

State Historical Society

Founded in 1898 and established as a trustee of the state a year later, the State Historical Society of Missouri is the premier center for the study of Missouri state and local history. SHSMO collects, preserves, and publishes materials that enhance research and support learning opportunities in the study of the Midwest at six research centers around the state, with headquarters on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

Located in Ellis Library since 1915, the State Historical Society of Missouri's Columbia Research Center occupies less than 34,000 square feet. In 2016-2017, SHSMO's six research centers assisted 4,176 researchers in their hands-on explorations of the Show-Me State's history and 2,700 of those patrons visited the Columbia center. The Society's staff also supported the off-site research of an additional 7,477 patrons. SHSMO's website received 570,023 unique visitors to its growing number of online newspapers, collections, and finding aids.

Capital Priority

The State Historical Society has identified the following as its top priority for the future. The total state request for this project is about \$500,000.

1. Operational Costs for the State Historical Society's Center for Missouri Studies, to open in summer 2019

In 2018, the General Assembly provided reoccurring funding (\$250,000) to cover the operating costs of the new building for four months. SHSMO seeks an additional \$500,000 to cover the remaining reoccurring costs for an additional eight months of each fiscal year.

This space is too small for the society's storage and display needs, and the century-old building threatens SHSMO's vast collections with improper environmental controls. Current facilities also allow for less than one-half of one percent of the art collection to be displayed at any one time. Two-thirds of the manuscript collection is stored off site because of inadequate space. Parking restrictions and lack of event space also limit the public's access to the resources held on their behalf. Current capacities are estimated at 35 conference room seats, 40 in the main art gallery, and 26 patrons in the research room.

To address these issues, the SHSMO has received state funding to construct the Center for Missouri Studies. The Center will provide more than 76,000 square feet and dedicated onsite visitor parking spaces to accommodate the research, curatorial and educational functions, and services of the State Historical Society of Missouri, which houses the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. The Center includes a first-floor art gallery with roughly 5,400 square feet. It also incorporates a 101 percent expansion of the Research Center, providing greater access to tens of thousands of documents, microfilm rolls, maps, and rare books used regularly by MU faculty and students as well as by researchers from across the state and nation. Two classrooms, a boardroom, and a nearly 3,400 square-foot multipurpose will house sessions on Missouri history, geography, and culture as well as community meetings.

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The State Historical Society of Missouri is directed by statute to collect, preserve, make accessible and publish materials pertaining to the history of the state and western America.”

**Request from State:
\$500,000**