



**Minnesota Historical Society
Overview for
House State Government
Finance and Policy Committee**

March, 2025

Who We Are

- Chartered by Territorial Legislature in 1849
- Oldest educational institution in Minnesota
- Guided by Charters of 1849 and 1856
- Governed by the Executive Council
- Statewide Statutory Responsibilities in MS Chapter 138



Why History Matters

- Our responsibility to future generations - our legacy
- Core function of state government - statewide preservation and access to evidence of the past, state archives, historic preservation, historic sites and education
- Education for all Minnesotans young and old
- Part of tourism economy





Mission

We serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

2021-2026 Strategic Imperatives

- Transforming Access
- Reenvisioning Space
- Expanding Authority and Expertise
- Creating a Sustainable Future



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Transforming Access

Transform our programs and services to better leverage and incorporate technology, creating innovative technological programs that blend onsite and online experiences to engage existing audiences in more meaningful ways, attract new audiences, and remove barriers to accessing MNHS content and programming.





STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Reenvisioning Space

Push history to all corners of Minnesota, beyond the confines of our existing properties.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Expanding Authority and Expertise

Partner with communities and organizations to seek, acknowledge, elevate, and share hidden histories, diverse stories, and non-traditional expertise.





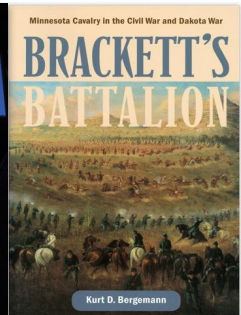
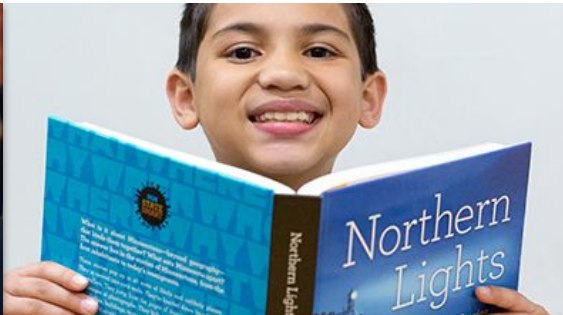
STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

Creating a Sustainable Future

Build out and support the infrastructure needed to achieve programmatic objectives in alignment with our financial and human resources.



How do you learn history?



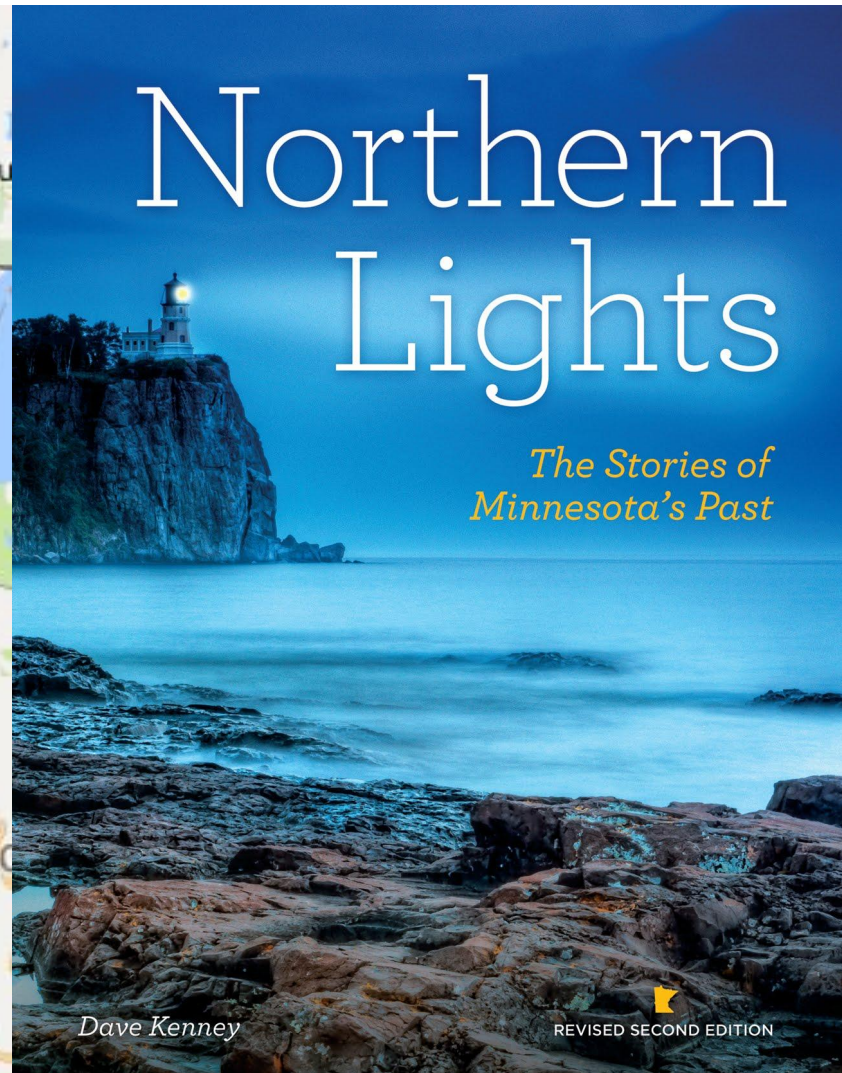
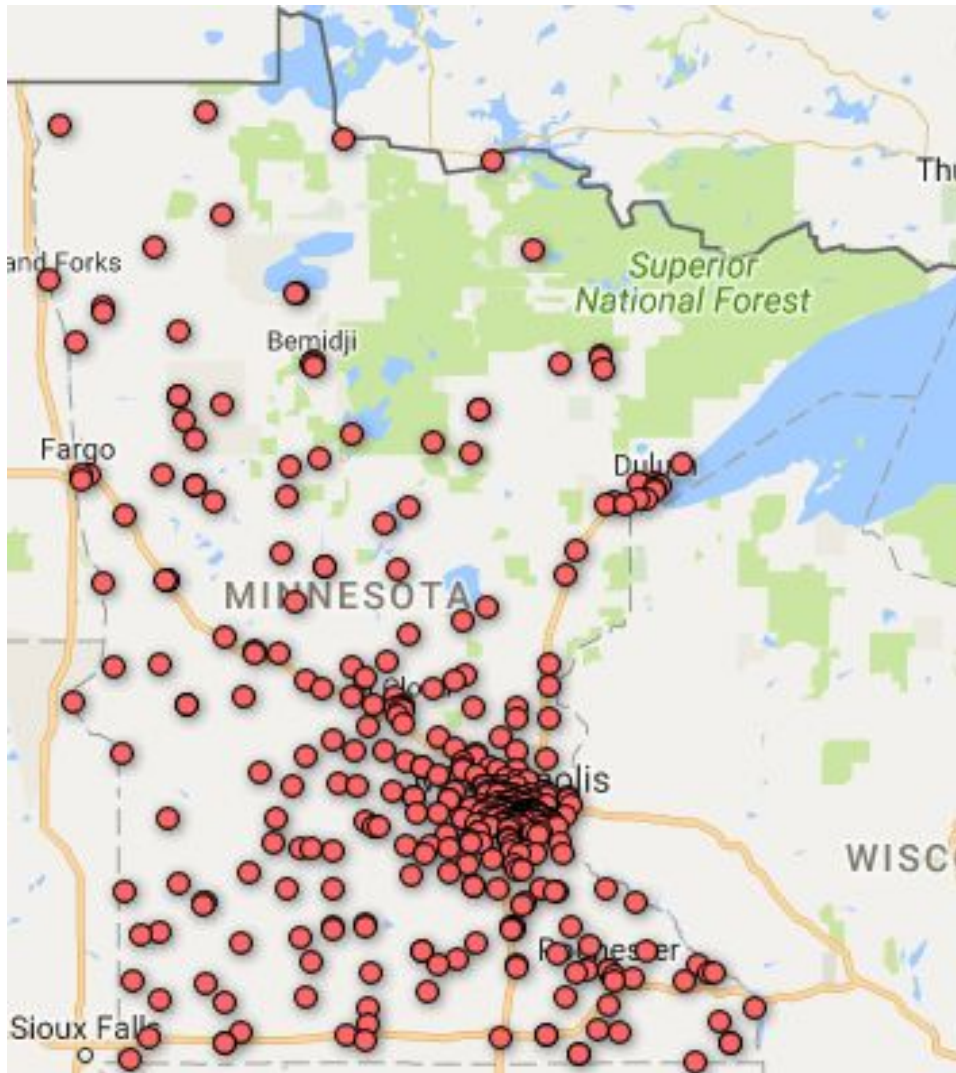
History Programs and Education

- Historic Sites & Museums, including
 - History Center
 - 26 sites statewide
- Exhibitions and Public Programs
- Education – E-12 and life-long learners
- Library and Collections
 - Research Collections
 - Reference
 - State Archives
- Heritage Preservation
 - Technical Assistance, outreach and Grants
- Publications / MNHS Press



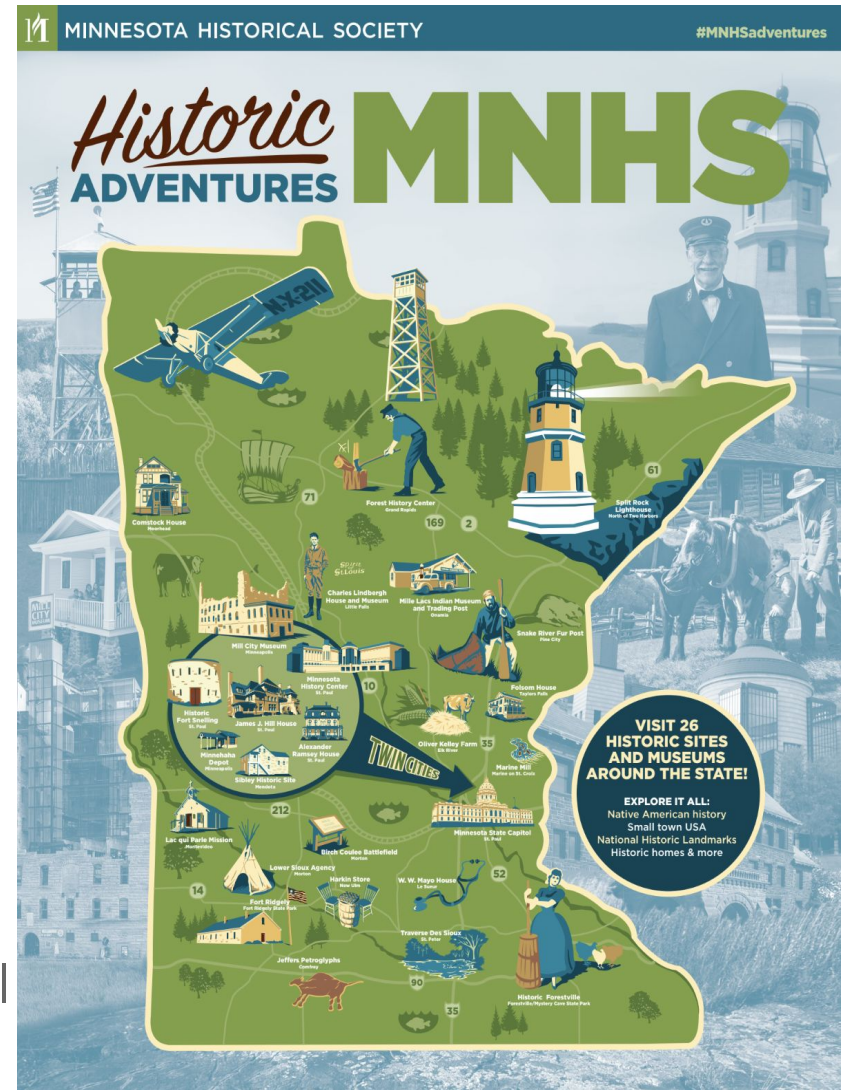
Northern Lights

School Districts Using Northern Lights



Historic Sites Network

- Statewide Presence of History Where It Happened
- Defined in statutes in M.S. 138.662
- Includes many of the state's most significant historic sites, including 150+ structures for which MNHS is responsible
- Important part of tourism economy -many out-of-state visitors
- Educational and affordable destination for families and school groups



The Minnesota Historical Society holds for the people of Minnesota, current and future generations:

- 342,168 photographs
- 503,107 publications
- 6,7761 works of art
- 249,213 objects
- 51,374 cubic feet of manuscripts
- 65,000 cubic feet in State Archives, including 100 terabytes of digital records
- 6.6 million pages of digitized newspapers



Number of People Served

- More than 850,000 in-person visits to historic sites and museums
- Includes nearly 200,000 schoolchildren on organized programs to historic sites and museums
- Over 5 million visits to the Society's website www.mnhs.org



Statewide History Involvement and Participation

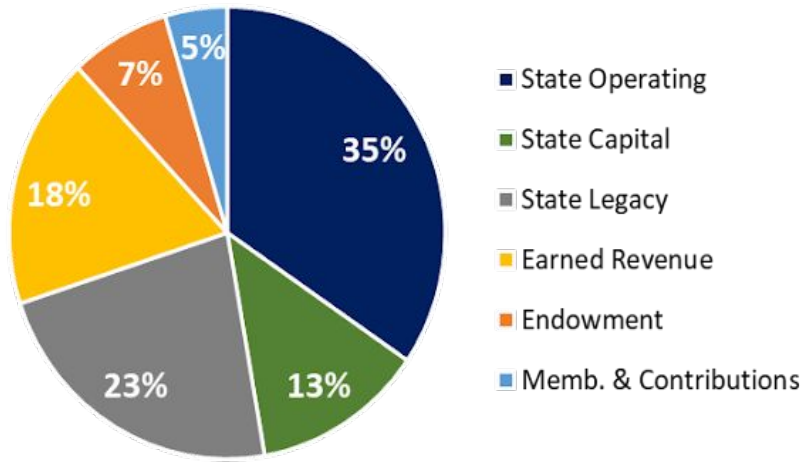
- 19,000 participants in History Day (many national award winners from Minnesota)
- 19,216 members
- Volunteers and staff make this all happen!
 - Nearly 1000 volunteers and interns contributing 19,000 hours
 - 400 FTE MNHS employees



FY 2024 Budget (All Funds)

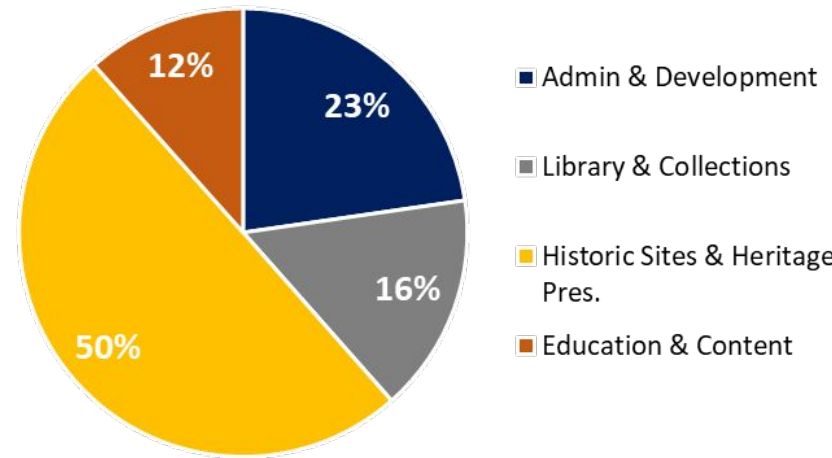
Revenue

FY 24 Revenue Budget (All Funds)



Expense

FY 24 Expense Budget (All Funds)



MNHS Expenses Overview

Salaries & Benefits account for approximately 50% of total expenses

- Benefits costs are approximately 40% of salaries

Other Expenses include all other items

- Other expenses includes pass through items such as grants and MN History Center building expense
- Utilities, repairs, professional/technical services, marketing, equipment, etc.

Total Expenses (FY16-24 Average)



MNHS - 2025 Session Budget Request

Operating Budget

**Base Budget - General Fund:
\$23.9 million each year**

- **For staffing, operational costs**
- **Supplemented by earned revenue, contributions**

MNHS - 2025 Session Budget Request

Operating Budget

Base Budget - General Fund:

\$23.9 million each year

Governor's budget recommendation:

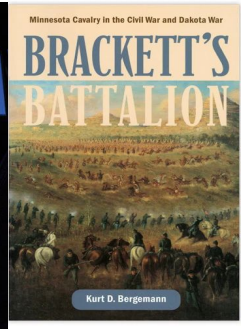
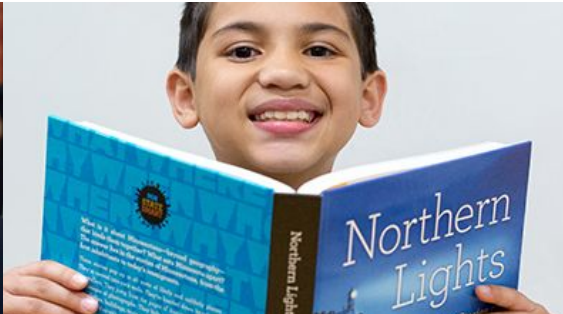
Operating Adjustment

\$306,000 (FY26) + \$619,000 (FY27) = \$925,000

Emerging Challenges, Needs and Opportunities

- Post-pandemic return to full service to Minnesotans
- Sustainability (Increasing costs and flat revenues - all sources)

How do you learn history?





Thank you!!