

# Minnesota History Coalition

## Legacy Amendment Funding Recommendations for FY14-15

► **\$39.75 million of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund be appropriated to statewide history programs for FY14-15.** Based on experience of demonstrated need from the first two biennia, we respectfully recommend that the Minnesota Legislature appropriate funds for history activities from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, over the next biennium, as follows:

**\$16 million for history programs and projects that are of statewide significance and are a state responsibility.** These are programs primarily operated by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Examples include improved history education and original research programs, intergenerational learning projects, increased access to collections and historic sites through technology enhancements.

**\$16 million for history projects and capacity development enhancements operated or conducted by or through local, regional and other historical organizations to be distributed through a competitive grant program.**

Examples include funding for historical organizations to preserve collections, to create educational interpretive programs or to preserve historic, archaeological and cultural resources.

**\$6 million for history programs and projects carried out through partnerships between organizations to encourage collaboration and to improve capacity and expertise.** These organizations could include local/regional historical organizations, the Minnesota Historical Society or other organizations interested in using historical resources.

Examples of partnership projects this biennium include economic development through history via the Minnesota Main Street Program, oral history projects, organizational capacity building and language preservation projects.

**\$1 million for a statewide survey of historical and archaeological sites that will identify and preserve locations, structures and artifacts of statewide historical, archaeological and cultural significance.**

**\$750,000 to support the Minnesota Digital Library's efforts to digitize, make accessible and preserve important collections of cultural and historical materials from more than 150 Minnesota organizations.**

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► **The Historic Resources Advisory Committee or HRAC, a volunteer citizen body created in the 2009 ACHF legislation, should continue to provide its expertise for oversight of grant programs.** HRAC members spent nearly 500 hours in the last grant cycle reviewing grant applications and presentations. This excellent work should continue.

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► **The Minnesota Historical Society should continue to serve as the state entity that administers these funds.**

- The MHS has a 164-year track record of operating public programs that serve the people of Minnesota.
- The MHS has a 44-year track record of managing competitive grant programs administered by a professional staff. Grants are approved by a citizen committee.

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### Why does history matter?

History provides an educational foundation by teaching critical thinking skills, communications proficiency and interdisciplinary learning for students of all ages.

History creates economic development opportunities, including construction jobs in the historic preservation field as well as employment from educational and history program activities for both the public and private sectors, while helping to preserve our historic resources for future generations.

History is specifically included in language in the Minnesota Constitution within the Minnesota Legacy Amendment: "... may be spent only for arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."

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### The Legacy Amendment has reenergized the field of history in Minnesota.

Highlights of activities from the two biennial appropriations include:

**Proactive citizen involvement**  
in designing history programs, particularly grant programs, through statewide town hall meetings, workshops and citizen reviews of grant applications

**Statewide grant coverage:**  
900+ grants to  
750+ organizations,  
in all 87 counties

**History programs and projects** that benefitted:

- 500,000+ students
- 10,000+ teachers
- 1,500+ businesses and non-profit organizations that preserved our past

**Economic Benefit:** ACHF dollars made an economic impact of \$2 for each dollar invested

**Demand for funding** for history projects and programs exceeded overall funds available at a 3:1 ratio

**Measurable outcomes and professional standards** applied to all allocations, ensuring responsible stewardship and accountability in expenditures

The Minnesota History Coalition is made up of nine history organizations that carry out the work of preserving Minnesota's Legacy—we preserve the past for future generations.

