Montana History Foundation Announces $117,000 in Statewide Grants

Today, 29 projects and organizations that preserve Montana’s history are collectively $117,000 richer, and the money comes from a grant program most people don’t even know exists.

Wednesday, the Montana History Foundation announced the recipients of this year’s statewide grants. Since 2012, the MHF has awarded annual grants to projects and organizations that work to preserve and protect the historic legacy of Montana. This year, the Foundation gave away the largest amount ever at $117,180.

“Our grant recipients are new and unique every year,” MHF President and CEO Charlene Porsild says. “We are so proud to support projects from Libby to Ekalaka and all points in between this year ranging from interpretive signage of outdoor exhibits to curation of dinosaur fossils to restoration work on a log cabin or an historic hotel.”

The money will be disbursed to projects in 20 counties across the state ranging in value from $750 to $5,000. Big Horn, Carter, Golden Valley, Lake, and Meagher Counties will receive MHF grant funding for the first time.

“It is our mission to support projects small and large,” Porsild said. “And this year’s winners really reflect the quality of preservation work being accomplished across the state.”

Private sources support the awards through gifts, grants, and other contributions. As statewide knowledge of the program increases, the MHF hopes to spread even more wealth to preservation projects next year.

Please see below for a list of funded grant projects near your community. The statewide list is attached. For additional information about specific projects, please contact MHF Programs Director Gena Ashmore.

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The Montana History Foundation started in 1985. It’s an independent, non-profit corporation preserving the rich legacy of Montana’s past one story, one community, and one project at a time. With the help of donors, the MHF has put nearly $3 million into history projects in Montana communities. For more information on the MHF, including how to donate and apply for grants, visit www.mthistory.org.
2017 Montana History Foundation grants:

**Great Falls**

**Historic Buildings & Structures:**
Belt Theater Company  
Belt, Cascade County  
$5000  
Replace the rear pedestrian bridge to Butte St. in the 1916 Knights of Pythias Building (Belt Theater Building). Serves as a second floor fire escape.

C.M. Russell Museum  
Great Falls, Cascade County  
$5,000  
Charles M. Russell House Conservation Project

Lewistown Historic Resources Commission  
Lewistown, Fergus County  
$3,000  
Lewistown cemeteries, mausoleum & gravestone preservation

North Central Montana Retired Educators Association  
Great Falls, Cascade County  
$5,000  
Zion School paint and restoration project

Sun River Valley Historical Society  
Fort Shaw, Cascade County  
$5,000  
Adobe Wall repair

**Collections & Artifacts:**
Upper Musselshell Museum  
Harlowton, Wheatland  
$1080  
Military clothing protection and photo media supplies

Montana State University Library  
White Sulfur Springs, Meagher County  
$5,000  
“The History of Weather in Dog Country: Tying Regional Interviews to Place-based Literature”

**Helena**

**Historic Buildings & Structures:**
Friends of the Elkhorn Water Tank
Elkhorn, Jefferson County
$5,000
Elkhorn Water Tank Restoration

Helmville Community Club
Helmville, Powell County
$5,000
Helmville Grandstand restoration

The Original Montana Club
Helena, Lewis and Clark County
$5,000
Stained glass window restoration

**Collections & Artifacts:**
Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives
Butte, Silver Bow County
$1,000
“A Walk Through Butte’s History in 100 Objects”

City of Helena
Helena, Lewis and Clark County
$750
Helena City Council minute books preservation project

Montana Heritage Commission
Nevada City, Madison County
$5,000
Nevada City music machine restoration

Upper Musselshell Museum
Harlowton, Wheatland
$1080
Military clothing protection and photo media supplies

**Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:**
Montana State University Library
White Sulfur Springs, Meagher County
$5,000
“The History of Weather in Doig Country: Tying Regional Interviews to Place-based Literature”

**Billings**

**Historic Buildings & Structures:**
Friends of the Historic Adams Hotel
Lavina, Golden Valley County
$5,000
Foundation/Basement repair/Structural engineer as part of a rehabilitation service proposal.

Lewistown Historic Resources Commission
Lewistown, Fergus County
$3,000
Lewistown cemeteries, mausoleum & gravestone preservation

Collections & Artifacts:
Carter County Museum
Ekalaka, Carter County
$5,000
Collections rehousing at Carter County Museum

Upper Musselshell Museum
Harlowton, Wheatland
$1080
Military clothing protection and photo media supplies

Western Heritage Center
Billings, Yellowstone County
$850
Photograph collections

Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:
Billings Preservation Society, Inc./Moss Mansion Museum
Billings, Yellowstone County
$5,000
Moss Mansion Museum research and development for new self-guided tours

Crow Language Consortium
Hardin, Big Horn County
$5,000
Crow Dictionary project

Bozeman
Historic Buildings & Structures:
City of Livingston
Livingston, Park County
$5,000
Phase II of the Livingston Commercial Historic District Survey Project

Friends of the Elkhorn Water Tank
Elkhorn, Jefferson County
$5,000
Elkhorn Water Tank Restoration

Lincoln School Foundation
Livingston, Park County
$5,000
Phased window replacement project

Collections & Artifacts:
Montana Heritage Commission
Nevada City, Madison County
$5,000
Nevada City music machine restoration

Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County
Livingston, Park County
$5,000
Railroad collection: cataloging and archival storage

Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:
Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives
Butte, Silver Bow County
$1,000
“A Walk Through Butte’s History in 100 Objects”

Kalispell papers
Historic Buildings & Structures:
Hockaday Museum of Art
Kalispell, Flathead County
$1,750
Trim and architrave restoration part II

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana
Charlo, Lake County
$5,000
Jocko Valley Cabin project

Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:
The Heritage Museum
Libby, Lincoln County
$5,000
Outdoor signs and interpretive displays at the Heritage Museum

Missoula/Kalispell TV
Historic Buildings & Structures:
Hockaday Museum of Art
Kalispell, Flathead County
$1,750
Trim and architrave restoration part II

Helmville Community Club
Helmville, Powell County
$5,000
Helmville Grandstand restoration

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana
Charlo, Lake County
$5,000
Jocko Valley Cabin project
Plains Woman’s Club
Plains, Sanders County
$4,000
Old Log Schoolhouse roof replacement and building stabilization

Collections & Artifacts:
Paradise Elementary School Preservation Committee
Paradise, Sanders County
$5,000
“When the Whistle Blew: A Company Town”

Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society
Hamilton, Ravalli County
$4,000
Collections care project

Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:
Sanders County Community Development Corp.
Thompson Falls, Sanders County
$750
Thompson Falls Community Trail interpretive sign/The Historic Lower Clark Fork Corridor

The Heritage Museum
Libby, Lincoln County
$5,000
Outdoor signs and interpretive displays at the Heritage Museum

Hamilton Papers
Collections & Artifacts:
Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society
Hamilton, Ravalli County
$4,000
Collections care project

Polson papers
Historic Buildings & Structures:
Hockaday Museum of Art
Kalispell, Flathead County
$1,750
Trimm and architrave restoration part II

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana
Charlo, Lake County
$5,000
Jocko Valley Cabin project

**Collections & Artifacts:**
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Paradise, Sanders County
$5,000
“When the Whistle Blew: A Company Town”

Plains Woman’s Club
Plains, Sanders County
$4,000
Old Log Schoolhouse roof replacement and building stabilization

**Research, Education, Outreach & Oral Histories:**
Sanders County Community Development Corp.
Thompson Falls, Sanders County
$750
Thompson Falls Community Trail interpretive sign/The Historic Lower Clark Fork Corridor

**Sanders County papers**

**Historic Buildings & Structures:**
Plains Woman’s Club
Plains, Sanders County
$4,000
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