

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Plains Talk
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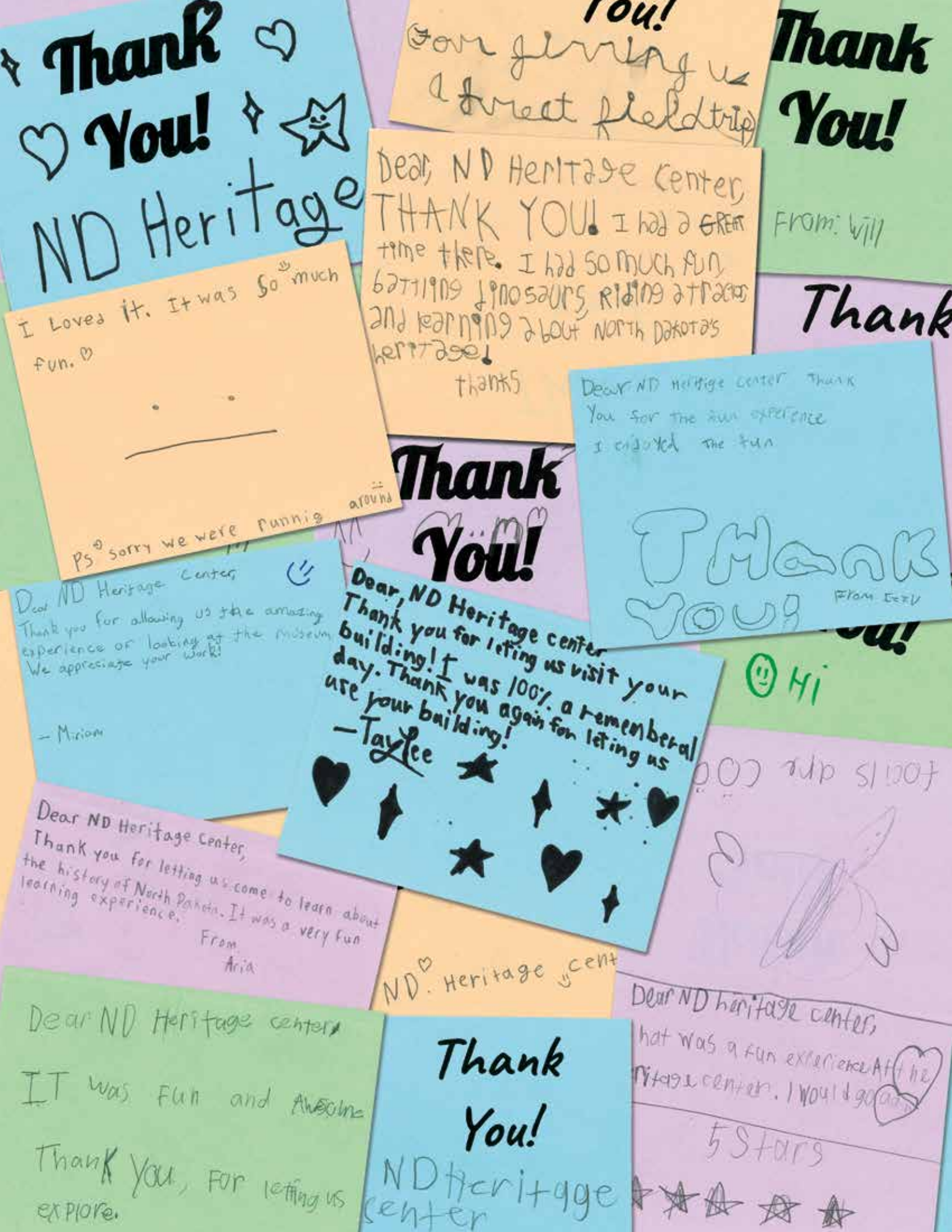
ANNUAL REPORT 2022



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA



History's
Foundation
State Historical Society
of North Dakota Foundation



Partnering for Impact



Hello Everyone,

I recently had the privilege of visiting with Ojibway storyteller Debbie Gourneau (Mekinock Ilkwey–Turtle Woman) at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum. During our brief visit, she informed me this is a place filled with positive energy. I could not agree more with that statement.

The past year held both successes and exciting changes. I would like to thank the State Historical Society staff and board of directors for their dedication and continued inspirational work on behalf of North Dakota history. I also want to thank the State Historical Society Foundation staff and board of directors for their assistance as we welcomed Dale Lennon as the Foundation’s executive director. The more than 200 volunteers who help us with our work across this great state have my deep gratitude as well.

Working with these immensely talented people reminds me of how important it is for this agency to continue to build relationships in North Dakota. One organization we have partnered with is the North Dakota National Guard in the development of a future military museum at the ND Heritage Center. Bringing together the various groups and individuals who have experience and expertise of the military in North Dakota has been a very rewarding experience.

When it comes to optimizing agency assets, an exciting development in 2022 was the purchase of a suite of remote-sensing equipment for use in archaeological investigations. Purchased with the financial assistance of the Foundation, this equipment consists of a ground-penetrating radar, a magnetometer, and a drone with a thermal infrared camera. Likewise, a new machine in the State Archives allows us to quickly digitize various sizes of moving picture film. In just a few months, the digital records stored by the agency grew by 10 terabytes!

I could go on about our great agency and resources. The State Historical Society team’s deep knowledge, passion for the work, and sense of being part of something that matters permeate the entire organization.

Kindest regards,

Bill Peterson
Bill Peterson

Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

VISION Inspire discovery and open minds to help shape the future of vibrant communities.

MISSION Identify, preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of North Dakota and its people.

CORE PURPOSE Respect the past, serve the present, inspire the future.

2022 North Dakota State Historical Board

- Steve C. Martens, Fargo, President
- Matt Dunlevy, Grand Forks, Vice President
- Daniel Stenberg, Watford City, Secretary
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- Calvin Grinnell, Bismarck
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SHSND Foundation Board

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- Twyla Baker, New Town
- Jon Erickson, Minot
- Armen Hanson, Devils Lake
- Dennis Hill, Bismarck
- Nancy Johnson, Fargo
- Jon McMillan, Grand Forks

Cover: Kevin Locke, Lakota hoop dancer and cultural ambassador, performs for schoolchildren as part of Whitestone Hill Education Day on Sept. 14, 2022. Locke, a longtime agency partner at this event and others, passed away a few weeks later. He will be missed.

2022 at a Glance



834,994 VISITORS
ANNUALLY TO STATE MUSEUMS
AND HISTORIC SITES

80,000
SQ. FT. OF EXHIBITS
STATE MUSEUMS
AND HISTORIC SITES

10 FRIENDS GROUPS
SUPPORTING
10 HISTORIC SITES



52,338
AGENCY SOCIAL
MEDIA FOLLOWERS

200
VOLUNTEERS
10,000
HOURS ANNUALLY



1,131,834
USERS OF
AGENCY
WEBSITES

59 STATE MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

- 49 HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- 8 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS
- 21 SERVICE BUILDINGS
- 19 CCC MARKERS/KIOSKS

ON A TOTAL OF 1,224 ACRES
THANK GOODNESS FOR RIDING LAWN
MOWERS!

1 GOVERNING BOARD

3,000
ANNUAL CULTURAL
RESOURCE REVIEWS
OF FEDERAL AND STATE
UNDERTAKINGS

EMPLOYEES
78.75 FULL TIME
94 TEMPORARY

3 NEW NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS

LOOK WHAT YOU CAN EXPLORE IN STATE COLLECTIONS!

121,892 BOOKS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2.1 MILLION PHOTOGRAPHS

1,588 NEWSPAPER TITLES

4,500 ORAL HISTORIES

3,350 MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

1,750 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORD SERIES

2,314 STATE GOVERNMENT RECORD SERIES

2,350 FEET OF SHELF SPACE OF MOVING
IMAGE FILM

80,000+ MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

12 MILLION+ ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

9% OF N.D. ACRES SURVEYED FOR CULTURAL
RESOURCES

20,000 CULTURAL RESOURCE REPORTS &
72,000 SITE FORMS USED BY **580** SPECIALISTS

Creating Inspiring Education Opportunities



ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW WAYS TO SPARK A PASSION for history among young people, we've upped outreach to teachers and added new interpretive experiences to engage North Dakota students. In 2022, field trips to state museums and historic sites, virtual programs, and offsite visits by staff reached 14,493 students, a nearly 70% increase over the previous year!

Fourth graders from Longfellow Elementary School in Minot learn how to play the traditional Native American ice gliders game during a visit to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FASHION DESIGNER NORMA BAKER-FLYING HORSE (Red Berry Woman) was the featured speaker at an afternoon tea at the ND Heritage Center. Baker-Flying Horse, whose work has appeared everywhere from the Academy Awards to Paris Fashion Week, discussed the ways she is bringing contemporary Indigenous design to the world of haute couture. An evening gown designed by Baker-Flying Horse and exhibited in *Fashion & Function: North Dakota Style* is now part of the state museum collection. The fashion exhibit closed at the end of 2022. It was recently replaced in the Governors Gallery by *On the Edge of the Wind: Native Storytellers & the Land*, which explores the connections between cultural practices, regional landscapes, and tribal oral narratives.



Norma Baker-Flying Horse and 2022 Miss North Dakota USA SaNoah LaRocque at the State Historical Society's spring tea.



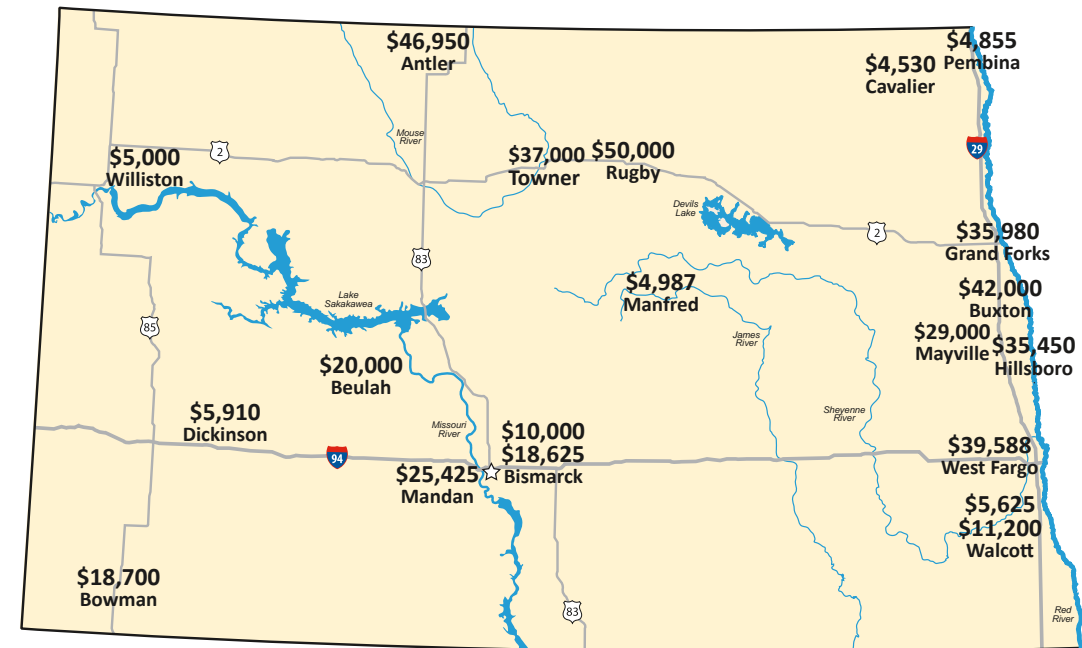
IN AUGUST, THE AGENCY PARTNERED WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, North Dakota's Gateway to Science, and Bismarck State College to host Weather Day at Camp Hancock State Historic Site. Local children enjoyed a variety of educational activities, including this demonstration of how electricity is generated.



A young boy learns about sage as part of program on prairie plants during Whitestone Hill Education Day.

AFTER A COVID-19 RELATED HIATUS, LIVING HISTORY FIELD DAY for eighth graders returned to Fort Totten State Historic Site in September, with a variety of activities and demonstrations including tipi raising, blacksmithing, Native American hand games, and quilting. That same month, the annual Whitestone Hill Education Day was held at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site near Kulm. The event, geared toward grades 4-6, featured sessions on topics such as prairie plants and animals, the fur trade, how to shoot a bow and arrow, interpreting historical photographs of Whitestone, and the history of the attack there in September 1863.

Establishing Deeper Connections With Core Constituencies



IN THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, the State Historical Society awarded \$450,000 in Cultural Heritage Grants to 20 eligible organizations throughout the state. Supported by the North Dakota Legislature, these grants provide funding to nonprofit organizations as well as to city, county, and tribal governments. Eligible projects include capital improvements, exhibits, special projects or events, education activities, and collections.

History Hero

Longtime state transportation official and historian Bennett Kubischta of Bismarck received the agency's 2022 Excellence in Local History Award. The award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations who have dedicated their time, talent, and efforts to local and regional history.

As manager of the state's Transportation Enhancement Program from the mid-1990s until retiring in 2014, Kubischta coordinated numerous initiatives that helped shape the face of the state and educate the public about its history, including reconstructing rest areas with historical themes, rehabilitating historic bridges, and adding interpretive signage to trails and scenic byways. He was also involved in tourism-related projects such as the Pembina State Museum and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Now a volunteer for the State Archives and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Kubischta continues to share his knowledge of transportation history in history presentations and talks around the state.



Agency Director Bill Peterson and Poppy Mills of the state Department of Transportation congratulate Local History Award recipient Bennett Kubischta.

A HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND APPROPRIATION from the National Park Service allowed the agency to award \$130,000 to six North Dakota organizations. Projects ranged from the restoration of the exterior stonework on St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Casselton to window and door repairs at the Gunlogson Farmstead Historic Site in Cavalier.

O.P.E.R.A. Inc. received a \$24,600 grant for the repair of the west wall and sidewalk of the Ellendale Opera House. Courtesy Greg Gackle, O.P.E.R.A. Inc.



THE NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE AMERICAN HALL OF HONOR inducted four individuals and a group of deceased Vietnam veterans in the Leadership, Sports, and Military award categories. Those honored included educator Gerald Monette, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa; the late social rights activist and administrator Juanita Jean Helphrey (White Flower), Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; longtime United Tribes Technical College athletic director and basketball coach Kevin Finley, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; MHA Nation Chairman Mark N. Fox, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa veterans Christopher Wilmer Davis, David Allen Larson, Dennis James Manson, Ralph Charles McCowan, and Eric Daryl Nadeau.

A partnership of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, the State Historical Society, and the State Historical Society Foundation, the annual program and exhibit at the State Museum recognizes Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribes and cultures.



Former UTTC athletic director and basketball coach Kevin Finley was honored in the Sports category.

THE STATE ARCHIVES' EFFORT TO COLLECT THE STORIES of residents got a boost with the launch of the "Flicker Tales of North Dakota" oral history project. Staff carried out 40 interviews in 2022 related to the 1997 Red River flood, food traditions, and the 150th anniversary of Bismarck's founding. The ongoing project explores topics useful for research and future exhibits. To access the oral histories, visit the Orin G. Libby Memorial Reading Room or contact archives@nd.gov.

North Dakota foodways is among the topics explored in a new oral history project. Here, pioneers dish up a hearty meal during Bismarck's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1947. SHSND SA 2016-P-011-01588



LOOKING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PAST? With enough North Dakota-related historical documents and materials to extend 8 miles, as well as 24 terabytes of digital records, the State Archives is the place to be. Explore manuscript collections, oral histories, historical photographs, film, and so much more! In 2022, we welcomed 1,330 patrons into the Orin G. Libby Memorial Reading Room and responded to 1,891 requests by phone or email.



Designed in a typewriter-style serif font, the 16-foot-wide, 18-foot-tall "Y" sign is a classic example of 1960s Americana. YMCA Records

THREE NEW NORTH DAKOTA LISTINGS WERE ADDED to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the federal government's list of properties considered worthy of preservation and recognition. North Dakota nominations are coordinated by the State Historical Society.

Fabricated in 1962, the **Fargo-Moorhead YMCA sign** is located at 400 First Ave. S. in Fargo. The aluminum sign has cherry red sides, white faces, and exposed neon tubing along the edges. The sign reflects the era in which it was designed and symbolizes the organization's longstanding presence and efforts to serve the community.

Built in 1910 as a dairy barn, the **Schlafmann Barn** in Turtle Lake features an enclosed shaft system for moving hay to feeders. The barn underwent renovations to better suit beef cattle when the economic market later shifted. An excellent example of its vernacular type, the building attests to trends in the development of agriculture in North Dakota.

Planned for veterans returning after World War II, the **Highland Acres Historic District** in Bismarck was primarily constructed between 1948 and the early 1970s. This enclave of mid-century and contemporary residential architecture is distinguished by its trapezoidal-shaped lots, curvilinear streets, long blocks, and 30-foot front lot setbacks to accommodate the hilly topography.



This deaccessioned replica covered wagon made by the Philadelphia Bicentennial Commission in 1975 was transferred to the McKenzie County Heritage Park in Watford City. The wagon passed through North Dakota as part of the nation's 200th birthday celebrations.

Giving Back

Our Museum Collections Committee meets monthly to consider potential donations and review current holdings for their condition and historical relevance to North Dakota, any duplications, and to assess future needs. In 2022, we added 272 new items to the state museum collection but also deaccessioned 68. We were thrilled that many of the deaccessioned items found new homes across North Dakota, including at the Manfred Heritage Museum, Oliver County Historical Society, and Braddock News Letterpress Museum. Available items are posted on the agency website and linked to on a regional cultural heritage institutions listserv. They are offered to such institutions on a first-come, first-served basis.

Optimizing Our Assets

EL COQUI, A BISMARCK-BASED PUERTO RICAN BAKERY, TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT of the ND Heritage Center & State Museum's café in June 2022. The café, which serves coffee, sandwiches, cookies, salads, hot meals, and pizzas, as well as freshly baked breads and pastries from El Coqui's downtown location, is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Craving something sweet? We've got you covered.



FORT TOTTEN STATE HISTORIC SITE ASSISTANT SITE SUPERVISOR LISA RAINBOW is pictured with members of the Ramsey County Four Leaf Friends 4-H Club. The group was on hand to help with the final harvest and clean-up of Fort Totten's victory garden in the fall. Produce from the garden is donated to the Hope Center food pantry in Devils Lake.



WHILE WE LOVE OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS, we're not as psyched about the messes they leave on interpretive signage at state historic sites across North Dakota. Enter State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson who came up with the novel idea of attaching steel rod perches to deter birds from leaving droppings on the signs, which cause damage and costs the agency thousands of dollars each year in clean-up hours. In 2022, we added 26 perches to signs at Fort Clark and Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Sites, with more in the works. So far the results have been a success, says Historic Sites Maintenance and Construction Supervisor Paul Grahl, who estimates that "bird activity" on the signs where the perches have been installed has decreased by roughly 75%.

A sign saver at Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site.



AS CARETAKERS OF NORTH DAKOTA'S PHYSICAL HERITAGE, we carried out 45 capital improvement projects across 14 state historic sites. Chief among these was the effort to restore and reinstall 27 stained glass windows at Camp Hancock State Historic Site's 1881 Bread of Life Church in Bismarck. Most of these windows had been in storage and not seen publicly for more than half a century. But thanks to partial funding and support from the Bismarck Historical Society and the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, the \$107,000 project is complete at last. Now that's teamwork!



Here to Help

Each year, the State Historical Society fields dozens of questions from museums, state and local governments, and other institutions and organizations in North Dakota related to the preservation of artifacts and archival materials. But did you know our agency team also makes on-site visits?

In September, with structural and water damage to a building at the Wimbledon Community Museum necessitating the eventual removal of artifacts, State Archives and Audience Engagement & Museum staff visited the site to assess the situation and assist with storage and preservation issues. Agency staff also provided advice and technical expertise during visits to the Hazelton Historical Society and the Assumption Abbey in Richardton.

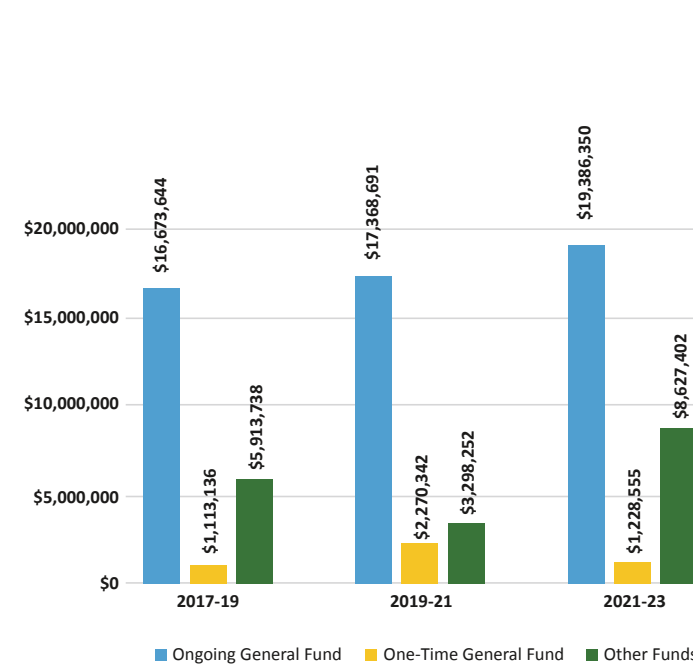


Agency staff is advising the Wimbledon Community Museum as it prepares to rehouse artifacts from its Methodist church building.

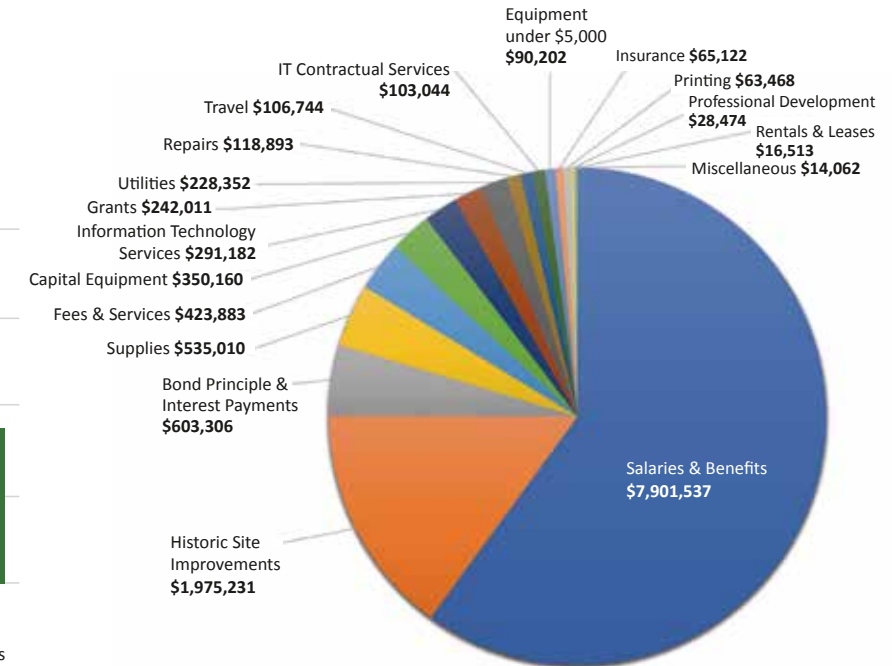
WRITING ROCK STATE HISTORIC SITE NEAR GRENORA received a new playground set thanks to grants from the John & Elaine Andrist Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as well as funding from the Divide County Park Board, the State Historical Society, and the Divide County Road Department. The playground's reopening was celebrated in June 2022 with historical games, root beer floats, and speeches.



Financials



APPROPRIATIONS



EXPENDITURES

Living Legend

Bismarck-based artist Vern Erickson has been painting iconic scenes of the American West for more than seven decades. Over the years, he's donated hundreds of items to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, including oil paintings, watercolors, charcoal drawings, sketchbooks, artist pallets, paint brushes, and even an easel! In spring 2022, our collections staff made multiple trips to inventory the more than 300 Erickson-related objects we inherited when the State Historical Society took over the Interpretive Center's management the previous year.

The 86-year-old Erickson, who first visited the State Historical Society as a high schooler and later took a job there working as a museum assistant in the early 1960s, couldn't be more pleased to have his work preserved for posterity in the agency's care. "It's an honor," he says. "I've always had a desire to be involved with history of any kind."

Be sure to check out the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center's Erickson Gallery, which hosts revolving displays of the artist's work as well as other temporary exhibits.



Artist Vern Erickson at work on a picture of Lewis and Clark visiting the Hidatsas, 1963. Now part of the state museum collection, the painting once hung outside the State Historical Society superintendent's office at the Liberty Memorial Building. Courtesy Vern Erickson

Embracing Technology

THE AGENCY AND THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA FOUNDATION purchased equipment that will help the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Nation in their search for the remains of students who died while attending the Fort Totten Indian Industrial School. This included a drone with a thermal infrared camera for capturing aerial images of the topography and heat signals; a magnetic gradiometer to identify features underground; and a ground-penetrating radar capable of sensing differences in soil composition. State Historical Society staff and tribal members will receive training on how to use the equipment. Fieldwork is expected to begin in 2023 near Fort Totten State Historic Site, where the school was once located.



Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department Director Andrew Clark gives Donna McEwen, chief of staff for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, a behind-the-scenes look at the new ground-penetrating radar.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORTH DAKOTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY, as well as county historical societies and local libraries, the State Archives facilitated the digitization of 377 microfilm reels of North Dakota newspapers, adding more than 450,000 pages online to the Advantage Archives site. These included historical issues of the *Mott Pioneer Press* (1907-1928), the *LaMoure County Chronicle* (1888-1926), and the *New Rockford Transcript* (1883-1920), and the complete run of publications such as the *Pierce County Tribune* (1891-2016).



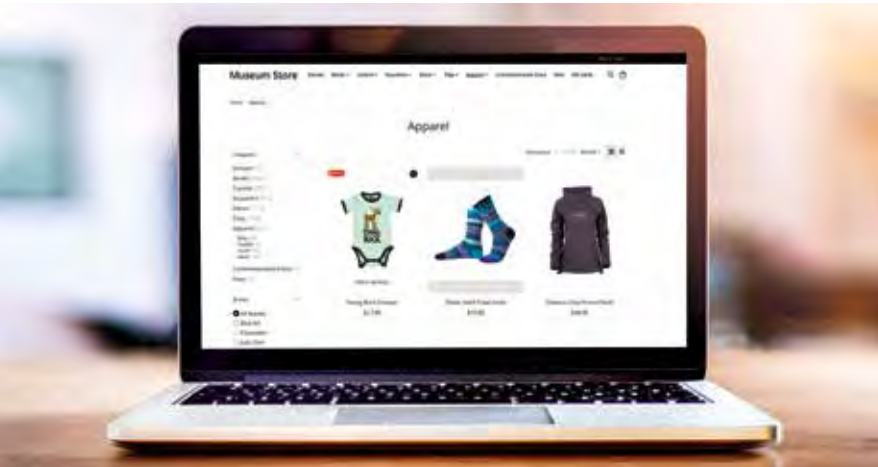
Foundation Year in Review

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED: In June 2022, Marlo Sveen retired as executive director. During his 16-year tenure at the Foundation, Sveen also served as development director. Dale Lennon, a long-time collegiate football coach and athletic director, replaced him as executive director. Lennon brings extensive experience in program leadership, public affairs, communications, and capital fundraising to the post.



Marlo Sveen greets a well-wisher at his retirement party.

OUR MUSEUM STORES SWITCHED OVER TO A NEW POINT OF SALE SYSTEM offering enhanced inventory tracking and e-commerce capabilities. Patrons can now purchase items from all nine Museum Stores operated by the State Historical Society, more than quadrupling the number of items available to purchase online.



MILLION DOLLAR DONATION NETS DEVON ENERGY CORPORATION NAMING RIGHTS: The Foundation secured a \$1 million contribution from Devon Energy Corporation for the naming rights to the Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck.

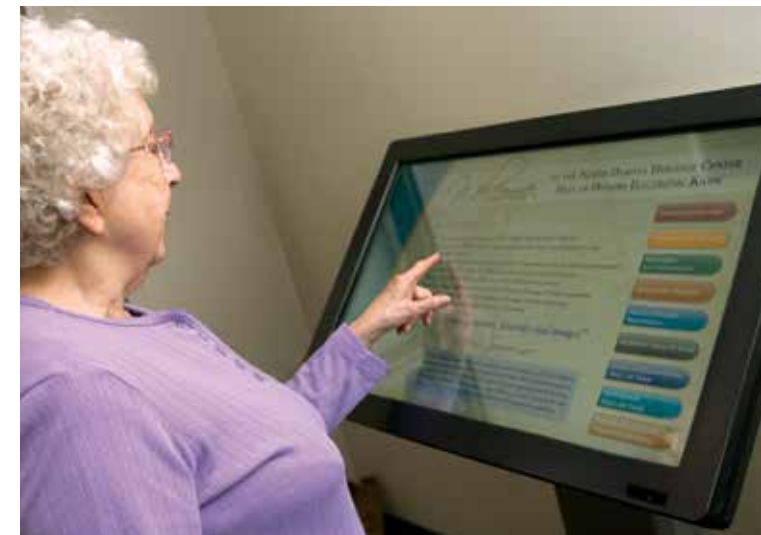
NEW EQUIPMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS: The Foundation purchased a ground-penetrating radar and cart for the agency's Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department. This machine assists in non-invasive archaeological explorations such as site mapping and excavation planning.

USING DRONES WITH CAMERAS, THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DOCUMENTED THE UNIQUE HERITAGE and features of the North Dakota landscape. In October, Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department staff collected aerial imagery of a stone-and-mud farmstead complex built in the late 1920s in Dunn County. The agency is helping the National Park Service and Preservation North Dakota update the site's documentation. A search for a new owner for the complex, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is underway.

Earlier in the year, staff also worked with a local landowner to document stone features on his property along the White Earth River in northwestern North Dakota. The drone images will be used to create a cohesive aerial overview of the site. An iPhone laser scanner was also used to create 3D models of some stone features.



Color and thermal (right) drone images of this Dunn County farmstead help preservationists assess the integrity of historic structures.



SOFTWARE HELPS FOUNDATION MANAGE HALL OF HONORS TRIBUTES: We switched to a new collections management software, Re:discovery Software's Proficio, which will help us better collect Legislative Hall of Honors memorials and tributes and transfer them to the State Archives. These will be permanently stored there and made available on the State Historical Society website. The public can also continue to access these honors via the kiosk in the Foundation lobby. Additionally, the Foundation reached out to cultural heritage institutions in North Dakota offering access to the software to assist with their own data management needs.

FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: We welcomed three new members to the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation board. Twyla Baker is the president of Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in New Town. Ryan Taylor is the director of public policy for Ducks Unlimited in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. Jan Murtha is executive director for the North Dakota Retirement and Investment Office (NDRIO).



Twyla Baker



Ryan Taylor



Jan Murtha



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On the Edge of the Wind

Native Storytellers & the Land



APRIL 2023–OCTOBER 2024



EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF PLACE

Where do you go to center yourself? Does a certain landscape speak to you? For many Native Americans, the earth and everything in it are linked and possess a supernatural presence. But some places or elements of nature are considered especially significant.

Produced by the North Dakota Council on the Arts in association with the State Historical Society, *On the Edge of the Wind: Native Storytellers & the Land* explores the connections between cultural practices, regional landscapes, and tribal oral narratives.

NORTH
Dakota | Council on the Arts
Be Legendary.™



STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



bit.ly/OnTheEdgeOfTheWind

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HISTORY FOR
everyone.