



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

**Wisconsin Historical Society &  
William G. Pomeroy Foundation**



**2024 Historical Marker Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions**

**Thank you** for your interest in applying for a state historical marker grant. This grant program is a joint initiative of the Wisconsin Historical Society and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Please carefully review these guidelines and instructions before starting your application.

**Purpose:** The Wisconsin Historical Society's State Historical Markers program, established in 1953, shares stories about events, individuals, buildings, or sites of local, state, or national significance that contribute to our state's diverse history. This popular program creates a tangible connection to the past in the built environment, and community organizations statewide have written more than 600 markers to date. Today, the Wisconsin Historical Society seeks to expand the stories told across the state by issuing a special call for topics that are currently underrepresented within the marker program.

The Wisconsin State Historical Marker Program, with the support of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, is offering grants to fund the full cost of either a 36" x 24" Wisconsin State Historical Marker with 5/8" lettering and the same text on each side or a 36" x 24" Wisconsin State Historical Marker with 5/8" lettering and different text on each side (up to \$2,520). Up to twelve (12) such grants are available during this application cycle.

**Note:** Installation and marker maintenance costs are not eligible for grant funding. Applicants bear responsibility for the installation, maintenance, and care of the marker in perpetuity.

**Award Criteria:** Marker nominations must meet one or more of the following state historical marker program criteria.

Markers must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be associated with events in Wisconsin that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local, state, national, or international history or pre-history;
- Be associated with Wisconsin-born or Wisconsin-based persons no longer living whose lives are historically significant or who have made significant contributions to patterns of history and culture;
- For buildings, structures, and "things," embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, style, period, method of construction, architecture, or represent the work of a master;
- Embody characteristics of the state representing significant aspects of the physical or natural history of the earth and its life;
- Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

A potential Wisconsin Historical Marker must meet one of these marker location criteria:

- The site selected for the marker must be visible from a public right-of-way and be publicly accessible.
- Markers placed within a public right-of-way must get written approval from the

appropriate transportation official or governing body that has jurisdiction over that public right-of-way.

- If the marker is to be placed on private property, an easement that permits public access for as long as the marker stands must be included as part of the marker application.
- The owner(s) of the site must provide written permission for the marker to be located on their property. Written permission also must allow access for ongoing maintenance of the marker.
- Only sites approved by the Society may be marked with State Historical Markers. Sites already marked with a State Historical Marker are not eligible for a second marker.

To be eligible for this grant program, the marker nomination must address at least one of the following topics:

- African American history
- Disability rights movement
- Hmong history
- Latinx history
- LGBTQ+ history
- Recent immigration/refugee history
- Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples histories
- Women's history

**Eligibility:** Non-profit, education, and government organizations, including tribal government and programs, are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible. Applicants must collaborate with communities and cultural groups represented on the marker. Preference will be given to applicants from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and identity groups. The Society will strongly prefer applications from Tribal Nations and communities for Native histories. If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact Wisconsin Historical Society staff before completing your application (see below).

**Evaluation:** A 5-member panel composed of Wisconsin Historical Society staff reviews applications and selects grant recipients. The process is competitive, so it is important to fill out the application form completely.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Wisconsin Historical Society staff prior to applying. Please send drafts for review by **March 20, 2024**.

**Staff contact:**

**Mallory Hanson**, Statewide Services Coordinator, (608) 890-3170,  
mallory.hanson@wisconsinhistory.org

**Submission:** Please email or mail one copy of the completed application form by **April 30, 2024**, to:

State Historical Markers Program  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Information regarding funding decisions will be shared by **May 31, 2024**.