



The History Center is proud to provide various opportunities to experience our shared history

- *school field trips
- *lecture series
- *exhibits
- *interactive events
- *family programming
- *extensive archival collection for research



EXPERIENCE
History!



Rochester Roosters
Vintage Baseball



Free Family Programming



Free 3rd Grade Field Trips



Changing Exhibits



Lecture Series



Our Mission

To provide a gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore and experience local history, and to inspire a larger exploration of our past so that we may learn for the future.

The History Center of Olmsted County, in partnership with the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners, is respectfully requesting \$5,000,000 in state bonding for the FY26 to expand and update our facility.

The current History Center is over fifty years old and is in desperate need of repair and expansion. We currently deal with flooding issues in both the archive library and the 3D artifact storage vault, a lack of classroom space for our increased education programming, a shortage of storage space, and inadequate exhibit space. With our free field trip offer for third-grade classes and over three million visitors to Rochester each year, our non-profit organization is seeking funding to upgrade our museum to make the History Center a major destination for students, local citizens, and visitors.

January 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the Historical Society of Olmsted County. In honor of this major milestone, the staff & board of directors have been busy implementing a new master plan, which will restore our 1860s historic farmstead and rejuvenate our entire 54-acre campus. A combination of grants and donations, including \$400,000 from our board members alone, we will have the farmstead completely restored by the summer of 2027. The last step in our master plan is an upgraded museum.

The plans for the History Center (images below) include expanding storage and exhibit space, adding two large classrooms and outdoor gathering spaces, an edition to the front entrance and parking lot, repair or replacement of the roof, upgraded HVAC, and building control system. In total the expansion would increase the facility by 10,000 square feet for programming and important upgrades to climate control for the preservation of our archives and artifacts.



The plan includes an expansion rather than a new build to save on expenses.



Enlarged entrance and parking areas for school buses.



Much-needed classrooms for expanding education programming

