



## Federal and Non-Federal Grants 2021

The Wisconsin Historical Society has a robust private and federal grant program that has exceeded expectations and continues to grow. With the partnership of our Wisconsin federal delegation and state partners, we have raised significant dollars for Society programs and collections advancement. Our mission and vision for this program supports the strategic priorities that the Society has established in pursuit of its overall mission which is to connect people to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories and our vision of enriching and transforming lives through unparalleled access to history. We believe that increasing the public's knowledge of history has a profound societal, cultural and economic benefit.

### **Grantor: U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venues Operator Grant (Original + Supplemental)**

- \$553,372
- Awarded July 2021
- The Shuttered Venue Operator Grant was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act, and amended by the American Rescue Plan Act. Grant funds are meant to assist the nation's cultural institutions, which are critical to the economy and were among the first to shutter because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in getting back on track. The award will support operating costs at Circus World Museum for costs incurred between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.

### **Grantor: National Endowment for the Humanities, National Digital Newspapers Round 4**

- \$218,171
- Awarded August 2021
- This is the fourth National Digital Newspaper Program grant received by the Wisconsin Historical Society. In this fourth round, the advisory committee plans to expand the date range of digitized newspapers through 1960 and shift its focus to Milwaukee area publications covering the city's unique role in political history, digitizing titles documenting Milwaukee's "sewer socialism."

### **Grantor: Wisconsin Humanities, Recovery Grant**

- \$9,864
- Awarded August 2021
- Grant funds will support the WHS IT team's ongoing response to the long-term changes and tech needs for remote/hybrid work and virtual programming.

- Grant funds were provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**Grantor: National Endowment for the Humanities, American Rescue Plan Grant**

- \$334,186
- Award announced September 2021
- The Society is in the midst of a multi-year campaign to build a new history museum, which will rely heavily on digitized collections and require robust capacity in the Society’s Digital Collections and IT teams. Grant funds will enable the Society to 1) hire necessary staff and provide training to support expanded digitization services, 2) conduct an assessment of current digitization services and digital stewardship practices, and 3) replace equipment to get digitization work back on schedule for the opening of the new museum.

**Grantor: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures**

1. \$499,999
2. Awarded September 2021
3. Grant funds will restore the Ringling Business Office at Circus World to the 1915 era, within the period of significance for the National Historic Landmark. The Business Office is the most historically significant building in the Ringlingville winter quarters but has never been open to the public. A restored, interpreted and publicly accessible Business Office will serve as a compelling example to funders of the possibilities for future restoration of the remaining buildings and will allow visitors to explore the broader operations, diversity, and off-season preparations that made the massive Ringling Brothers Circus so successful.

## **Non-Federal Grants 2021**

**Grantor: Fund for Lake Michigan**

- \$32,000
- Awarded in January 2021
- Since 1988, underwater archaeological research conducted by the Wisconsin Historical Society has generated greater understanding and appreciation of Wisconsin’s historic shipwrecks among archaeologists, historians, and the general public. Grant funds will support a project to (1) to locate, map, and/or model two major shipwrecks in Lake Michigan; (2) to develop technical reports, educational materials, and resources with the findings; and (3) to connect the public with Lake Michigan’s shipwreck history, encouraging them to become stewards and advocates for this unique cultural and natural resource.

**Grantor: Bader Philanthropies**

- \$100,000
- Awarded April 2021
- Grant funds will support the campaign for a new Wisconsin history museum.

**Grantor: William G. Pomeroy Foundation**

- \$75,190
- Awarded May 2021
- Grant funds will support a three-year project to re-envision the Wisconsin State Historical Marker Program to better support historically marginalized communities and elevate the histories and contributions of those communities. The re-envisioned State Historical Marker Program will emphasize co-curation with community members to identify and create new markers and remove and replace problematic markers. The project will increase representation in the stories and histories of African American history, Native American history, and other underrepresented histories of Wisconsin.

**Grantor: Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation**

- \$15,000
- Awarded October 2021
- Grant funds will support an ongoing educational partnership with the Milwaukee Country Historical Society for educational programming called "Empowering Curiosity in Milwaukee Students". It will also support the development of a digital textbook by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press called *A Student's History of Milwaukee* which will be the first available resource for teaching Milwaukee history to middle and high school students.

**Grantor: Evjue Foundation**

- \$15,000
- Awarded November 2021
- Grant funds will support the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* and the Society Press' efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion with the magazine, including developing relationships with diverse authors across the state, welcoming first-person narratives into the magazine, an updating the design to engage a younger audience.

**Grantor: Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation**

- \$40,000
- Awarded November 2021
- Grant funds will support a variety of programs and collections related to early American History including: (1) sponsor the 2022 James Madison Lectures, an annual lecture series hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Society on various topics related to early American history; (2) allow the Society's Library to acquire new electronic resources from ProQuest's History Vault series database titled "Revolutionary War and Early America: Collections from the Massachusetts Historical Society (1721-1860); and (3) underwrite volume three of the Bill of Rights Series published by the Society Press which will examine debate over the drafting and ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution.