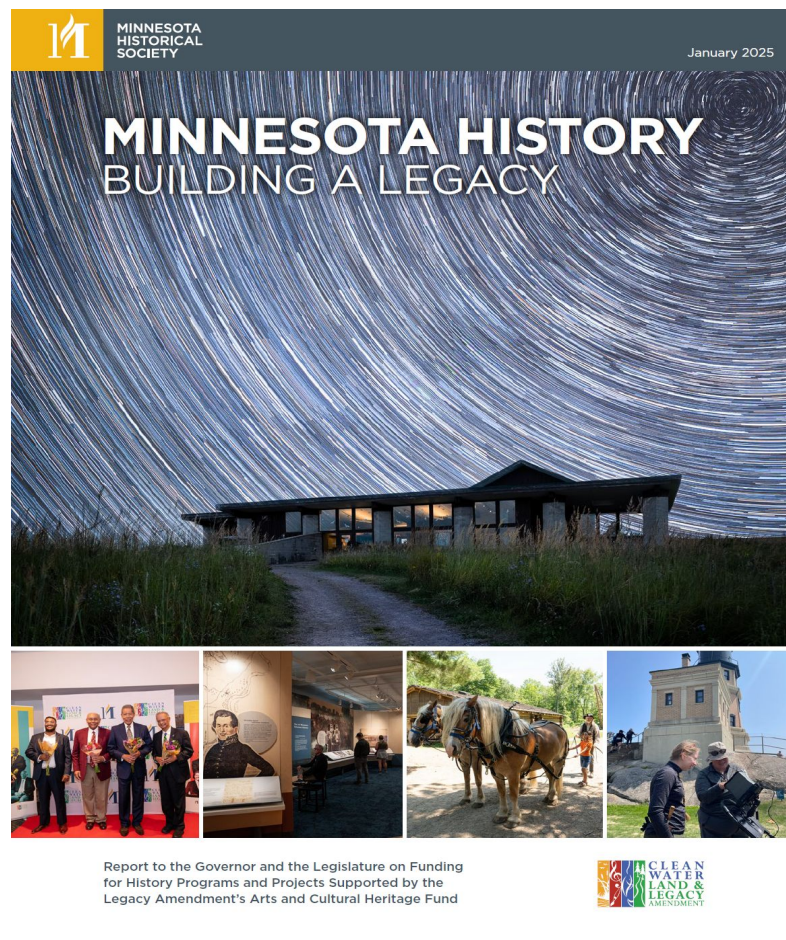




Minnesota Historical Society
Overview of Legacy Amendment - History Activities
March 2025

2025 Report to the Governor and the Legislature on Funding for History Programs and Projects supported by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund



Report to the Governor and the Legislature on Funding for History Programs and Projects Supported by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund



Impact of History Legacy expenditures

AT A GLANCE

FOR EVERY \$1 OF
LEGACY HISTORY
FUNDS INVESTED,
Minnesota receives a
return on investment
of \$2, which directly
benefits state and
local economies¹

100%
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT

\$3.10

PER PERSON PER YEAR

LESS THAN THE COST OF ONE
MONTH OF YOUR FAVORITE
STREAMING SERVICE—that's
how much each Minnesotan
pays annually for the programs,
partnerships, grants, and other
statewide initiatives detailed in
this report²

2.25 TO 1

DEMAND FOR HISTORICAL
& CULTURAL HERITAGE
GRANTS OUTWEIGHED
AVAILABLE RESOURCES³

76

COUNTIES
HAVE RECEIVED
\$100,000 OR MORE

Since July 1, 2009, Legacy history funds have
supported grants in all 87 counties.

17,000

STUDENTS GRADES 6-12
participated in National History
Day in Minnesota in FY24.

64

STUDENTS
represented
Team Minnesota
in the national
competition.

THOSE STUDENTS
WERE AWARDED:

7
MEDALS

3
FINALISTS

7
HONORABLE
MENTIONS

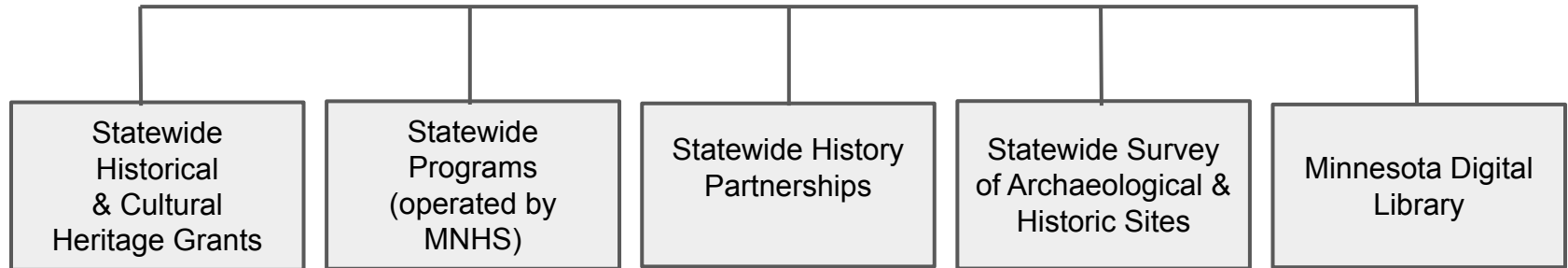
Minnesota History Coalition

- Council for Minnesota Archaeology
- Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums
- Minnesota Archaeological Society
- Minnesota Association of Museums
- Minnesota Digital Library
- Minnesota Genealogical Society
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Minnesota History Advocates for Research
- Minnesota State Historical Records Advisory Board
- Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
- Minnesota's Historic Northwest
- Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps
- Rethos (formerly Preservation Alliance of Minnesota)

Legacy Amendment Structure for History

Minnesota Constitution –
Four Legacy Funds, including Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
“to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage”

Legacy / Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
Appropriation Language



Legacy Appropriations for history – FY24-25

| Category | FY24 Appropriation | FY25 Appropriation |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Statewide Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants | \$6,451,000 | \$7,035,000 |
| Statewide History Programs | \$7,395,000 | \$8,125,000 |
| Statewide History Partnerships | \$2,183,000 | \$3,067,000 |
| Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites | \$375,000 | \$375,000 |
| Minnesota Digital Library | \$375,000 | \$375,000 |
| Additional Projects | \$1,225,000 | |
| Total | \$18,004,000 | \$18,977,000 |



Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program

- Statewide Competitive Grants Program
- Citizen Review Committee – Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC)
- Over 3,438 grants in all 87 counties
- Grants for history programs, museum collections and environments, preserving historic structures
- Small (\$10,000 or less) / Large (over \$10,000)
- Small grants available in 3-4 rounds per year; Large grants once each year



Tower, MN Fire Hall preservation

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Delano Village Hall, 2024 grant

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Delano Village Hall, 2024 grant

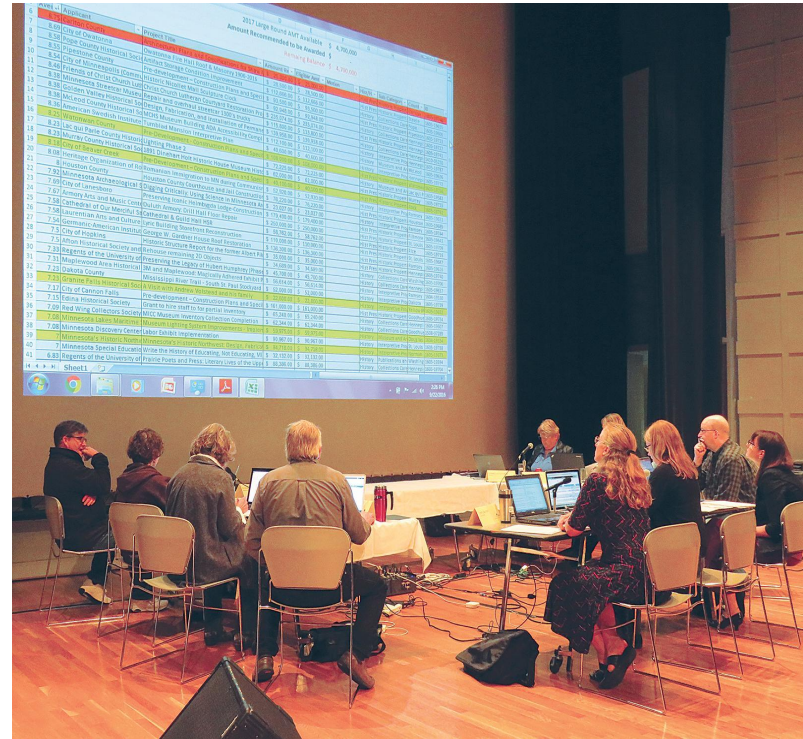
Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program

- Large grant recommendations made by 15-member citizen panel Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC), with final approval by MNHS Executive Council
- HRAC membership outlined in appropriations language and includes: historic preservation, local history, archaeology, archival programs
- In 2024, HRAC members volunteered 500+ hours
- Paperless application system



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- In 2024, HRAC members volunteered 500+ hours
- Paperless application system
- **MNHS Grants Office - is here to help!**

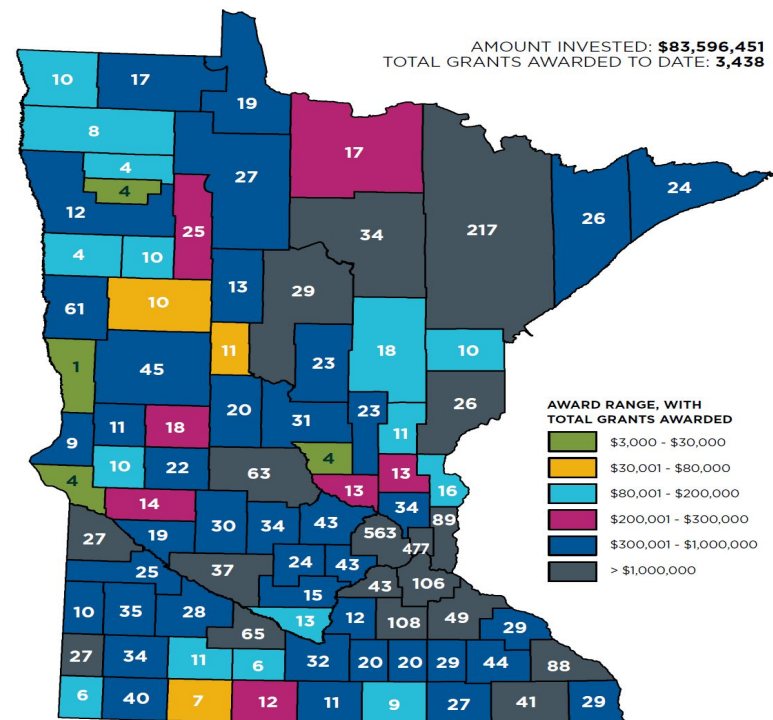


Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants by County

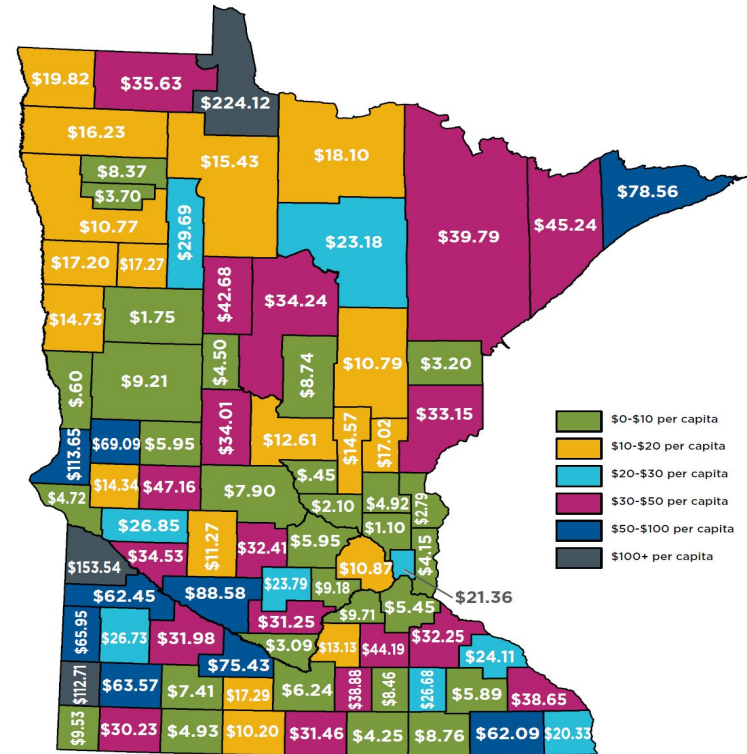
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2024

- 3,438 grants have been awarded to 998 organizations in all 87 counties.
- \$83,000,000 awarded in grants to date since 2009
- 100% return on investment
- Demand for grants exceeds funds available

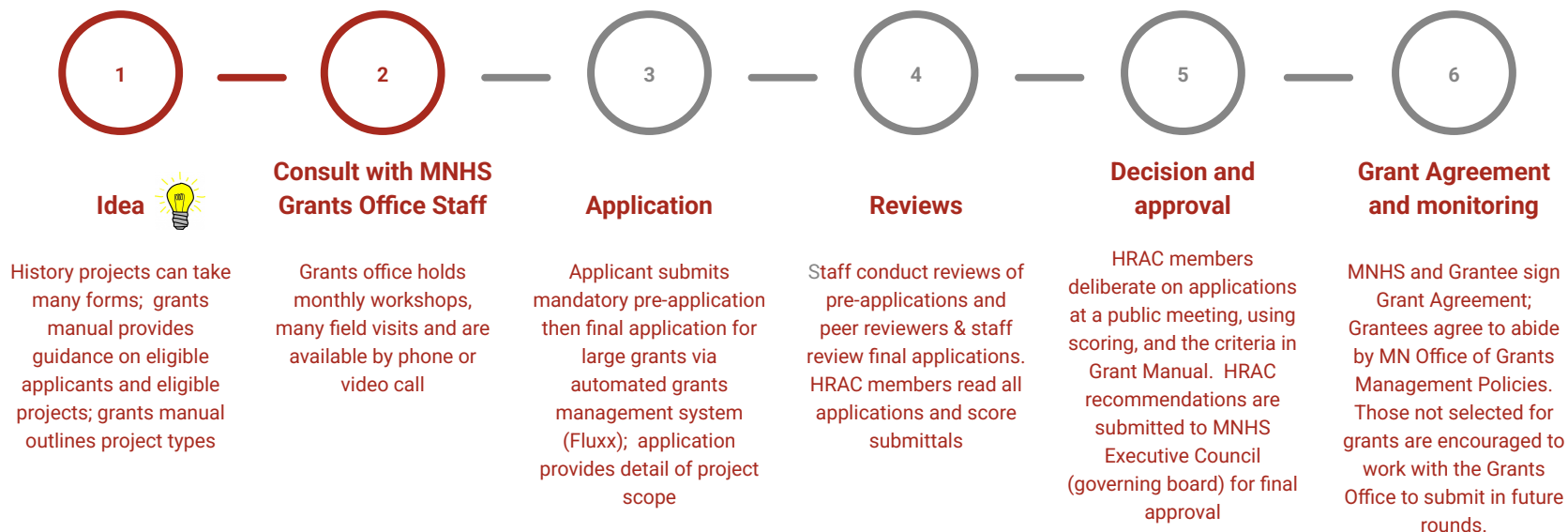
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS
JULY 1, 2009-JUNE 30, 2024



July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2024



Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program



Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program

Grants Management Highlights:

Grants Manual contains:

- Eligible Applicants and Eligible Projects
 - Grant Categories
 - Grantee Responsibilities
 - Glossary of terms
 - Financial Requirements, Reports and Records
-
- Manual is reviewed with feedback from HRAC and an updated version is issued at the beginning of each biennium

Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program

Grants Management Highlights:

MNHS provides:

- Pre-grant workshops
- Post-grant round seminars for successful applicants
- Comprehensive Grants Manual
- Site Visits
- Ongoing help for grantees and applicants

Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program

Grants Management Highlights:

Ongoing monitoring:

- Signed Grant agreement/contract
 - Grants over \$50,000 require site visit or presentation
 - Interim reporting on work progress
- Grantee reporting before scheduled payments are made
- MNHS requires reporting before final payments are made
- Grantees submit evidence of completed work to MNHS; can be:
 - physical historic structure preservation
 - history program (exhibit, historic structures report)
 - equipment (e.g. microfilm reader)

Statewide Programs



Mission

We serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

2021-2026 Strategic Imperatives

- Transforming Access
- Reenvisioning Space
- Expanding Authority and Expertise
- Creating a Sustainable Future



Statewide Programs

Preserving > Sharing > Connecting

Statewide History Programs

Preserving

- Digitization of Minnesota's newspaper and other MNHS collections
- Oral Histories
- Cataloguing of important archaeological collections
- Preserving and making Native American collections and archives available



The Free Homestead (Winnebago, MN), April 26 1865



Statewide History Programs

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- Digitization of Minnesota's newspaper and other MNHS collections
- Oral Histories
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Statewide History Programs

Sharing

- History Center Exhibits including Our Home – Native Minnesota; Then Now Wow
- Interpretive Signage (outdoor) at historic sites

Students in the *Then Now Wow* exhibit.



Statewide History Programs



Statewide History Programs



We Are Hmong exhibit, MN History Center



Statewide History Programs



Somalis + Minnesota
exhibit, MN History
Center

Statewide History Programs

Our Home - Native Minnesota,
MN History Center



Statewide History Programs

Connecting

- Curriculum development & educator support
- Legacy field trip support fund
- Community Engagement
- Museum Fellows programs
- High school and college intern program

Students explore Minnesota's mining history in the exhibit Then Now Wow.



Statewide History Programs



Statewide History Programs



Visitors inside *Many Voices, Many Stories, One Place* at Historic Fort Snelling.

Statewide History Programs -- Access

Laws of MN, 2023, Chapter 40, Section 2

Subd. 12. Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Access Days A portion of all funding from the arts and cultural heritage fund appropriations in this section must be used by grantees to improve access to programs, exhibits, and events that traditionally have a fee for entry. Grantees are encouraged to provide access to all community members using free programming days and to distribute free or reduced-cost tickets to improve access to all households throughout the state to increase participation in arts, history, and cultural programs that may be inaccessible due to cost.

Statewide History Programs -- Access

Access programs, 2023 legislation - MNHS Activities

- Museums for All - museums4all.org
- Four free days (Saturdays)
- Free Thursday evenings at History Center

History Partnerships

- History Partnerships encourage organizations to share financial resources and expertise.
- Partnerships may be between two or more organizations and may include MNHS.
- Partners in FY24 include the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, the Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps and Rethos.



History Partnerships

- Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps, working on historic windows at the Halfway Ranger Station in Ely, MN



Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites

- The survey provides opportunities to expand our understanding of historic and archaeological sites statewide
- Projects are defined by an oversight board including Office of the State Archaeologist, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, State Historic Preservation Office and MNHS.
- Competitive-bid contracts are awarded to conduct projects.
- FY24 projects included a survey of Rice County and a revision of a handbook on pre-contact stone tools



Volunteers in the Archaeology Lab process a complete bison skeleton



Minnesota Digital Library

- Collaboration between MNHS, Minitex and other history partners
- MDL has partnered with over 180 organizations through the searchable online collection, Minnesota Reflections.
- Collection includes photos, maps, journals, letters, works of art and more.

Photo of Delano school house (top), from MN Digital Library, via Wright County Historical Society and house in Brooklyn Park, ca. 1880



Statewide History Programs

Southeast Asia - 50th anniversary of Migration to MN

MNHS-administered Grants Program

- \$400,000 appropriated

- 37 applications = \$2 million requests

- 11 grants selected

Broader work on SEA-50 continues in many other areas!

Minnesota History Coalition

Request for FY2026 and FY2027

- Historic and Cultural Grants
\$13,000,000 / year // \$26,000,000 biennium
- Statewide History Programs
\$13,000,000 / year // \$26,000,000 biennium
- History Partnerships
\$3,750,000 / year // \$7,500,000 biennium
- Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites
\$500,000 / year // \$1,000,000 biennium
- Minnesota Digital Library
\$500,000 / year // \$1,000,000 biennium

Based on estimates from November forecast, 33% of ACHF



Thank You!

