

Agency 54 - Nebraska State Historical Society

Statutory Authority:

The Nebraska State Historical Society has primary responsibility for the preservation of Nebraska's history. The Society was first organized in 1878 as a private, non-profit corporation. In 1883 it was designated an institution of state government. In 1994 the Society became an independent state agency. The Society has been given authority to fulfill its missions by Chapter 82 (as amended), Sections 101-118 of the Revised Statutes and by related laws, including those concerning the Historical Markers Program, Chapter 82-201-206; the Records Management Act, Chapter 82-1202-1216; and the Hall of Fame Commission, Chapter 72, Sections 728-729.01.

See supporting information.

Vision Statement:

The Society's vision is most fully articulated in the Nebraska State Historical Society Strategic Plan, that was adopted by the Society Board of Trustees on March 15, 1996 and last updated in March 2000. The plan outlines the results of a two-year effort by staff, the Board of Trustees, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, consultants, and various constituent groups to evaluate every aspect of Society operations and provide overall direction for the Society throughout the 1990's and into the next century.

See supporting information.

Mission Statement:

The Nebraska State Historical Society is a complex, multi-faceted institution that must serve numerous constituent groups. As an entity of state government the Society must also be aware of and operate efficiently within the realities of that system. The Society's Strategic Plan emphasizes public service, efficiency, and partnerships with other state agencies, private cultural and ethnic organizations, and citizen groups, as key elements of how the Society will fulfill its stated mission of "safeguarding and interpreting Nebraska's past" throughout the remainder of this decade and into the next century.

See supporting information for Principles.

Goals:

- Goal 1: To collect and preserve the finest and most comprehensive tangible and intangible collections, including historic sites, reflecting the history and culture of Nebraska and its people.
- Goal 2: To provide the greatest possible access to society resources and services.
- Goal 3: To identify and build new audiences and constituencies.
- Goal 4: To position the society as the resource for Nebraska history.
- Goal 5: To administer the society in the most efficient and responsive manner to achieve the mission and meet the needs of constituents and staff.
- Goal 6: To provide and maintain high-quality facilities for all society activities.
- Goal 7: To maintain an adequate, stable and diversified base of financial support for the society's mission.

See the NSHS Strategic Plan for organizational objectives for each goal and methods of evaluating success in goal achievement.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	3,653,893	4,014,299	5,164,066	4,232,756	5,062,496	4,408,464
Cash Fund	693,152	1,131,210	1,367,441	1,317,867	1,381,793	1,286,668
Federal Fund	430,129	429,482	496,302	477,022	504,716	493,215
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,777,174	5,574,991	7,027,809	6,027,645	6,949,005	6,188,347

Agency 54 - Nebraska State Historical Society Program 542 - Historic Sites

Program Objectives:

The mission of the Museum/Historic Sites Division is to educate people about Nebraska's past through historic artifacts and historic places. The purpose of the museum program is to gather, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts and sites representing Nebraska's rich and diverse human experience, and to provide the broadest possible public access to these resources. The Society museum is Nebraska's official and preeminent artifact repository. These collections serve as the basis for exhibitions and other public programs, media productions, publications, and educational outreach.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	561,949	585,313	744,965	633,253	666,375	656,686
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	561,949	585,313	744,965	633,253	666,375	656,686

Performance Measures:

The most important evaluation tool the historic site program has is the continued support of steady visitation. Over 75,000 people visited the sites during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Many visitors have direct relationships with the people and events that are the focus of the historic sites and their comments are telling. Veterans returning to Fort Robinson express their appreciation for the efforts to preserve and interpret the post's history. People who are familiar with the work of John G. Niehardt, Willa Cather, or George Norris are pleased with the continued importance placed on their legacy. Public response to special events at the historic sites continues to be positive. The "Sunday Afternoon at the Rock" speakers series has drawn standing room only audiences each of the last four years it has been offered at the Chimney Rock National Historic Site. The third Fort Robinson History Conference was sold out. Pastimes and Playthings draws students and families to the Thomas P. Kennard House and the Willa Cather State Historic Site. This event has proven so popular that other sites are planning to offer it in the future. The quilt and needlework shows at the Sen. George Norris State Historic Site are the most heavily visited times of the year. Written visitor comments are encouraged at each site in their visitor register. Visitor evaluation forms have been developed and are in use at each site providing valuable information regarding visitor likes and dislikes. Evaluation responses are tabulated on a monthly basis, disseminated to the staff, and play an important role in the development of new, and reassessment of old, offerings at each site.

Agency 54 - Nebraska State Historical Society Program 647 - Skeletal Remains Protection Act

Program Objectives:

LB 340, the Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act and related federal legislation requires the Society to carry out specific duties when human remains are located. When such remains are encountered, local law enforcement officials and the county attorney are to be contacted and a determination whether criminal activity is involved is made. Law enforcement or the county attorney is required to contact NSHS so that the material may be examined to determine the origin and identity of the remains.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	2,702	6,000	10,500	6,000	10,500	6,000
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,702	6,000	10,500	6,000	10,500	6,000

Performance Measures:

Archeological staff has consulted with law enforcement officials and county attorneys on an as needed basis. 10-20 such cases per year are standard. Controversy over human remains at the University of Nebraska over the past several years is entirely unrelated to our program. However, the controversy has resulted in a sharp increase in the number of inadvertently discovered remains being reported to our office and various law enforcement agencies. It has also resulted in the need for more comprehensive consultation with Native American groups.

Agency 54 - Nebraska State Historical Society

Program 648 - Nebraska State Historical Society

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska State Historical Society has the primary responsibility for the preservation of Nebraska's history. The Society has been given authority to fulfill its mission by Chapter 82 (as amended) Sections 101-118 of the Revised Statutes and related laws.

The Society is the primary institution with responsibility to collect, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts, documents, and published materials related to Nebraska's heritage. As an agency of state government, the Society holds all of the Society's current and future collections in trust for the state and has all the authority granted to it by law.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	3,089,242	3,422,986	4,408,601	3,593,503	4,385,621	3,745,778
Cash Fund	693,152	1,131,210	1,367,441	1,317,867	1,381,793	1,286,668
Federal Fund	430,129	429,482	496,302	477,022	504,716	493,215
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,212,523	4,983,678	6,272,344	5,388,392	6,272,130	5,525,661

Performance Measures:

Administration: Provides overall leadership for the Society and secures and administers the resources necessary to accomplish the overall mission of the Society.

Research and Publications: Promotes research leading to a better understanding of the history and culture of Nebraska and its people.

Library/Archives: Safeguards the documentary heritage of Nebraska for the use of all.

Museum Divisions: The purpose of the museum is to gather, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts and sites representing Nebraska's rich and diverse human experience, and to provide the broadest possible public access to these resources.

Archeology: Preserves, enhances, explores and interprets Nebraska's archeological resources for the benefit of the public and the advancement of science.

Ford Conservation Center: Conserve the historical, cultural and educational collections of the State of Nebraska and surrounding areas through preservation activities and conservation treatment of objects, books, manuscripts and photographs.