

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S 2013 BUDGET

DEPT: MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

UNIT NO. 1908
FUND: General - 0001

BUDGET SUMMARY			
	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2013 Budget
County Historical Society	\$ 242,741	\$ 206,167	\$ 206,167

MISSION

The Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS) was founded in 1935 to collect, preserve and make available materials relating to the history of the Milwaukee community. Through a broad range of activities, the Historical Society seeks to recognize and preserve our local history. In promoting a greater appreciation of Milwaukee County's heritage, the Historical Society hopes to develop a better understanding of the issues and challenges facing Milwaukee County today. The Society's research library, museum collections, exhibitions, public programs, historic sites and special events serve a variety of constituencies including scholars, students, genealogists, local businesses, civic organizations, and Milwaukee County residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVES

The primary goal and objective of the MCHS is to be a place that changes the world through educational and inspiring experiences with history. To fulfill this vision, the Society continually seeks to facilitate:

1. Experiences that inspire, challenge, and question;
2. Experiences that inform and educate;
3. Experiences that nurture enrichment, reflection, and action through authentic connections with people and place;
4. Experiences that use one-of-a-kind stories and collections to benefit community;
5. Experiences that document, preserve, and interpret Milwaukee County's history; and
6. Experiences that exhibit leadership in the fields of public service, citizenship, and history.

OVERVIEW OF OPERATION

The MCHS's operating budget for 2013 is \$1,082,477 with \$876,310 coming from non-County funds. Significant sources of non-County income include charitable gifts, grants, special events, membership dues, facility rentals, admissions, and public programming fees.

In support of operations, the MCHS employs four full-time employees, 3 part-time employees, 1 contract employee, and over 20 interns. The MCHS also benefits from over 100 active volunteers. This team operates and administers five facilities located on Milwaukee County, including:

1. The Milwaukee County Historical Center in downtown Milwaukee (County owned).
2. The Kilbourntown House in Estabrook Park in Shorewood (County owned).

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3. The Lowell Damon House in Wauwatosa.
4. The Jeremiah Curtin House in Greendale.
5. Trimborn Farm in Greendale (County owned).

The MCHS, a Smithsonian and Wisconsin Historical Society affiliate, is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization, and is governed by a board of seventeen directors.

The following list references examples of initiatives, activities, and programs implemented and underway by the MCHS:

1. Educational Experiences: In 2011-2012, the MCHS continued offering a diverse combination of educational experiences including public programs, exhibits, and tours. These included the popular exhibits, *Faith, Family, Festa: Milwaukee's Italians*, *Milwaukee in Miniature*, *African American Firsts*, and *Billie the Brownie*. The MCHS also hosted public programming, concerts, and lectures featuring presentations about Gimbel's Department Store, Milwaukee during prohibition, and ethnic music traditions. During 2011-2012, the MCHS also initiated a new slate of educational experiences including behind-the-scenes tours of the Society's collections and, *I'm New Here*, a program supporting access to, and the use of, the Society's Research Library. Most excitingly, in 2012 the Society announced plans to present Alan Kulwicki: A Champion's Story, a major exhibition exploring the life and legacy of NASCAR champion Alan Kulwicki.
2. Special Events: In 2011-2012, the MCHS presented a series of unique and compelling special events to the public. Of particular significance were the *Ice Cream Social* at the Kilbourn House, the first annual *Milwaukee Meatball Challenge* at the Milwaukee County Historical Center, and the first annual WWII Encampment, 29th Annual Harvest Arts and Crafts Festival, and the 7th Annual Civil War Weekend, all at Trimborn Farm. The MCHS also partners with multiple organizations to present and/or host special events, and in 2012, examples of these successful partnerships included the MCHS's active participation in Doors Open Milwaukee and the holiday Festival of Lights.
3. Historic Site Management and Operation: The MCHS operates and manages five distinct historic sites located throughout Milwaukee County, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In each case, the MCHS offers guided tours of these facilities and implements a full range of historic preservation and strategic management operations at the sites.
4. Research Library: The MCHS' research library features a significant and large collection of archival and photographic materials, and is open to the public six days per week. The library supports active research use by scholars, students, and the general public, and serves as the primary repository for Milwaukee County records.
5. Collections Management: The MCHS serves as steward for over 500,000 artifacts representing the full tapestry of Milwaukee County history. These materials are used to support research, exhibition and public programming initiatives of the MCHS and are actively loaned to other organizations for educational purposes.
6. County Landmarks: Since 1976, the MCHS has operated, under County ordinance, a landmark recognition program for areas of Milwaukee County outside the City of Milwaukee. Over 100 sites have been designated as landmarks throughout the history of the program.
7. Civic Leadership: The MCHS values and embraces its civic role, and as such, the organization and its staff team actively support and participate in a variety of civic and community endeavors. These efforts include supporting and serving the Westown Association, the Milwaukee River Walk, and collecting charitable donations for both the United Way and the Hunger Task Force. Additionally, members of the MCHS' staff team serve in the Milwaukee Rotary Club and Kiwanis, among other organizations. Finally, the MCHS is a proud participant in the Blue Star Museum program, which is administered by the National

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Endowment for the Arts and offers free admission to cultural attractions to active military personnel and their families between Memorial and Labor Day.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2013 tax levy contribution to the Milwaukee County Historical Society remains at the 2012 level of \$206,167.

The MCHS maximizes and leverages the County's financial support for optimal return as follows:

1. Educational Experiences: In 2011-2012, the MCHS maximized the County's financial support by utilizing a percentage of these resources to develop and implement multiple diverse and enriching public programs and museum experiences. These experiences attracted a growing number of citizens and provide invaluable opportunities for public engagement and multi-generational learning.
2. Historic Preservation and Stewardship of Historic Sites: As the steward of over 15 County owned historic buildings, and two privately owned historic houses, the MCHS strategically invests County funds in the operation, care, and preservation of these distinctive historic properties. These efforts include direct support of utilities and building / site maintenance, and the development of publically accessible tours and programs.
3. Archival and Collections Stewardship and Public Access: The MCHS is a strategic partner with Milwaukee County in regards to records management as the primary repository of County records. In this capacity, the MCHS preserves and stores these materials and makes them available to the public for research and educational purposes.
4. Building Organizational Capacity: The MCHS is committed to building organizational capacity and investing a percentage of the County funds it receives for development and enhancement of its staff team. The primary focus of this investment is payroll, but other strategic investments in this area include support of efficient and effective operational strategies, supplies and materials.

	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2013 Budget
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Personal Services	\$ 191,227	\$ 84,432	\$ 85,000
Historic Site Management and Utilities	\$ 44,788	\$ 84,369	\$ 85,000
Office and Administrative Supplies	\$ 6,726	\$ 9,553	\$ 5,000
Educ. Experience Dev. & Collections / Archives	\$ 0	\$ 27,813	\$ 31,167
Total Expenditures	\$ 242,741	\$ 206,167	\$ 206,167

	2009 <u>Actual</u>	2010 <u>Actual</u>	2011 <u>Actual</u>	2012* <u>Actual</u>
Research Requests	4,252	5,800	1,719	583
Accessions	110	70	146	75
Outreach Programs	40	48	9	8
Website Visits	242,324	280,000	242,414	145,181
On-Site Guests Served	9,483	15,070	11,997	1,495**
*Through May 31, 2012				
**Major events in June, Sept, and Oct				