Our Year in Review

This year the Montana History Foundation extended its reach to over 45 organizations across the state of Montana. We did this by providing grant funding, sponsoring conferences and awards, offering workshops, and serving as fiscal managers for projects.

This was all made possible through the generosity of our donors and the dedicated assistance of our Board of Directors and staff.

Directors (As of 6/30/2016)
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Gena Ashmore
Karen Fred

Cover Photo: Tom Cook of the Montana Historical Society welcomes guests to the Original Montana Club for MHS’ 150th anniversary event. Photo courtesy of Montana Historical Society.

Photo Below: Attendees of the Montana Preservation Alliance’s 2016 Road Show in Red Lodge. Photo courtesy Montana Preservation Alliance.
Our Work

At the Montana History Foundation, we preserve the rich legacy of Montana’s past—one story, one community, one project at a time. We do this with:

- project grants
- emergency funding
- community capacity-building workshops
- project management
Outreach

We reached approximately 3,000 students by sponsoring special events such as Montana National History Day and the 27th Annual Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award ceremony honoring the Montana History Teacher of the Year for 2015–2016 (Jessica Johnson from the Ronan School District).

MHF also reached 1,300 adults through sponsorship of conferences such as the Montana Historical Society’s conference in Hamilton/Stevensville and the Montana Preservation Alliance’s Road Show in Red Lodge. We initiated a new outreach in 2016 – the Montana History Dinner series – where attendees are treated to history-related entertainment, re-enactments, and talks.

Our staff conducted grant-writing workshops that trained over 100 people across the state on how to prepare successful grant applications.

2016 History Donors

**History Guardians ($10,000 & Up)**
Andreas and Joyce Grande Family
Dolly McMaster
Penelope Wilson

**History Champions ($5,000 – $9,999)**
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The Donnelley Foundation/Tom and Barbi Donnelley
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Chase and Emily Hibbard
The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Inc.
Bruce Parker/First Interstate BancSystem Foundation

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Montana Community Foundation
Alan and Nancy Nicholson*
Charlene Porsild*
Robert and Patricia Sletten
Douglas and Nancy Wolcott

*History Defenders Monthly Giving Program
Grants

We awarded over $111,000 to 35 preservation grant projects. We made direct grants to organizations in 28 towns and one wilderness area in 20 counties across Montana.

MHF funds helped the historical society in Red Lodge conduct a workshop teaching people how to safely mark, disassemble, move and reassemble an antique log cabin. In the process, we saved the oldest school in Carbon County from imminent destruction. Frontier Gateway Museum in Glendive restored its historic windmill that was badly damaged in a wind storm. MHF assisted with historic cemetery preservation from Stevensville to Winnett to Glendive, and we funded interpretive signage in Butte to identify lost neighborhoods of the past. With our help, the Forest Fire Lookout Association restored an historic fire lookout in the Bob Marshall Wilderness (pictured below). For a full list of grants awarded and for more information on our grants program visit our website at www.mthistory.org.

The pack string arriving with supplies at the Mud Lake Lookout.
History Lovers (<$1,000)
Anonymous
Allegra Print & Imaging
Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 1
Andrew and Julianne Anderson
Clyde and Sally Angove
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Jim and Sheri Jarvis

*History Defenders Monthly Giving Program

< The Extreme History Project’s cemetery assessment crew mapping and recording grave locations, Nevada City Cemetery
MHF provided fiscal sponsorship services to history organizations across the state, securing $140,600 and expending almost $78,000 directly on their historical projects.

We managed $1.38 million in investment funds for partner history organizations, expending $105,200 for their projects.

2016 History Donors

**History Lovers Cont. (<$1,000)**
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- Lee’s Graphics
- Anne Leggett

**History Defenders Monthly Giving Program**

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- Dave and Davee Letford
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- George and Elizabeth McClure
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- Bruce McIntyre
- Bruce and Judy Meadows
- Nigel and Jane Mends

 Restoration and repair work on the Wolf Point Bridge by the Montana Historical Society, one of our partner organizations
2016 History Donors

History Lovers Cont. (<$1,000)
Nancy Miller
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Ron and Mignon Waterman
Robert and Norma Wegmann

*History Defenders Monthly Giving Program

Concrete slab being poured in the historic Monarch Great Northern Railway Depot
Montana History Foundation
2016 Financials

Revenue FY 2016
$761,600

- Project Income: 34%
- Gifts & Grants: 23%
- Royalties: 15%
- Investments: 5%
- Rent: 19%
- Management Fees: 4%

Expenses FY 2016
$722,600

- Programs: 69%
- Administration: 25%
- Fundraising: 6%

Re-enactment at the 175th anniversary of St. Mary’s Mission in Stevensville
How You Can Help

The amazing donors recognized on these pages restored the Roxy Theater’s original box office in Missoula, provided a cemetery restoration workshop in Lewistown, conserved Plains Indian artifacts in Havre, and provided grant-writing workshops in over a dozen communities.

Your tax deductible gift or bequest to our History Emergencies! program can save a building, historic site, or museum collection in imminent danger.

A gift of cash or securities to our grants program can fund the preservation of artifacts in a small museum in Ekalaka or original light fixtures in the Fort Peck Theatre.

A planned gift or bequest to the MHF Endowment is an excellent way to take advantage of the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. It offers you a sizeable tax credit and helps us preserve Montana history for generations to come.

Visit our website www.mhistory.org or call us today at 406.449.3770 to discuss the giving options best suited to you.

2016 History Donors

History Lovers Cont. (<$1,000)
Richard and Donna Wegner
Nelson Weller
Roy Wells
Peter and Jennifer Wendt
Robert and La Wana Whaley
Donald and Janis Williams
Preston and Sheri Willson
James and Annalise Willson
Suzanne Wilson
Kathleen Wuelfing
William Yaeger and Melissa Youderian
Charles and Nancy Zdra
Ken Zychowski

~ Reviewing restoration plans for the original box office of the Roxy Theater, Missoula

Honorary/Dedication Gifts
Willard Fraser Memorial
Susan Nissen Lerdal Memorial
Robert Sletten Tribute

*History Defenders Monthly Giving Program
Our work is made possible by the generosity of our many donors. On behalf of the Montana History Foundation board, staff, and the many community organizations we support,

Thank You!

We strive to ensure that everyone who gave to MHF in calendar year 2016 is listed on these pages. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know. For a full list of donors, visit our website at www.mthistory.org.

Bringing People Together For History

The Montana History Foundation is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.