

In this past year, the Society has continued to advance the understanding of and access to history in our state. Among the numerous examples of this are the expansion of audiences and access through new technologies, the continued growth and acclaim garnered by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, and the new exhibits currently on display as well as those already planned for the future. These achievements, particularly in the current economic climate, are a credit to the Society's excellent staff as well as the support of you, its members.

Of course there are always new challenges ahead of us, including the selection of a new Executive Director to succeed Nina Archabal. One of the most important functions of the Executive Council is the selection of the Executive Director. We are deep into the process and excited about the possibilities.

While Nina is quick to point out that the Minnesota Historical Society is more than the Executive Director, no one can deny that she has been instrumental in bringing the Society to where it is today. We can all best honor her legacy by continuing it—by maintaining and advancing the high standards in all areas for which the Minnesota Historical Society under Nina Archabal's leadership is known.

On behalf of the Society and its Executive Council, thank you for your ongoing interest and support.

William R. Stoeri, President, Minnesota Historical Society

It is a privilege to present the Society's 161st annual report of its activities and accomplishments. We began this year anticipating the benefits the Legacy Act would bring to history in Minnesota. You may recall that the voters amended our state constitution in 2008 to provide a new source of revenue to support initiatives that would uphold Minnesota's long held values relating to our natural and cultural resources. Despite the state's continuing economic woes—which have caused the Society and others receiving appropriations from the state's General Fund to reduce their traditional services—the Legacy Act is breathing new life into Minnesotans' ability to care for the heritage they cherish.

Of the \$9.75 million in Legacy funds appropriated to the Society this year, \$3.25 million have gone to organizations across the state, large and small, through grants and partnership projects. Legacy funds are also supporting new work at the Society, including a major History Center exhibition called "Our Minnesota." This exhibition, which will open in 2012, will offer a richly immersive experience in which visitors may explore the state's geography and meet the people who have given Minnesota its distinctive character.

When I joined the Society's staff 33 years ago, the institution was on the threshold of a new era. We were just beginning to imagine the kind of expanded service the History Center has enabled us to offer. On the horizon were the addition of the James J. Hill House to our historic sites network, a new Mille Lacs Indian Museum, the creation of Mill City Museum, new visitor centers and exhibitions for several historic sites and unprecedented access to the Society's collections. What a privilege it has been for me to lead the institution through this period of accomplishment.

As I conclude my work at the Society, I sense that once again we are on the threshold of a new era. Just as I could not have imagined what lay ahead in 1977, I cannot see the future now, but it seems to me that the digital revolution will continue to present opportunities to our institution. I also anticipate that the Society will make strides in line with the nation's growing awareness that sustainability is an essential principle for our continued vitality. In Minnesota the connection between our care for natural and cultural resources and our responsibility to future generations have long been established. Just as the digital revolution and the pursuit of sustainability are transforming our daily lives—from downloading e-books to 'buying local'—so, I believe they will energize the work of the Minnesota Historical Society long into the future.

In closing, I want to express my profound appreciation and admiration for the staff members who have created the Society as we know it today. I am grateful to the governing board for their wise guidance and unwavering care. And, the support of the Society's members, donors and volunteers has been essential for the institution's success.

The Society was established by Minnesota's Territorial leaders who believed that a historical society was essential to assure the transfer of the citizens' values from one generation to the next. During my years at the Society I have witnessed our elected leaders' continuing and generous commitment to this idea. I am grateful to all who cherish this institution as I do. Our founding principle is as compelling today as it was in 1849. May it ever be so!

Nuis Archabal Nina Archabal, Director

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

AUCTION BROUGHT BONANZA OF RARE 19TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS TO SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS

When the collection of Minnesota businessman Floyd Risvold went up for auction, the Society recognized an extraordinary opportunity to add invaluable documents to its collections. Risvold spent a lifetime collecting postal and manuscript materials related to the western expansion of the United States. Acquisitions librarian Patrick Coleman attended the auction in New York, bidding on behalf of the Society, and brought home many documents that significantly enhance the Society's collections. This success was made possible by the generosity of many people and organizations. Some of the stunning historical manuscripts acquired were a letter from Henry Sibley to Col. S. C. Stambaugh in Washington concerning Pelagie Faribault's claim on Pike Island, three rare maps of Fort Snelling, and three letters from Rev. Gideon Pond to Dr. T. S. Williamson expressing concern about American Indian prisoners at the end of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

NINA ARCHABAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS SOCIETY DIRECTOR

After 33 years of service to the Society, 23 as its director and state historic preservation officer, Nina Archabal announced that she would retire at the end of December 2010. A native of Massachusetts, Archabal began her career at the Society in 1977. After serving nine years as deputy director, she was selected as the Society's 10th director in 1987. The Society has grown significantly during Archabal's tenure, with the development of the Minnesota History Center as the state's premier history museum and library, the establishment of new and innovative programs across the state, and the creation of two new museums, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Mill City Museum on the Minneapolis riverfront. Archabal's influence has reached beyond Minnesota, through service to both national and international educational and cultural organizations. She has served as the chair of the board of the American Association of Museums and the United States Committee of the International Council of Museums. In 1997, President Clinton presented Archabal with the National Humanities Medal. Elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers, also in 1997, she received the Harvard Medal for her service at commencement ceremonies in May 2010.

BEN FRANKLIN EXHIBIT BLENDED HISTORY AND SCIENCE, DELIGHTING VISITORS OF ALL AGES

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" opened at the History Center in November 2009, the latest in a series of prestigious traveling exhibits the Society has brought to Minnesota. Thousands of visitors discovered the life and adventures of this extraordinary man and the impact he had, not only during his lifetime but in our world today. The exhibition allowed visitors to be immersed in Franklin's world, and provided a look at the amazing scope of his life and career—from self-taught teenage runaway to pivotal statesman and scientist. An innovative partnership with the Bakken Museum helped the Society to create an experience that let visitors get their hands on history by generating static electricity to make their hair stand on end, confetti dance and sparks fly. An accompanying exhibit, "Inventive Women: Portraits of Scientists and Engineers from the University of Minnesota," featured photographs of the female faculty of the University's Institute of Technology by Nancy G. Johnson.

SOCIETY WEATHERS STATE BUDGET REDUCTION; HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT AND CAPITAL BUDGET PASSED

Fiscal Year 2010 found the State of Minnesota continuing to work within a state budget deficit and a struggling economy. The Society received a reduction of \$1,961,000 in its state appropriation for the year (and \$2,241,000 for fiscal year 2011) as its part of deficit reduction legislation.

This year, Minnesota became the 31st state to offer a tax incentive for historic preservation when the legislature passed and the governor signed a bill that provides a 20-percent state tax credit for qualified expenditures to rehabilitate income-producing historic properties. This new tax credit promises to spur historic preservation, stimulate job growth and revitalize communities.

The legislature also passed a bonding bill for capital projects with two significant provisions for historic structures, including funding for the preservation of buildings in the historic sites network operated by the Society, and for grants for the preservation of historic buildings owned by cities and counties across the state.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY PROGRAMS REMAINED STRONG; MEMBERSHIP HITS ALL-TIME HIGH.

Despite reduced funding, a colorful, animated summer campaign that encouraged people to 'Start Seeing History' helped ensure strong attendance at historic sites and museums. The Society created an eye-catching image of Minnesota, used for brochures, the web and a fold-out map, that guided people to the location of the Society's 26 historic sites and museums. With hours reduced at some historic sites by more than 50 percent, overall attendance was down just one percent. At the History Center, visitors numbered more than 210,000, including around 43,000 schoolchildren.

The Society's summer music events were more popular than ever, with nearly 8,000 enthusiastic fans spread out on the terrace and lawns of the History Center for Nine Nights of Music and more than 3,000 enjoying musical events in the Charles H. Bell Ruin Courtyard at Mill City Museum.

Use of the Society's web site continued to grow, with 1.876 million 'visitors' this year. In-person visits to the History Center library remained comparable to previous years with 35,000 researchers.

In June 2009, the Society's membership reached nearly 20,000, the highest in its history and the largest of any state historical organization in the country.

'THE 1968 EXHIBIT' HONORED WITH 'WE THE PEOPLE' DESIGNATION

The Society, in partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Chicago History Museum and the Oakland Museum of California, continued work on a major traveling exhibit that will document events of 1968, a pivotal year of social activism and change. "The 1968 Exhibit" will also include public and school programs. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recognized this project with a prestigious "We the People" designation and a major planning grant in August 2009. "We the People" is an initiative that encourages humanities institutions to develop projects that explore "significant events and themes in our nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America." "The 1968 Exhibit," which also received an NEH Chairman's Special Award of \$850,000 for exhibit implementation, will open at the History Center in October 2011, and begin a national tour in 2012.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES INCREASED ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Taking advantage of advances in technology, the Society dramatically increased public access to its collections. More than 2,500 finding aids to manuscript and government records collections were converted to digital format. Among these was the extensive inventory to the Walter F. Mondale Papers for which cataloging was completed this year. The Society continued to digitize a wide range of collections, including Minnesota sheet music, photographs and fine art.

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND EXTENDED SOCIETY'S EDUCATION OUTREACH, PARTNERSHIPS

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF), made possible by voters with the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the state constitution in November 2008, created new opportunities for the Society and other history organizations to fulfill their mission to preserve Minnesota's history. This funding allowed the Society to expand its educational programs to teachers, students and institutions of higher learning in Minnesota. New materials were developed to support local curriculum and state educational standards, particularly in relation to Ojibwe and Dakota history. Additional workshops helped teachers add these and other resources to their instructional toolkits. The adoption of new technology linked the Society with individual schools, strengthening the connection between the classroom experience and student visits to the Society's museums and historic sites. The Society also expanded History Day services to classrooms in rural Minnesota, and in partnership with the state's public libraries, supported research field trips by History Day students.

ACHF dollars also enabled the Society to develop partnerships with other historical and cultural organizations to share resources and expertise. The Minnesota Conservation Corps and the Forest History Center brought corps members to the historic logging camp, where they served as tour guides, helping visitors understand the connection between the logging of Minnesota's great white pines and the beginnings of modern conservation. Through an ongoing partnership with the Chicano-Latino Affairs Council, the Society interviewed elders to document the history of this community in Minnesota. The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and the Society worked together to promote the revitalization of historic small town commercial buildings with the support of public and private investments.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL GRANTS, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND, HIT THEIR MARK As the first year of the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program wrapped up, it was clear that the program was a success with \$2,192,296 in grants awarded to 179 historical and cultural organizations in 58 counties across the state. Among eligible categories for history projects, grants for collections care were most numerous, funding 36 projects, followed by interpretive programs with 23 grants. Twenty-two grants were made for the rehabilitation of historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society also awarded \$730,000 in grants to 15 capital preservation projects from state bond funds appropriated by the legislature and \$97,720 in 30 Certified Local Government grants through federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

KELLEY FARM EXPLORES NEW VISION FOR TELLING MINNESOTA'S AGRICULTURAL STORY

The Society completed major planning for the Oliver H. Kelley Farm resulting in a new vision for this National Historic Landmark that extends the period of interpretation from the mid-19th century to the present. This effort produced a new interpretive plan, a schematic design for an expanded visitor center and a cultural landscape report. The re-envisioned Kelley Farm will give visitors expanded opportunities to understand agriculture, land and food through programs and hands-on experiences in state-of-the-art facilities designed and built in accordance with sustainable building practices. With these improvements, the site will become more environmentally friendly and vibrant in the coming decades, and will also serve as a community gathering place for residents and visitors alike. Funding for the proposed Kelley Farm Revitalization Project, which was included by the House and Senate in the 2010 Capital Budget Bill, was vetoed by the governor. The Society remains committed to this important initiative and will actively seek funding to support it in the future.

SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED ICONIC SITE

Split Rock Lighthouse celebrated its 100th birthday with an innovative marketing campaign and record attendance. The lighthouse, one of the most picturesque in the country and recognized around the world, first lit its powerful beam on July 31, 1910. Throughout the season, special events and programs marked the occasion, along with monthly beacon lightings that sent the bright light once more across the dangerous waters of Lake Superior. Adding to the popular site's attraction (it is visited annually by over 100,000 people) was the completion of a two-year project to preserve all 10 of the historic light station's buildings. The four-ton anchor from the Madeira, one of the ships that went down in the historic 1905 storm that led to the lighthouse's construction, was placed in front of the visitor center with the cooperation of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society. This ambitious project received a "Preservation Award" from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, the "Grand Award" from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota and a "Top Projects" award from *Finance and Commerce*.

MHS PRESS SAW YEAR OF NATIONAL RECOGNITION, GROWTH IN ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

The Minnesota Historical Society Press enjoyed an award-winning year, publishing 28 print titles, as well as 66 e-books, more than doubling the number of Society books available in digital format. *I Go to America: Swedish-American Women and the Life of Mina Anderson*, by Joy K. Lintelman, and *Opening Goliath: Danger and Discovery in Caving*, by Cary Griffith, won Minnesota Book Awards. Lintelman's book also won the American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit, along with Paul Hillmer's *A People's History of the Hmong*. The publication of Anton Treuer's *Ojibwe of Minnesota* and the acquisition from Afton Press of three premiere Ojibwe titles by Thomas Peacock allowed MHS Press to bring resources on an important part of Minnesota's history to teachers and students throughout the state.

In partnership with Public Art Saint Paul, and with major support from a Joyce Award of the Joyce Foundation and a publication grant from the Society's Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Fund, the Press published a two-volume book to accompany Wing Young Huie's *University Avenue Project: The Language of Urbanism, a Six-Mile Photographic Inquiry*, which transformed the urban thoroughfare in St. Paul into a six-mile public gallery of over 400 photographs, a nightly photographic projection site and a monthly music cabaret.

EIGHT PROPERTIES NAMED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Eight properties were newly listed on the National Register through the Society's State Historic Preservation Office in fiscal year 2010. They were: Mapleton Public Library, Mapleton, Blue Earth County; Dodd Ford Bridge, Shelby Township, Blue Earth County; Christiana Lutheran Free Church, Eureka Township, Dakota County; United States Post Office, Minneapolis, Hennepin County; Komensky School, Hutchinson Township, McLeod County; O'Donnell Shoe Company, St. Paul, Ramsey County; the Robert Wallace (a Lake Superior shipwrecked bulk carrier), Palmers, St. Louis County; and the Grand Opera House, St. James, Watonwan County.

Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Highlights

The Society received approximately \$22.4 million in operating support from the State of Minnesota in fiscal year 2010, or 39.4% of its total support and revenue. This represents a decrease of \$1.9 million in the base appropriation as compared to the prior year.

In fiscal year 2010, the Society received an appropriation of \$9.75 million from the new Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) approved by voters in November, 2008. This new appropriation comprised 17.3% of the Society's total support and revenue for fiscal 2010. An additional \$12.25 million has been appropriated for the Society in fiscal year 2011.

In addition, the Society received \$4.25 million in capital budget appropriations for Historic Asset Preservation (\$3.4 million) and County & Local Preservation Grants (\$0.85 million), or 7.5% of the total support and revenue.

Contributions from members, friends, corporations and foundations totaled \$3.9 million, or 6.9% of the total support and revenue, down \$1.3 million from fiscal year 2009. In fiscal year 2009 the Society received two large temporarily restricted gifts totaling \$0.8 million, in addition to a one-time permanently restricted endowment gift of \$1 million.

In fiscal year 2010 the Society sold the deaccessioned Crane Lake property in northern Minnesota. In accordance with the Society's legislative charter the net proceeds from the sale must be treated as permanently restricted endowment for the acquisition and care of collections.

Total non-investment operating revenues overall were consistent with the previous fiscal year, with decreases in admissions, Museum Store sales and auxiliary services due to the "Vatican Splendors" exhibit in fiscal year 2009. Publications, program fees and contract services produced favorable increases during during fiscal year 2010.

Realized and unrealized investment income during fiscal year 2010, was \$4.1 million and comprised 23.7% of the Society's total support and revenue, a significant improvement from the \$8.8 million in investment losses recorded in fiscal year 2009. The investment return on the endowment funds for fiscal year 2010 was 14.5% compared to the negative return of 29.5% in fiscal 2009.

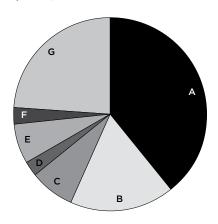
Fiscal year 2010 was the fifth full-year of the Society charging for admission at the History Center, which resulted in approximately \$347,000 in admission fees. This represents an increase of \$81,000 from admissions at the History Center, and \$77,000 in excess of the budget.

Total expenses for fiscal year 2010 were \$48.5 million, up \$1.3 million from the prior year and primarily due to the net effect of \$4.3 million in new ACHF expenditures less the reduction in the State Operating Appropriation of \$1.5 million and reductions in Unrestricted Operating expenses of \$1.4 million.

Salaries and benefits expense decreased 3.7% in fiscal 2010 and comprised 47.7% (\$23.1 million) of the Society's total expenses for the fiscal year, compared to 51.0% (\$24.0 million) for fiscal 2009. All other operating expenditures in total increased approximately \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2010, primarily to the ramping up of the ACHF projects.

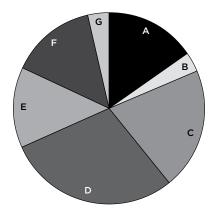
In fiscal 2010 the Society recorded its liability to qualified employees for their vacation and sick leave balances through a cumulative effect accounting change. The \$2.2 million obligation was recorded as an adustment to net assets as of July 1, 2009. As of June 30, 2010, the Society has a liability of \$2.1 million recorded on its balance sheet.

More than 2,300 volunteers contributed over 48,000 hours at the Society's museums and historic sites across the state, the largest number ever in the history of the Society's volunteer program.



Sources of Support and Revenue:

| A State Operating Appropriations 39.4 | % |
|--|----|
| B State ACHF Appropriation 17.3 | % |
| C State Capital Bond Appropriation 7.5 | % |
| D Federal, State and County Grants 2.5 | % |
| E Support from Individuals, Corporations | |
| and Foundations 6.9 | 9% |
| F Sale of Collection Item 2.7 | % |
| G Earned Income | % |



Percentage of Expenses by Program Area:

| A Library Collections and |
|--|
| Archival Services |
| B Publications |
| C History Center Museum |
| D Historic Sites |
| E Outreach and Preservation 13.6% |
| F Management and General 14.3% |
| G Development and Membership 3.5% |
| |

| Condensed Balance Sheet As of Ju | ine 30, 2010 | | | | | | · | (000's) omitted |
|--|--------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Unrestricted | | | Temporarily Restricted | | Permanently Restricted | Total | |
| | Operating funds | Plant fund | Board designated endowment | State appropriation | Other | Endowment | 2010 | 2009 |
| Cash and investments | \$2,533 | | \$6,479 | \$983 | \$10,661 | \$19,409 | \$40,065 | \$34,414 |
| Receivables | 1,357 | | | 18,010 | 3,604 | 1,926 | 24,897 | 22,956 |
| Museum shop inventories | 961 | | | | | | 961 | 922 |
| Property and equipment net | | \$85,511 | | | | | 85,511 | 86,829 |
| Total assets | \$4,851 | \$85,511 | \$6,479 | \$18,993 | \$14,265 | \$21,335 | \$151,434 | \$145,121 |
| Payables and accrued liabilities Net assets: | \$3,494 | | | \$1,802 | \$243 | \$277 | \$5,816 | \$5,275 |
| Unrestricted | 1,357 | \$85,511 | \$6,479 | | | | 93,347 | 95,880 |
| Temporarily restricted | | | | 17,191 | 14,022 | | 31,213 | 26,003 |
| Permanently restricted | | | | | | 21,058 | 21,058 | 17,963 |
| Total net assets | 1,357 | 85,511 | 6,479 | 17,191 | 14,022 | 21,058 | 145,618 | 139,846 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$4,851 | \$85,511 | \$6,479 | \$18,993 | \$14,265 | \$21,335 | \$151,434 | \$145,121 |

Net assets at end of year

\$1,357

\$85,511

\$6,479

\$17,191

\$14,022

\$21,058

\$145,618

\$139,846

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the people of Minnesota who, through appropriations made by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, have supported the Society in its mission. The special support of our members and friends named in the following lists is critical to maintaining excellence in our programs and services. The Society is grateful to all those who have given their financial support, and we use this opportunity to give special recognition and thanks to those who have contributed \$250 or more.



NORTH STAR CIRCLE

The Minnesota Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the leadership support of the following North Star Circle members These friends have contributed \$1,000 or more for annual membership during the 2010 fiscal year, from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE: \$50.000+

David A. and Barbara G. Koch* David and Janis Larson

GUARANTOR: \$25,000-\$49,999

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BENEFACTOR: \$15,000-\$24,999

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FOUNDER: \$10,000-\$14,999

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BUILDER: \$7.500-\$9.999

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PARTNER: \$5,000-\$7,499

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Norman Lorentzsen and Donna Boller

LEADER: \$2,500-\$4,999

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Betty Wold Johnson

Bill and Susan Jolitz

Peggy and Sam Johnson

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