



# Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

*Connecting people with Nebraska history since 1942.*

ABOUT

PROJECTS

DONATE

## Letter from Leslie Fattig

Happy New Year!!!

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation has had a very successful year, success that is largely attributable to your loyal support. In September 2025, the NSHSF will celebrate 83 years of preserving and protecting Nebraska's history for future generations. Thank you for your partnership in our mission. A short year-in-review of all we accomplished together follows below.

First, a look ahead to 2025: Now in its fifth year, the [Statewide Grants Program](#) will continue its support of local historical societies, museums, and nonprofits. This program provides grants up to \$3,000 for a wide range of projects, providing Nebraska communities with resources to preserve and share their unique histories.

We look forward to supporting the initiatives of the **Nebraska State Historical Society**, a state agency, in accordance with the intent of our donors. We manage 27 endowed funds for the NSHS, most recently launching the campaign to restore the **Nebraska History Timeline Exhibit**, providing support for the "Free Admission Days" at their sites, and the holiday programming at the Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitors Center at Chimney Rock National Historic Site. We look forward to underwriting the expenses, as we have done for more than 30 years, for the "Lunch Box Lecture Series," formerly known as the "Brown Bag Lectures." Please remember that your membership plays a significant role in NSHS operations and allows people from across the world to discover Nebraska's history. Be a part of history education and support the NSHS. For more information, visit <https://history.nebraska.gov/membership/>

Nebraska's heritage attractions tell the story of Nebraska's "real" history—events, people, culture, and places. Our newest program, [WanderNebraska Adventures](#) will take you to the back roads where this history can only be experienced firsthand – places which have deep meaning to our shared history. Our WanderNebraska Adventures provide exciting opportunities for fans of Nebraska history to experience all-inclusive history-focused tours across our state. Ranging from single day tours taking an in-depth look at the history of a specific area, to multi-day tours that offer historical highlights of an entire region, there's bound to be a WanderNebraska Adventure Tour for you!

In 2024, we carried out and supported independent projects. Here are just a few examples:

- We provided 83 grants totaling over \$98,000 to historically focused nonprofits, including the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, the Dr. Susan LaFleche Picotte Center in Walthill, and local historical organizations from Falls City to Chadron.
- Based on feedback we received from statewide grant applicants in the fall of 2024, the **Statewide Grants Program** Committee decided to make available small special

purpose grants. Offering grants of up to \$1,000, these grants will be for needs sometimes not funded by traditional methods. Examples of this are: education materials for project acquisitions that enhance content for visitors; entrance fees for students and expenses for school bus transportation for field trips to museums and other history-related experiences; and registration costs for conferences and statewide meetings.

As of this morning, YOUR foundation is **\$6,364 from reaching our goal** of raising \$25,000 to receive the matching challenge grant from the John K. and Lynne D. Boyer Family Foundation. Please know that your gift, no matter the size, helps preserve Nebraska's rich history and ensures the continued growth of these community organizations. [Join us in making a difference](#) by donating today. THANK YOU to all who have already given to this year's matching grant challenge!

The Pershing Mural is perhaps the most iconic historical work of art in Nebraska. As fiscal sponsor for the **Committee to Save The Pershing Mural** the NSHSF manages over \$2M in contributions received toward the project. Construction has started on the structure to erect the Mural in Wyuka Park in Lincoln. When completed later this year, the Pershing Mural will be an extraordinary stop for thousands. Additionally, the NSHSF website (nshsf.org) houses the [Pershing Mural Curriculum Program](#) for educators to create educational opportunities for students to study Nebraska history in a very special way. The lesson plans and accompanying teaching materials provide opportunities for deeper contextual contemplation and appreciation of the Mural's realistic, abstract, and symbolic composition as students relate to how its study impacts them on a personal and cultural level. This curriculum is made available free of charge for Nebraska educators, students, homeschooling families and lifelong learners to use in their studies.

Our Nebraska travel adventure program [WanderNebraska](#) encourages travelers to leave the interstate behind to learn and enjoy the real history in Nebraska's small towns and sometimes overlooked museums and historical societies. In 2024, 197 of the 500+ local and community historically focused nonprofits participated. We hope YOU will participate this year! Booklets will be available April 1, 2025. Learn more by visiting our [website](#).

The [Walk to the Rock \(WTTR\)](#) at Chimney Rock has been a resounding success, thanks to the unwavering support of individual donors and foundations. In the past year, WTTR welcomed almost 15,000 visitors from 29 countries and 50 states. These visitors supported local businesses, boosted tourism, and contributed to the overall economic vitality of our state. We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported WTTR. Our goal has always been to bring visitors from around the world as close to the base of Chimney Rock as possible, regardless of their physical ability, while being respectful of the surrounding natural habitat. Look for news regarding expanded programming, an educational speaker series and maintenance projects in 2025.

We are set up for **stewardship**. This Foundation has an 83-year track record of stewarding gifts from our generous donors. We manage 42 endowed funds, a total of \$22 million in invested assets and the foundation owns more than 1,200 acres of historic property. In 2024, we processed more than 550 unique donations totaling \$1.9 million. Please feel free to call me at (cell) 402-209-9140 or send an email [LFattig@nshsf.org](mailto:LFattig@nshsf.org) with any questions or comments.

On behalf of our board of directors, we thank you for your loyal support of our mission. We wish you the best in the year ahead.

Leslie Fattig  
NSHSF Executive Director

***"The Board of Trustees for the Nebraska State Historical Society has a deep appreciation for the support provided to us by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. The NSHSF is an organization that does wonderful work on behalf of their members and donors, and their accomplishments in the last few years have been both notable and beneficial to all Nebraskans. Please know that the NSHSF is a great organization doing great work and the Board of Trustees for the NSHS wants to extend our thanks to all staff, members, and donors who promote the cause of preserving and sharing the rich history of Nebraska."***

## 2024 Statewide Grants Program Recipients See Your Donations At Work!



Pictured here are members of the NCHS board of directors, including Dr. Jason Phillips, Gloria Glover, Margo Blobaum, Lucille Sharp, Kevin Boos, and Sharon Heresemann, also in the picture are NSHSF's Sue Quambusch, and Teresa Brazile.

The **Nebraska City Historical Society (NCHS)** received \$1,000 in Statewide Grant funds to support the purchase of a Frank J. Zimmerer painting. Zimmerer was an important resident of Nebraska City, and many of his pen and ink drawings are also on display at the Nelson/Bickle House alongside the newly acquired painting.

We were warmly welcomed by the NCHS board of directors: Dr. Jason Phillips, Gloria Glover, Margo Blobaum, Lucille Sharp, Kevin Boos, and Sharon Heresemann. They shared their passion for preserving Nebraska City's history. Board member Kevin Boos gave us a tour of the house, which is beautifully decorated as it would have been in the early 1900s. The museum features exceptional exhibit signage and lighting, with great care taken in the verbiage and installation.

We look forward to seeing the exciting projects NCHS will pursue with their next statewide grant application!



L to R – Cassandra Dean, Gage County Historical Society Executive Director, and NSHSF's Sue Quambusch, Director of Special Projects

### **The Gage County Historical Society and Museum** was

awarded \$1,000 in Statewide Grant funds to purchase additional tablets and stands to help complete the oral history project. Located in the updated railroad depot in Beatrice, NE, this was the only museum we visited on December 10 that had a paid employee. Cassandra Dean, the Executive Director, has been with the museum for 3 years and knows it well. The oral history project includes recordings from WWII veterans and memories of the 1973 flood.

During our visit, we listened to KWBE radio station audio, saw a unique 1950s weather radar machine, and toured the entire museum which features displays for all the towns in Gage County. Cassandra shared insights from the NMA 2024 conference, where she learned that archival boxes only remain acid-free for 10 years, realizing she needs new ones as hers are old and overfilled. The museum's board and Executive Director have a clear plan for future projects, and it was inspiring to see their pride and dedication. We look forward to seeing their next steps!

**Donate to SGP  
Today**

# SGP Spring Grant Cycle Opens January 10th

## *Preserving History in Nebraska*

NHSF invites non-profit, historically focused organizations operating in and serving local communities in Nebraska to apply. For the Spring 2025 session, up to \$3,000 will be awarded. The main focus areas for grant distribution from this program will assist local historical efforts on the part of historical societies, museums, archives, libraries, etc. Grants should be for core educational, preservation and interpretive purposes. A detailed budget or estimates are beneficial.

Examples of potential projects are:

- Collection Preservation
- Milestone Events or Festivals
- Youth and Family Programming
- Exhibit Production
- Funding Support for Traveling Exhibits and Speakers
- Publication Support
- School Field Trips (maximum \$1,000 request)

Completed application with any supporting material including estimates for this grant are due by March 31, 2025. Grantees will be notified in May 2025. Only one application or project per organization will be considered.

[Click Here for Applications](#)

## 2025 WanderNebraska Adventures



### **Join us on a tour in 2025!**

Our WanderNebraska Adventures provide exciting opportunities for fans of Nebraska History to experience all-inclusive history-focused tours across our state. Ranging from single day tours taking an in-depth look at the history of a specific area, to multi-day tours that offer historical highlights of an entire region, there's bound to be a WanderNebraska Adventure Tour for you!

[Click here](#) for more information.

## 2025 Scholarships

Do you know a high school senior in good standing? NSHSF is grateful to our donors who have made it possible to offer scholarships to Nebraska students who attend high schools in school districts encompassing the hometowns of Nebraskan sailors entombed aboard the U.S.S. Arizona. To apply or get more information, [visit our website](#).

---

### Contact us:

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation  
1201 Lincoln Mall  
Suite 100  
Lincoln, NE 68508

### Connect with us!



Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation | 1201 Lincoln Mall Suite 100 | Lincoln, NE  
68508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)