



A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

TPT- Twin Cities PBS | MN Alliance of Local History Museums | MPTA

MINNESOTA PUBLIC TELEVISION (MPTA)

Minnesota's 6 independent public television stations include:

- WDSE-WRPT (Duluth)
- Lakeland Public TV (Bemidji)
- Pioneer Public TV (Appleton)
- Prairie Public Television (Fargo-Moorhead)
- KSMQ-TV (Austin)
- TPT- Twin Cities PBS

MINNESOTA JOURNEYS BILL HF516 | SF762

- The Minnesota Journeys Bill would fund a **new statewide immigration project** that will engage all Minnesotans in exploring, understanding & preserving our rich history that has shaped who we are today and who we are becoming
- Modeled after the statewide initiative *Minnesota Remembers Vietnam*, Minnesota Journeys will **invite participation** through story-sharing, community engagement events, and education and outreach efforts, and will build a rich collection of documentaries, **preserving our heritage**

MINNESOTA JOURNEYS: Capturing, Sharing & Understanding Our Immigration History

For the past 200 years, migration has shaped and reshaped Minnesota. Many immigrants were drawn by the promise of land or greater freedom. Others came seeking refuge from famine or war. Journeys of hope for some have meant journeys of despair for others, as Native peoples were pushed off ancestral lands. Just 100 years ago, 70% of Minnesotans were either foreign-born or had at least one parent born outside of the United States. Today, while less than 10% of the state's population is foreign-born, most Minnesotans are only one or two generations away from a migration story.

Every person who leaves their home carries something with them: seeds and recipes, holy books and photographs, letters and clothing and tools. These objects tell the stories of the past, of losses and dreams, and of hopes for the future -- together, they tell the story of Minnesota. Twin Cities PBS proposes **Minnesota Journeys**, a statewide public history project that will use objects – or artifacts -- as a lens on Minnesota's past and present. As Steven Lubar and Kathleen Kendrick, historians from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, have noted: *"Artifacts are the touchstones that bring memories and meanings to life. They make history real."*

Minnesota Journeys will include:

- **Story Wall:** TPT will create an easy-to-use, digital space where Minnesotans can share objects, and the stories behind them, that illuminate Minnesota migrations. In addition to open invitations for sharing, TPT will hold "story collection" days at which community members are encouraged to bring key objects and record the stories they hold. Throughout the project, TPT will promote broad participation – through collaboration with educators and schools, partnerships with county historical societies and libraries, cross-generational story-sharing opportunities, and more.
- **Original documentaries:** TPT and its partners will create documentary content exploring the different people who have sought and found home in Minnesota, what that has meant to them, and how they have shaped our state.
- **Artist Insights:** TPT will commission and curate art from multiple Minnesota artists, across genres, inspired by the objects shared on the Story Wall. The artists' work will be shared via long- and/or short-form media, and at in-person exhibits or performances. The art will serve to inspire deeper understanding and spark reflection and dialogue about who we are, and where we have come from, as Minnesotans.
- **Collections:** TPT and its partners will curate "collections" of objects and stories that illuminate key aspects of Minnesota's history, producing broadcast, interactive and potentially print content that explores and preserves the narratives of our shared past as a legacy for future generations.

The story of Minnesota – like the nation overall – is a story of migrations. Especially as we enter a Census year, this initiative will provide important and rich opportunities for Minnesotans of all ages to explore, understand and preserve the history that has shaped who we are today and who we are becoming.