical knowledge and thinking skills to help learners investigate and make sense of the past.

“Our top priority is continuing to provide a high-quality, meaningful learning experience for students and teachers,” said Abby Pfisterer, director of PK-12 education for the Society. “The Society has a responsibility to support history education for students locally and statewide and we will continue this work throughout the transition to the new history center.”





## End of one era, start of another

### MUSEUM CLOSURE MAKES WAY FOR NEW HISTORY CENTER

In one of the most overt public signs that the Wisconsin Historical Society's new history center is on the horizon, the Wisconsin Historical Museum on Capitol Square closed its doors for good in late 2022, paving the way for eventual construction of the history center on the museum site and two adjacent properties.

To continue serving the public as long as possible, the museum was closed in stages over several months, starting with the fourth floor and culminating with the final day of exhibitions on the first two floors on Nov. 27, 2022. Since its opening in 1986, the museum welcomed 2,895,624 visitors, including 913,329 guests on tours.

"This is an exciting, symbolic moment as we close the chapter on this building in preparation for the future history center," said Jill Sterrett, the Society's director of collections and collections administrator. "Closing a museum is no simple task. It was an enormous undertaking, requiring careful planning and execution to safely and efficiently move over 2,500 treasured artifacts, but it all went well thanks to our talented staff and dedicated partners. We are all excited to bring to the people of Wisconsin a history center that will broaden accessibility to the Society's unparalleled collections."

Over nine months, 13 staff members, a volunteer and other partners transferred carefully packed boxes the 2 miles from the museum to the State Archive Preservation Facility (SAPF). Many items needed to be sealed in plastic and treated in freezers to ensure their safe transition to be stored with other collections items at the SAPF.

Finally, on April 20, 2023, the final largest objects, secured in shipping containers, were removed by crane through a third-floor window. Among them was a 1929 Kissel White Eagle Speedster, one of just 430 built by Kissel Motor Car Company of Hartford, and a 1948 Nash Ambassador, the top-of-the-line sedan made by Wisconsin's largest automaker at the time, Nash Motors Company of Kenosha.

"It is the end of an era with the closing of the museum, but it is also the dawn of an exciting new age for history in Wisconsin," added Sterrett.



# New & growing partnerships

## COLLABORATIONS EXPAND SCOPE OF SOCIETY'S STORYTELLING

Several new partnerships and collaborations were launched or grown throughout the year that will expand the stories the Society is collecting, preserving, and sharing. “Everything we do of significance, we do in partnership with others,” said Christian Øverland, the Society’s Ruth & Hartley Barker Director and CEO. “These important relationships inform and enhance our mission-based work and expand the scope of our North American history collections.”

### Native Nations and Indigenous community partnerships

Society staff across divisions work closely with Wisconsin’s 11 federally recognized tribes and other Indigenous communities to preserve our state’s 12,000 years of history. Among the many collaborations were two of special significance: the locating and recovery of a 3,000-year-old Native American dugout canoe from Madison’s Lake Mendota and the formation of a Native Nations Council to inform planning for the Society’s work, including the new Wisconsin History Center.

Less than a year after finding and recovering a 1,200-year-old dugout canoe, Society archaeologists found another canoe in the same region of the lake. Radiocarbon dating placed it to 1000 B.C., making it the oldest canoe ever discovered in the Great Lakes region by roughly 1,000 years. Working with Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Bill Quackenbush, the second canoe was recovered in September 2022. Members from the Ho-Chunk Nation and Bad River Tribe were present at the recovery and participated in the cleaning of the canoe after it was transferred to the State Archive Preservation Facility (SAPF) in Madison.

“The recovery of this canoe built by our ancestors gives further physical proof that Native people have occupied Teejop (Four Lakes) for millennia, that our ancestral lands are here, and we had a developed society of transportation, trade, and commerce,” said Ho-Chunk President Marlon WhiteEagle, who was present at the recovery. “Every person that harvested and constructed this caašgegu (white oak) into a canoe put a piece of themselves into it. By preserving this canoe, we are honoring those that came before us. We appreciate our partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society, working together to preserve part of not only our ancestors’ history but our state’s history.”



Above (from left), Lawrence Plucinski, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, joins Lucas Quackenbush and his father, Bill, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation, in cleaning a 3,000-year-old dugout canoe at the State Archive Preservation Facility in Madison on Sept. 23, 2022. The canoe was recovered a day earlier from Madison’s Lake Mendota.



## Supporting statewide Hmong experience exhibit

As part of a relationship that began in 2018, the Society is supporting the efforts of a volunteer collective of Hmong Americans called “Cia Siab in Wisconsin” to develop a statewide traveling exhibition on the Hmong experience in Wisconsin. The group presented portions of its community-based traveling exhibit in Milwaukee, De Pere, Eau Claire and Wausau. The group’s goal is to create a larger exhibit to be launched in 2025 commemorating 50 years of Hmong resettlement in Wisconsin. In addition to a small financial contribution from the Society, curators and other Society staff are collaborating by sharing their expertise, including best practices for traveling exhibitions.



## Expanding Latinx history resources

As part of an ongoing effort that began in 2012 with the Somos Latinas Project, which documented the many significant and largely hidden contributions of Latinas in Wisconsin, the Society has been partnering with the Wisconsin Latinx History Collective (WLHC) to enrich public knowledge of the history, presence and contemporary significance of Latinx populations in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Partners in the multi-year project are creating a bilingual searchable digital repository holding thousands of resources in an open-access platform. The project will contribute as many as 3,000 previously unavailable primary resources to the Society’s archives, including over 150 new oral history interviews, photographs, organizational papers and material from private collections. This digital resource will enhance the understanding of Wisconsin’s diversity and the role of Latinxs in shaping the history, culture and economy of the state. In addition, the Collective will partner with K-12 educators to help them implement accurate Latinx histories in their curricula.

## Lao American archival project

The Society is serving as the repository for archival collections that document the Lao American community in collaboration with Dr. Ian Baird of UW-Madison’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The project, started in October 2022, is funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Since there was no national repository specializing in Lao American materials, and because UW is one of the few institutions in the nation that teaches the Lao language, preserving these important materials at the Society was a natural fit. Over 250,000 ethnic Lao people have immigrated to the United States, mainly as political refugees, since Laos became a communist country in 1975. The first three collections were received in June 2023, including the papers of Khamphoui Sisavatdy, the current Prime Minister of the Royal Lao Government in Exile (see pages 10-11). These materials, which will include oral histories, are an important addition to the Society’s world-renowned North American history collection.

# Mission-based service

## SUPPORTING CONNECTIONS TO HISTORY

As a state agency, the Wisconsin Historical Society serves the public across Wisconsin's 72 counties in myriad ways. "Enriching and transforming lives through unparalleled access to history is a guidepost for all that we do," said Angela Titus, assistant deputy director and chief program officer. "We are fortunate to serve a state that embraces history, and our staff takes great pride in helping the public connect to the past in meaningful ways." These are just a few highlights from the past fiscal year.



### Historical Markers Program

This program, launched in 1943, reached the 600-mark with two markers documenting Native American and Black history. On Oct. 15, 2022, three generations of community members were in attendance for the dedication of "Lake Ivanhoe: An African American-Founded Community," a marker highlighting the community established 6 miles east of Lake Geneva in 1926 and considered Wisconsin's first Black-founded resort community. Two days later, the Tee Sisiweja (Bad Waters Village) marker was dedicated inside State Fair Park in West Allis. While most of the Indigenous burial mounds that once stood in Milwaukee County no longer exist, two remain in the park. The markers were two of several funded by a three-year \$75,190 grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

### State Historic Preservation Office

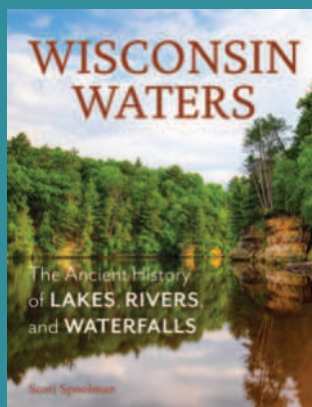
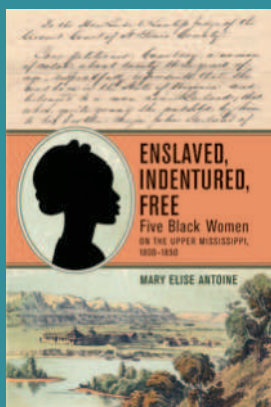
Among its many public services, the Society's State Historic Preservation Office administers the National Register of Historic Places program in Wisconsin. These designations preserve important aspects of local history while also paving the way for tax credits for rehabilitation work. More than \$354 million was invested in historic properties, helping to create over 6,000 construction-related jobs.

A total of 34 individual properties and seven historic districts from 19 Wisconsin counties were added to the National Register. In addition, 30 listings in 16 counties were added to the State Register. On June 30, the Society, in partnership with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, announced the listing of Anaem Omot in the National Register. The 6-mile stretch of the Menominee River, reaching into Michigan, is identified as the ancestral homeland of the Menominee. "Our ancestors can now rest better in their places of burial (as a result of this designation)," said Gena Kakkak, Menominee Tribe Chairwoman. "Our original spiritual and ceremonial grounds are recognized, and our children can continue to learn and find their heritage in our places of origin."

### Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

Each October, staff from across the Society and others share their expertise and connect with representatives from local history and historic preservation organizations at our annual conference. After two virtual years, the 16th annual event in 2022 was held in person (with virtual options) in the Wausau suburb of Rothschild. A total of 348 attendees (161 in person) from 53 counties and 16 states enjoyed 33 sessions.





## Wisconsin Historical Society Press

Sales and media partnerships led the way to fiscal-year success, including over 8,000 copies of the “Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story” fourth-grade textbook sold to Milwaukee Public Schools. Trade book sales were also hot, as John Gurda’s newest title, “Brewtown Tales,” sold out in three weeks. The long-standing Press partnership with PBS Wisconsin produced two popular documentaries, including “Wisconsin Pride,” inspired by LGBTQ+ history volumes by R. Richard Wagner, and “Food & Memories with Jerry Apps,” featuring the Apps family’s Society Press book “Old Farm Country Cookbook.”

Other titles enjoyed national attention. Pao Lor’s award-winning Hmong memoir “Modern Jungles” was the adult nonfiction book selected to represent Wisconsin at the Library of Congress’ National Book Festival. And C-SPAN aired two book talks — Scott Spoolman on his natural history “Wisconsin Waters” and historian Mary Elise Antoine on her Book of Merit Award-winning “Enslaved, Indentured, Free: Five Black Women on the Upper Mississippi, 1800–1850.” Antoine’s book launch at Villa Louis Historic Site included an event for descendants of the book’s subjects and was featured on Milwaukee Public Television’s “Black Nouveau” program.

## National History Day

Thirty-five hundred middle and high school students across Wisconsin participated in this annual program, in which they research and prepare a project on a historical figure or event. Fifty-eight students from 20 schools advanced to the national competition, where seven placed in the Top 10 or won special awards, led by fourth-place finisher Isaac Neumann of University School of Milwaukee.



# WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS



## Library, archives & museum collections

**175,982**

Patrons served by the  
Society's library & archives

**114**

Manuscript collections  
acquired

**185**

Local governments served  
via in-person consultations

**546**

Objects acquired  
for collections

**132**

Donor transactions  
with collections

**12**

Submissions to the  
Society's COVID-19 journal  
project

## Education

**53,896**

Students used the  
Society's 4th-grade  
Wisconsin history textbook  
(23% increase!)

**58**

Students qualified for  
National History Day  
(NHD) Nationals

**51,775**

Books sold by the  
Wisconsin Historical  
Society Press  
(14% increase)

**3,500**

Students participated  
in National History Day  
program

**7**

Students finished in the  
Top 10 or won special  
honors at NHD Nationals

**12**

New titles published by  
the Wisconsin Historical  
Society Press



## Local history

**473**

Consultations with local history affiliates

**348**

Attendees at the Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

**53**

Wisconsin counties represented at the Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

**60,635**

People reached by traveling exhibitions

**16**

States represented at the Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

**17,952**

Attendees at Society presentations

**10,354**

Dollars awarded in small grants to Society affiliates

## Historic sites & museums

**226,601**

Total attendance at historic sites & museums (45% increase)

**15,633**

K-12 student visitors to Old World Wisconsin in school groups (most among Society sites)

**34,209**

K-12 attendance at historic sites & museums (63% increase)

**2,818**

K-12 students served at the History Maker Space on Capitol Square (US Bank Plaza)

**7,895**

K-12 student visitors to the Wisconsin Historical Museum in school groups

**60**

Schools served at the History Maker Space on Capitol Square

**2,895,624**

Visitors to the Wisconsin Historical Museum in its 37-year history (1986-2023)

## Historic preservation

**354,458,925**

Dollars invested in rehabilitated historic properties

**254**

Buildings rehabilitated using historic preservation tax credit programs

**57,635,961**

Dollars awarded in federal historic preservation tax credits

**227**

Buildings added in the National Register of Historic Places

**6,170**

Projected construction-related jobs created by historic preservation tax credit programs

**34**

Individual properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places

# Making memories across Wisconsin

## OVER 226,000 GUESTS CONNECT WITH THE PAST AT SOCIETY'S HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS

Of all the places in which the Wisconsin Historical Society embodied the “Past Forward” theme of this year’s annual report, none may be more visible than at the Society’s 12 historic sites and museums. Unencumbered by pandemic limitations, sites were able to offer a full slate of programming, including new experiences. More than 226,000 guests (a 45 percent increase) immersed themselves in historic surroundings and connected with the past, including over 34,000 students (a 63 percent increase) as much-loved field trips returned. “It was a spectacular year,” said Nick Hoffman, administrator of historic sites and museums. “It was a great jump-start to an exciting future we are planning. We are moving forward in big ways by making investments that will expand and improve educational programming and enhance the overall guest experience.”

### Black Point Estate and Gardens

The 20-room Victorian mansion built in 1888 on the shore of Geneva Lake as the summer home of Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp marked its 10th year as a Society historic site in 2023. Nearly every event sold out as the “cottage” and grounds drew a record 11,305 guests, even hosting a surprise marriage proposal in August. New events included a sold-out program on Victorian Spiritualism and a tour of Pioneer Cemetery, while programs such as “An Evening with Agatha Christie,” “Paranormal Parlor Games,” “Remarkable Women of Lake Geneva,” and multiple “Beer Barons” tours also sold out. The site also hosted a summer camp for kids for the first time since 2014.

Gifts from private donors continue to improve the site. Among them, the Black Point Horticulture Committee provided \$15,000 to complete the second phase of the Brewery Lintel Garden, unveiled this year. The project was also funded by the Lake Geneva Garden Club, The William O. Petersen Fund, and Royal Joy Williams Questers.

### Circus World

The beloved attraction in Baraboo, original home of the winter headquarters for the Ringling Bros. Circus, welcomed 53,989 guests. With the fiscal year ending mid-season on June 30, fans filled the stands for the first half of the final performance season featuring elephants, marking the end of a 64-year run and tradition dating to 1888.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for an exciting future. Thanks to lead funding from Circus World, Inc., the site commissioned a Historic Structures Report that helped the Society earn a pair of \$499,999 Save America’s Treasures federal grants to rehabilitate two historic “Ringlingville” buildings. In addition, master planning began to make improvements that will turn Circus World into a year-round attraction.

### First Capitol

The historic site in Belmont where legislators passed the state’s first 40 laws welcomed 600 visitors, including dozens of students who enjoyed an updated PK-12 field trip program with an emphasis on civics education and hands-on history. In May, three refurbished historical markers were reinstalled, restoring an important interpretive aspect of the experience.





## H.H. Bennett Studio & Museum

The historic site in downtown Wisconsin Dells, which includes the original 1875 studio of legendary photographer H.H. Bennett, welcomed 15,691 visitors. Many enjoyed a Studio Experience in which guests have their tintype “struck” in Bennett’s original studio and developed before their eyes. Funding from the Gregory C. Van Wie Charitable Foundation allowed work to begin on three large murals in the courtyard that will highlight Bennett’s photography and connection to making Wisconsin Dells a major tourism destination. In addition, nearly \$300,000 in state funds allowed for improvements including a new roof and an updated HVAC system and LED lighting that enhance the guest experience and provide better collections preservation conditions.

## Madeline Island Museum

New to the museum, located on the island just off the Bayfield shore of Lake Superior, were two stunning temporary art installations that helped the site attract 14,786 guests. “Everything Around Me Inspires Me: The works of Rita Vanderventer” featured the local artist and member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Meanwhile, “Convergence” featured the works of seven Ojibwe women artists. Thanks to private support, the museum hosted its first high school intern, Jackson Rose of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. In addition, the Friends of Madeline Island Museum and the Island Association provided support to subsidize the cost of 15 school visits, allowing the next generation to connect to their history.





## Old World Wisconsin

New to the 600-acre living history attraction in the Waukesha County village of Eagle was Animal Encounters, which opened in June. Funded by the Old World Foundation and a microgrant from the Livestock Conservancy, the experience allowed guests to physically interact with animals while learning about efforts to conserve heritage livestock breeds.

Several other new programs also proved popular, helping attract 66,531 guests — including 19,407 students — to the site that was ranked No. 1 on a list of the “Top 20 Places to Take Kids in Milwaukee” in online voting by Kids Out and About Milwaukee. Goat Yoga offered a chance to stretch and relax in peaceful surroundings accompanied by adorable goats, while those seeking an authentic Wisconsin experience could visit the new Brewhouse for Plates and Pints Beer Dinners, Old Fashioned Fish Fry-days and collaboration events with area breweries.

Legends & Lore returned in October 2022 and quickly sold out, leading to a second weekend being added and allowing 3,889 guests to enjoy the spooky surroundings. The event, in collaboration with Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance, was sponsored by WaterStone Bank. Meanwhile, among many capital improvements, exterior work on historic Wittnebel’s Tavern was completed and interior restoration preparations began, with an eye toward a late 2024 opening.

## Pendarvis

Over \$300,000 in capital improvements were completed as work began on implementation of the 2022 Historic Structures Report, funded by the Memorial Pendarvis Endowment Trust and Jeffris Family Foundation. The goal is to restore the work completed at the site by Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum from the 1930s to 1970. Neal and Hellum worked to save the cottages, built by Cornish immigrants in the 1840s, while operating the Pendarvis Restaurant and a mining museum in the collection of cottages. Over 3,000 guests visited during the fiscal year, including many for the popular Pub Night, sponsored by Farmers Savings Bank. Staff also launched a new historic walking tour featuring architecture of downtown Mineral Point.

## Reed School

Over 100 students on school tours immersed themselves in the surroundings that were familiar to generations of rural children in Wisconsin, where 6,000 one-room schools once dotted the landscape. Nearly 400 guests visited the historic site in the north central Wisconsin city of Neillsville. This unique schoolhouse experience is made possible in part by generous funding from an endowment established by the Gordon V. and Helen C. Smith Foundation.





## Stonefield

The historic site in Cassville, part of the original 2,000-acre estate of Wisconsin's first governor Nelson Dewey, welcomed 9,922 guests and hosted two major events: the perennially popular Safe and Spooky Halloween in October and Grant County Dairy Breakfast in June. Both events strengthened Stonefield's deep partnerships with local organizations. Over 2,500 attended the dairy breakfast, organized by Lancaster FFA Alumni in Grant County and held at a different family farm each year. The Halloween event, sponsored by the Friends of Stonefield and Nelson Dewey State Park, welcomed over 4,000. Stonefield prepared for the future by using state funding to complete capital projects including electrical upgrades, improvements at the Confectionary and repairs at the General Store and State Agricultural Museum. The site was also supported by generous ongoing funding from the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust.

## Villa Louis

A goal for this 25-acre historic site on the banks of the Mississippi River, which includes the National Historic Landmark home of the H. Louis Dousman family, is to expand interpretation to include a more complete historical account, including that of free and enslaved Black men and women who lived and worked in Prairie du Chien. Mary Elise Antoine's 2022 Society Press book "Enslaved, Indentured, and Free: Five Black Women on the Upper Mississippi, 1800-1850" was the first significant step to document and share this history. To launch the book, Villa Louis and the Society Press organized a two-day program including a reunion of descendants of the women, with C-SPAN and Milwaukee Public Television filming events. Other subjects for future programming include Western expansion, Native Nations and military history.

Notably, although the Mississippi River crested at the third-highest level on record (22.91 feet) on April 28, the site opened as planned for the season thanks to preparations and fast action by staff. As a result, 10,911 guests visited, including nearly 600 on school tours. Efforts to improve accessibility and enhance historic interpretation continued with the launch of the second phase of a walkway restoration project around the mansion, which includes pathway lighting based on archival images. Other capital improvements included visitor center remodeling.

## Wade House

Bridgett Zielke started as the new director of the historic site in the Sheboygan County town of Greenbush, where 10,839 guests, including over 2,300 students, immersed themselves in the horse-powered world of the 1800s.

A new horse arena, funded by a generous \$750,000 gift from the Kohler Trust for Preservation and dedicated to Herbert Kohler, Jr., was completed in the fall of 2022. Featuring restored competition grounds, the arena will be the new host of the popular annual Carriage Driving Days, which featured 179 attendees and over 40 competitors in 2022 and promises to attract many more with the improved venue. In addition, horse-drawn carriage rides returned. The Society also continues to invest in capital improvements to strengthen the site for the future, including a \$158,000 replacement of the pedestrian bridge to the blacksmith shop.

## Wisconsin Historical Museum

The Society's museum on Capitol Square in Madison completed its 37th and final year before closing on Nov. 27, 2022, to make way for construction of the new Wisconsin History Center. The museum attracted 28,329 visitors in its farewell year, including 7,895 on school tours. Since its 1986 opening, 2,895,624 people (equivalent to nearly half the population of Wisconsin) visited the museum, including 913,329 students. While the new history center is being built through 2026, the Society will continue to provide Madison visitors robust public and school group programming at the History Maker Space located inside US Bank Plaza on Capitol Square. The classroom space opened in March and attracted over 4,000 guests during the spring school semester (see Page 6).

# New this year

## ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

Over the past year, the Society acquired hundreds of items representing a diverse array of stories, including the rich history of the “Tommy Bartlett Show” and the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center. “Our staff is always on alert for additional items that tell a complete story of Wisconsin and North American history,” said Jill Sterrett, director of collections and collections administrator. “We were thrilled to add these fascinating items this year.”



### ‘Tommy Bartlett Show’ jump boat

Before being replaced by more robust fiberglass-hulled vessels, daredevil pilots launched this plywood Speed Liner jump boat over floating ramps during performances in the Wisconsin Dells, 1952-1958. *Gift of Tommy Bartlett, Inc.*

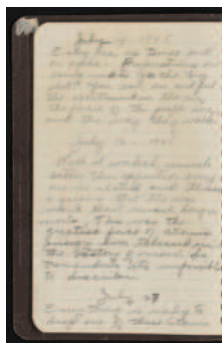


### Bartlett waterski show swimsuit

Sequined-trimmed costume worn by one of the many talented performers who entertained crowds with dazzling acts on Lake Delton, ca. 1980. *Gift of Tommy Bartlett, Inc.*

### Tommy Bartlett, Inc., papers

Posters, photographs, film and audio recordings, advertising and publicity contracts and other records documenting the 50-year history of the famous show.



### Bertha Schultz journal & Trinity test photos

Journal of Bertha Schultz, kept from 1943 to 1945 during the lead-up to the Trinity nuclear bomb test on July 16, 1945. Her husband, Gus Schultz, was the foreman for the drafting room and machine shop at the site in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Entries describe the couple’s journey from Wisconsin to Santa Fe, the life of the staff and families at Los Alamos, the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the successful Trinity test, and the subsequent attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The collection includes three photographs of the Trinity test, taken by Jack Aeby, who captured the only well-exposed color photograph of the explosion.



### ‘Satellite Explorer’ space helmet

The Mirro Aluminum Company of Manitowoc, once the world’s largest maker of aluminum goods, became inspired by the Space Age craze and produced this toy aluminum “Satellite Explorer” space helmet, ca. 1960. *Gift of Martha Paskey and Bob Hunt.*



### Vinyl record collection

Berteau and Leonard Green acquired many vinyl records in the 1940s and ’50s as music was very important in their home. Niece Jeanette Braxton kept the collection to honor Green family history in Wisconsin as they relocated from Pleasant Ridge to Lancaster and eventually to Madison. *Gift of Jeanette Braxton Secret.*



### Cranberry company shipping box

This wooden shipping box once held 25 pounds of fresh cranberries for the Union Cranberry Company of Warrens. These simple boxes were the primary means to bring Wisconsin's substantial cranberry crop to the national market between 1930 and the advent of cardboard and plastic packaging in the 1950s. *Gift of Cranberry Museum, Inc.*



### Cranberry company basketball jersey

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Cranberry Sales Co., a member of the Eatmor Cranberries basketball team wore this wool and satin uniform while playing games in and around the Wood County town of Cranmoor in the 1930s. *Gift of Cranberry Museum, Inc.*

### Wool hunting suit

Hunting suit was worn by William Martin of Marshfield while deer hunting with his grandfather and uncle near Park Falls in the 1950s and '60s. *Gift of William J. Martin and Rebecca Martin.*

### Baby bathtub / chili mixing bowl

Pendarvis House proprietors Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum creatively utilized enameled baby bathtubs to make massive batches of their homemade chili sauce for the restaurant's signature Cornish pasty in the 1930s. *Gift of Kori Oberle.*



### Khamphoui Sisavatdy papers

Papers of a historian and politician who came to the U.S. in 1978 as a political refugee. Sisavatdy has been the prime minister of the Royal Lao Government in Exile since 2003. The collection includes his research and notebooks, materials on his political activism through the 1980s and '90s, correspondence, and some photographs and Lao cultural materials.

### The Gallery beer bar papers

Posters, photographs, advertisements and contracts of musical acts that performed from 1969-71 at The Gallery, a beer bar near Bonduel owned by John Irish, who booked the acts. Beer bars served beer to 18- to 21-year-olds prior to the lowering of the legal drinking age in Wisconsin to 18 in 1972. *Gift of John Irish.*





## Building capacity PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GROWTH

The 2023 fiscal year was one of significant state, federal, and private investment in essential initiatives across all areas of the Society's operation. "The team has done a tremendous job securing funding for critical needs," said Wes Mosman Block, deputy director and chief operating officer of the Society. "We are humbled by this investment in our sites, collections, programming, and our headquarters building that will enable us to grow and succeed in our mission-based work."

### **\$4.2M invested in capital projects**

Thanks to funding approved by the state Legislature and Gov. Tony Evers, and hundreds of thousands in private gifts, the Society was able to invest nearly \$4.2 million to complete over 40 capital improvement projects across the state. This critical investment ensures the long-term viability of the buildings and grounds at cherished local historical sites, museums and attractions. Projects ran the gamut from a long-awaited roof replacement at the Society headquarters (\$2.6M) to a walkway improvement at Villa Louis (\$291K), accessibility improvements at Madeline Island Museum (\$267K), a pedestrian bridge replacement at Wade House (\$158K) and restoration of the Wittnebel's Tavern exterior at Old World Wisconsin (\$261K).

The Society is grateful for the state's longstanding commitment to invest in its historic sites and museums, which drive tourism and economic activity in communities across Wisconsin.

### **\$2.75M grant for guest services center**

The Society was awarded a \$2.75 million federal grant to help build a guest services center at Old World Wisconsin. The funding from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration was part of the American Rescue Plan. It will aid in the construction, beginning in 2024, of two buildings that will offer amenities for guests at the Waukesha County site.



### **\$500K grant helps digitize collections**

The Society has embarked on an ambitious collections digitization project thanks to \$500,000 in funding made possible by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Digitization will significantly increase accessibility of the Society's enormous resources and is important in preparing for the future Wisconsin History Center. Staff have begun the digitization work thanks to modernized equipment in a renovated lab, both of which were made possible by the funding. The Society plans to digitize approximately 300,000 pages of documents, photographs and audiovisual materials, caption and transcribe at least 21,000 minutes of audiovisual materials, and publish approximately 300,000 digital copies to its website.



### **\$499.9K grant for Circus World**

For the second consecutive year, the Society was awarded a \$499,999 Save America's Treasures grant for Circus World, its historic site in Baraboo. The funding will be used to restore the Ringling Bros. Circus' 1901 Animal House, a National Historic Landmark building, to the 1915 era. The funds were awarded by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute for Museum and Library Services. "This impactful funding allows the Society to move forward with a vision to revitalize these historically important structures and turn Circus World into a year-round attraction for generations to come," said Nick Hoffman, the Society's administrator of historic sites and museums.

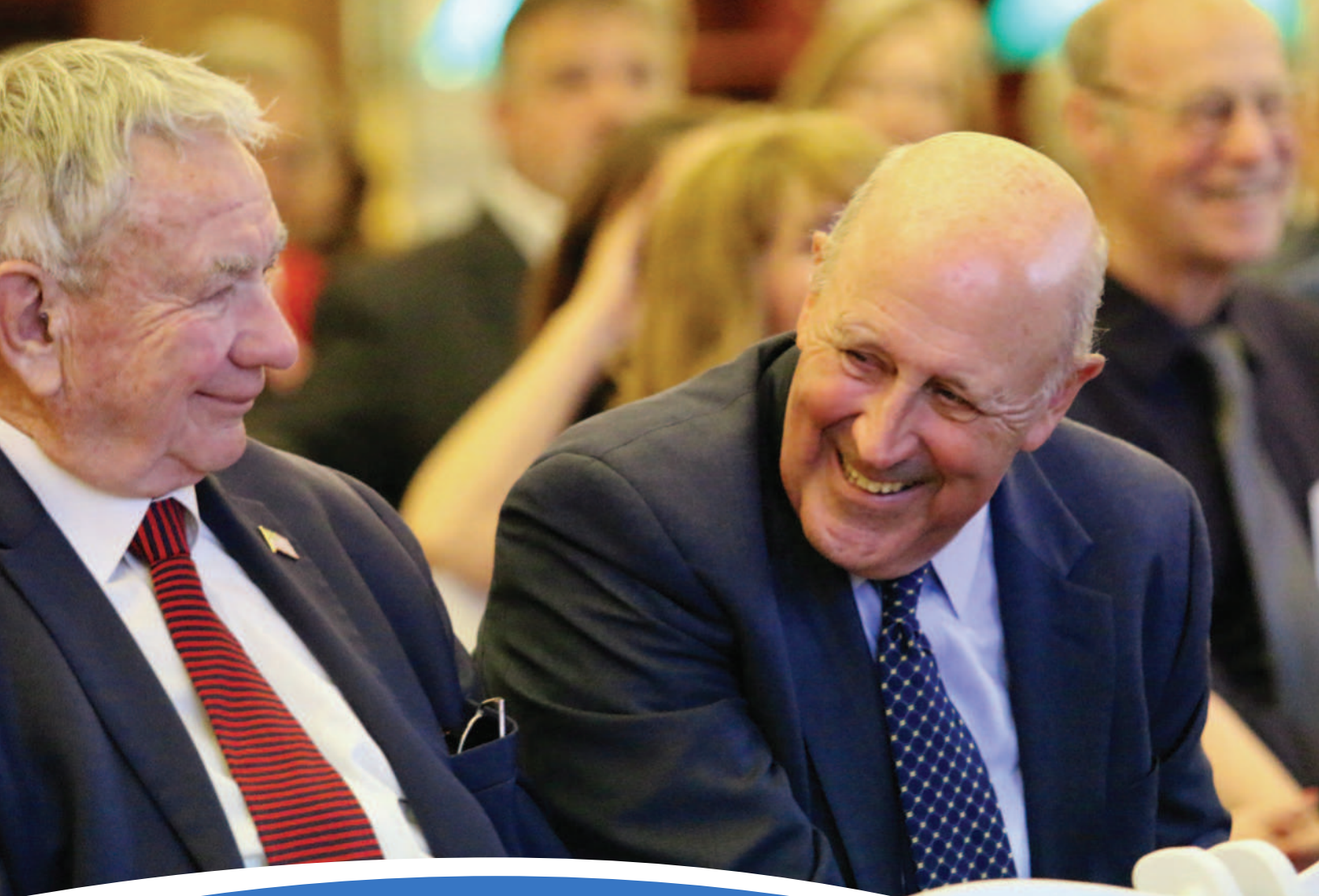


### **Culver's sponsors History Makers Tour**

The Society launched a new sponsorship program this fiscal year as a way to engage businesses in its array of programs and events across the state. We were thrilled to partner with Culver's as our inaugural sponsor and premier partner for the History Makers Tour that will travel across Wisconsin through early 2027. The tour will engage the public through pop-up exhibits, collection displays, author events and special programs.

### **\$50K Underrepresented Community Grant**

A \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service helped the Society research and produce a report documenting Latino settlement in Wisconsin and nominate two related properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The research will be used in future efforts to identify and document historic places that are significant in Latino settlement, history and culture.



*Former Wisconsin governors Tommy Thompson (left) and Jim Doyle are co-chairs of the history center fundraising campaign. The Society is grateful for their visionary and longtime leadership on this landmark project.*

“Isn’t it nice to have some bipartisanship in the state of Wisconsin? The nice thing about (the project) is that I started it, but Gov. Doyle carried it through. Now we’re on the precipice of this fantastic opportunity. Across from our beautiful state Capitol is going to be this glorious building that people from all over will come visit. We will become a destination center for history.”

— GOV. TOMMY THOMPSON  
Republican governor (1987-2001)

“This is really a personal mission for me. I grew up no more than 10 blocks from the Wisconsin Historical Society. This is a state that loves its history, loves its communities, and loves its people. History is part of who we are. We are at a moment of doing something spectacular to preserve and present the historical record of Wisconsin. This is our moment. On, Wisconsin!”

— GOV. JIM DOYLE  
Democratic governor (2003-2011)



# Special thanks to OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

We gratefully recognize the members of the Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators and the Wisconsin Historical Foundation Board of Directors who served from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Your extraordinary dedication and thoughtful leadership during a transformative year enabled us to connect with millions who look to the Society as a trusted source of authentic history. Thank you for your service!

## WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF CURATORS

### OFFICERS

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Angela B. Bartell, Madison

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

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Rep. William Penterman,  
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Wisconsin Council for Local  
History

Laura Cramer, President,  
FRIENDS of the Society

Patrick Fee, Chair,  
Wisconsin Historical Foundation  
Board of Directors

### HONORARY CURATOR

Judge Thomas H. Barland,  
Eau Claire

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### OFFICERS

#### **CHAIR:**

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#### **VICE CHAIR & TREASURER:**

Daniel M. Pfeiffer, Sussex

#### **SECRETARY:**

Cathi Wiebrecht-Searer, Madison

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Sandra L. Anderson, Minocqua  
Karla Ashenhurst, Brookfield  
Kathleen Burke, Hartland  
Paul Covalesski, Middleton  
Susan Crane, Burlington  
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Karl Robe, Mukwonago

Andrea Ruiz, Madison

Dr. David S. Ryder, Chicago

Jane Villa, Madison

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President, Wisconsin Historical  
Society Board of Curators

Jonathan Beck, Madison,  
President, Wisconsin Historical  
Real Estate Foundation

Donald Schott, Madison,  
President-Elect, Wisconsin  
Historical Society Board of  
Curators

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Thomas H. Barland, Eau Claire

Christopher Berry, Middleton

Bruce T. Block, Milwaukee

Robert C. Dohmen, Milwaukee

Rockne G. Flowers, Madison

W. Pharis Horton, Madison

Catherine C. Orton, Mauston

Walter S. Rugland, Appleton

Carol T. Toussaint, Madison

Rhona E. Vogel, Brookfield

Michael L. Youngman, Milwaukee

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### OFFICERS

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#### **VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER:**

David T. Wilder, Madison

#### **SECRETARY:**

Joseph Shumow, Madison

### BOARD MEMBER

Kendall Breunig, Franklin



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706



# past FORWARD



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023 FISCAL YEAR**  
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

  
**Wisconsin Historical**  
**FOUNDATION**

## Director's message

# THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE!



Dear Friends,

Looking back at the 2023 fiscal year, I am humbled by your generosity. So many of you selflessly answered our call and supported the Wisconsin Historical Society, ensuring that people today and in the future can connect to their history.

In total, you contributed \$4.6 million to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, the Society's nonprofit partner since 1954. A portion of those gifts pushed the fundraising total for the new Wisconsin History Center to \$40.9 million, which kept the landmark project on track for completion in 2026.

This staggering generosity was especially evident on June 3, when the Foundation hosted an event at the Society headquarters to reveal the first history center architectural renderings. Enthused by remarks from former Govs. Tommy Thompson and Jim Doyle, co-chairs of the history center fundraising campaign, and inspired by what they saw, guests pledged over \$500,000 to the project in one night!

In addition to fundraising, the Foundation also manages the Society's membership and planned giving programs and provides marketing and communications services, including promoting the 12 historic sites and museums and managing the Society's website and social media channels.

I am proud to report that we helped the Society close the fiscal year with nearly 12,000 members, while generating over 5.9 million unique website page views and attracting nearly 200,000 social media followers, which is remarkable considering that just four years ago, that number was less than 30,000.

Thank you for all that you made possible in 2023. We look forward to the exciting promise of what we will accomplish together in 2024!

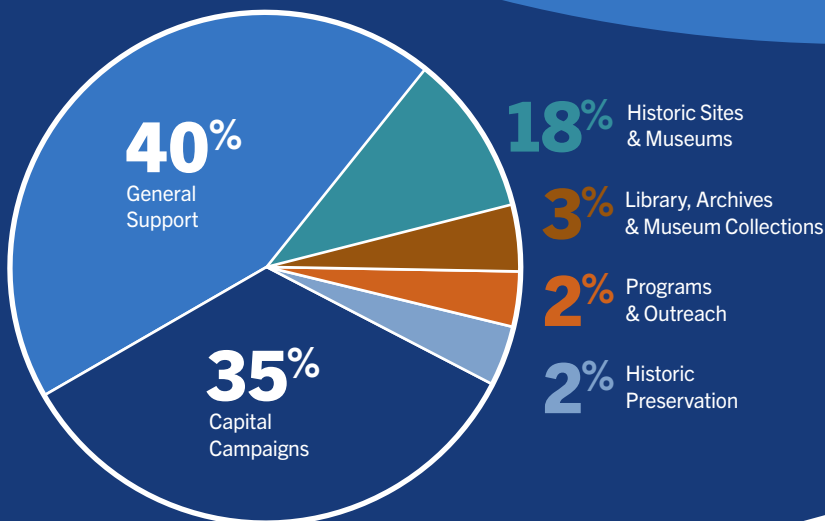
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Lussier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent than the last name "Lussier".

**Julie Lussier**  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Historical Foundation



# WISCONSIN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION FY23 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023



The Wisconsin Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1954 to support the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**REVENUE:**  
**\$4,636,358**

## 2023 FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

**4,636,358**

Total dollars raised for the benefit of the Wisconsin Historical Society

**1,822,536**

Dollars raised in private gifts for the Wisconsin History Center

**49,886**

Dollars raised on giving Tuesday (Nov. 30, 2022), including matching gift

**11,748**

Total Society members

**2,985**

New Society members

**1,559**

People who gave a gift of Society membership

**844**

New general fund donors

**12**

New Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle members (included Society in estate plan)

**5,974,576**

Unique visits (page views) on the Society website (wisconsinhistory.org)

**199,914**

Followers on all Society social media (17% increase!)

**7,576,726**

Reach of Society Facebook posts

**171,409**

Followers on Society Facebook (16% increase)



## Wisconsin Historical FOUNDATION

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

The following pages recognize individuals and organizations who cumulatively contributed \$250 or more to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation from **July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023**, including pledges and gifts of membership. It's because of your generosity that the Society has accomplished so much this year.



# Special thanks to the PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

President's Council members contribute at least \$5,000 annually to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation. These leadership gifts have a significant and positive impact on the Wisconsin Historical Society's ability to provide consistently excellent programs and services throughout Wisconsin and worldwide via [wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org) and social media. Each year, we recognize the very generous support of the President's Council with a dinner. Thank you for your continued leadership and trust in our organization.



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF THE HERITAGE CIRCLE

**\$500,000+**

Robert D. Kern\*

**\$100,000 - \$499,999**

Anonymous

Judge **Thomas H. Barland**  
and Jill B. Barland

**Robert C. Dohmen**

Pleasant Rowland Frautschi

W. Jerome Frautschi

E.M. & R.W.

McCoy Gift Fund

David L. and Rita E. Nelson  
Family Fund within the  
Community Foundation  
for the Fox Valley Region

**Rhona E. Vogel**

Richard Searer and  
**Cathi E. Wiebrecht-Searer**

**\$50,000 - \$99,999**

**Kathleen Burke**

Sandra Gollmar Edwards

John Englesby\*

**Pat and Anne Fee**

Bob Gollmar\*

**Conrad and Sandra Goodkind**

Mary Roelli Hilfiker

Joseph and Alice Kaspar

**Don and Cindy Schott**

JoAnn and

**Michael Youngman**

**\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Rick Bock Fund of The  
Minneapolis Foundation

Bradbury Family

**Gregory Huber**

A. William and **Joanne**

**B. Huelsman** Fund at  
the Greater Milwaukee  
Foundation

Tom\* and Nancy Mohs

Dr. H. Nicholas Muller III\*

Richard A. Reinhart,

in memory of

Antoinette Reinhart

Ron\* and **Theresa Richards**

The George and Jane  
Shinners Charitable Fund,

in memory of Barbara

Shinners Grainger

**Jane and David\* Villa**

**\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Anonymous (2)

John Lloyd and

Andrew Cheng

Rima and Michael Apple

Nancy Marshall Bauer

Hugh Bell

**Christopher and**

Mary Pat **Berry**

Bob and **Susan Crane**

**Diane Dei Rossi** and

James Hardy

W. Lee Hansen

Claire and Marjorie Johnson

Richard and Joan\* Leffler

The Lenz Family

Fred D. Pfening III

Jack\* and Glenda Rhodes

John Sensenbrenner

Monica Sentoff, in memory  
of Stephen Sentoff

**Leonard Sobczak** and

David Pionke

\*In Memoriam • Names listed in bold denote members of the WHS Board of Curators, WHF Board of Directors, or Wisconsin Historical Real Estate Foundation Board

Dawn Stucki  
Charles G. Swem Trust  
Kenneth Young,  
in memory of Jack Ryan

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous  
**Jason** and Erin **Adamany**  
Amy Alpine  
**Loren J. Anderson** and  
Terri Weiland Anderson  
**Angela** and Jeff **Bartell**  
Will and Ruth Bloedow  
Patricia Anne Boge  
Renee and Tom Boldt  
Richard Boyd  
**Kendall** and Diane **Breunig**  
Kathryn Maegli Davis  
Marty and Amy Fields  
Robert and  
Phyllis Flemming  
**Rockne** and JoAnne **Flowers**  
Robert and Elke Hagge  
**Joshua** and Megan **Jeffers**  
Dr. and Mrs.\* John P. Kaminski  
Hanns Kuttner  
William Lynch and  
Barbara Manger

Audrey\* and  
Rowland McClellan  
John K. and Janice W. Notz  
Opitz Family Fund at  
Madison Community  
Foundation  
Celene Frey and  
Roy Ostenso  
**Lowell** and Mary **Peterson**  
Jerald and Mary Phillips  
Fred and Nancy Risser  
Bruce Rosen and  
Diane Seder  
Brian and Karen Rude  
**Walter S.** and Amelia M.  
**Rugland** Fund within  
the Community  
Foundation for the  
Fox Valley Region  
John and Linda Schilling  
Miriam Simmons  
Jim Slattery  
Judy and Walt Stevenson  
Ellis and Katie Waller  
Neal and Cathy Wegner  
Paul Wertsch  
**Terri** and Bill **Yoho**  
Dr. Jennifer Younger

Richard J. Ziemann Fund  
of the Eau Claire  
Community Foundation

### HERITAGE CIRCLE

#### \$1,200 - \$4,999

Anonymous (7)  
Peggy Ahlgren  
**Sandy** and Jeff **Anderson**  
Peter and Jo Ann Argersinger  
Drs. Gita and  
Jitendra K. Baruah  
Lawrence Bechler  
Todd I. and Betty J. Berens  
Thomas and Karen Binder  
Diane Bless  
**Bruce** and Melissa **Block**  
Paula Bonner and  
Ann Schaffer  
**Eric Borgerding**  
Kristin Borst and  
Timothy Flynn  
Stephen and Mary Brenton  
Thomas and **Mary Buestrin**  
Dave and Glenda Buholzer  
Peter and Carol Carstensen  
Lau and Bea Christensen

*\*In Memoriam • Names listed in bold denote members of the WHS Board of Curators, WHF Board of Directors, or Wisconsin Historical Real Estate Foundation Board*



“

It is comforting to know that when I pass away, my loved ones will know of my wishes and dreams to help others learn from the past by supporting the Wisconsin Historical Society. I feel proud that I can help in some small way to assist others in achieving their dreams of learning more about their past so that they can become future learners, dreamers, and leaders.”

— **Patricia Popple, Chippewa Falls**

Member of the Society's Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle who has included a public history endowment in her estate plan



Gail K. Cleary  
 Kristine H. Cleary and  
 Peter L. Coffey  
 Sandra G. Cleary  
 Dr. Marcus Cohen and  
 Mrs. Sheila Cohen  
 Ann Conroy  
 J. Frank and Mary Ann Cook  
 Michael and  
 Roberta Couillard  
 Dr. and Mrs. Mark J. Curran  
 Maris and Mary Dambekaln  
 Bruce Davidson  
 Judith Daykin  
 Ellen and Gerald DeMers  
 Larry and Kathleen Dickerson  
 Dennis and Maribeth Dorn  
 James and Jessica Doyle  
 Mary Ann and Tom Dyer  
 Calvin and Janis Edwards  
 Gary and Judith Ertel  
 James and Katharine Esser  
 Dominic Fee, M.D. and  
 Karin Swartz, M.D.  
 Patty Fjetland and  
 Linda Newton  
 Darrell and Sally Foell

Barbara N. Fuldner  
 Mark and Janet Gajewski  
 Erica Fox Gehrig and  
 Mark Gehrig  
 Maureen Giese  
 Adam and Carole Glass  
 James Hoehn\* and  
 Nancy Goldberg  
 James Golz  
 Joel and Jacquie Greiner  
 Thomas and Ruth Griswold  
 James E. and Sharon L.  
 Gutenberg  
 Vivian L. Guzniczak  
 Beverly Hahn, in memory of  
 Richard Hahn  
**Reed and Ellen Hall**  
 Margie Devereaux and  
 David Hall  
 Dr. Van Beck Hall  
 Anna Biermeier and  
 Roger Hanson  
 Ann Louise Harry  
 Edward and Betty Hasselkus  
 Bryant Hazard  
 Carroll Heideman  
 Caralynn Hodgson  
 Bob Hughes

Susie Fritz Jablonic  
**Jerry and Sherry Janiszewski**  
 Paul and Sharon Janty  
 M. J. Jones  
 Nancy and William Jones  
 Art and Martha Kaemmer  
 Fund of HRK Foundation  
 Steven and Lynn Karges  
 Virginia Kasper  
 Arlan and Lori\* Kay  
 Frederick P. Kessler and  
 Joan F. Kessler  
 Ann KloeHN  
 Mr. and Mrs. Terrence  
 Knudsen  
 David and Margaret Kraus  
 Clinton and Louise Kuzmich  
 Donald and Jean Kwapil  
 James and Joan Laabs  
 Dan Lau and Ruth  
 Nelson-Lau  
 Mark and Ilene\* Laufman  
 David R. and Darlene A. Lee  
 Roma E. Lenehan  
 Robert J. Lenz  
 Ronald L. and Jean L. Lewis  
 Sheldon and  
 Marianne Lubar

*\*In Memoriam • Names listed in bold denote members of the WHS Board of Curators, WHF Board of Directors, or Wisconsin Historical Real Estate Foundation Board*



“

When a newspaper uses a historical fact in an article, who do they cite? Most times, it came from the Wisconsin Historical Society. People know that if the information came from the Society, you don't have to question that it's true and correct. It is undeniably an authority. It is time our state has a history center of equal stature.”

— **John W. Thompson, Madison**

Member of the Society's President's Council and  
 Wisconsin History Center campaign donor

Robert\* and  
 Dorothy\* Luening  
 Peter and Jill Lundberg  
 Brad and Julie Lussier  
 Stewart Macaulay  
 J. Daniel Maguire  
 Barbara Fox Mather  
**Susan McLeod**  
 Ms. Elizabeth J. Meyer and  
 Mr. Samuel N. Hope  
 Mr. Stephen Morton  
 Wes and Caitlin  
 Mosman Block  
 Gerald and Dee Lila Murray  
 Frederick Thomas and  
 Hope Olson  
 Margaret Ann Olson  
 John R. and  
**Catherine C. Orton**  
 Peter Ostlind  
 Bob and Holly Ottum  
 Mr. and Mrs. August U. Pabst  
 Jan Palzkill  
 Allan and Patty Patek  
**Gary and Peg Pesicka**  
 Emily and **Daniel Pfeiffer**  
 Joseph Pfiffner  
 Rick and Marge Pifer

**Julie Ragland**  
 Anita A. Reid  
 Robert Ley and  
 Ronda Richards  
 Janet Robertson  
 Peggy and David Rosenzweig  
 Carol Ann Schlatter  
 Michael Shepherd  
 Donna and **Tom Shriner**  
 Robert and Beverly Spinti  
 Kathryn A. Steckelberg  
 Frank Stekel  
 Edward and Carol Stevenson  
 John and Sherry Stilin  
 John and JoEllen Stollenwerk  
 Donald Sylvester  
 George and  
 Catherine T. Tesar  
 Robert and Judith Tuttle  
 Aural Umhoefer  
 George L. Vogt  
 Richard and  
 Katherine Welnick  
 Laurie A. Wermter  
 Charles E. and Ruth Werth  
 Bob and Sharon Gilson  
**David Wilder**  
 Pat Wilkening

Kathryn Wilson  
 Eleanor and Fred Winston -  
 The Longview Foundation  
 Tom Wittnebel  
 Susan M. Zaeske  
 James Zerwick  
 Frank and Diane Zillner  
 Dave and Sandy Zweifel

## HISTORY AMBASSADOR

**\$500 - \$1,199**

Anonymous (3)  
 Elizabeth and Lynn Adelman  
 Dick Ammann and  
 Sharon Kelley  
 Suzanne Ammerman  
 Henry Anderson and  
 Shirley Levine  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Anderson  
 Linda and John Anderson  
 Charitable Fund  
**Marcia and Amos Anderson**  
 Marilou and James Angevine  
**Cindy and William Arbiture**  
 Terry and Carol Astin

*\*In Memoriam • Names listed in bold denote members of the WHS Board of Curators, WHF Board of Directors, or Wisconsin Historical Real Estate Foundation Board*



“

The only way to ensure that your final wishes are fulfilled is to put everything in writing and plan it out. If we want the Wisconsin Historical Society to fulfill its mission into the next century, it is essential that we support it. Ultimately, the future of the Society rests in our hands.”

— **Pete Moris, Mt. Hope**

Member of the Society's Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle for including the Wisconsin Historical Foundation in his estate plan

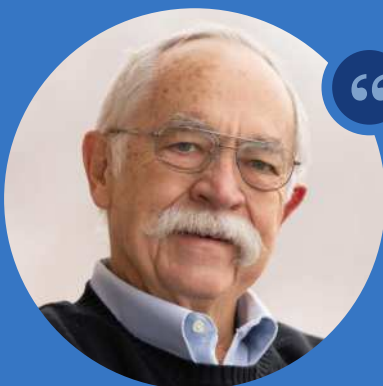


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“

I am interested in history, especially local history. The Wisconsin Historical Society is an institution I want to see do well. When I was a student at UW, I have fond memories of studying in the second-floor library in the Society building. I support WHS because I believe, as the old saying goes, ‘Those who don’t remember the past are condemned to repeat it.’”

— **Dr. Paul Wertsch, Madison**  
Member of the Society’s President’s Council

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**Janan and Waleed Najeeb**  
 Cindy Nelson  
 Daniel Nickolie

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“

The skills I built through National History Day were vital throughout my educational experience. I can say without a doubt, I would not have found my passion for film without it. With your support, more students like me can find their passion through the Wisconsin Historical Society like I have.”

— **Ellena Hein, UW-Madison junior, Kettle Moraine**  
 Alumna of the Society's NHD program who finished fourth at Nationals in 2017 for her documentary film

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### \$250 - \$499

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Karen Aasen  
David and Sarah Allen  
Larry Allen  
Margaret Amend  
Timothy and Regina Anderson

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“

My students and I are grateful to the Wisconsin Historical Society for supporting us. NHD has made me a better teacher and the program challenges my students in ways they never thought possible. The Society's support of NHD is giving my students, and our democracy, the foundation needed to succeed today and tomorrow.

— **Terry Kaldhusdal, Kettle Moraine**

Middle school teacher and winner of National History Day's 2023 Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award



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“

I would like to thank the donors who make National History Day possible. They gave me an amazing experience that helped shape my future. NHD taught me key academic and life skills. I will always remember the feeling of accomplishment as I was named a national finalist.”

— **Isaac Neumann, University School of Milwaukee**  
 Eighth-grader and fourth-place finisher  
 at NHD Nationals

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 Karl and Lisa Dickson  
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 Carol and Andrew Hays  
 Anne Hazelwood  
 John and Aimee Hein

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“

Thank you for making National History Day possible for myself and students across America. This program gives students an opportunity to explore history in an unimaginable way. NHD is the first and only program I have found that encapsulates my passion for history fully.”

— **Jennifer Omernik, Amherst High School junior**

Selected to participate in a six-month national NHD research program about World War II in the Pacific, which included a trip to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii

Cindi Henige and  
 Gary Lynch  
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 Lesleigh Luttrell  
 Ron and Kay Maassen

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“

The Society is one of the most respected history organizations in the country and Summit Credit Union is proud to support this long overdue and important project. The Society has warehouses full of items that hold pieces of the puzzle to our rich Wisconsin history. We need a place to display these items and tell our story so we can honor and learn from the past.”

— **Kim Sponem**

President/CEO of Summit Credit Union, which was among the early donors to the Wisconsin History Center campaign



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 and Walter Griskavich  
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 Jim and Margaret Polglaze

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“

Not only will the new history center be an archive for our history, it will also provide educational opportunities for generations to come. Stepping back in time to see, feel, and experience history on a personal level will have a big impact. That is the ultimate gift to our future.”

— **Megan Jerabek**

Attorney and Shareholder at von Briesen & Roper, which was among the early donors to the Wisconsin History Center campaign

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“

My 5-year-old son loved Villa Louis. I would call it life-changing for him. Children are more open than adults to seeing and absorbing new information. I remember going to Villa Louis as a child, 30+ years ago, and I enjoy taking my children there and seeing it through their eyes. Every year we buy both a state park sticker and a WHS membership. We like to picnic at a state park then visit a state historical site.”

— **Heather Foreman, Madison**  
 Wisconsin Historical Society member

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 Judith Sullivan  
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*Supporting Partners provide highly valued contributions needed for the ongoing success of Society programs. Contact Development Director Kristin Borst to learn how your organization can participate. Call (608) 261-9363 or email [kristin.borst@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:kristin.borst@wisconsinhistory.org).*

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“

Although I live in Colorado, I have a strong connection to Wisconsin. My relatives settled near Marshfield in the 1850s. My dad loves history, and so do I, especially genealogy. One of my top tabs on my computer is the Wisconsin Historical Society website. Whenever I have emailed the librarians at WHS, I have received valuable assistance.”

— **Melanie Tafaro, Highlands Ranch, Colorado**  
 Wisconsin Historical Society member



Ruth and Hartley Barker  
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Family Foundation

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“

Supporting the Wisconsin Historical Society is our pleasure. I have been a history buff my whole life and I do a lot of reading, especially on the Civil War. History is my hobby. My wife and I have lived in Wisconsin most of our lives and we respect what the Society does. You can count on our continued support.”

— **Richard Whittow, Fitchburg**  
Wisconsin Historical Society member

Walter A. and Dorothy  
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