



NEWS AND NOTES

■ The Minnesota Historical Society selected three artists for the 2022–23 Native American Artist-in-Residence (NAAIR) Program. Fern Cloud, a member of the Upper Sioux Dakota Community/Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, is a textile and quill artist as well as a hide painter; she also specializes in traditional doll making. She will use her residency to study the traditional forms and methods of hide painting and to help revitalize the art form.

Artist Fern Renville, a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate, works with fiber art, pottery, and weaving to study the art of her Dakota homelands. Her residency will focus on studying and learning the process of Dakota weaving from examples such as woven bags made with nettle fiber and buffalo hair.

Autumn Cavender is a midwife, quill worker, and digital artist from the Upper Sioux Community. With her residency, she will explore Dakota design elements, particularly materials related to child rearing and children.



Woven basket hanging in woven nettle fiber, by Fern Renville

The NAAIR Program is designed to help revitalize traditional forms of Native American art. Now approaching its ninth year in grant making, the program selects artists for 6- to 12-month paid residencies to study the collections at MNHS and other institutions in order to gain a better understanding of their cultural art forms. Residents will share this knowledge by developing community-based programming in their home communities, as well as with the public at large. The artists-in-residence are selected based on the recommendations of a panel of experts in the field of Native arts, culture, and education.

For more information about the residency program, please visit www.mnhs.org/residencies/naair.

■ In January 2023, alumni of MNHS's Native American Undergraduate Museum Fellowship (NAUMF) program came together at the Minnesota History Center to celebrate 12 years of this groundbreaking initiative. The NAUMF program seeks to expose Native American undergraduate students to professional opportunities in the museum field, and since 2011, it has welcomed 92 fellows from around the country, representing 53 tribal nations. Program alumni have represented 38 different undergraduate universities and tribal colleges. They have gone on to accept jobs in a range of related fields, including at tribal historic preservation offices, language revitalization programs, national museums, art galleries, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

"This gathering was a beautiful reminder of the impact this program has had and continues to have with Native communities in shifting the assumptions around museums and the collections we are stewards of," said Amber Annis, MNHS Director of Native American Initiatives.

NAUMF is designed to expose students to careers in the museum field by participating in a 10-week program full

of workshops and seminars, followed by seven weeks of immersive paid internship opportunities. In-depth seminars cover such topics as conservation, collections, exhibitions, education, archaeology, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Through discussions, guest speakers, and hands-on research and analysis, members of each undergraduate cohort explore the unique challenges facing American Indian communities with regard to preserving tribal history and the historical narratives of Native people. They also learn about various career paths within the museum, cultural resource, public history, and tribal historic preservation fields, both on and off reservations.

The program is currently accepting new applications for 2023. For additional information and application instructions, please visit www.mnhs.org/internships/fellows/native-american.

■ In February 2023, the Minnesota Historical Society initiated a series of sensory-friendly days at MNHS sites in the Twin Cities metro area. Beginning with Mill City Museum on February 12, the program welcomes visitors with sensory sensitivities, autism, or developmental disabilities to enjoy modified museum activities and exhibits with neurodiversity in mind. Adjustments to the museum-going experience include lower volume for all media shows, signs with explanations of activities, allergy signs, and take-a-break spaces. During the spring and summer of 2023, programs are also offered at the Minnesota History Center on March 25, James J. Hill House on May 13, and again at Mill City Museum on July 22. Sensory Friendly Days begin one to two hours before the sites open to the general public.

■ MNHS's Mill City Museum was named among the country's best history museums in a nationwide reader's poll conducted by *USA Today*. Trailing only



MNHS's Mill City Museum was voted one of the nation's best history museums in a USA Today poll.

the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the National Infantry Museum & Soldier Center in Columbus, Georgia, Mill City Museum ranked fourth among 20 museums and sites from around the country.

■ Three books published by MNHS Press were named as finalists for the 2022 Minnesota Book Awards. Karen Cooper's *When Minnehaha Flowed with Whiskey: A Spirited History of the Falls* and Virginia Wright-Peterson's *Rochester: An Urban Biography* were both selected as finalists in the Minnesota Nonfiction category. *Daughters of Arraweeelo: Stories of Somali Women* by Ayaan Adan was named as one of four finalists in the General Nonfiction category. The winners are announced in a live ceremony on May 2, 2023, at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. The Minnesota Book

Awards is an annual program of the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library that connects readers and writers throughout Minnesota with the stories of our neighbors.


■ In December, the Minnesota Historical Society approved \$304,444 in small grants to more than 30 municipalities and organizations from 19 different counties across the state. This latest round of grants includes funding to support everything from oral histories and museum lighting to collections management and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants, which are made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, are awarded to help nonprofits, educational organizations, government units, and federally recognized tribes to preserve and share Minnesota history. Small grants of \$10,000 or less are awarded four times a year. The full list of small grants can be found at www.mnhs.org/media/news/17675.

For more information about the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, including application deadlines, visit www.mnhs.org/preservation/legacy-grants.

Correction

The article "A Gift to All Deaf Minnesotans: A History of St. Paul's Charles Thompson Memorial Hall" (Winter 2022–23) noted: "Outside of interviews with Gordon Allen and Doug Ball conducted in the mid-1990s, there appears to have been no recorded oral histories until now." Those interviews with Allen and Ball had a particular focus on Charles Thompson Memorial Hall and, as noted in the endnotes of the article, were conducted by the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. The statement in the article was not intended to ignore the subsequent and large-scale oral-visual history project conducted by the commission in 2011–13. Supported with Legacy funds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, this community-based and -led project does feature some discussion of Thompson Hall, among many other aspects of the Deaf community in Minnesota. In the words of Barbara Sommer, the hearing oral historian who led the 2011–13 project, "It is Deaf community history as told by the community." The interviews and transcriptions are held in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society—look for a "Curator's Choice" highlighting this collection in a forthcoming issue of *Minnesota History*.

 **Contact us** Comments, questions about Minnesota History? Send them to 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906 or mnhistmag@mnhs.org. We'd love to hear from you! Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



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1923 • 100 Years Ago

History places, and helps to explain, successive stages in the development of mankind. It constantly extends backward the memory of living men and gives them a sense of perspective to aid them in forming their judgments on contemporary affairs. . . . Finally, history seeks to give students an intelligent notion of those human activities, decisions, and achievements which lie behind our present-day institutions and problems. —From *Report of the Joint Commission on the Presentation of Social Studies in the Schools*, in “News and Comment,” Vol. 5, No. 1, March 1923, p. 67.

1948 • 75 Years Ago

Little mention has been made of the numerous changes in personnel, especially in the special departments and the Centennial staff, but the superintendent would be remiss indeed if he did not express the welcome of older members of the society’s staff to the newer ones. The absorption of the newer members into the procedures and traditions of the society takes a little time, but only rarely has the contagion of the staff’s high standards failed to take hold. —Carlton C. Qualey, “The Minnesota Historical Society in 1947,” Vol. 29, No. 1, March 1948, p. 55–56.

1973 • 50 Years Ago

I became acutely aware of the importance, and even the compelling necessity, of [ethnic] studies leading to a better understanding of the diverse elements of the population of the United States. . . . This study of Minnesota’s ethnic groups as well as of the native-born is being undertaken with expectation of co-operation from all elements of the people from Minnesota, not to speak of the essential financial support of governmental and philanthropic organizations. —Carlton C. Qualey, “The Editor’s Page,” Vol. 53, No. 5, Spring 1973, p. 191.

1998 • 25 Years Ago

Just as too narrow a dependence upon the physical sources of our sustenance is dangerous, so a culture that relies upon too narrow a set of ideas can be imperiled in the long run, and so, within that culture, the usefulness of memory, of history, can be fatally weakened when there are too few stories about what really happened. A culture with only one version of its past is as untenable in the long run as a prairie with only one species of grass, and for the same reason: that it is too poor in resources to meet the challenges of change. —Paul Gruchow, “Discovering the Universe of Home,” Vol. 56, No. 1, Spring 1998, p. 38.

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