

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS



SOCIETY BREAKS GROUND ON WISCONSIN HISTORY CENTER

Elected leaders, Tribal partners, private donors and community champions gathered on Capitol Square last week to celebrate a milestone moment for the state—the groundbreaking for the future [Wisconsin History Center](#)! The event underscored the incredible State support and private gifts that made this landmark project possible for the people of Wisconsin.

Check out [this short video](#) capturing some of the highlights of the day and excitement in the air as we ushered in a new world-class history center that celebrates the stories of our state, across all 72 counties!

Looking for images from the groundbreaking ceremony to share with your constituents? Visit our [online image gallery](#) for photos available for download.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Society's historic sites and museums are opening for the spring season with a lineup of special events and brand-new experiences.

Here's one you won't want to miss: Old World Wisconsin is gearing up to unveil Wittnebel's Tavern, a meticulously restored 1930s post-prohibition bar, adding to the site's growing beer and brewing experience. Mark your calendar for the Grand Opening Weekend festivities on May 17 and 18!

OPENING DAY AT THE HISTORIC SITES:

Open now: Circus World (Baraboo)

May 3: Black Point Estate & Gardens (Lake Geneva), Old World Wisconsin (Eagle)

May 21: Villa Louis (Prairie du Chien)

May 24: First Capitol (Belmont), H.H. Bennett Studio (Wisconsin Dells), Madeline Island Museum (La Pointe), Reed School (Neillsville), Wade House (Greenbush)

May 29: Pendarvis (Mineral Point)

May 31: Stonefield (Cassville)

[Click here](#) for a complete list of upcoming events.

HISTORY ADVOCACY DAY IN WISCONSIN



Special thanks to those of you who met with passionate, history-loving constituents as part of the Society's History Advocacy Day last month. This annual event spotlights the importance of collecting, preserving and sharing history across Wisconsin's 72 counties.

IN THE NEWS

- **Wisconsin Public Radio:** [Construction underway for Wisconsin History Center](#)
- **Milwaukee Magazine:** [Old World Wisconsin Wins Top Attraction in 'Best of the Burbs'](#)
- **Isthmus:** ['Wisconsin Idols' commemorates the known and the lesser known state stars](#)
- **NBC 15:** ['History Makers Tour' stopping in all 72 Wisconsin counties before 2027](#)
- **WisBusiness:** [Society Welcomes Leo Landis, Director of Public History](#)
- **CBS 58:** [Historic circus wagons make triumphant return to Circus World in Baraboo](#)
- **WUWM:** [Why are there so many shipwrecks in Lake Michigan?](#)

RECENT LISTINGS

Recent Additions to the State Register of Historic Places:

- [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) (Marquette County)
- [New Glarus Hotel](#) (Green County)
- [Margaret A. Muir Shipwreck](#) (Kewaunee County)
- [Gay Building](#) (Dane County)

- Root River Parks (Racine County)

Recent Additions to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Freeman House (Pierce County)
- Janesville Elementary Schools (Rock County)



DID YOU KNOW?

Students from across the state competed in National History Day regional contests with a theme of "Rights & Responsibilities in History" for 2025. **Join us in wishing good luck to the students moving on to the state contest in Madison on May 3!**

