MINNESOTA ALLIANCE OF LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

2024–2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Minnesota ALLIANCE of LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

MISSION

The purpose of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums shall be to nurture and encourage an appreciation of the local history of the state of Minnesota by providing the structure to foster collaborative local history projects, communicate curatorial and educational information, and encourage professionalism among local and specialized historical organizations in Minnesota.

"PEERS HELPING PEERS"

MALHM serves hundreds of local history groups throughout the state. Although Minnesota's history groups serve different communities, they share a common mission of connecting people to nearby history. Alliance members operate with different levels of resources. Some have professional staff, but many are small, volunteer-run societies. Together, we work to raise the quality of the local history field in Minnesota.

2025 AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER..Lindsay Marshall

APPROVAL OF 2024 MINUTES....................................Hannah King

ACCEPTANCE OF 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT...........Lindsay Marshall

ALLIANCE COORDINATOR REPORT...............................Liz Koele

C/A PROJECT MANAGER REPORT............................... Ann Grandy

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2027...............Lindsay Marshall

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION...Liz Koele

ADJOURNMENT...Lindsay Marshall

2024 MINUTES

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center in Duluth, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Lindsay Marshall.

Approval of 2023 Minutes
Dustin Heckman moved to approve the 2023 minutes, and was duly seconded by a member in good standing. Members present voted to approve the 2023 minutes.

Acceptance of 2023 Treasurer's Report
Maureen Kelly Jonason moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Britt Dahl seconded; members present voted to approve the report.

Alliance Coordinator's Report
New Alliance Coordinator Liz Koele shared highlights occurring over the past year, including wet salvage training sessions and emergency response planning workshops (a collaboration between MALHM's Mutual Assistance Team and the Midwest Art Conservation Center), and then the creation and distribution of twelve emergency response supply caches (generously funded by Minitex).

CollectiveAccess Report
Ann Grandy provided an overview of the C/A Team's efforts. Highlights included that over 50 organizations now subscribe to C/A and that these organization have inventoried well over 1 million objects, with almost 300,000 records shared with the public.

Election of Board Members 2024-2026
Election: Lindsay Marshall, Dave Nichols, and Adam Smith for 3rd terms; Corrie Hackbarth for 2nd term. Ann Grandy moved to re-elect the board nominees, and Merlin Peterson seconded; members present voted to approve the nominees' re-election.

Volunteer Recognition
MALHM introduced its second annual recognition of volunteers. Each MALHM member organization was given the opportunity to submit the name of one volunteer. Twenty-five individuals were recognized by name in the conference program.

Adjournment
Dustin Heckman moved to adjourn, and Jeremy Murray seconded; members present voted to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Christopher Welter, Former Secretary & Liz Koele, Alliance Coordinator

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 - December 31, 2024

Starting Balance
$ 127,277

Operational Income

Annual Conference	$ 27,521
MNHS/MALHM Partnership Grant (includes delayed 2023 payment)	$ 90,000
Membership Dues	$ 3,878
CollectiveAccess	$ 48,126
Misc. Income	$ 478

Total Income
$ 170,003

Operational Expenses

Coordinator Payroll	$ 56,876
Annual Conference	$ 32,582
Office Supplies	$ 2,899
Coordinator Expenses	$ 1,515
Phones	$ 1,577
Program Expenses	$ 385
Accounting/Banking Fees	$ 1,601
CollectiveAccess	$ 34,606
Mutual Assistance Grant (continued from 2023)	$ 23,906
Office Space Lease	$ 1,973
Insurance	$ 592

Total Expenses
$ 158,512

Annual Profit/Loss
$ 11,491

Ending Balance
$ 140,761

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Due to the rising costs of producing events like the annual conference, registration rates were increased slightly for 2025. The MALHM Board carefully considered similar events and past conference costs before setting the new rates. MALHM is committed to keeping the annual conference as accessible as possible for Minnesota history organizations and their staff & volunteers.
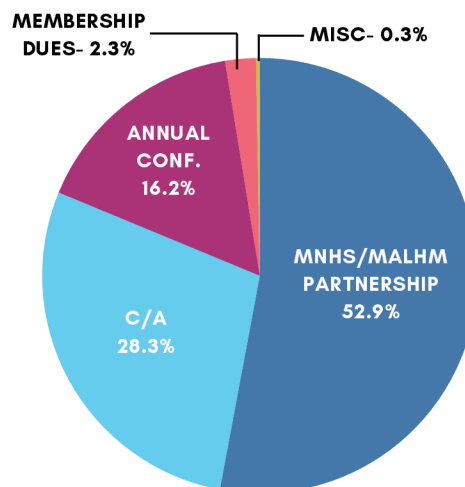
PAYROLL

MALHM began using its first payroll system in July 2024! Previously, payroll & taxes were calculated manually by the MALHM Treasurer.
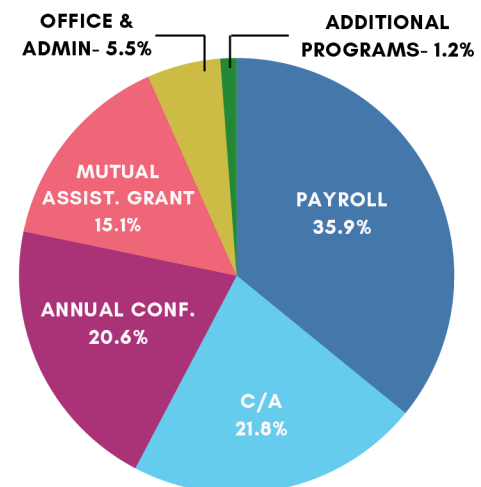
INVESTMENTS

Following a board retreat in September 2024, MALHM opened a money market account. Funds to cover a little over 6 months of operating expenses remain in original accounts.

INCOME

- MEMBERSHIP DUES- 2.3%
- MISC- 0.3%
- ANNUAL CONF. 16.2%
- MNHS/MALHM PARTNERSHIP 52.9%
- C/A 28.3%

EXPENSES

- OFFICE & ADMIN- 5.5%
- ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS- 1.2%
- MUTUAL ASSIST. GRANT 15.1%
- PAYROLL 35.9%
- ANNUAL CONF. 20.6%
- C/A 21.8%

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

207 Attendees to the 2024 Annual Conference & Meeting in Duluth.

10 History Awards given out to 15 organizations & individuals.

12 Emergency Supply Caches deployed throughout the state, thanks to the work of the Mutual Assistance Team & the generous support of Minitex.

60+ CollectiveAccess Minnesota users & growing!

2,243 Miles traveled by the Alliance Coordinator & 15+ museums & historical societies visited.

ADDITIONAL

ALLIANCE COORDINATOR

It's hard to believe that I started in this position last January–this last year has rushed by!

The Alliance continues to expand and grow. Deployment of our 12 emergency supply caches was completed last May, and the MALHM Mutual Assistance Team has already used them to respond to several aid requests. Organizations continue to join CollectiveAccess. I also was able to travel across the state, from New Ulm to Thief River Falls, visiting museums, historical societies, and regional history groups. Reach out if you'd like to schedule a visit!

Throughout this past year, we've focused on defining the work of and making plans for the future of the MALHM Teams. I've set the goal of getting more of the at-large membership involved. There's currently four active teams (which you can see later in this report and in the conference program). We'd also like to hear your ideas for additions. For example, we've recently begun discussing an Advocacy Team in light of the ongoing political climate. If you want to learn more about getting involved, visit the Registration or Networking & Inclusion Team tables, or reach out to me or a current team member!

We are grateful for the continued partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society. It has allowed us to expand our work and further support our colleagues in local history. Thank you Alliance members, community partners, and the MALHM Board of Directors for your commitment to peers helping peers!

Liz Koele
Alliance Coordinator
liz@mnhistoryalliance.org
(612) 500-7460

REPORTS

COLLECTIVEACCESS

CollectiveAccess Minnesota (CA) is an open-source collections management software created by Whirl-i-Gig and supported by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. It is designed to help local history museums keep track of their collections; from *what* artifacts they have and *where* they are stored, to connecting the artifacts to the people, organizations, and places within their community.

CA is fully financially self-sustaining. CA member organizations pay a small annual fee that covers the shared web hosting, backup costs, and allows us to set aside funds for technical support and future server expansion.

CollectiveAccess Minnesota currently has more than **60 member organizations** across the state who have inventoried more than **1.1 million objects** in their private cataloging systems. Some of these organizations have opted to make portions of their collection public and are sharing over **350,000 records** on MNCollections.org.

In the spirit of "peers helping peers," the project is overseen by the CollectiveAccess Team, that guides the project manager and recommends software changes based on user requests. The Project Manager provides training and support for incoming organizations throughout the conversion process, and then offers on-going monthly training for existing users. The Project Manager and MALHM Coordinator are also in frequent communication with other CollectiveAccess users and museum consortiums throughout Canada and the United States to discuss shared issues and updates.

We onboard new organizations twice a year on the following schedule:

Application Due to MALHM
September 10, 2025

MNHS Small Grant App Due
October 10, 2025

Approximate Start Date
January 2026

Application Due to MALHM
March 10, 2026

Grant Application Due to MNHS
April 10, 2026

Approximate Start Date
August 2026

Data transfer & set up can take 1-3 months after the start date depending on the complexity of your data and how quickly you can respond to set-up and customization questions.

If you are interested in joining please contact Ann Grandy or Liz Koele.

Ann Grandy
CA Project Manager
collectiveaccess@mnhistoryalliance.org

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MALHM TEAMS

SUPPORT & EXPAND THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE

- Be a MALHM member or work for an organization that is a MALHM member
- Regularly attend meetings (held at most monthly for approx. 1 hour)
- Be willing to assist with team goals, duties, and projects & events

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

COLLECTIVEACCESS

NETWORKING & INCLUSION

MEMBERSHIP

INTERESTED?

**Visit the Registration Check-In Table or message
Liz (liz@mnhistoryalliance.org). We're also open to new team ideas!**

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS & EVENTS

(Speak with a MALHM Team member for all the details)

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

- Help host or facilitate a wet salvage workshop
- Assist in writing & obtaining a grant to host wet salvage & emergency preparedness trainings
- Aid in responding to mutual assistance request
- Help stock and deploy emergency supply caches

COLLECTIVEACCESS TEAM

- Research & discuss new feature requests
- Update C/A user manual
- Create short videos illustrating C/A features and explaining "how-to's"
- Draft style sheet

NETWORKING & INCLUSION TEAM

- Act as a moderator during a speed networking event
- Table at the MALHM annual conference to represent the N&I Team (and help make buttons!)
- Strategize funding sources for scholarships
- Pilot a new event
- Schedule a guest speaker

MEMBERSHIP TEAM

- Help brainstorm & obtain new membership benefits
- Conduct annual reviews of organizations and check against membership
- Help reach out to potential new members
- Assist with database & spreadsheet upkeep

VOLUNTEER

Many volunteers across Minnesota dedicate their time and resources to preserve and share our collective history. We want to celebrate this contribution year after year. Each MALHM member organization was invited to submit one name for inclusion.

Cal Miner, Kandiyohi County Historical Society

Calista Wolf, Lake of the Woods County Historical Society

Carol Sundquist, Clearwater County Historical Society

Claudia Menzel, Wright County Historical Society

Donna Myhrer, Pennington County Historical Society

Ilene Schmitt, Cold Spring Area Historical Society

Jane Cabaya, Byron Area Historical Society

Joanne Hall, Preston Historical Society

Katherine Hagen, Robbinsdale Historical Society

Lynn Wilson, Washington County Historical Society

Mary Lou Marchand, Beltrami County Historical Society

Mary Pries-Morrison, Gammelgården Museum of Scandia

Pat Kitchings, Mower County Historical Society

Rice Boettcher, History Center of Freeborn County

Richard "Dick" Erdman, Carver County Historical Society

Robert Gandrud, Pope County Historical Society

Vikki Anderson, Hopkins Historical Society

Ward Voorhees, Stevens County Historical Society

RECOGNITION

"Her can-do spirit and dependability are the lifeblood of our organization! Her work has ranged from being an enthusiastic greeter at our annual Festival of Trees, working hard in the Collections area tagging artifacts, or joining in almost every program/presentation we've offered."

"[He] is extremely generous with his time and talents. He not only gets our finances in ship shape, but guides tours, organizes tax records, and helps move large artifacts. We love that he stops in at least once a week."

"[She] has spent countless hours collecting, organizing, and archiving our museum's collection. Over the past few years, she has gone above and beyond and has taken on many management activities of the organization before and throughout the pandemic. On average she gives 100 hours a month to the organization."

"[They] first came to the history center as part of our Discover History program. They have since been a weekly volunteer, coming right after school to volunteer in our Research Library. They have also started writing a history article for the high school newspaper."

THANK YOU!