



## 2023-25 Operating Budget Talking Points

### Agency Details

- Annual Budget: \$9.7 million of the Society's \$27.2 million in revenue (36%) came from private gifts, endowments, earned revenue and \$3.1 million in federal grant awards.
- Active Historical Society Members: 11,253
- Staff: 182 FTE, 150-200 LTE/Seasonal workers
- Wisconsin Counties Served: 72

### Operating Budget Requests

#### IT Services:

- The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) requests \$2,574,883 and 4.0 Full Time Equivalent Employees in Fiscal Year 2024 and \$2,370,100 annually starting in Fiscal Year 2025 for Information Technology Services due to notification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Information Technology ("DoIT") that they are no longer able to continue IT support for the Society after December 31, 2022, due to contractual compliance disparities.
- This is a critical request. Adequate funding and staffing resources are required for the stability of the WHS IT Services Program to allow WHS to meet its statutory responsibilities, public mission, and strategic initiatives. The IT program provides essential services to existing programs and historic sites located throughout the state. Further, to scale up digital operations in support of the new History Center, additional resources are critical to achieve and sustain both.
- This request includes funding and position authority to ensure the WHS IT Program can maintain the current level of services and support to its employees, the public, and stakeholders; provide access to schools, students, and researchers around the state; initiate and implement planned strategic agency IT initiatives as described in our IT Strategic Plan, including equipment for the Digital Infrastructure Modernization Project ("DIMP"); support the development, construction, and implementation of the new Wisconsin History Center, a \$70M state tax-payer investment; participate in Statewide IT initiatives, such as VoIP, with other state agencies, which are critical to operations; and appropriately plan for increases in costs due to technology industry norms related to licensing and technological innovations.

#### History Center Gaming Funding: *see attached letters of support*

- The Wisconsin Historical Society requests \$1.45 million from Tribal Gaming funds annually starting in Fiscal Year 2024 to support collections preservation, conservation, and preparation as well as the digital infrastructure required for the new Wisconsin History Center, and eventually operations of the Center in the future biennium.

**Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846**

816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

[wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org)

- The History Center will be a world class 21st century history museum, education, and program experience on the Capitol Square in Madison. This enumerated state project is on track to open in Fiscal Year 2027 and expected to serve 250,000 visitors annually. A project of this scale requires a significant investment in planning and preparation.
- The Society's collection holdings include over 150,000 cubic feet of archival collections, 25,000 maps and atlases, 3 million photographs, and 750,000 three-dimensional artifacts and archaeological items, including American Indian collections. From these holdings the Society will select approximately 6,300 items for display in the 35,000 square feet of exhibition space in the new Center. In addition, approximately 18,000 items will be vetted and digitized for inclusion in films, media productions, audio recordings, and other immersive experiences within the Center as well as future changing exhibitions.
- A priority throughout the Center is to integrate responsible, culturally sensitive collections stewardship and management practices, which reflect an understanding of the experiences of tribal members and Tribal Nations. The Society and its newly hired Curator of American Indian Collections are engaging tribal members and tribal museum professionals in consultation to determine the best way to steward these collections and share the stories of the Tribal Nations. These consultations involve the Society's archaeological collections and American Indian collections to ensure the selection of items is appropriate and the description of items in the Center is accurate.
- The Society has letters of support for this request from Tribal Chairman Michael Wiggins of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Ho-Chunk Nation President Marlon White Eagle (Attached)

#### Risk Management:

- The Wisconsin Historical Society requests \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 and \$200,000 annually starting in Fiscal Year 2025 to establish an Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") Program. If funded, the Society would contribute an existing Full Time Equivalent Employee and reallocate existing funding to support a Risk Management Program Director and ensure success of the EPM Program.
- Currently, WHS does not have a formal risk management program, but rather reacts to risk management activities on case-by-case basis. It is necessary to establish a more robust health, safety, and security program that includes policy development, animal care activities, employee training, enhanced equipment, and onsite security presence for several of our historical sites. As WHS continues to invest in new infrastructure, such as the new Wisconsin History Center and Old World Wisconsin ("OWW") experiences; make improvements to existing facilities at the WHS Headquarters and historic sites; expand its historical site programming; and support existing operations, establishing a robust ERM Program will provide the Society a framework to protect those investments, while improving its ability to plan, mitigate, and respond to relevant threats and opportunities more effectively. Creation of an ERM Program is critical to meeting the WHS strategic objective to enhance business operational readiness to support agency strategic initiatives.
- WHS hosts a wide variety of properties, facilities, historic artifacts and collections, and dynamic historical programming throughout the state, while employing permanent, limited-term, contract, volunteer staff, and even animals. Through historic sites and museums, the Society welcomes close to 200,000 members of the public each year, on average. This diversity, while enriching our state historical presence, also creates unique risk not found in other Wisconsin state agencies.

#### Records Management:

- The Wisconsin Historical Society requests 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Employee in Fiscal Year 2023 to support the State Records Management Program. The Society is not requesting any additional funding and will reallocate existing funds to support this FTE.
- The Society houses the State Archives which is the “ultimate depository of the archives of the state” per Wis. Stat. § 16.61 (13)(a). Archivists are responsible for consultation work with state government agencies and local units of government for records management questions, training, and to provide access to records housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society.
- This request would allow the Society to hire an FTE Archivist with responsibility for accessioning (intake, arranging, describing, and cataloging) state and local paper and digital records acquired by the existing public records Archivists. The position would build capacity for the State Archives by centralizing accessioning functions and allowing staff with specific subject matter expertise to focus on record acquisition, advice and training for government units, and implementing electronic records transfer processes. The new Archivist position would be funded by PRS appropriation 120 established by Wis. Stat. § 20.245(1)(kw). This appropriation typically funds about 100 hours/week of Limited Term Employee (LTE) support for public records staff in addition to funding two FTE positions, supplies, and electronic databases used for public record preservation. The WHS will use the money typically expended on LTE staffing for the new FTE position. Changing the staffing model from LTEs to an FTE would create efficiencies in staffing.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# Letters of Support from Wisconsin's Native Nations

# BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

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CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O. Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
2 East Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Evers:

The Wisconsin Historical Society (Society) is on track to open the new Wisconsin History Center on the capitol square in Fiscal Year 2027 and I could not be more excited for the state! The Society is working with world-renowned experience designer Ralph Appelbaum Associates to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century history center, education, and program experience for over 250,000 people annually. The Society has made it a priority throughout this project to integrate responsible, culturally sensitive tribal collections stewardship and management practices, which reflect an understanding of the experiences of Native Nations. To keep this important project on track, the Society is seeking a necessary \$1.4 million in gaming funds base support increase in advance of opening the center to assist with essential collections support needs now, which is why I am writing you today.

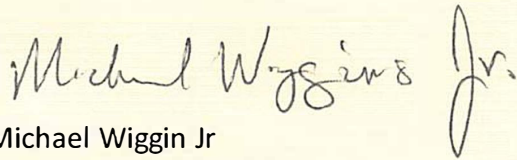
The current and future direction of the history center project is community-driven and aims to be highly reciprocal, serving the interests of the Nations, native communities, 72 counties, and the public at-large. This includes the Society's decision to set high standards for Native representation and sharing history through the community's voices, by aligning it with Act 31, infusing robust content and stories that support Act 31 throughout the entirety of the history center.

Funding the transition from the existing Wisconsin Historical Museum, developed in the 1980s and a clear product of its time, reflects a major effort and significant work that is necessary not only to create a space for new, more accurate and authentic narratives, but also to address the myriad of issues which exist in the current museum by dismantling the current inadequate, outdated, and problematic interpretation and providing culturally appropriate care and maintenance for objects in the process

The 2023-25 budget request of \$1.4 million of tribal gaming dollars, ensuring essential collections and transition support, is critical now to continue the work the Society, community members, Native Nations, and educators have started.

Please support the attached 2023-25 budget request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wiggin Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Jr." at the end.

Michael Wiggin Jr  
Tribal Chairman

# BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O. Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

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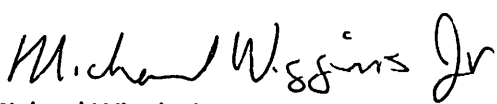
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Michael Wiggin Jr  
Tribal Chairman







# HO-CHUNK NATION

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## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 25, 2023

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
2 East Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703

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W9814 AIRPORT RD • P.O. BOX 667 • BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615  
(715) 284-7762 • (800) 726-7509 • FAX (715) 284-9805

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Marlon WhiteEagle  
*MaxiSkaHanazi*  
Ho-Chunk Nation President

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# MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, CULTURAL AND LOGGING MUSEUM  
P.O. BOX 910  
Keshena WI, 54135  
715-799-5258

The Honorable Tony Evers  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
2 East Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703

February 1, 2023

Dear Governor Evers:

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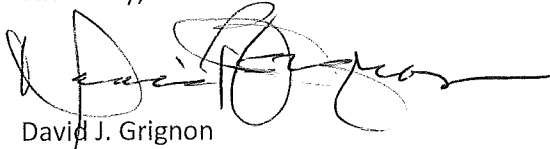
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David J. Grignon  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin



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