



Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

Connecting people with Nebraska history since 1942.

ABOUT

PROJECTS

DONATE

Statewide Grant Program Site Visits

We had the opportunity to visit a few of the Statewide Grant Program recipients this month and saw firsthand the wonderful work they are doing to preserve Nebraska's history. Check it out!



Photo L to R: Nancy Gillis, Board Secretary, Syd Kruse, Board Member

Dr. Susan LaFlesch Picotte Center

The Foundation is helping to fund the purchase of a scanner to preserve historical documents related to Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte, the first Native American woman in the United States to earn a medical degree. This is part of a larger renovation project to renovate and restore the Picotte Memorial Hospital into a community center in Walthill, which is expected to open in the fall of 2024. The scanner will also be made available for public use at the center.



Mike Berger, Grants Writer

Nebraska Indian Community College

2023 funding through the Statewide Grants Program has assisted the College in the rehousing of 408 genealogical scrolls from the Paul Brill Collection, made up of over 400 Omaha family tree scrolls. Paul Brill was an advocate for numerous indigenous nations' sovereignty rights and served as a liaison between indigenous nations and the United States government. He recently donated his lifelong genealogical work to the College. The Foundation's grant will help purchase acid-free boxes to properly store the scrolls.



Photo L to R: Marianne Reynolds, Executive Director, Keeley Heise, Executive Administrative Assistant

John G. Neihardt Foundation

Statewide Grants Program funding will go towards the eventual purchase of a sound system at the John G. Neihardt Historic Site to provide a more comprehensive experience for visitors by playing audio of John speaking, his books, and the sound of the prairie as it existed during John's time in Bancroft throughout the museum.



Photo L to R: Cathy Keane, Director, Megan Pelan, Board of Directors, Kristin Matulka, President of the Board of Directors, Ashley Bouc, Board of Directors

Dwight Community Library

The 2023 Statewide Grants Program provided funding to Dwight Community Library to digitize videotapes, photographs, slides, and other town memorabilia. Like many smaller towns, Dwight Community Library serves as the town's historical depository. The library is also currently working to transform its bank vault (the library previously served as the town's bank) into the "Dwight Time Vault" to circulate the town's artifacts and memorabilia.



Photo L to R: Vikki Gremel, John Hughes, President, Sue Quambusch, Ryan Burgery, Secretary-Treasurer, Becky Baker

Seward Library Foundation

Statewide Grants Program funding through the NSHSF is helping the Seward Memorial Library to digitize newspapers for online posting. This will provide a free, searchable, database for the town's



Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer – NENG Historian

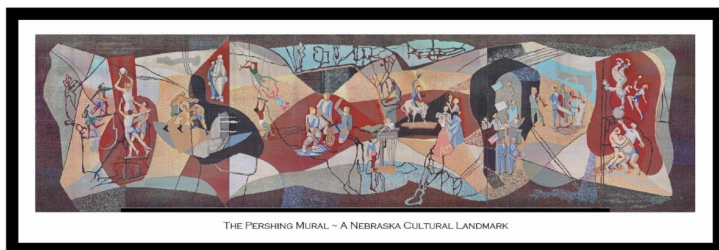
Nebraska National Guard Museum

Funds through the Statewide Grants Program are helping the Nebraska National Guard Museum install an exhibit honoring the courage of the First Nebraska Infantry and the important role they played in the victory at the Battle of Fort Donelson. This critical battle, with considerable aid from the First Nebraska

historical information to be accessed from anywhere online.

Infantry, uplifted Ulysses S. Grant to national attention.

A Meaningful Gift Idea Just In Time For Christmas!



Nebraskans' generosity in support of the Pershing Mural project continues as Barb Ballard, owner of [From Nebraska Gift Shop](#), located in Lincoln's Haymarket, is excited to announce her participation in the ongoing \$3.1 million Phase 2

fundraising effort for the restoration, planned reinstallation and maintenance of the Pershing Mural within Historic Wyuka Park!

Ballard will sell a very limited number of 10" x 30" photographic prints of the Pershing Mural (provided by Pioneer Printing) for \$25. The frame-ready prints contain high-resolution, digitally enhanced images, originally photographed by a drone in February, 2022. The prints depict the Mural in its original installation and splendor. All proceeds from the limited sale of the prints will go to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation to fund the Pershing Mural's Historic Preservation Effort.

According to Ballard, "As I have had the opportunity to study the Pershing Mural, I've become more aware of its significance to Nebraska in what it portrays of our cultural interests, and also abstractly incorporates a variety of our State's topographical features and historic elements."

Phase 2 of the Mural fundraising project began on "Give to Lincoln Day" in the spring of 2023. So far in 2023, donors to the project have committed almost \$1 million toward the \$3.1 million needed for the restoration and proposed reinstallation of the Pershing Mural within Historic Wyuka Park and provide funds for future maintenance. During 2022, in Phase 1 of the project, Nebraskans contributed approximately \$844,000 in 4 short months. The Phase 1 funds were used to carefully remove the Mural from the Auditorium before the scheduled demolition.

Liz Shea-McCoy, Committee Chair of the Pershing Mural Historic Preservation Effort, met recently with George Neubert, former Sheldon Art Gallery director and founder of Brownville's Flatwater Folk Art Gallery. Mr. Neubert was an early advocate for the Mural's preservation, saying, "There is no question -- the Mural is a historical and cultural icon and worth the effort to salvage and save... the Pershing Mural is a historic Nebraska Landmark." His words echo the community's sentiments and inspire the Committee's continuing fundraising effort to preserve the Pershing Mural for the benefit of generations to come.

Questions about the Pershing Mural Preservation Project can be directed to Liz Shea-McCoy, lizwshea@gmail.com or (402) 430-5923.

Read more about the Pershing Mural and see informative videos on our [website](#).

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation accepts and manages DONATIONS for the project. Please note "Pershing Mural Project" in the memo line of your donation.

[From Nebraska Gift Shop](#) located in Lincoln's Haymarket, 803 Q Street, 402-476-2455.

Contact us:

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Connect with us!



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