



**Minnesota Historical Society
Overview for
House State and Local Government
Finance and Policy Committee**

January 2023

Who We Are

- Chartered by Territorial Legislature in 1849
- Oldest educational institution in Minnesota
- Guided by Charters of 1849 and 1856
- Governed by the Executive Council
- Statewide Statutory Responsibilities in MS Chapter 138



Why History Matters

- Our responsibility to future generations - our legacy
- Core function of state government - statewide preservation and access to evidence of the past, historic preservation, historic sites and education
- Education for all Minnesotans young and old
- Part of tourism economy





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



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Transforming Access

Transform our programs and services to better leverage and incorporate technology, creating innovative technological programs that blend onsite and online experiences to engage existing audiences in more meaningful ways, attract new audiences, and remove barriers to accessing MNHS content and programming.





STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Reenvisioning Space

Push history to all corners of Minnesota, beyond the confines of our existing properties.



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STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Expanding Authority and Expertise

Partner with communities and organizations to seek, acknowledge, elevate, and share hidden histories, diverse stories, and non-traditional expertise.





STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

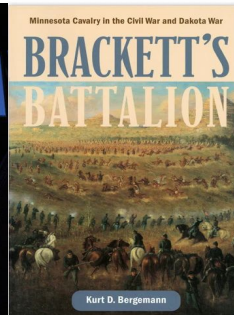
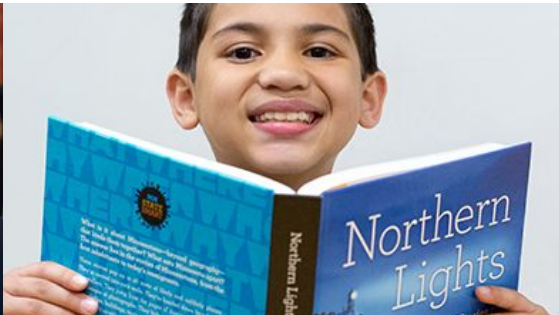
Creating a Sustainable Future

Build out and support the infrastructure needed to achieve programmatic objectives in alignment with our financial and human resources.



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How do you learn history?



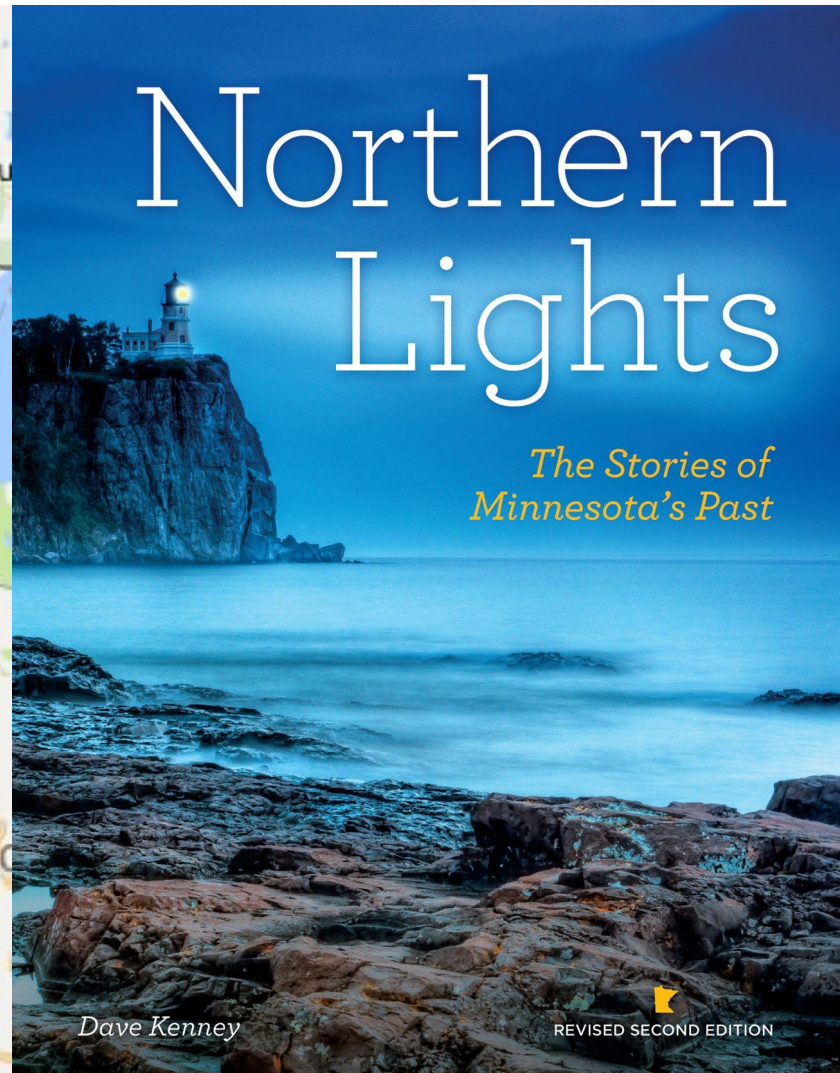
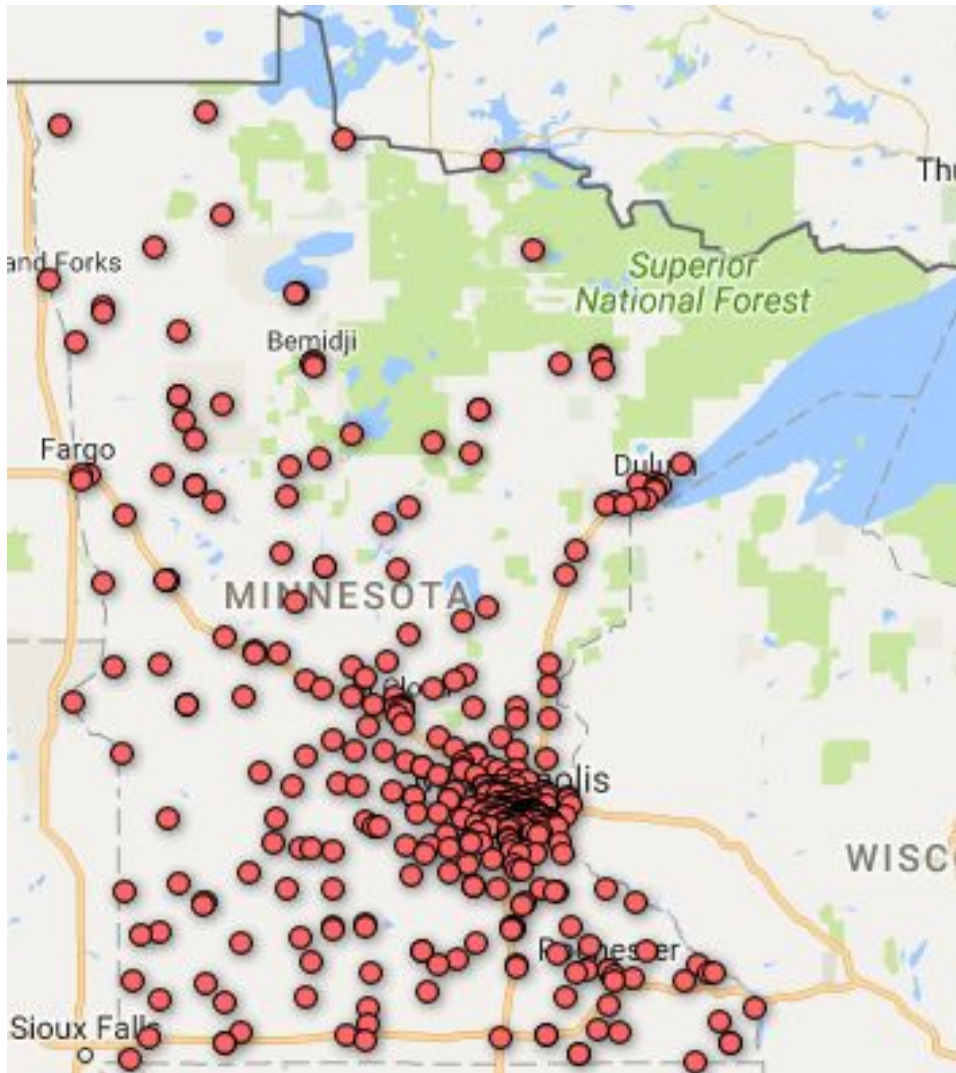
History Programs and Education

- Historic Sites & Museums, including
 - History Center
 - Mill City Museum
- Exhibitions and Public Programs
- Education – E-12 and life-long learners
- Library and Collections
 - Research Collections
 - Reference
 - State Archives
- Heritage Preservation
 - Technical Assistance, outreach and Grants
- Publications / MNHS Press



Northern Lights

School Districts Using Northern Lights



Historic Sites Network

- Statewide Presence of History Where It Happened
- Defined in statutes in M.S. 138.662
- Includes many of the state's most significant historic sites, including 140+ structures for which MNHS is responsible
- Important part of tourism economy -many out-of-state visitors
- Educational and affordable destination for families and school groups



The Minnesota Historical Society holds for the people of Minnesota, current and future generations:

- 340,394 photographs
- 502,499 publications
- 6,556 works of art
- 251,790 objects
- 50,800 cubic feet of manuscripts
- 60,500 cubic feet in State Archives, including 100 terabytes of digital records



Number of People Served (pre-pandemic)

- Nearly one million in-person visits to historic sites and museums
- Includes nearly 200,000 schoolchildren on organized programs to historic sites and museums
- Over 5 million visits to the Society's website www.mnhs.org



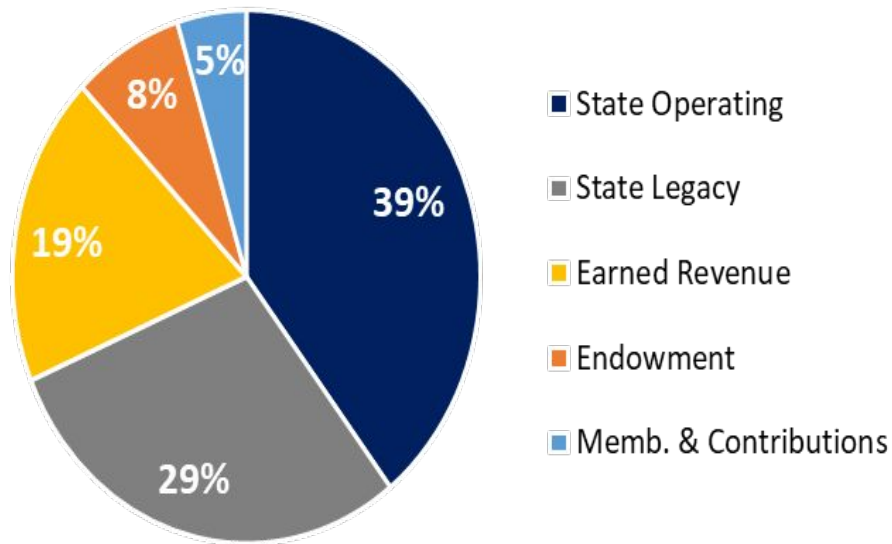
Statewide History Involvement and Participation

- 27,000 participants in History Day (many national award winners from Minnesota)
- 15,200 Members
- Volunteers make this all happen!
 - Over 2,500 volunteers and interns contributing 71,000 hours and equivalent to 26 FTE.

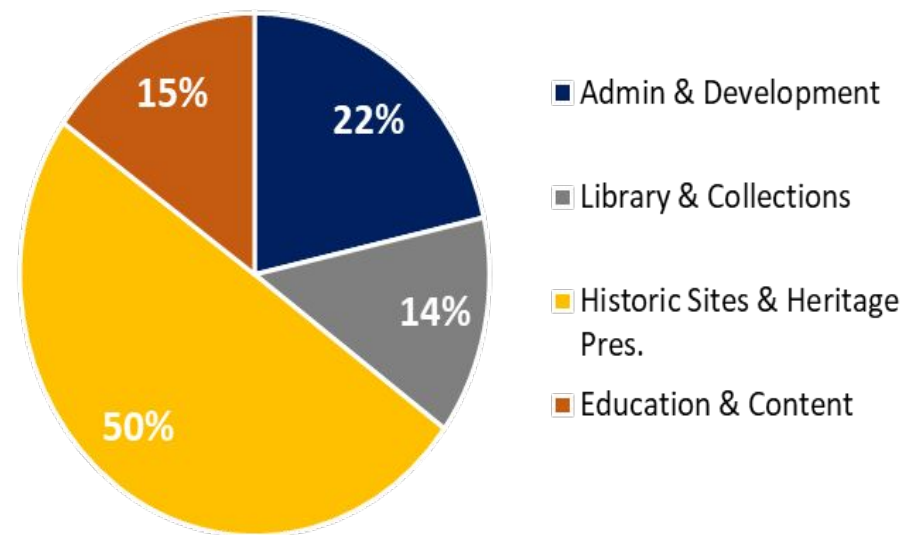


FY 2023 Budget (All Funds)

Revenue



Expense



MNHS - 2023 Session Budget Request

Operating Budget

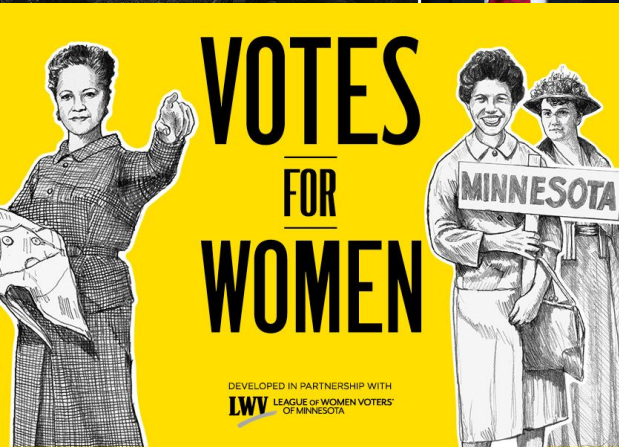
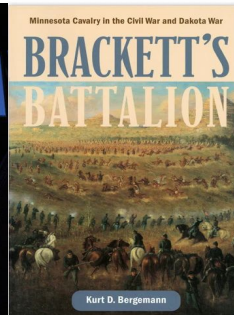
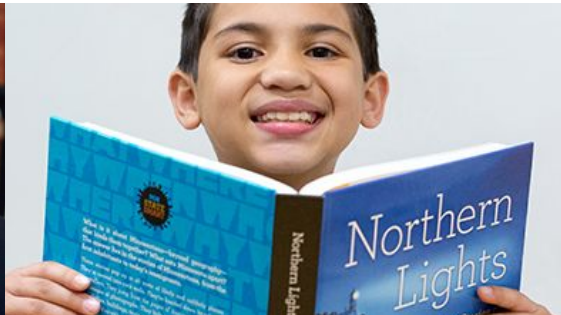
Base budget:

\$23.9 million each year – General Fund

Emerging Challenges, Needs and Opportunities

- Post-pandemic return to full service to Minnesotans
- Financial needs for sustainability
- Facilities: maintenance and preservation for sustainability

How do you do history?





Thank you!!