

# MNHS ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2023

252 prisms of light. 7,000 pounds of majestic beauty. A year-round engagement with history. MNHS sites are cultivating curiosity across our state. Our network of sites saw more than **675,000 VISITORS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023**, an increase of 46% over the previous year.

That's just the beginning of the impact we're making at the Minnesota Historical Society. Read on to learn how our mission is being carried out through our books, our online presence, our programming, our collections, and more!

*"Visitors to our sites are experiencing historic adventures as they gain a deeper understanding of our state's history. But it doesn't stop there. We are transforming access for Minnesotans—providing new ways to engage with history from beyond the borders of our existing properties."*

Kent Whitworth, Director and CEO  
Minnesota Historical Society



A replica of the Third Order Fresnel Lens that sits atop the lighthouse is the centerpiece of a new exhibit at **SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE**, the site's most extensive programmatic update in a generation.



The **FOREST HISTORY CENTER** welcomed four new draft horses and new programming that's drawing in crowds to meet them.

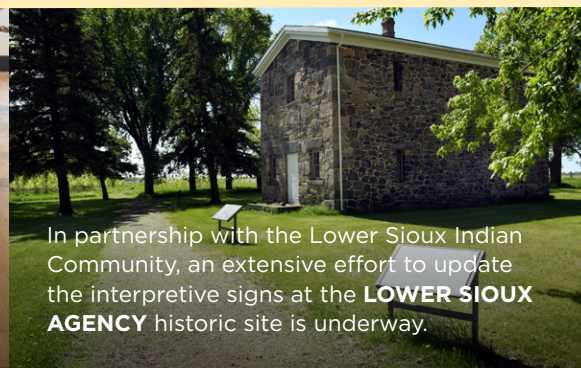


DR. DASH FOUNDATION ROTUNDA

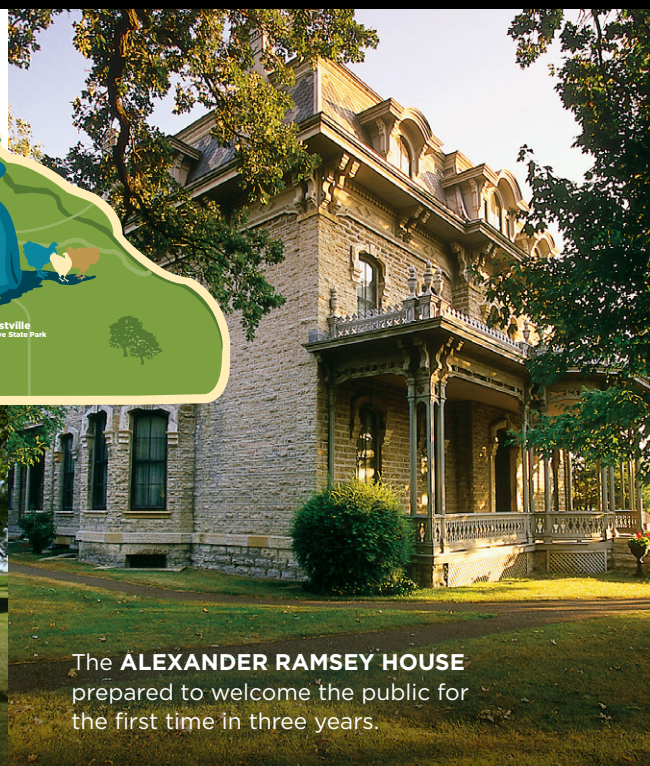
The Dr. Dash Foundation Rotunda is the first space at the **MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER** named in recognition of an organization chaired and founded by a person of color.



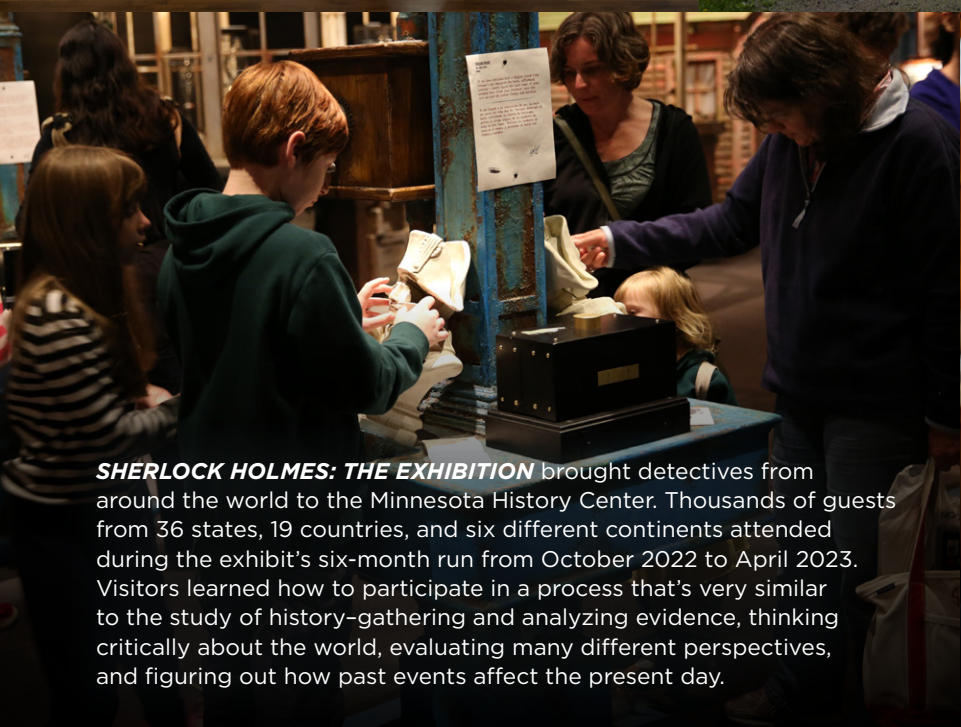
History fans are now able to explore **HISTORIC FORT SNELLING** in the winter! The Plank Museum & Visitor Center is open year-round.



In partnership with the Lower Sioux Indian Community, an extensive effort to update the interpretive signs at the **LOWER SIOUX AGENCY** historic site is underway.



The **ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE** prepared to welcome the public for the first time in three years.



**SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EXHIBITION** brought detectives from around the world to the Minnesota History Center. Thousands of guests from 36 states, 19 countries, and six different continents attended during the exhibit's six-month run from October 2022 to April 2023. Visitors learned how to participate in a process that's very similar to the study of history—gathering and analyzing evidence, thinking critically about the world, evaluating many different perspectives, and figuring out how past events affect the present day.



**1,054**  
VOLUNTEERS  
LOGGED  
**16,187**  
HOURS

**738,389**  
PAGES ADDED  
TO THE DIGITAL  
NEWSPAPER HUB

**5.5+ MILLION**  
PAGES NOW AVAILABLE



VIEW FULL  
REPORT ONLINE



[mnhs.info/arfy23](https://mnhs.info/arfy23)

**4.5**  
MILLION VISITS  
TO MNHS.ORG

**2.5 MILLION**  
INTERACTIONS ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA



The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded a 2023 Award of Excellence to MNHS and Twin Cities Pride for our joint project: **TWIN CITIES LGBTQ+ HISTORY TOURS**. The project inspired the *Going Out, Coming In* exhibit at Mill City Museum.





Preservation of the Oaks Lakeside Pavilion in Gaylord

**\$6**  
MILLION  
provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for  
**161**  
LEGACY GRANTS

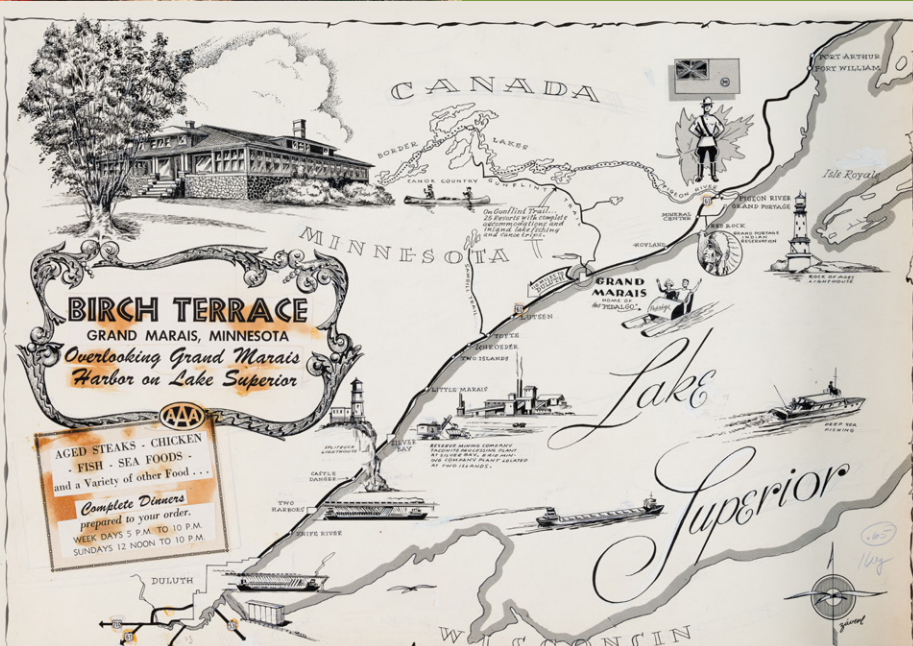


**17,000**  
STUDENTS AT  
**150 SCHOOLS**

participated in National History Day in Minnesota in 2023. The theme was *Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.*

**13**  
PROJECTS

in the National History Day competition represented the work of 20 Minnesota students from 9 schools.



More than **250 PIECES OF ORIGINAL** art and production materials from W.A. Fisher Maps have been added to MNHS's collections. Maps by the company, based in Virginia, MN, have been available at canoe, camping, and hiking outfitters across the state for generations.

**18,245**  
MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS  
a more than 8% increase over FY22



**295**  
NORTH STAR  
CIRCLE MEMBERS

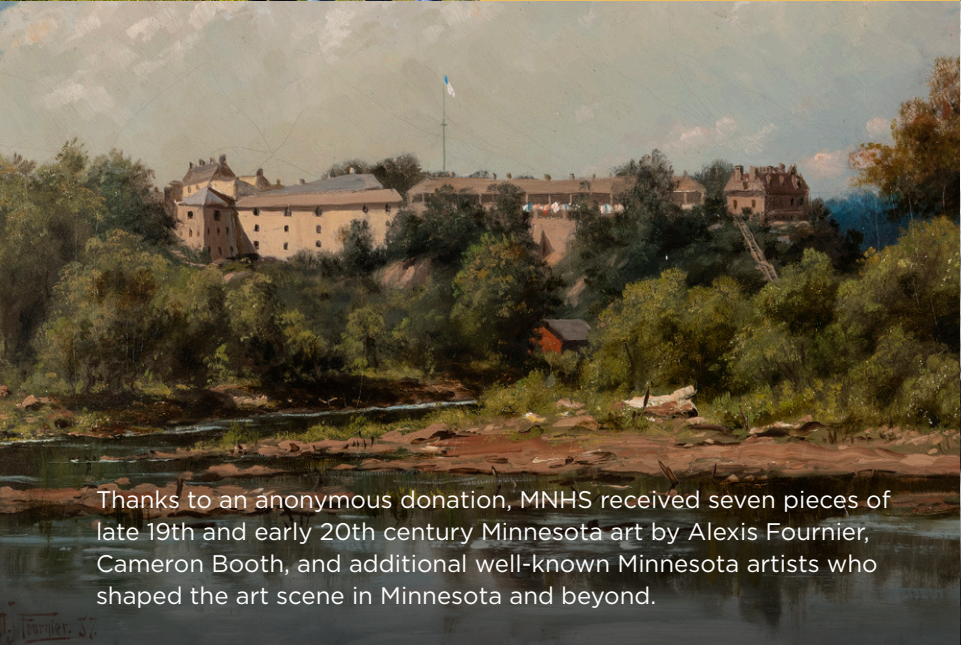
**104**  
LEGACY SOCIETY  
MEMBERS

**\$27M**  
RECEIVED IN GIFTS  
AND PLEDGES



**122,000**  
PRINT AND E-BOOKS SOLD  
Second record-breaking year in a row for sales of MNHS Press books!

**TRUE NORTH CABIN COOKBOOK** was featured as one of the 12 Best Cookbooks for Every Type of Home Chef by the *Wall Street Journal*. **WHEN MINNEHAHA FLOWED WITH WHISKEY** won the 2023 Minnesota Book Award in the Minnesota Nonfiction Category. Seven of the top-ten best-selling print books were by Indigenous authors, including three children's picture books.



Thanks to an anonymous donation, MNHS received seven pieces of late 19th and early 20th century Minnesota art by Alexis Fournier, Cameron Booth, and additional well-known Minnesota artists who shaped the art scene in Minnesota and beyond.



More than **413,000 UNIQUE USERS VISITED 838,000 PAGES ON MNOPEDIA** in FY23. The most-read entry of the year was on the American Indian Movement which logged nearly 1,300 pageviews.

# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMARY FINANCIALS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (\$ in Millions)			
<b>SUPPORT</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
MN State Appropriations	\$ 50	Sites & Museums	\$ 20
Contributions & Memberships	27	Library & Collections	10
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>77</b>	Education & Outreach	13
		Heritage Preservation	9
		<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		Management & General	12
Earned Revenue	11	Development & Membership	2
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>88</b>	Other Nonoperating Activities	1
		<b>Total Admin Expenses</b>	<b>15</b>
Investment Return	14		
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUE &amp; INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 102</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 67</b>
		<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 35</b>
BALANCE SHEET (\$ in Millions)			
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>EXPENSES BY CATEGORY</b>	
Cash	\$ 11		
Investments	154		
Property & Equipment (Net)	115		
Other Assets	33		
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 313</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>			
Liabilities	\$ 10		
Net Assets	303		
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 313</b>		

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) as a nonprofit organization, serves all the people of Minnesota. Our annual expenditures of roughly \$67 million come from public funding, earned revenue and private funding that work together to deliver vibrant, crucial programs and services.

Typically, two-thirds of our operating support comes from the State of Minnesota. We deliver functions designated by state law, such as managing critical records and collections and operating and preserving important historic destinations. State support includes funding from the state's General Fund, Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) for statewide history and grant programs, and capital funding to preserve historic structures.

MNHS receives private support from donors, foundations, members, and corporations. Their gifts support general operations, school field trips, acquisitions, conservation, and community outreach. Finally, revenue from admissions fees, rentals, museum stores, and other activities provides a base of funding while keeping history accessible and at family-friendly prices. In FY23, we saw increased contributions and earned revenue which reflected strong support from donors and the public.

MNHS concluded FY23 with a strong balance sheet and the resources to support future operations. Our FY23 audited financial statements are available on the MNHS website. MNHS received an unmodified opinion from auditors Clifton Larson Allen, which is the highest level of assurance a CPA firm can provide for a financial statement audit.



# NORTH STAR CIRCLE

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following donors in our North Star Circle for their leadership support from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The commitment and generosity of our North Star Circle members sustains our work to serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

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