

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.

Vision Statement:

The Society's vision is most fully articulated in the Nebraska State Historical Society Strategic Plan adopted by the Society Board of Trustees on March 15, 1996 and last updated in January 2002. The plan outlines the results of a two-year effort by staff, the Board of Trustees, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHS Foundation), consultants, and various constituent groups to evaluate every aspect of Society operations and provide overall direction for the Society in the new century.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Nebraska State Historical Society is to safeguard and interpret Nebraska's past and make it accessible in ways that enrich present and future generations. The 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, effectiveness, 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.

Goals:

Collections: Acquire, preserve, and make accessible the finest and most comprehensive collections, sites, and information reflecting the history and culture of Nebraska and its people.

Awareness: Create a broad public awareness of NSHS as the best and most complete resource for Nebraska history information.

Public Service: Deliver historical information and materials to the public in ways that meet their needs.

Facilities: Provide and maintain state-of-the-art facilities for all Society collections and program activities.

Technology: Utilize technology effectively to further the Society's mission.

Funding: Secure and maintain an adequate, stable, and diversified base of financial support for the Society's mission.

Staff: Develop and retain the most qualified staff to fulfill the NSHS mission.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	4,055,277	4,059,501	4,360,781	3,793,144	4,383,046	3,890,207
Cash Fund	634,745	1,421,327	1,221,129	1,188,372	1,222,198	1,166,424
Federal Fund	843,599	504,359	700,786	299,396	700,786	309,287
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	5,533,621	5,985,187	6,282,696	5,280,912	6,306,030	5,365,918

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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 FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	643,210	670,966	726,028	689,329	727,037	703,516
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	25,429	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	668,639	670,966	726,028	689,329	727,037	703,516

Performance Measures:

Steady visitation is the most important evaluation tool for the historic sites. Despite travel concerns and economic downturn, over 67,000 people visited the sites during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Many visitors have direct relationships with the people and events that are the focus of the historic sites. 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. Neihardt, Willa Cather, or George Norris are pleased with the continued importance placed on their legacy. Public response to special events at the historic sites is strong. Chimney Rock's "Sunday Afternoon at the Rock" speaker's series has drawn standing room only audiences each of the last four years. The fourth Fort Robinson History Conference was sold out. Pastimes and Playthings draws students and families to the Willa Cather State Historic Site and has proven so popular other sites will offer it in the future. Quilt and needlework shows at the Senator George Norris State Historic Site are the most heavily visited events of the year. Written visitor comments are encouraged via a visitor register and evaluation forms. 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:

LB340, the Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act and related federal legislation requires the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) to carry out specific duties when human remains are located. When this occurs, local law enforcement officials and the county attorney are to be contacted and a determination made whether criminal activity is involved. Law enforcement or the county attorney is required to contact the NSHS so that we may examine the material to determine the origin and identity of the remains.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	13,264	10,500	38,692	10,643	39,764	10,747
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	13,264	10,500	38,692	10,643	39,764	10,747

Performance Measures:

Archeological staff consults with law enforcement officials and county attorneys on an as needed basis. Ten to thirty 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.

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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 FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	3,398,803	3,378,035	3,596,061	3,093,172	3,616,245	3,175,944
Cash Fund	634,745	1,421,327	1,221,129	1,188,372	1,222,198	1,166,424
Federal Fund	818,170	504,359	700,786	299,396	700,786	309,287
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,851,718	5,303,721	5,517,976	4,580,940	5,539,229	4,651,655

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.