





Making tax dollars work for Wisconsin through innovative programs.

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For more information contact Kate Easton, Legislative Liaison, 608.264.6442

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

wisconsinhistory.org

Who We Are

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 Values

Our programs, historic sites, museums, collections, and archives inform and entertain while also challenging the public to think critically about their place in history. We promote Wisconsin tourism and our historic preservation program reinvigorates neighborhoods. We believe that increasing the public's knowledge of history has profound societal, cultural, and economic benefit.



Entrepreneurial 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 2019
- Our fundraising partner, the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, raised over \$14.5 million in direct support for the Society's programs and initiatives, and stewards 11,976 annual members.
- 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.



Diane and Bob Witt, volunteers at Villa Louis. "We chose to continue volunteering at the Villa because we believe it is a unique and special part of our history and it needs to be preserved for future generations."

Education

- Over **54,000 K-12 students visited** the Society's historic sites and museums, and 766 students were engaged in the classroom through the Hands-On History program.
- Nearly 51,000 Society textbooks (English & Spanish) are being used by 4th-grade students.
- 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 16,000 secondary school students think critically through its National History Day program, which produced 56 national finals competitors and six top-10 finishers/award winners.

Statewide Impact

- Our network of 12 historic sites and museums throughout Wisconsin attracted 293.628 visitors.
- 105,461 attendees from 29 communities visited the Society's traveling exhibits. Nearly **40,000** attended Society presentations around the state.
- The Society's Library & Archives Division served over 175,000 patrons with access to historic books, newspapers, documents, and other materials.
- Society staff has moved 98% of historical artifacts, library and archival units, and archeological items to the State Archive Preservation Facility in the largest collection management project in Society history.
- The Society advised and supported the work of over 400 affiliated local historical societies.
- Over **5,500 people** across the state attended the Society's "Share Your Voice" engagement sessions, seeking public input on a new statewide museum.
- The Press sold 46,567 books mostly on Wisconsin paper and hosted book talks/author signings for 14,754 participants across the state.

Private Investments & Jobs

- Over \$76 million in qualified, income-producing historic rehabilitation **work** took place through the Society's State Historic Preservation Office, bringing over **\$15.2 million in federal historic preservation** tax credits to the state. A total of 348 buildings were rehabilitated.
- The private sector invested \$84.6 million in rehabilitated historic properties with the help of Society historic preservation specialists who advised business owners to ensure that they qualified for federal tax credits.



K12 student handles mastodon tooth through the Hands-On History program.



"Share your Voice" session in Madison, Wisconsin



Marshfield City Hall rehabilitated through the Society's State Historic Preservation office.

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