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 serve on 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

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
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.
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

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.

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

MINNESOTA'S HISTORICAL RESOURCES
Sharing access to meaningful places, programs, resources, events, services, and exhibits
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.
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.

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

Providing context and connecting the present with the past

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 Colín 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

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY MN
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 Mazinakizige: 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.

Gabe Chang-Deutch, George David Yellow, Zoe Pettit, Aliza Olson, De’von Anderson (not pictured: Shaw Handley)

Top: photo by Zoe Pettit
Bottom: photo by Aliza Olson

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**HISTORIC FORT SNELLING**

The state legislature appropriated MN HS $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 Dakota Omnichiye, 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 $395.4 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
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

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
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 651-255-3123 or visit mnhs.org/makeagift.

“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

USING THE POWER OF HISTORY TO TRANSFORM LIVES
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 conduct 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, outreach. Endowment funds give MNHS

Condominium Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2018

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Federal, county and other grants 1%
Private contributions 11%
Investment return 9%
Earned income 14%
Federal operating appropriation 26%
State legacy appropriation 13%
State capital appropriation 26%

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA

Historic sites and museums 26%
Library and Collections 15%
Historic preservation 15%
Management and general 19%
Development and membership 4%
Education outreach and content development 23%

Library and Collections 15%
Management and general 19%
Hardcover 16%
Library and Publications 15%
Library and Collections 15%
Historic Preservation 15%
Management and General 19%
Development and Membership 4%
Education Outreach and Content Development 23%

2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Condensed Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities
Our ongoing programs, sites, John and Ruth Huss* Rosemary and David Good^ Charlton Dietz* Julia W. Dayton* Suzanne Blue Terry and Sharon Avent* Peter W. and Sally A. Anson* Pete and Margie Ankeny* $10,000 – $24,999 Tom and Julianne Youngren^ Betty and Whitney MacMillan* Jon and Glenda Tollefson Missy Thompson and Gar Hargens Dan Schmechel and Mimi Wright Harry G. McNeely Jr. Lynne and Paul Billings Mary J. Hulsen Kurt and Violet BlueDog Gary and Sherry Benda Susan Boren and Steve King Linda Boyse^ Will and Maree Bracken^ Steven and Gail Brand Sue and Dan Froehlich Thomas Forsythe Rodney H. 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The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the people of Minnesota, whose generosity has included support of the Minnesota Historical Society by including MNHS as a beneficiary of a will or other planned gift. We are grateful for the special commitment of these visionaries, whose generosity has included support of the Minnesota Historical Society by including MNHS as a beneficiary of a will or other planned gift.
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+ Emeritus and Honorary Council Member

FEATURED EXHIBITS AT THE MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER

Somalis & Minnesota is made possible in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. Additional support comes from major grants, including a Chairman’s Special Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The 1968 Exhibit has been designated as a “We the People” project by the NEH. Special thanks to Comcast, General Mills, and the MLK Holiday Breakout for their major sponsorships of the 1968 Exhibit.

AMVETS POST #5 Photographs by Xavier Tavera

Renewing What They Gave Us Native American Artists in Residence

The 1968 Exhibit is made possible in part by the Legacy Amendment through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. Additional support comes from major grants, including a Chairman’s Special Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The 1968 Exhibit has been designated as a “We the People” project by the NEH. Special thanks to Comcast, General Mills, and the MLK Holiday Breakout for their major sponsorships of the 1968 Exhibit.

SOMALIS + MINNESOTA

Sommers + Minnesotans is made possible in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. Additional support comes from Knight Foundation, 3M, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.
An original photograph of Dale Boutang and Bob Dylan on a motorcycle from their high school days.