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WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the August 2025 edition of Capitol Connections — your source for the latest news and updates from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Our mission to collect, preserve and share stories is made possible by continued support from the Wisconsin Legislature and administration. Thank you!

Behind the Scenes, Beneath the Beams: Wisconsin History Center Taking Shape

Big things are happening on Capitol Square and behind the scenes as progress continues on the future Wisconsin History Center! Behind the construction fences, the site is starting to take form with the concrete foundation poured and the tower crane installed and ready to raise beams!

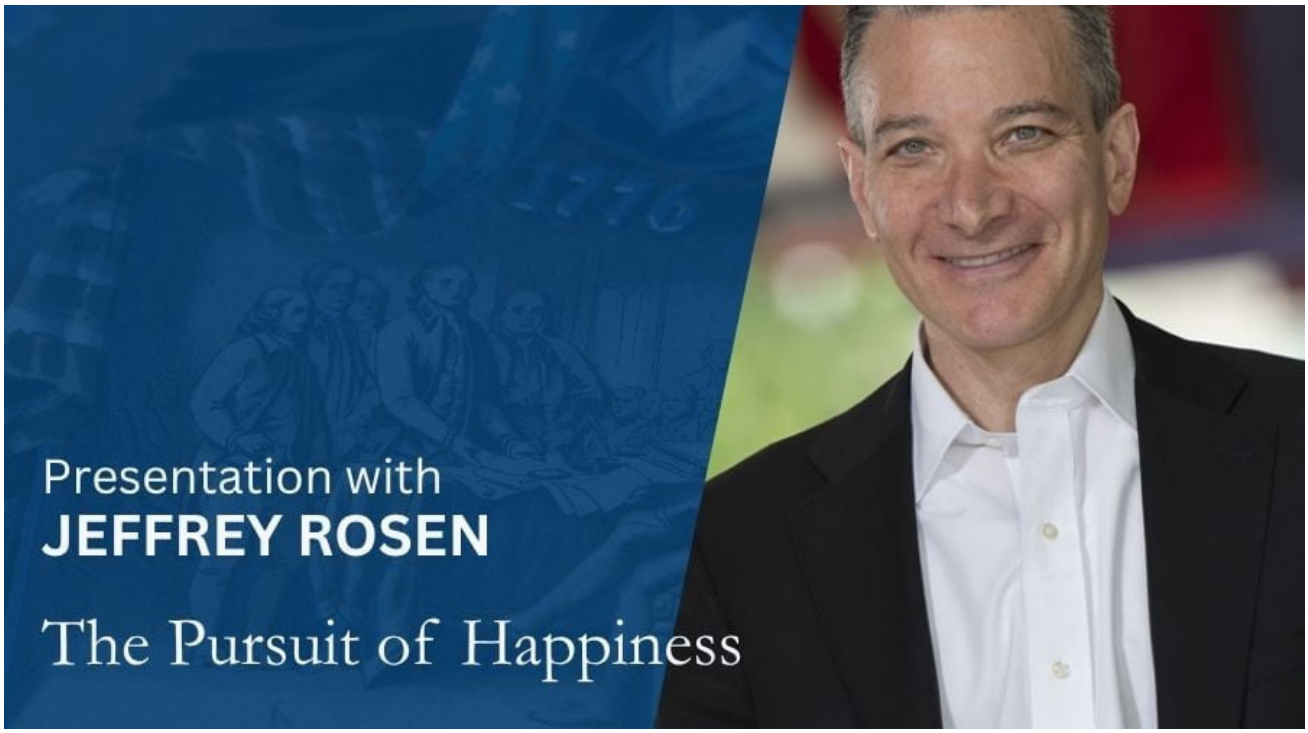
Meanwhile, Society staff members and agency partners are deep in planning and design for the five-story, 116,000-square-foot facility. The center will feature three core galleries, a large changing gallery, a community gallery and vibrant field trip and communal spaces that will welcome and inspire visitors from all 72 Wisconsin counties and beyond.

Earlier this summer, we were thrilled to share that the design and construction of the Wisconsin History Center is fully funded thanks to generous support from the Administration, state legislators and hundreds of private donors.

"This project is a shining example of a public-private partnership, a true collaboration where each side lifted the other. The incredible investment from the State of Wisconsin paired with the generosity of private donors have given us the flexibility to dream big, innovate and create something truly transformative for the people of Wisconsin."
- Christian Overland, Director & CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Stay in the loop on the latest project news and behind the scenes happenings with Capitol Connections—the newsletter will provide regular updates on the Wisconsin History Center leading up to its opening in late 2027!

Left: *The tower crane has arrived on the construction site to move progress forward with beam raising.* ***Top Right:*** *Heavy machinery was on the scene earlier this summer in preparation for laying the foundation.* ***Bottom Right:*** *The historic Silver Dollar Tavern bar is undergoing restoration before it heads to its new home in the Wisconsin History Center.*



Join the Wisconsin Historical Society this fall for the annual James Madison Lecture Series, featuring **Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center**. Rosen will explore how six of America's most influential founders—Franklin, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton—understood and lived out one of the nation's founding ideals. These engaging, **FREE** lectures will offer thought-provoking insights into the foundations of American democracy—add it your calendar today!

October 6: Green Bay | **October 7:** Madison

More Upcoming Events:

September 6: What's Under the Villa Louis (Prairie du Chien)

September 9: Genealogy Basics (Online Webinar)

September 13: Stagecoach Saturday at Wade House (Greenbush)

September 11, 25, 13 & 27: Hidden History of Capitol Square Walking Tour (Madison)

October 15-17: 19th Annual Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

(Baraboo)

October 16: America@250: The American Revolution Sneak Peek & Panel (Baraboo)

Click here for a complete list of upcoming events.

Team Wisconsin Shines at 2025 National History Day Contest

Congratulations to Team Wisconsin for an outstanding showing at the 2025 National History Day competition in Maryland! With four projects placing in the top 10, two students selected as Outstanding Affiliate Winners, and one student taking home the U.S. Constitution Prize, these students made Wisconsin proud on a national stage. ***Click here*** *for the full list of winners!*

IN THE NEWS

- **Stevens Point Journal:** Portage County Historical Society earns statewide recognition for education and outreach
- **CBS News:** 1880 shipwreck is discovered by accident in Wisconsin river
- **Forbes:** Here's Where To See The Gilded Age Across The United States
- **Tomahawk Leader:** Historical Society, Main Street revive efforts to bring historical marker to downtown Tomahawk
- **The Cap Times:** Fred Risser's life is the story of Wisconsin politics
- **Travel + Leisure:** This U.S. Island Chain Was Named One of the Best Places to Travel in 2025—How to Plan the Perfect Trip
- **WMTV 15:** Belmont, Wisconsin's 'First Capitol,' dates back to 1836

RECENT LISTINGS

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Root River Parks (Racine County)
- Margaret A. Muir Shipwreck (Kewaunee County)
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Marquette County)
- Carleton District #3 School (Milwaukee County)
- Mackenzie House (Dane County)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Society's America 250 webpage is now live, offering a central hub for upcoming events, educational resources, and opportunities to engage with state and national history as we celebrate the semiquincentennial of the United States of America!

Visit **wihist.org/USA250**.

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