



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **"We Stayed" Sculpture Collection Dedicated at The Archway** *Sculptures Pay Tribute to Those First Nebraskans Who Stayed*

Lincoln, Neb. (September 17, 2021) – The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) has announced that a collection of bronze sculptures, commissioned by Nebraska philanthropist Rhonda Seacrest, is now on display at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument in Kearney. The sculptures, created by Nebraska artist David Biehl, honor those first non-native Nebraskans who had the courage and resilience to start a life in the state.

"These sculptures honor the people who stayed and made us who we are today," said Rhonda Seacrest, long-time supporter of the NSHSF. "The ones who chose to stay represent the beginning of our history here; these sculptures represent their sacrifice."

Dr. David L. Biehl DVM was chosen as the artist to produce this tribute. Biehl is a native Nebraskan and grew up on a farm outside Lexington. The installation includes five separate sculptures depicting the life of Nebraska farm families homesteading in the 1880's. The sculptures portray the hot and windy conditions that homesteaders experienced in Nebraska and depict how each person in the family had to participate in making a new life.

"We are excited for visitors to experience these incredible sculptures for many years to come," said Gail DeBuse Potter, NSHSF President. "The sculptures serve as a visual depiction of what life was like for the first settlers in our state. What better way to honor and celebrate Nebraska history."

The sculptures will be revealed during a private dedication and reception hosted by the foundation.

Visitors can see the sculptures at The Archway at Kearney, 3060 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68847.

**About Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation**

The mission of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is to solicit financial contributions and other forms of support to help preserve and protect Nebraska's historical assets and ensure their accessibility to future generations. The Foundation partners with philanthropists and a wide array of public and private organizations from across our state and beyond in pursuit of this collective cause.

The Foundation also provides regular private financial assistance to the state agency known as History Nebraska, formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Since its founding in 1942, the Foundation continues to welcome all who value our state's unique heritage, and those who wish to join us in our work on behalf of Nebraska history.

For more information, please contact Leslie Fattig, Executive Director at 402-435-3535.

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The Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. Federal Tax ID #47-6000332.

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