

Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



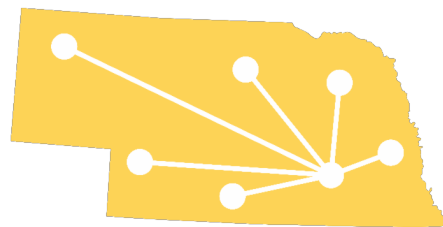
ABOUT

PROJECTS

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RoamNebraska Discovery Grants Now Accepting Applications



ROAM NEBRASKA DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Applications are now open for the RoamNebraska Fall 2026 Discovery Grants. This funding opportunity supports Nebraska organizations working to connect people with history, culture, and community through educational programs and meaningful experiences.

For the Fall 2026 cycle, grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded, with preference given to Nebraska non-profit organizations. Funding will focus on projects that expand education and access, including school visits and transportation, youth and family engagement, festival or milestone events, and professional development or conference registrations.

Applications, including all supporting materials and required budget estimates, must be submitted by September 15, 2026. One application for one project will be considered per organization, and grant recipients will be notified in October 2026.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY



Don't Miss Our Exciting Fundraising Event WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip



Get Your Ticket!

08/21

The Woolworth Building
1120 Howard St.
Omaha, NE

Join the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation in Omaha on **August 21** from **6-10pm** for an unforgettable evening, bringing history to life in a fun, interactive way.

WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip is our newest fundraising event, featuring:

- Guest Bartenders competing to raise funds
- A Virtual Road Trip across Nebraska
- Regional Flavors & Signature Drinks
- Live Entertainment & Interactive Experiences

Proceeds from the event support the Foundation's mission to preserve and promote Nebraska's rich history across all 93 counties. Join us as a sponsor and help drive this journey forward!

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY



Giving Life to Nebraska's Stories: Marvin Stumpf's Legacy of Generosity



Recently, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation trustees and staff had the opportunity to join NSHSF Director and Trustee Marvin Stumpf on a visit to Bowring Ranch State Historical Park and Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park. The trip provided a firsthand look at how Marvin's generosity is helping preserve Nebraska's history and enrich the experiences of thousands of visitors each year.

For Marvin, philanthropy has always been about investing in projects that make a lasting difference.

"When someone presents the merits of a project, like supporting our friends at the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and Nebraska Game and Parks, and it's going to do this much good, there's no downside. If the project is going to be here for a long time and has a purpose—something to further humanity that people will appreciate—it's pretty easy to make a decision to give. Some of these projects may change people's lives."

His gifts are already doing just that.

At Bowring Ranch State Historical Park, Marvin's \$4,000 contribution is funding a new exhibit dedicated to Arthur Bowring, highlighting his remarkable service and contributions to Nebraska. The exhibit features artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia displayed in a custom-built case with new interpretive materials, lighting, and graphics. The project ensures that Arthur Bowring's legacy is shared alongside that of his wife, Eve Bowring, providing visitors with a more complete understanding of the family's impact on Nebraska history.

At Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park, Marvin's \$4,400 gift is making it possible for visitors to once again view priceless artifacts connected to Sitting Bull, including his saddle, blanket, medicine rattle, and historic photographs. These items have remained in storage for years because they could not be displayed safely. The new exhibit presents these extraordinary artifacts with updated interpretation, helping visitors better understand Plains Indian history and Sitting Bull's enduring legacy. More than 19,000 people visit

Buffalo Bill Ranch each year, and this exhibit will become one of its most significant new attractions.

The projects reflect Marvin's lifelong belief that preserving Nebraska's history benefits future generations.

As Marvin often says, "It's better to give than to receive, and I wanted to do my small part to help." He believes that generosity not only helps others but also enriches the lives of those who give, encouraging others to support projects that preserve Nebraska's heritage. Both exhibits proudly acknowledge the family's commitment to history with a plaque reading:

"The preservation of Nebraska history is important to the Stumpf, Peterson and Pogue families. Generous support for this project was given by Marvin Stumpf and the late Pearl Stumpf through their fund held by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation."

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is grateful for Marvin's leadership, generosity, and vision. His investments ensure that Nebraska's stories—and the people who shaped them—will continue to educate and inspire visitors for generations to come.



Cottonwood Society Members Experience Nebraska's Japanese American History



Cottonwood Society members gathered recently at the Historic Japanese Hall at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering for an unforgettable evening celebrating one of Nebraska's most meaningful cultural landmarks.

Guests enjoyed a special behind-the-scenes tour led by Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, whose family has deep roots in the Japanese Hall and the surrounding community. Through personal stories, historical photographs, and firsthand accounts, Vickie brought the building's remarkable history to life, sharing the experiences, traditions, and resilience of Japanese American families who helped shape western Nebraska.

The Historic Japanese Hall stands as a testament to the perseverance and contributions of generations of Japanese Americans. Originally serving as a gathering place for community celebrations, language classes, social events, and cultural traditions, the Hall continues to preserve an important chapter of Nebraska's history while inspiring new generations to learn from the past.

Following the tour, members enjoyed refreshments and conversation while exploring the exhibits and reconnecting with friends who share a passion for preserving Nebraska's rich heritage.

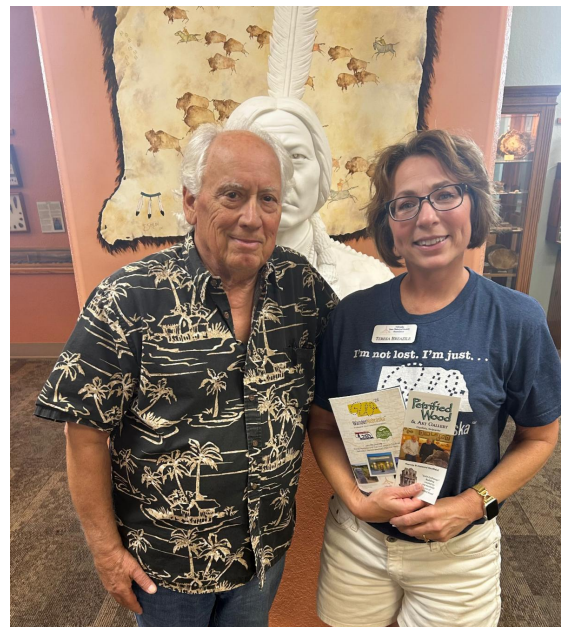
Experiences like these are at the heart of the Cottonwood Society. Through exclusive tours, behind-the-scenes access, and opportunities to meet historians, preservationists, and community leaders, members gain a deeper appreciation for the people, places, and stories that define Nebraska.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation extends its sincere thanks to Vickie Sakurada Schaepler for her generosity, hospitality, and inspiring presentation. We are also grateful to the volunteers and partners who continue to care for the Historic Japanese Hall, ensuring that this important piece of Nebraska history will be preserved and shared for generations to come.

Together, we are preserving history, connecting people to it, and making it accessible to all.



A WanderNebraska Stop Where History is Set in Stone



Michael Vail and Teresa Breazile visit at the Petrified Wood and Art Gallery in Ogallala

The Petrified Wood and Art Gallery in Ogallala is filled with fascinating treasures, from petrified wood and gemstones to fossils, Native American artifacts, and intricate works of art. During a recent visit, NSHSF Director of Programs and Partnerships Teresa Breazile met with Executive Director Michael Vail and thanked the gallery for welcoming travelers through the Foundation's WanderNebraska program. The gallery was founded around the remarkable collection of twin brothers Howard and Harvey Kenfield, who spent decades collecting and creating many of the pieces now on display.

When Teresa asked Michael which items he found most interesting, he pointed to the gallery's one-of-a-kind music boxes, carefully constructed from small pieces of petrified wood. For Teresa, the standout was an Orthoceras fossil. This ancient marine mollusk lived more than 400 million years ago, and its preserved shell offers a fascinating look at an early relative of modern-day squid, and octopus.

The Petrified Wood and Art Gallery is a wonderful example of what WanderNebraska is all about: connecting travelers with the fascinating collections, stories and people found across our state. WanderNebraska has already surpassed its 2026 goal of 5,000 registered check-ins, but there is still time to join the adventure! The program continues through September 30, so download the new WanderNebraska mobile app and get out there to support Nebraska's museums, libraries, and historically significant sites.



Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

AUGUST 8 - BUFFALO BILL RANCH - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Join Nebraska historian and author Jeff Barnes for an insightful tour of Buffalo Bill Cody's home property. A Buffalo Bill impersonator will be on hand and Barnes will sign purchased copies of his book. The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be approximately half a mile on level ground. This event is free and open to the public, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

SEPTEMBER 12 - ENGINEER CANTONMENT - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour: Nebraska State Archaeologist, Rob Bozell, will share the history of the Engineer Cantonment site as well as archaeological insights. Participants will walk to the site from the county road. This program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Length of walk is approximately one-quarter mile. Engineer Cantonment is located .2 miles south of the intersection of County Road P51 and Bluebird Lane, Omaha. There is ample parking available at Engineer Cantonment. Complimentary side-by-side transportation will be available for anyone who would appreciate assistance. Watch for yard signs with more information. RSVP - LFattig@nshsf.org

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