The Wisconsin Historical Society is the state’s memory and premier storyteller. Though we are a small state agency, we make major contributions to Wisconsin’s economic, educational and cultural health through innovative initiatives and programs.

Our programs, historic sites, museums, collections and archives inform and entertain adults and challenge young people to think critically about their place in history. We promote Wisconsin tourism and our historic preservation program reinvigorates neighborhoods.

ENTREPRENURIAL STATE AGENCY

- We are a unique and entrepreneurial organization in which approximately $7 million of the Society’s $26.7 million budget – over 38% - was supported by gifts, grants and earned income in Fiscal Year 2018.
- Our fundraising partner, the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, raised over $8.8 million in direct support for the Society’s programs and initiatives.
- Each year the Society has over 250 volunteers, more than any other state agency. Their work expands the efforts of permanent, limited-term and seasonal employees.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT & JOBS

- Historic preservation investment created 6,873 construction-related jobs in Wisconsin.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT & JOBS

- Over $297 million in qualified income-producing historic rehabilitation work took place in Wisconsin, bringing over $59.4 million in federal historic preservation tax credits to the state.
- The private sector invested $378 million in rehabilitated historic properties in Wisconsin with the help of historic preservation specialists at the Society. Staff advised and guided business owners to ensure that they qualified for federal tax credits.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- Our network of 12 historic sites and museums throughout Wisconsin attracted over 262,000 visitors.
- Over 438,000 historical artifacts, library and archival units, and archeological items were moved to the new State Archive Preservation Facility in the largest collection management project in the Society’s 173-year history. The project is 50% complete.
- The Society advised and supported the work of over 400 affiliated local historical societies.
- The Society offered 315 public talks for 36,740 adults in 121 communities and provided traveling history exhibits at 53 venues reaching 145,649 visitors.
- The Society helped 17,000 secondary school students in 115 communities to think critically through its National History Day program.
- The Wisconsin Historical Society Press published 23 new titles and its award-winning Wisconsin Magazine of History in both print and digital formats. Over 35,000 books were sold, many printed in Wisconsin on Wisconsin paper.
- The Press hosted book talks and author signings for 14,754 participants in all corners of the state.

VALUES: We believe that increasing the public’s knowledge of history has profound societal, cultural, and economic benefit.