



MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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MNHS.ORG



MNHS

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018



Director and CEO Steve Elliott retired June 2018, following 7 years of dedicated service. Under his leadership, MNHS increased visitation, brought a focus to education and diversity initiatives, and championed capital projects at the Oliver Kelley Farm and Historic Fort Snelling. Pictured with President Phyllis Goff and Diane Elliott.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone!

Let's pause to reflect on our history, a history not possible without you. You—our members, donors, visitors, stakeholders, volunteers and interns, and of course our dedicated staff and board—make it happen. This has been a rewarding year, all because of you.

First, let me extend a special thank you to Governor Dayton and the Minnesota State Legislature for the \$15 million appropriation needed to revitalize and expand programming at Historic Fort Snelling. We are well on our way to creating new experiences at the fort. We tested several programs this past summer and received positive reviews from visitors. As part of the revitalization, we are strengthening the stories we tell and adding more voices to the narrative—important voices, previously either underrepresented or unrepresented at this National Historic Landmark.

It was also my honor in August to interview internationally acclaimed culinary experts Michael Twitty and Sean Sherman at the celebration of the Capital Campaign Kickoff at the fort. At this event, they shared the history of foodways and cooking practices connected to our Native American and African American cultures in this country.

Finally, one of the biggest responsibilities of any governing board is to conduct the search for a new director. We are fortunate that we found someone who combines a dynamic passion for history with extensive leadership experience and a wonderful capacity for building relationships. A native of Kentucky, Kent Whitworth has deep family roots in Minnesota. He's been on the job since July, and has travelled across the state meeting many MNHS friends along the way.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served as your president of the Minnesota Historical Society's Executive Council for the last three years. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at such a high-quality and nationally-recognized organization; and I look forward to continuing to help support the MNHS mission of using the power of history to transform lives—through preserving, sharing and connecting.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Rawls Goff, president



left to right:
Kent Whitworth, director and CEO,
Phyllis Goff, president 2015-2018,
David R. Hakensen, incoming president

FROM THE DIRECTOR AND CEO

As MNHS has so aptly stated for years, "History Matters."

History is essential because it nurtures a sense of identity and helps people think critically. History is a foundation for vibrant communities and a catalyst for economic growth. History can also help people envision a better future and engage in making that a reality. Finally, history collected and preserved provides a tangible and authentic legacy of the past that serves future generations.

It's important that we talk about the value of history and we recognize it as a part of our everyday work. By researching and analyzing history, by examining its context, and by looking at stories through different lenses, we can find new perspectives and relevance to our lives today. This is what I find so exciting about the field of history: the process that undergirds it is rock solid, but our understanding of the past is ever-changing and evolving.

I am grateful for the remarkable foundation we have at MNHS on which to build and for colleagues with vast institutional knowledge and professional expertise. Our four strategic priorities—Minnesota's Historical Resources, Educational Relevance, Inclusion & Diversity, and Sustainability & Stewardship—will continue to guide our work moving forward, helping Minnesotans connect the past to our lives today. Finally, I am most thankful to our members, donors, staff, governing board, elected officials, and the 2,600 volunteers and interns who collectively have contributed more than 1 million hours since 1992!

I have admired MNHS as an organization for many, many years, and I'm thrilled to be here. It is a great honor to serve in this capacity and to follow Steve Elliott, a colleague who has inspired me and our entire field with his courageous leadership and integrity. Thank you for the warm welcome to Minnesota and especially the warm welcome to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Kent Whitworth, director and CEO

1,108,148 GUESTS

visited MNHS historic sites and museums

We have **24,106 member households**

MNHS Press sold **110,130** print and ebooks



2,035 items added to collections



Northern Lights student textbook served **57,000 students** or 80% of Minnesota's 6th graders

25,000 STUDENTS AT 201 SCHOOLS

participated in National History Day in Minnesota



2,600 volunteers and interns contributed **53,300 hours**



The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund provided **\$5.2 million** through **219 grants** awarded across Minnesota

Gale Family Library at the History Center welcomed

23,020 researchers



2.6 million people visited our website **MNHS.org**, **4.7 million times**



Friends engaged **483,600 TIMES** on MNHS social media platforms



MNHS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

▶ **MINNESOTA'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

Sharing access to meaningful places, programs, resources, events, services, and exhibits

▶ **EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE**

Providing context and connecting the present with the past

▶ **INCLUSION & DIVERSITY**

Welcoming and serving all communities

▶ **SUSTAINABILITY & STEWARDSHIP**

Ensuring valued services now and for future generations



#MyHistoryMatters

Follow MNHS on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, to see what Minnesotans are saying about why their history matters.



Families visit Historic Forestville

HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS

MNHS engaged audiences statewide with its network of 26 historic sites and museums:

- Historic Forestville launched a new visitor experience that extends the interpretive time frame from the 1850s to the present.
- James J. Hill House expanded the number of Summit Avenue and F. Scott Fitzgerald walking tours and created a new way to explore the house with self-guided tours.
- The new Oliver Kelley Farm visitor center earned a LEED Gold certification and showed energy cost savings of 41% over the previous visitor center.



VISITATION

Attendance soared at the newly renovated State Capitol, up 62%, following the public grand opening in August 2017 and the return of a full year of school field trips. Other highlights at all sites included:

- 1,108,148 visitors
- 233,984 field trip visitors
- 24,106 member households
- 483,600 people engaged with MNHS on social media
- 2.6 million visitors to our website MNHS.org, 4.7 million times



EXHIBITS

The History Center shared dynamic stories through regularly changing exhibits:

- *Renewing What They Gave Us: Native American Artists in Residence*
- *AMVETS Post #5: Photographs by Xavier Tavera*
- *The 1968 Exhibit*
- *Somalis + Minnesota* (pictured left)
- Irvine Community Gallery, a new free exhibit space devoted to rapidly changing displays on topics that affect the lives of contemporary Minnesotans



MNHS PRESS

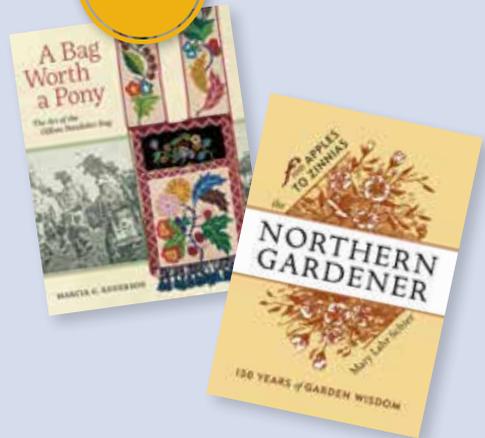
MNHS Press grew readership with new titles about the history and culture of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest:

- 110,130 print and ebooks sold, up nearly 7%
- 263,385 unique users viewed 660,461 pages on MNopedia, up 19%



BEST SELLERS

AWARD WINNERS



GALE FAMILY LIBRARY AND DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

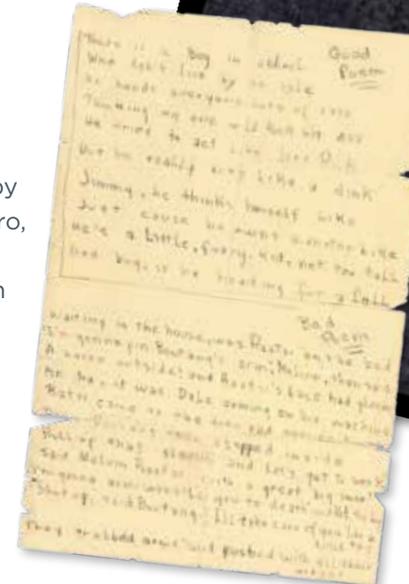
Collecting since 1849, the Gale Family Library supported researchers through in-person and online access:

- The library served 23,020 in-person and correspondence research requests.
- The Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub expanded to include 1.7 million newspaper pages representing more than 270 titles from 57 counties in 12 languages.
- MNHS received an unprecedented fifth grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support participation in the National Digital Newspaper program.

COLLECTIONS

MNHS expanded its holdings of Minnesota's material culture from before statehood to today, with 2,035 new items added to the collection:

- Early Bob Dylan poetry and a photograph of Dylan on a motorcycle (*see back cover*)
- Dramatic photographs of the I-35W bridge collapse taken by photographer Heather T. Munro, and photographs and signs from the 2017 Women's March
- A Dakota star quilt made by Gwen Westerman during her time as a Native American Artist-in-Residence
- Family photos of Taira Nakao and Nagashi Edward Yamamoto taken between 1942-46, when they served with the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling
- Untitled winter landscape, c. 1876, oil on panel by A. F. Loemans, a gift of the Raymond and Ruth Reister Charitable Trust



- Oral history projects included:
 - North Shore fishermen
 - Vietnam-era history
- Archaeology projects included:
 - A survey and excavations in connection with the Fort Snelling revitalization project
 - An inventory of archaeological collections from the Lower Sioux Agency historic site





NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

More than 25,000 Minnesota students participated in National History Day. A record four projects were named National Champions:

- Chase Baumgarten and Colin McShane, Stella Maris Academy, Duluth
- Ella Hoch-Robinson, Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis
- Kathleen Grube, Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis
(pictured with teacher Jenny Monroe on right)
- Sofia Fish and Azalea Rohr, Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis



EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

MNHS helped students connect with the past while developing critical-thinking skills:

- 233,984 students and chaperones visited MNHS historic sites and museums on field trips.
- 21,196 students across Minnesota benefited from bus subsidies through the Legacy Field Trip Support Fund.
- 10,496 students from greater Minnesota benefited from bus and accommodation subsidies through the MacMillan Field Trip Transportation Grant.
- *Northern Lights* student textbook served 57,000 students, or 80% of Minnesota's 6th graders.
- The Josephine (Nicky) Benz Carpenter Chair for Education was established with a generous gift from the estate of longtime MNHS supporter Nicky Carpenter.





Gabe Chang-Deutch, George David Yellow, Zoë Pettit, Alize Olson, De'von Anderson (not pictured Shaw Handley)

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVES

MNHS worked to build relationships with and advocate for Native peoples across Minnesota and beyond:

- The exhibit *Attack on New Ulm: One Painting, Many Perspectives*, at James J. Hill House, provided multiple perspectives on Anton Gag's painting, formerly on display at the Minnesota State Capitol.
- Following extensive Native American engagement about the future of Grand Mound Historic Site, MNHS decided to keep the sacred burial ground closed, except for Native access for ceremonial and educational purposes.



DEPARTMENT OF INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MNHS engaged with traditionally underrepresented communities to ensure the diversity of Minnesota is reflected in all we do:

- The first class of the new Heritage Studies and Public History graduate program got under way at the University of Minnesota in partnership with MNHS.
- MNHS hosted 28 college fellows and 25 teen interns through programs that offer career-building opportunities for traditionally underrepresented communities and indigenous nations.
- Students from the Mazinaakizige: American Indian Teen Photography Project (*pictured left*) created an exhibit of their work for display at Two Rivers Gallery, Minneapolis Central Library, Mille Lacs Indian Museum, and the History Center.



Top: photo by Zoë Pettit
Bottom: photo by Alize Olson





Michael Twitty engages with guests as he shares African American culinary history at Historic Fort Snelling

HISTORIC FORT SNELLING

The state legislature appropriated MNHS \$15 million for the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling to reintroduce this dramatic area to Minnesotans and history lovers worldwide. Related new programs included:

- A new visitor experience launched Memorial Day weekend with 11 new interpretive stations, two new daily tours, and special programs that included women veteran storytellers and visits from national scholars Michael Twitty and Joseph McGill.
- The summer exhibit *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience* featured local and regional stories of bravery and extraordinary support of Japanese Americans. Guests also provided feedback on a prototype of veterans' stories, which will be part of a new exhibit in the revitalized visitor center.
- In May, the second Dakhóta Omníčiye, or gathering, was held with Dakota community members and allies sharing community knowledge, Dakota language, art, games, and storytelling.

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION

On March 1, the State Historic Preservation Office was transferred to the Department of Administration.

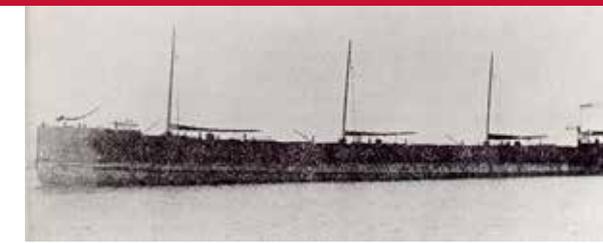
Grants, Legacy funding and tax incentives included:

- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed 16 Minnesota Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit applications, which are estimated to create \$393.4 million in construction activity in the state. For every dollar of tax credit, \$9.50 is generated in economic activity in the state.
- Through a federal appropriation from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, SHPO awarded \$122,455 in Certified Local Government grants.
- The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) provided \$5.2 million through 219 grants awarded across Minnesota, including:
 - Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, Lake County, *Madeira* schooner-barge archaeological survey
 - Dodge County Historical Society, Wasioja Civil War Recruiting Station construction
 - Minnesota Transportation Museum, Ramsey County, Pullman porters and Union Depot Red Caps exhibit plan



Images at right (top to bottom):

- > *Madeira*, about 1900-1905, courtesy Lake Superior Maritime Collection
- > *Madeira* wreckage aerial view, photo by Eric Swanson
- > Dakhóta Omníčiye at Historic Fort Snelling
- > Joseph McGill at Historic Fort Snelling

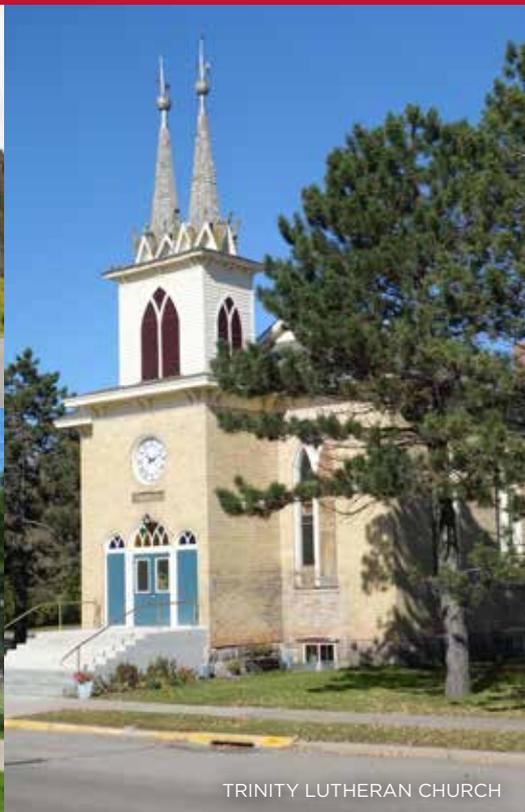




LASALLE APARTMENTS



RANIER COMMUNITY BUILDING



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



BALLARD HOUSE

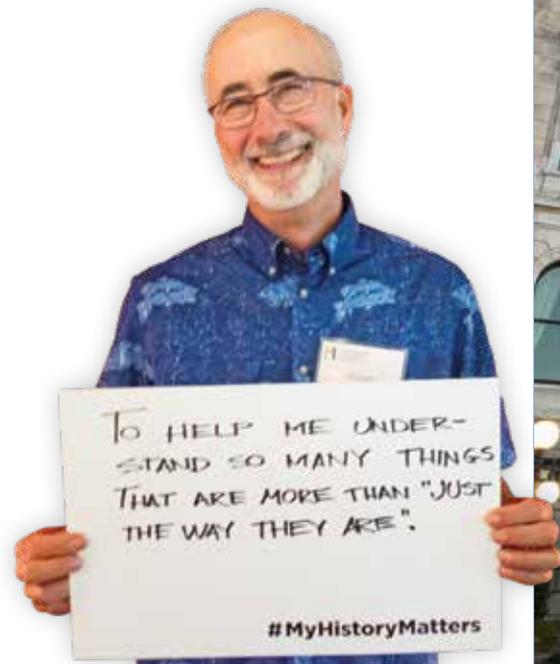


WORTHINGTON ARMORY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

NATIONAL REGISTER

10 properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places:

- **Maynard State Bank**, Maynard, Chippewa County
- **Pequot Fire Lookout Tower**, Pequot Lakes, Crow Wing County
- **Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Depot**, Canton, Fillmore County
- **Northrop Mall Historic District**, Minneapolis, Hennepin County
- **Ballard House**, Spring Grove, Houston County
- **Ranier Community Building**, Ranier, Koochiching County
- **Williams Township School**, Unincorporated Township, Koochiching County
- **Worthington Armory and Community Building**, Worthington, Nobles County
- **Trinity Lutheran Church**, Henning, Otter Tail County
- **LaSalle Apartments**, Virginia, St. Louis County



TO HELP ME UNDER-
STAND SO MANY THINGS
THAT ARE MORE THAN "JUST
THE WAY THEY ARE".

#MyHistoryMatters

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

MNHS is thankful for the following appropriations from the 2018 legislative session:

- \$8 million in asset preservation that supports preservation and maintenance needs across the MNHS statewide network of historic sites, including work at Historic Forestville, Forest History Center, Mill City Museum, and other sites
- \$15 million to fund construction for the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling, the state's first National Historic Landmark



CREATING *our* FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Thank you!

By tackling the major needs of today—preserving unique historic sites, digitizing newspapers, investing in programs for children, expanding online access—we can strengthen and preserve our shared heritage for the benefit of our grandchildren and the generations yet to come.

Through your generous help, the Creating Our Future Campaign is able to provide substantial investments in three major project areas:

- the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling and the Oliver Kelley Farm, educational experiences that reach students in every Minnesota county, and digital preservation to expand online access and support learners of all ages.

Minnesotans understand that History Matters. Thank you for helping to make this a successful campaign.

To build on this success, consider making a gift to support MNHS. Please contact us at 651-259-3123 or visit mnhs.org/makeagift.

USING THE POWER OF HISTORY TO TRANSFORM LIVES



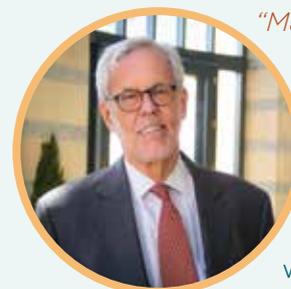
“History has the power to change our lives, and the Minnesota Historical Society gives people the tools to wonder, to imagine, and to know times before they were alive. Together, we can create the future we want to live in.”

—Annette Atkins, co-chair, Creating Our Future Campaign, Minnesota historian and longtime teacher, Minneapolis, MN



“Education programs at the Minnesota Historical Society make students think. I want that opportunity for all students in Minnesota.”

—Susanne Hollingsworth, retired teacher, Cannon Falls, MN



“Making our state’s history more accessible online helps us create a stronger community. We all have stories, and they mean a lot to us. MNHS helps us all understand how our stories, and the stories of those who came before us, create the narrative that is the history of our great state.”

—Ford Bell, retired president of the American Alliance of Museums, Wayzata, MN



“The revitalization project is an opportunity for every Minnesotan to say, ‘This story belongs to me. I want my piece of the story told.’ And the way that you can do that is by participating in this project. It’s an opportunity for every one of us, and I hope we’ll embrace it.”

—Sharon Sayles Belton, former mayor of Minneapolis, MN

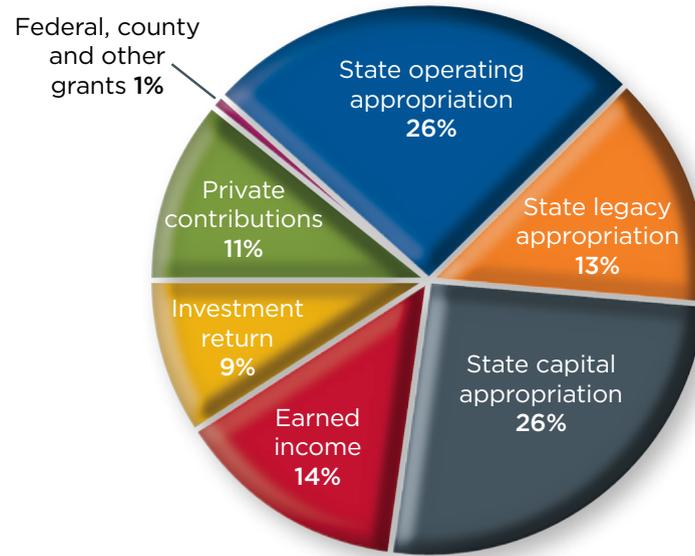


As a nonprofit, we serve the people of Minnesota. Our annual budget of about \$60 million comes from three sources that work together to bring the public vibrant, crucial programs, and services: private funding, earned revenue, and public funding, including significant funding from the State of Minnesota.

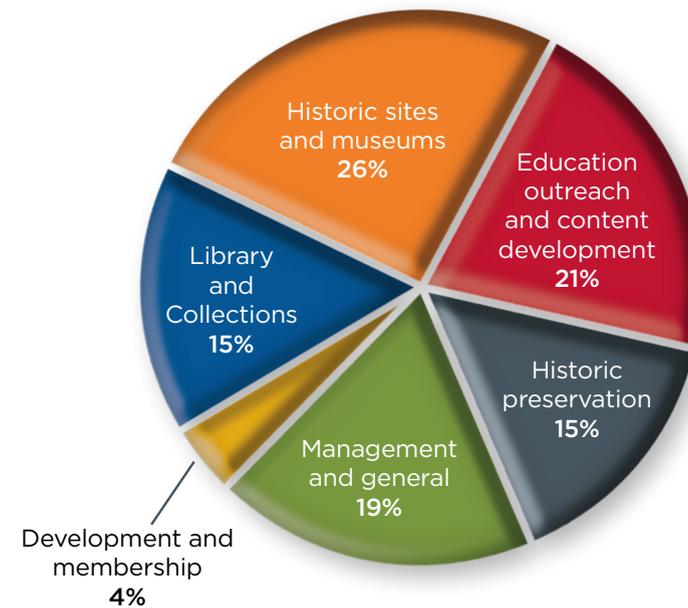
Public funds, including funding from the state's general fund, provide a foundation of support and enable us to leverage non-public funds to create a nationally recognized history program. Typically, two thirds of our operating funds come from the State of Minnesota. We deliver functions designated by law, such as preserving historic landmarks and resources, managing critical records and collections, and operating cultural destinations important to tourism. State support also includes capital funding to preserve historic buildings and construct new ones, as well as Legacy Amendment (Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund) support for new, statewide history programs, including grants for local history organizations. Federal dollars support historic preservation programs mandated by federal law.

The Minnesota Historical Society also receives support from donors and members. Their gifts support everything from general operations and school field trips to important acquisitions, conservation work and community outreach. Endowment funds give MNHS strength for today and tomorrow. Finally, earned revenue from rental events, museum stores, admission fees, publication sales, and many other activities also provide a base of funding while keeping history accessible and at family-friendly prices.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA



Condensed Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2018

	Unrestricted			Temporarily restricted		Permanently restricted	Total
	Operating	Plant fund	Board-designated endowment	State appropriations	Other		
Cash and investments	\$11,759		5,616	438	29,545	71,789	\$ 119,147
Receivables	1,211		1,500	34,516	4,064	715	42,006
Museum shop inventories	1,015						1,015
Property and equipment net		92,832					92,832
Total assets	\$13,985	92,832	7,116	34,954	33,609	72,504	\$ 255,000
Total accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,921			2,318	445	281	7,965
Net assets	9,064	92,832	7,116	32,636	33,164	72,223	247,035
Total liabilities and net assets	\$13,985	92,832	7,116	34,954	33,609	72,504	\$ 255,000

Statement of Activities Year ended June 30, 2018

							(000's) omitted
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:							
Support:							
Private contributions	\$3,178		1,508		3,503	1,521	\$ 9,710
Federal grants					858		858
County and other grants					72		72
State operating appropriation				22,964			22,964
State legacy appropriation				12,148			12,148
State capital appropriation				23,000			23,000
Total support	3,178		1,508	58,112	4,433	1,521	68,752
Revenue:							
Admission fees	2,802						2,802
Museum store sales	2,251						2,251
Publication sales	1,431						1,431
Program fees	1,713						1,713
Contract service fees	1,944						1,944
Library sales and fees	289						289
Investment return	46		549		1,798	5,629	8,022
Endowment payout	1,018		(233)		1,499	(2,284)	
Change in value of split-interest agreements						(24)	(24)
Rental, parking, food services	1,367						1,367
Other sales, fees, and memberships	715						715
Total revenue	13,576		316		3,297	3,321	20,510
Total support & revenue	16,754		1,824	58,112	7,730	4,842	89,262
Fund Transfers					(1,000)	1,000	
Net assets released from program restrictions	40,675	3,261		(38,326)	(5,610)		
Total support, revenue, and net assets released from program restrictions	57,429	3,261	1,824	19,786	1,120	5,842	89,262
EXPENSES:							
Program services:							
Library and Collections	9,151	211					9,362
Historic sites and museums	14,435	986					15,421
Education, outreach, and content development	12,214	470					12,684
Historic preservation	9,016	5					9,021
Total program services	44,816	1,672					46,488
Supporting services:							
Management and general	11,247	99					11,346
Development and membership	2,232	1					2,233
Total supporting services	13,479	100					13,579
Total expenses	58,295	1,772					60,067
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(866)	1,489	1,824	19,786	1,120	5,842	29,195
Net assets at beginning of year	9,931	91,344	5,292	12,851	32,043	66,380	217,841
Net assets at end of year	\$9,065	92,833	7,116	32,637	33,163	72,222	\$ 247,036

These statements are condensed from MNHS' audited financial statements which are available at www.mnhs.org/reports.
Historic preservation includes grants, field services, and the State Historic Preservation Office through March 1, 2018.

NORTH STAR CIRCLE

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the following donors in our North Star Circle for their leadership support from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

The commitment and generosity of our North Star Circle members sustains our work to transform lives through the power of history and maintains the excellence of our ongoing programs, sites, and services.

The collective contributions of those recognized in our North Star Circle are the foundation of our annual support, providing nearly \$1 million in fiscal year 2018.

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\$25,000+

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Through the generosity of the Driscoll Family Foundation, MNHS is developing innovative educational programming to tell all of Historic Fort Snelling's many stories.

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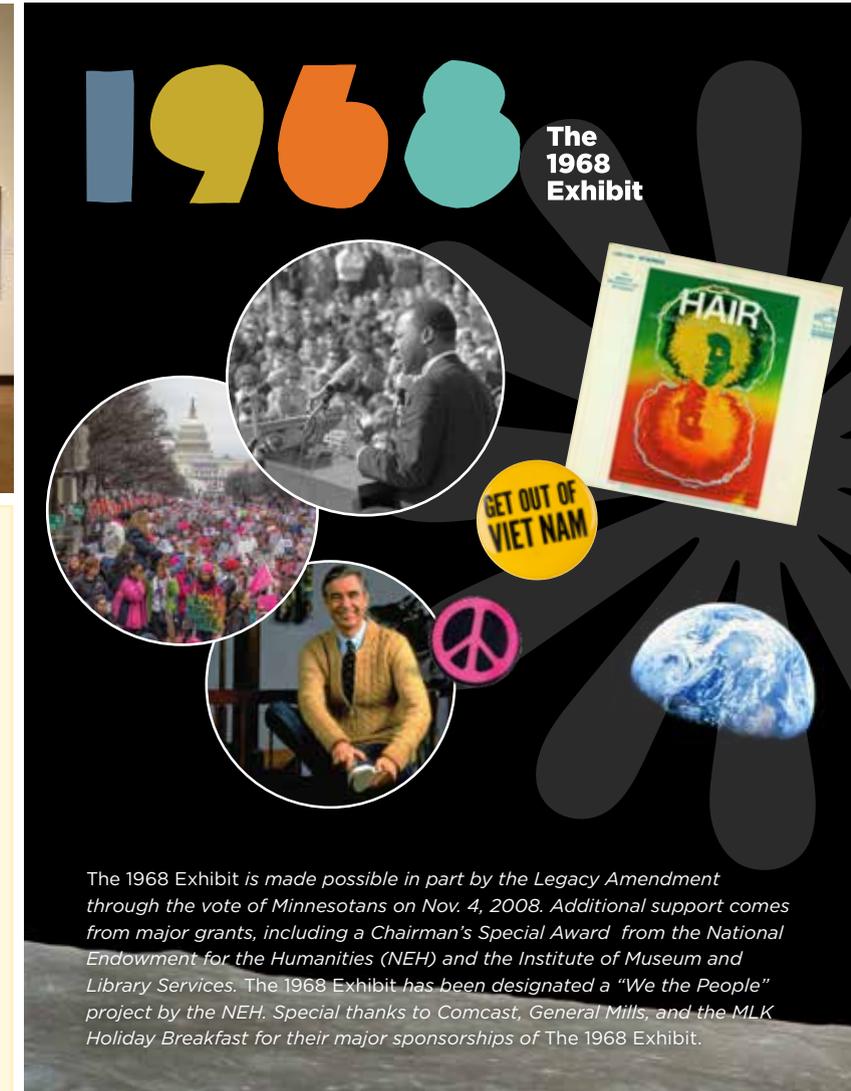
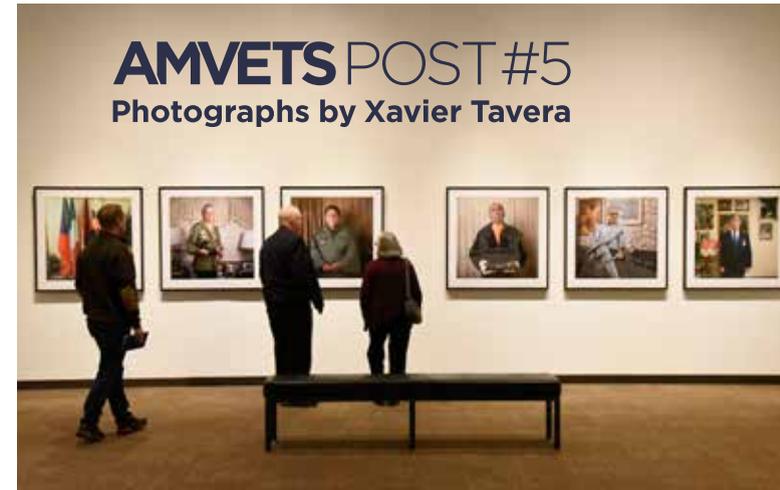
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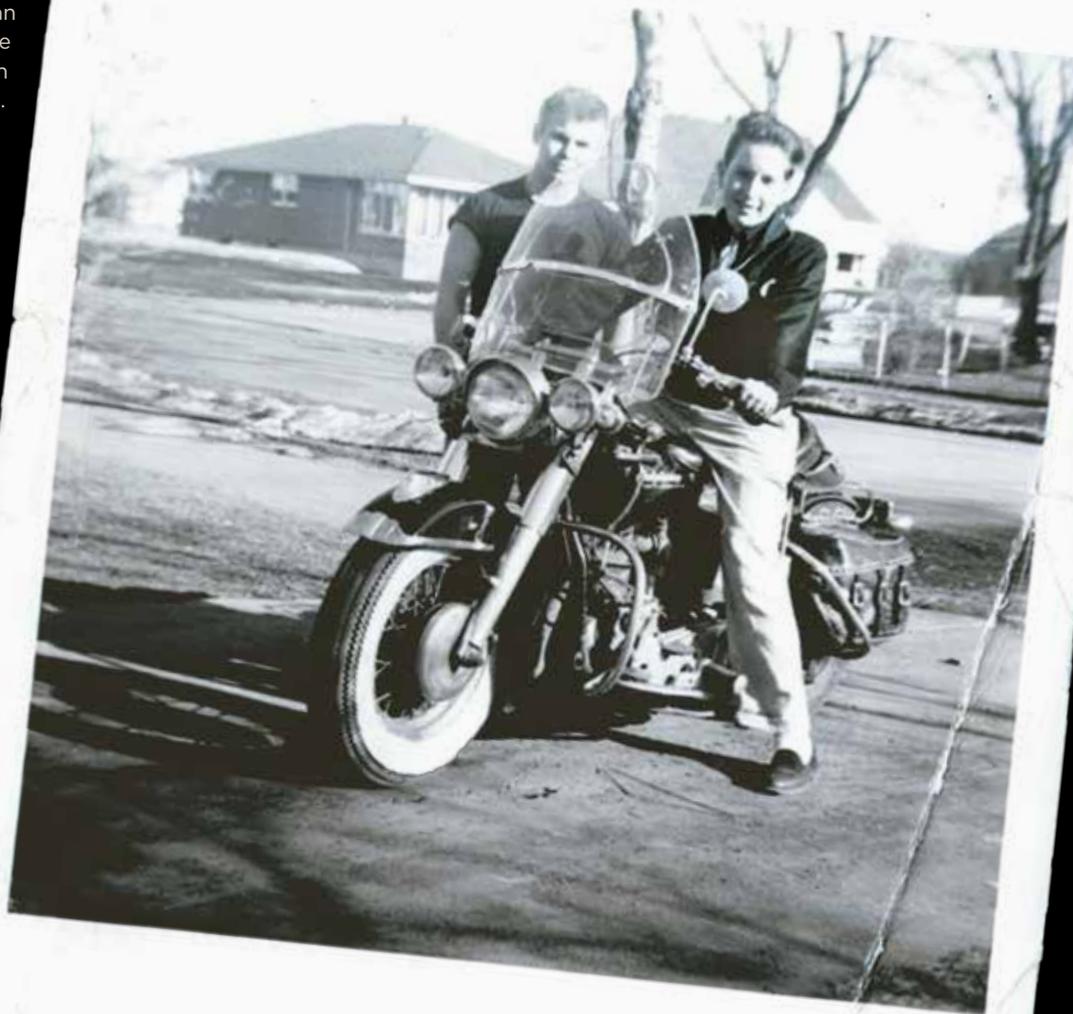


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An original photograph of Dale Boutang and Bob Dylan on a motorcycle from their high school days.



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