



MONTANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Montana Historical Society preserves Montana's past, shares its stories, and inspires exploration, to provide meaning for today and vision for tomorrow.

ANNUAL PLAN
FY2025





The Montana Historical Society is an agency for the use, learning, culture, and enjoyment of the citizens of the state of Montana and is mandated with the acquisition, preservation, and protection of historical records, art, archives, museum objects, and historical places, sites, and monuments. The Society is organized into six programs and is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees.

The **Administration** program provides supervision, administration, and coordination of the agency. Activities include fundraising, membership, public information, payroll and personnel, financial reporting, business management, security and guest services, building management, information technology, and retail operations.

The **Library & Archives** develops and cares for MTHS's collection of research materials, including books, documents, newspapers, photographs, films, maps, and other materials. They assist the public in the use of the collections through reference services and reproductions, cataloging, and online databases and repositories. The program is the State Archives and provides training for like institutions.


The **Museum** preserves and manages the Society's art and artifact collections, including historic, ethnographic, and archaeological items. They catalog, apply preventative preservation procedures, and facilitate conservation projects. The program produces exhibits and manages a loan program for other museums. They provide training for like institutions, administers the Original Governor's Mansion, cares for the art at the Capitol and the Capitol Complex; and provides research services.


The **Publications** program oversees the production, printing, and distribution of an award-winning quarterly journal as well as books on Montana and western history. *Montana The Magazine of Western History* showcases the people, places, and events of Montana and the West.

The **Outreach & Education** program provides educational experiences for Montanans and visitors of all ages, including conferences, workshops, tours, hands-on learning, web-based learning, and educational trunks. The Education program plans and produces curriculum materials, and instructional literature as well as providing training workshops for K-12 educators. They oversee the National Register Sign Program, the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, and the Volunteer Program.

The **State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) administers the Montana Antiquities Act and Montana's involvement in the National Historic Preservation Act. The program maintains an inventory of recorded historic and archaeological sites and recommends certification of projects for federal tax credits, through the Tax Reform Act. SHPO administers the National Register of Historic Places, through the Preservation Review Board, and the federal Certified Local Government Program.



 <p>Strategic Outcome # 1</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONTANA HERITAGE CENTER</p>	
	<p>Transforming all aspects of our operations, in November 2025, the Montana Historical Society will open the Montana Heritage Center. Consisting of the construction of a 66,000 sq ft addition, the renovation of a 95,000 sq ft existing building, and design and fabrication of 30,000 sq ft of exhibits, the Montana Heritage Center will improve collections preservation, exhibits, programming, and access to collections.</p>	
	<p>Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of the addition, except for exhibits, is complete.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation of the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial building is complete.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and fabrication of exhibits is complete.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital campaign for private funds complete. 		

 <p>Strategic Outcome # 2</p>	<p>PROTECT AND PRESERVE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES AND RESOURCES</p>	
	<p>MTHS acquires, preserves, and protects historical records, art, archives, museum objects, and historical places, sites, and monuments. This goal is achieved by protecting and preserving items, sites, and monuments belonging to MTHS and providing expertise and training to others that protect historic and cultural sites and resources.</p>	
	<p>Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Association of Museums Reaccreditation Completed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of items and collections moved into new collections storage facilities as available.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of conservation projects completed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of times historical and technical resources or information are provided to those seeking to preserve historic and cultural sites and resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of eligible properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 		



Strategic Outcome # 3

DIRECTLY SERVE OUR AUDIENCE

MTHS serves many different audiences, including all Montanans and tourists from across the country and world. Our audience includes learners of all ages, K-12, college, and graduate students, as well as the life-long curious. We strive to engage these learners through many different forms of direct contact.

Measures	• # of Montana Historical Society members.
	• # of visitors to the Original Governor’s Mansion, the Capitol, and the Montana Heritage Center.
	• # of participants at public programs, presentations, summits, conferences, and workshops.
	• # of MTHS Press books sold.
	• # of engagements with Tribal stakeholders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.
	• # of teacher trainings.
	• # new listings in the Centennial Farmand Ranch program.
	• # of students engaging with hands-on-history footlockers.
	• # new interpretive signs at National Register listed properties.
	• # partnerships with other organizations.



Strategic Outcome # 4

VIRTUALLY SERVE OUR AUDIENCE

MTHS serves many different audiences, including all Montanans and researchers from across the country and world. Our audience includes learners of all ages, K-12, college, and graduate students, as well as the life-long curious. We strive to engage these learners through many different forms of virtual contact.

Measures	• # of social media followers.
	• # of digital items and resources added to online databases and repositories.
	• # of items requested from <i>Montana The Magazine of Western History</i> on JSTOR.
	• # of teachers participating in OPI Teacher Hub class.