

FOCUS ON LOCAL HISTORY

Strong collaboration with network of 400 partners will transform the reach of local stories

Wisconsin was the first state in the country to emphasize the power of local history. Since 1898, because of dedicated community leaders across the state, the Wisconsin Historical Society's network of local history partners has grown to 400 organizations and nearly 60,000 members, and is written into the state's statutes as a vital responsibility of the Society.

In addition to organizing one of the nation's largest local history conferences — with record attendance the past two years — the Society dedicates three full-time staff members to assist local partners. In 2017 alone, they provided 780 consultations.

This essential network is a shining example of how Wisconsin has led the nation in the preservation and support for history — and the future is even brighter.

With a new Wisconsin History Museum, local partners will have an opportunity to transform the impact and value of local history in the state. A greatly expanded outreach and education program will allow partners to help traveling programs such as Hands-On History reach schools across the state. Inside the museum, they will play a critical role in developing temporary and core exhibits. With more than 150,000 annual visitors, the museum will give local stories invaluable exposure on Wisconsin's Capitol Square.



With a new Wisconsin History Museum, local history organizations will be able to share their stories with tens of thousands of visitors through temporary exhibit space dedicated thanks to expanded exhibit opportunities at the museum as well as through distance learning technology.

Stories of everyday citizens, every day

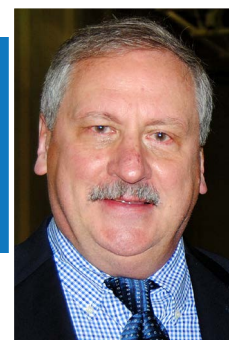
All history is local, and the Society will make sure that point is made loud and clear in the new museum. Core exhibits will occupy approximately 32,000 square feet, and visitors will experience Wisconsin's rich history through the stories of everyday citizens.

The collaboration with our partners will allow for stories and exhibits to be continually updated with relevant local perspectives, and the Society will look to these organizations to suggest new exhibit ideas and loan local artifacts that will enhance storytelling.

After a day in the new Wisconsin History Museum, visitors will see the people and places of our state through entirely new eyes.

“The ability to tell our story on the big, central (Capitol Square) stage **will give us invaluable exposure to Wisconsinites** who too often mistake our town with that other one in Indiana.”

John Decker, Evansville,
President of the Wisconsin Council for Local History



THE CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW WISCONSIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Local partners essential to telling Wisconsin's story

The Society is excited to collaborate with its longtime friends at local history organizations in creating the new museum. This cherished relationship, built over a century of trust, will be essential in assuring that *local* voices and *local* history will shape the museum's focus of telling stories that reveal "What Makes Wisconsin, Wisconsin."

Approximately 5,000 square feet of the new museum will be dedicated to temporary exhibits, with a portion of that space highlighting the collections of local history organizations. This exciting opportunity will allow thousands of people who may have never visited a particular area of the state understand why it's essential to Wisconsin's story.

The Society's field services staff will work with local partners to develop the vision, content, design, and installation of the exhibits. In addition, exhibits will be created to be re-installed in local museums and other venues.

Distance learning connects the museum to the state

While a visit to the museum will be on a must-do list — more than 30,000 students from schools in 219 cities and 60 of Wisconsin's 72 counties visited



A temporary exhibit area (similar to the above space) would give local history organizations a platform to reach new audiences on Wisconsin's Capitol Square.

the current museum in 2017, its busiest year ever — exciting new distance learning technology will eliminate financial and geographic obstacles.

People of all ages unable to visit in person before will now be able to engage with the museum wherever they live. Children in internet-accessible classrooms will participate in live video streams of museum programming and interact with peers from across the state. Likewise, people at societies, libraries and other statewide venues will be able to engage with museum programs.

This exciting opportunity will expose our residents to new perspectives, bridge socioeconomic, racial and other divides, and encourage a better understanding of our connection to a shared heritage.



"For my organization, it would be a great opportunity to share information and learn from each other."

Clayborn Benson
Director,
Wisconsin Black
Historical Society

To learn more about the new museum campaign or to join us, please contact us:

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WISCONSIN
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Wisconsin Historical
FOUNDATION

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that receives grants and private contributions benefitting the Society and administers the membership program.