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May 24, 2021

Goodhue County Commissioners  
509 W.5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Goodhue County Historical Society, I have submitted the enclosed budget request for 2022 and 2023. We believe that our request allows us to continue stabilizing the organization's operations while also building capacity for the future. This past year we have taken advantage of every program available for financial help during Covid. We feel fortunate the funding was possible.

We are requesting to maintain \$127,000 for 2022 and for 2023 an increase by \$5,000 to make total allocation \$132,000. This is based on several factors, which are outlined below:

1. **Grant Funding does not cover administrative costs:** Grant funders, in an overwhelming majority of cases, do not allow administrative or overhead costs to be written into those grant requests.
2. **Program Growth:** We continue to increase our programming efforts, which bring in new donors, members, volunteers, and visitors to the History Center. We are excited about our new program, "**History on the Road**". We are videoing people, places, and sharing stories from all around Goodhue County on social media.
3. **Education Program Improvements:** With the aid of the Red Wing Shoe Company Foundation and the Jones Family Foundation, our organization engaged local educators from across the county to identify areas where we could provide support to incorporate local history into curriculum. This plan identified both on-site and off-site program ideas, which will be implemented over the next five years. To carry out this plan, we need to continue supporting our Education & Outreach Coordinator position.

4. **Collections Stewardship and Exhibit Development:** Our plan is to apply for grant funding to begin work on the photograph and archival material collections in 2022 - 2023. Staff is continuing to identify exhibit improvements so that we can continue to attract new and repeat visitors. To meet professional standards, we must look beyond grant funding to continue our collection and exhibit work. GCHS's collection contains more items than can ever be displayed or physically accessed at one time. Therefore, the Goodhue County Historical Society plans to make its collection widely available to the public. In 2019, GCHS and several other history organizations joined a project organized by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) to establish a new online collections database system. The transfer of GCHS's collections data began in January 2020 and is still in progress. Although many images still need to be added, you can now access the majority of the Society's collection on MNCollections.org.
  
5. **Covid – 19 Collecting Project:** GCHS is collecting stories from the public relating to the Covid -19 Pandemic in Goodhue County .the mission of this project is to document and preserve stories from Goodhue County residents for future use as research and other educational purposes. The stories will be permanently housed in the GCHS Research Library and Archives. GCHS staff have created a form that can be filled out by anyone interested in contributing to this project.

Goodhue County Historical Society received Covid vaccine boxes and empty vials from Goodhue County Health and Human Services and Mayo Clinic. These vaccine boxes and empty vials will help document these historic times for future generations.

We continue to add to our collection to document the coronavirus pandemic in Goodhue County.

6. **Increased Funding by the City of Red Wing to maintain the History Center:** Since the loss of our maintenance supervisor, the City of Red Wing has stepped up and budgeted heavily for ongoing maintenance and capital improvements to our facility. We are working on plans for future improvements that would be our responsibility according to the lease agreement. City staff has gone beyond to ensure problems are addressed and maintained at an adequate level. The following is a total amount by year of the City's contributions for maintenance and capital improvements:

2014	\$54,627.54
2015	\$59,429.22
2016	\$512,134 was budgeted for maintenance & capital improvements
2017	\$42,400 projected for maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 capital improvement funds carried over to complete HVAC replacement, window replacement in old section, and storefront improvements -total of \$469,734</li> </ul>
2018	\$266,457 projected (new roof planned)
2019	\$42,400 projected (no capital improvements planned)
2020	\$42,400 projected (no capital improvements planned)
2021	\$44,600 projected (no capital improvements planned)

7. **Maintain Staffing Levels:** The Board continues to work to keep our staff salaries within the industry average for local history museums across Minnesota. Presently, we do not offer any benefits outside of disability and life insurance coverage. This puts us at a competitive disadvantage for talent with our peers across the state. In order to retain our talented staff, we need additional support to continue improving staff pay and benefits.

The Goodhue County Historical Society has worked hard to improve ourselves. This has led to more open doors throughout Goodhue County through partnerships and program opportunities. We hope you have an opportunity to visit the museum and see our current exhibit. **Spanning Centuries: Bridging the Mississippi at Red Wing Opening May 13, 2021.** Every day, thousands of people travel across the Mississippi River between Red Wing and Wisconsin. But the journey hasn't always been so easy! Learn about the evolution of Red Wing's river crossings in this upcoming exhibit.

The support of the Commissioners is vital to keeping the over 150-year tradition of preserving and collecting the history of Goodhue County.

Thank you for considering our request and for your previous support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me for further information.

Robin Wipperling

Executive Director

[director@goodhistory.org](mailto:director@goodhistory.org)

**Goodhue County**  
**Outside Agency Funding Request Form**

<b>Budget</b>		<b>Estimated 2022</b>	<b>Estimated 2023</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
	Fees:	\$ 66,950	\$ 68,959
	Grants:	\$ 798,250	\$ 822,198
	State/Federal Funding:	\$ 566,500	\$ 583,495
	Other Revenue:	\$ 4,933,700	\$ 5,081,711
<b>Total Revenues:</b>		<b>\$ 6,365,400</b>	<b>\$ 6,556,362</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Salaries:	\$ 1,503,800	\$ 1,548,914
	Benefits:	\$ 375,950	\$ 387,229
	Professional Services:	\$ 267,800	\$ 275,834
	Services & Charges:	\$ 112,785	\$ 116,169
	Supplies & Materials:	\$ 168,920	\$ 173,988
	Other Expenses:	\$ 3,936,145	\$ 4,054,229
	Capital:		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$ 6,365,400</b>	<b>\$ 6,556,362</b>
<b>Requested Funding From County:</b>			
<b>Number of Staff</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>