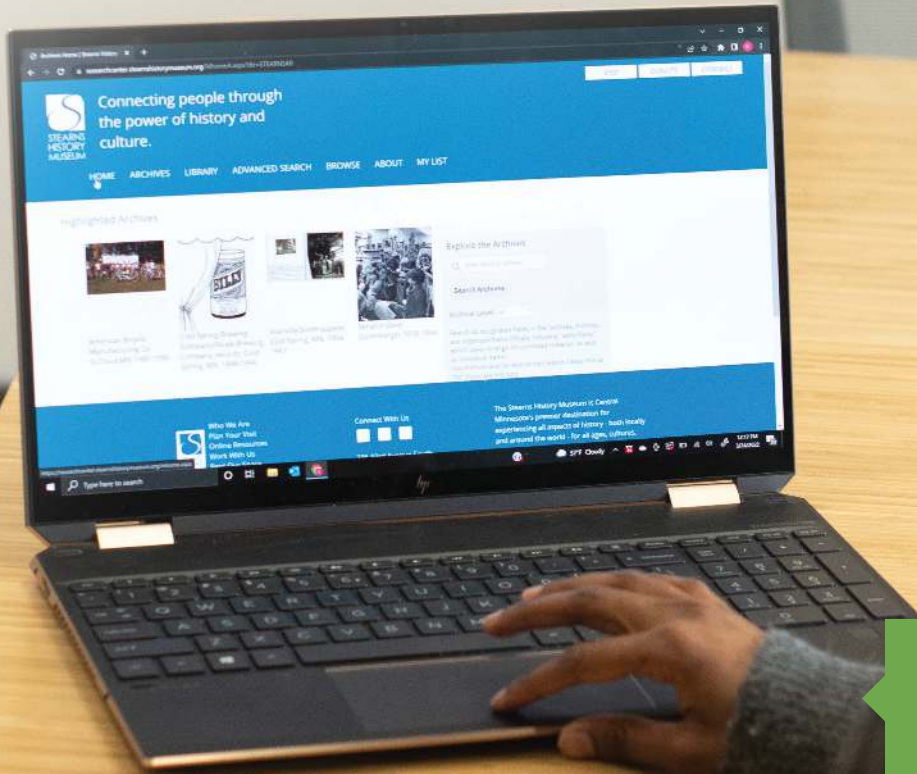




ANNUAL REPORT

2021



**UPDATED ARCHIVES
& LIBRARY CATALOGS
NOW AVAILABLE**



INCOME

County Appropriation	\$620,000
Admissions & Program Revenue	\$19,601
Memberships	\$45,698
Special Events	\$0
Annual Giving	\$65,717
Grant Revenue	\$19,000
Rental Income	\$4,225
Other Income	\$55,438
In-Kind Donations	\$130,325
Total Income	\$960,004
Gross Profit	\$960,004

EXPENSES

Museum Store	\$2,229
Exhibit Gallery	\$9,052
Program	\$14,014
Research & Archives	\$12,621
Collection & Preservation	\$3,229
Publications	\$12,009
Affiliate Funding	\$1,501
Membership & Donor Program	\$14,484
Marketing & Fundraising	\$31,192
Grant Expenditures	\$7,377
Wage & Benefit Expenses	\$508,585
Insurance	\$17,936
Professional Fees	\$14,174
General Office Expenditures	\$142,201
Dues & Subscriptions	
Continuing Education, Travel	\$2,365
Equipment & Service Contracts	\$18,075
Building Maintenance	\$53,877
Utilities	\$52,724
Total Expenses	\$917,645
Net Operating Income	\$42,359

OTHER INCOME

Unrealized Gain on Endowment	\$39,664
Total Other Income	\$39,664

OTHER EXPENSES

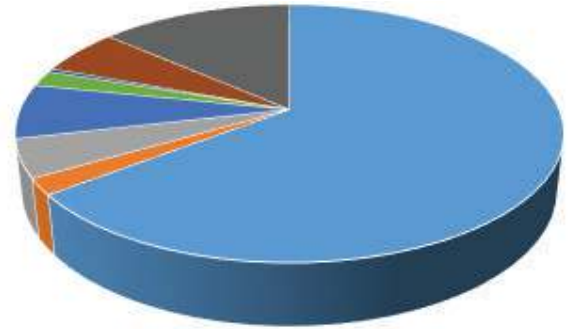
Depreciation Expense	\$79,597
Total Other Expenses	\$79,597
Net Other Income	\$39,933
Net Income	\$2,426

The Numbers

BEHIND MAKING HISTORY.

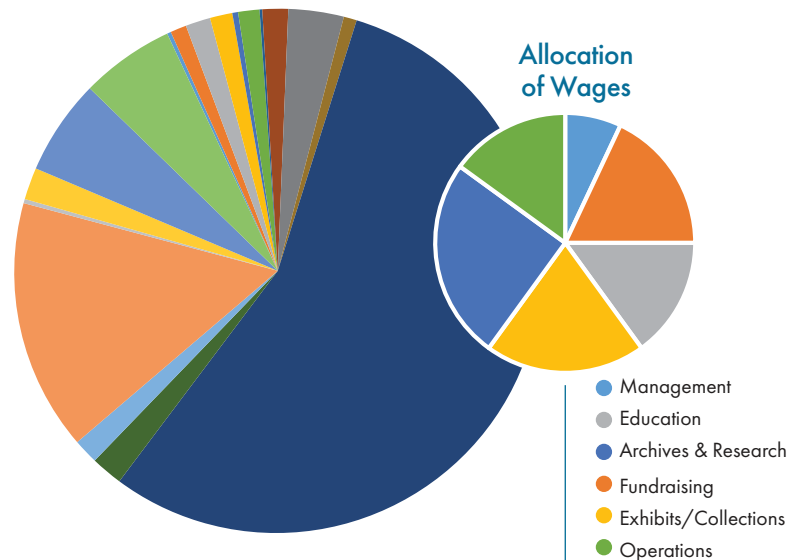
SEE PAGE 4 FOR BUILDING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CHART

INCOME BY SOURCE



- County Appropriation
- Admissions & Program Revenue
- Memberships
- Special Events
- Annual Giving
- Grant Revenue
- Rental Income
- Other Income
- In-Kind Donations

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



- Museum Store
- Exhibit Gallery
- Program
- Research & Archives
- Collection & Preservation
- Publications
- Affiliate Funding
- Membership & Donor Program
- Marketing & Fundraising
- Grant Expenditures
- Wage and Benefit Expenses
- Insurance
- Professional Fees
- General Office Expenditures
- Dues & Subscriptions,
- Continuing Education, Travel
- Equipment & Service Contracts
- Building Maintenance
- Utilities

2021 Financial statement is not audited. The 2021 audit and 990 will be available on our website Fall 2022.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Patricia "Pat" Webber, secretary
Susan Palmer, treasurer

Chuck Rau
Elizabeth Reisinger
Philip Terry
Dan Tideman
Andrew Windschitl

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John Bodette
Derek Larson
Christopher Lehman
Stephanie Peterson

EX-OFFICIO

Jeff Mergen



Resiliency:

**THE ABILITY TO WITHSTAND ADVERSITY AND
BOUNCE BACK FROM DIFFICULT LIFE EVENTS**

At the end of 2021, I began to think about resiliency after another pandemic-filled year. We are a resilient people. We carry on and we overcome. We flex in all the ways that allow us to continue. We sell dinner curbside, we deliver groceries and, when necessary, we teach our children over video platforms. We reach out to our family and friends, our colleagues and business associates, in all the ways we safely can, and this supports and affirms us. Our relationships are kept vibrant, our jobs meaningful, our economy sustained. We invent miraculous medicines; we treat the sick even when the need is overwhelming and the work dangerous. All of this moves us forward; forward because we understand forward is the only sensible direction.

In 2021, the Stearns History Museum was remarkably resilient. Despite the difficulties of the continuing pandemic and along with its restrictions and losses, the Stearns History Museum did wonderful, engaging work. Our galleries were revamped and updated. Our programming was expansive and fun. Our staff overcame ever-changing hardships and realities, and found ways to continue to engage our community with the following:

- Expanded online program offerings including *Whippersnapper Hour* for children ages 7 to 13, *Harvest History*, *Historic Cocktails with Caitlin*, *Stories of Our Stuff*, and *Stories of Your Stuff*

- An online portal on our website for you to tell your stories and upload pictures and videos related to topics such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, the anniversary of 9-11, how the George Floyd's death impacted your life, and daily life in Stearns County
- Outdoor programming to allow us to gather during the pandemic including *Dig Like an Archeologist* for children, WWII Living Experience events, the Historic Harvest Festival, and *Hops and History: A Celebration of Brewing in Stearns County*
- New community connection opportunities such as Donuts With the Director on Saturday mornings, a website expansion, and the new Minnesota Voices Book Club with UniteCloud to connect history to diversity, equity and inclusion topics that impact our community

It is this resiliency that keeps the Stearns History Museum moving forward and will help us to serve our community for years to come.

DORRAINE LARISON
SHM 2021 Board of
Directors President





CONNECTING US THROUGH THE POWER OF HISTORY AND CULTURE ...

how did history influence you in 2021?

At the Stearns History Museum, we lived our mission to **connect people through the power of history and culture** every day in 2021.

It was our intent that every program **inspired** our community to learn about their past and consider how it influences their present.

We looked for ways to **engage** with you, even when we couldn't be together in person. We added to our collection of online program offerings throughout the year. If you haven't yet engaged with one of our historic cocktail lessons, or jumped on board with an adventure through *Stories of Our Stuff*, you're missing out! I encourage you to visit our website and choose the VISIT button to find more opportunities to discover our local history.

Our members, friends and community **thrived** through another year of the pandemic by visiting the museum. Live programs and new exhibits offered something for

everyone. Have you seen our remodeled exhibit galleries? Many discovered how Stearns County rose to the crisis during World War II and explored the history of 33rd & Cooper, aka Electrolux, in St. Cloud.

Whether you joined one of our partner organizations to dive into topical history or looking for a rainy afternoon activity, the Museum offered something for everyone in 2021.

We **preserved** your treasures for future generations to enjoy. If you didn't sign up for a "Behind the Curtain" tour in 2021, you'll have another opportunity in 2022. Prefer to do research projects from the comfort of your couch? Enjoy searching our updated catalog and organizing your research visit from anywhere in the world.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to another historical year in 2022.

Thank you for your continuing support!

CARIE ESSIG
Executive Director



Collections & Exhibits

2021 is in the books. It most defiantly did not go quietly into that good night. Although the world outside was turned upside down, here at the museum, snug and warm in the safety of our cinderblock, we focused on positive change. Perhaps if we could kindle a light in the darkness, no matter how small, some would sneak out into the greater good.

In Exhibits and Collections, we began January by tearing out approximately a third of the mezzanine in the main gallery space, which cleared the path for a complete redesign of that portion of the gallery. Next came brand new carpeting, paint and millwork.

New gallery space means new exhibits. *Rising to The Crisis*, *33rd and Cooper*, and a rejigging of the granite exhibit resulted. Traveling exhibits continued to be hosted in the lobby and Galleys 2&3, including the *Minnesota's Secret Language School*, *League of Women Voters*, *Why We Fight*, and *Green Card Voices*.

Collaboration with Programs continued throughout the year. We produced a 20-plus minute video, "I'll Be Seeing You," which was designed to support the WWII exhibit as well as be a stand-alone tool for school groups and

educational programming. We hosted two WWII living history events, a fall Harvest Festival and Hops and History, showcasing the history of brewing in Stearns County. We also continued to create videos and online content.

February saw the addition of Registrar Greta Beck to the staff. With Greta on board we were really able to grab the collections tiger by the tail and snap it into shape. We caught up with accessioning for the first time in years and made fantastic progress with collections management. Alas, Greta moved to Wyoming in October to pursue other interests — we wish her well!

As the year drew to a close, we began preparing for the upcoming accreditation inspection which demands that we have all of our ducks in a neat and organized row. That project will be a focus in 2022 as well as some major policy rewrites.

2021 was a difficult year for everybody, but I believe that we made the best of it and continue to make major strides into the future.

ERIC CHEEVER

Exhibits & Collections Curator

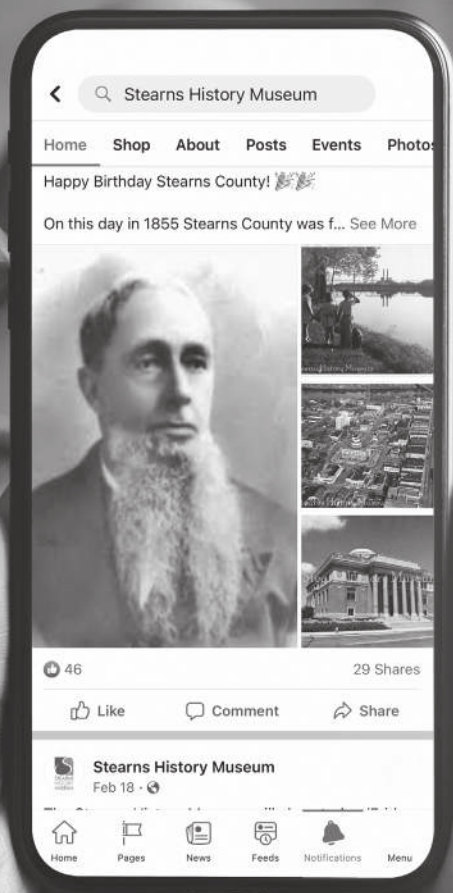


“ 2021 WAS A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR EVERYBODY, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE MADE THE BEST OF IT AND CONTINUE TO MAKE MAJOR STRIDES INTO THE FUTURE.

— ERIC CHEEVER

”





5,765 FOLLOWERS
5,662 LIKES



989 FOLLOWERS



207 SUBSCRIBERS



2,044 SUBSCRIBERS

mailchimp

TOP 3 FACEBOOK POSTS

#1 FEB 20, 2021 STEARNS COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: TACO VILLA

The post reached 37,000-plus people with 2,500-plus reactions, comments and shares. Around 1,500 likes, or other reactions, were from shares alone. The reach was completely organic, meaning we did not boost this with an ad.

Jul 23, 2021 The drought years of the 1930s

This post reached 20,000-plus people with 1,000-plus reactions, comments and shares. Around 200 likes (or other reactions) were from shares alone. This reach was partially organic with 6,600 from reach being paid.

April 4, 2021 Stearns County Spotlight: Dietman's Grocery Store

This post reached 16,000-plus people with 1,000-plus reactions, comments and shares. Around 600 likes, or other reactions, were from shares alone. The reach again was completely organic.



35K
PEOPLE
organically
reached

When I think back on 2021 ...

I think about trying new things and letting our creativity kind of run wild. We were not sure what we would even be able to do, programmatically speaking. We knew there would be videos and virtual events, but we also knew that we wanted to bring our members and visitors back to the museum. That meant being both innovative and flexible with the 2021 slate of programs.

- We brought back our WWII Living History event, but split it into two separate weekends. The first event focused on the military aspect, with antique vehicles and reenactors in uniform, while the second weekend focused on life on the Homefront. I also put my newly-acquired video making skills to use by creating a 20-minute video for the new WWII exhibit, which premiered that weekend and is still on display.
- We also saw 2021 as an opportunity to launch our Minnesota Voices Book Club with Christopher Lehman starting us off with a two-part discussion of his book, *Slavery's Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State*. So far, these talks have been conducted virtually, via Zoom, but that could change as things begin to shift over the next year or so.
- In the past, one of our biggest Fall events was Halloween Historia. But we saw the COVID break as the right time to shift our fall programming back towards history and celebrate two things that have a rich past in Stearns County: agriculture and brewing. We did this with our Family Harvest Festival and then our Hops and History: A Celebration of Brewing event. Both events took place mostly on our Museum Plaza, and everyone who attended had a blast. They will both be back in 2022.
- Of course, we continued putting content on YouTube, although we definitely had to slow down due to the return of in-person programming. But our most recent series, *Now and Then*, has been pretty popular, so if you haven't checked it out yet, please do!

CAITLIN CARLSON
Program Director



Programs



Top: Greta Beck is filmed by Caitlin Carlson for "I'll Be Seeing You: Communication in WWII." Bottom: The Schwinghamer cows embrace their heritage at October's Hops and History event.

“ ...WE KNEW THAT
WE WANTED TO
BRING OUR MEMBERS
AND VISITORS BACK
TO THE MUSEUM.

— CAITLIN CARLSON

”

IT'S HERE!

Our new catalog, launched in August, totals over 90,000 records of which 40,000 are newly searchable. What does this mean? Instead of a summary of contents, researchers can now dig deeper in our archival collections to find specific materials. So, improved search results! The catalog also allows staff to create online photo exhibits and researchers to save search results to a personalized list. Keep an eye out for exciting projects! We are grateful for support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that allowed us to complete one of our long-term goals.

COLLECTION STORAGE SHELVES, BOXES, AND MORE

Staff have been working over the past year to increase space for incoming collections while managing our current holdings. The process involves streamlining the content of storage boxes, reorganizing materials, and of course, purchasing shelves. Thanks in part to a generous donor, area Stearns County Lions Clubs, and a Central Minnesota Library Exchange grant, we were able to expand our storage options to better preserve our materials while making them more accessible.

HITTING THE ROAD

How are our collections used? Really, across the board. Our photographs, documents, and recordings help others tell a story in a variety of formats outside the organization.

- KSTP TV Minneapolis/St. Paul used photos from our collection in their feature about Samuel Pandolfo and the Pan Motor Company.
- SHM partnered with GREAT Theatre to provide information for their summer children's camp.
- Organizers planning an All-School Reunion for District 63 in Zion Township are utilizing our photos and documents in their upcoming celebration.
- Over two dozen Sinclair Lewis and Stearns County Main Street photos were incorporated into the online production, "The Life and Loves of Sinclair Lewis," produced by Jim Gambone.
- A Norwegian researcher published a book that featured one his St. Cloud Swedish relatives.



OUTREACH

Research Center staff bring our resources to your door through in-person and online audiences. Here's a snapshot of where we've recently been.

- CSB/SJU Community Engagement Day, Stearns County Granite: A Story Set in Stone
- Realife Cooperative: Day Tripping, Exploring Stearns County and Minnesota Historical Destinations
- Stearns County Fair: Future Farmers of America, "A Golden Past — A Brighter Future"
- St. Cloud Area Genealogists: Primary Sources in Historical Societies presentation; Genealogy 101 online program
- Central Minnesota Library Exchange: Reading with Libraries Podcast — Family Histories

STEVE PENICK
Director of Archives
& Research



Development

2021 was a year of continued opportunities for growth in the world of Development! With COVID-19's on-going impact, general funding and event sponsorship were ever-changing and we found our biggest successes through community partnerships. Four local breweries — Bad Habit, Beaver Island, Pantown, and Third Street — and one cidery — Milk & Honey — joined us for our first Hops & History: A Celebration of Brewing in Stearns County event last fall, now to be an annual tradition. Continued support from UniteCloud ensured that our book club moved forward, giving voice to often absent narratives through the work of Minnesota authors. County Lions Clubs stepped up to purchase shelving and archival boxes for their records in the archives. Volunteers from regional reenacting groups brought WWII to life over the summer. Individual donors provided support for building updates and repairs.

Most importantly, however, was the unwavering contribution of our members. More than 500 members continued their active engagement with the Museum, both virtually and in person. Membership at all levels is a cornerstone that supports daily operations here at SHM and we look forward to celebrating those who have remained steady through a tumultuous few years in May of

2022 with a member appreciation picnic! A new business member program was also launched in 2021, with 23 county entrepreneurs committing to the preservation of the history of work in our region. We will continue to grow and foster those new partnerships as we move forward.

Grant funding also helped move specific projects forward, including an Inspire for Small Museums grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services which was awarded in the fall of 2020 and completed in the fall of 2021. This grant enabled the Research Center and Archives to migrate our online catalog to a new platform, making it more user friendly and accessible. We look forward to the growth of this catalog to include new archival collection records.

We also worked with Sherburne, Benton, and Morrison County museums to prepare and apply for funding through the Central Minnesota Arts Board to support a month-long virtual cultural and heritage series about the work of the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery around the topic of race and community.

Development at the Stearns History Museum is always a work in progress. Thanks for helping us learn, grow, and thrive in Central Minnesota!

AMY DEGERSTROM
Development Director

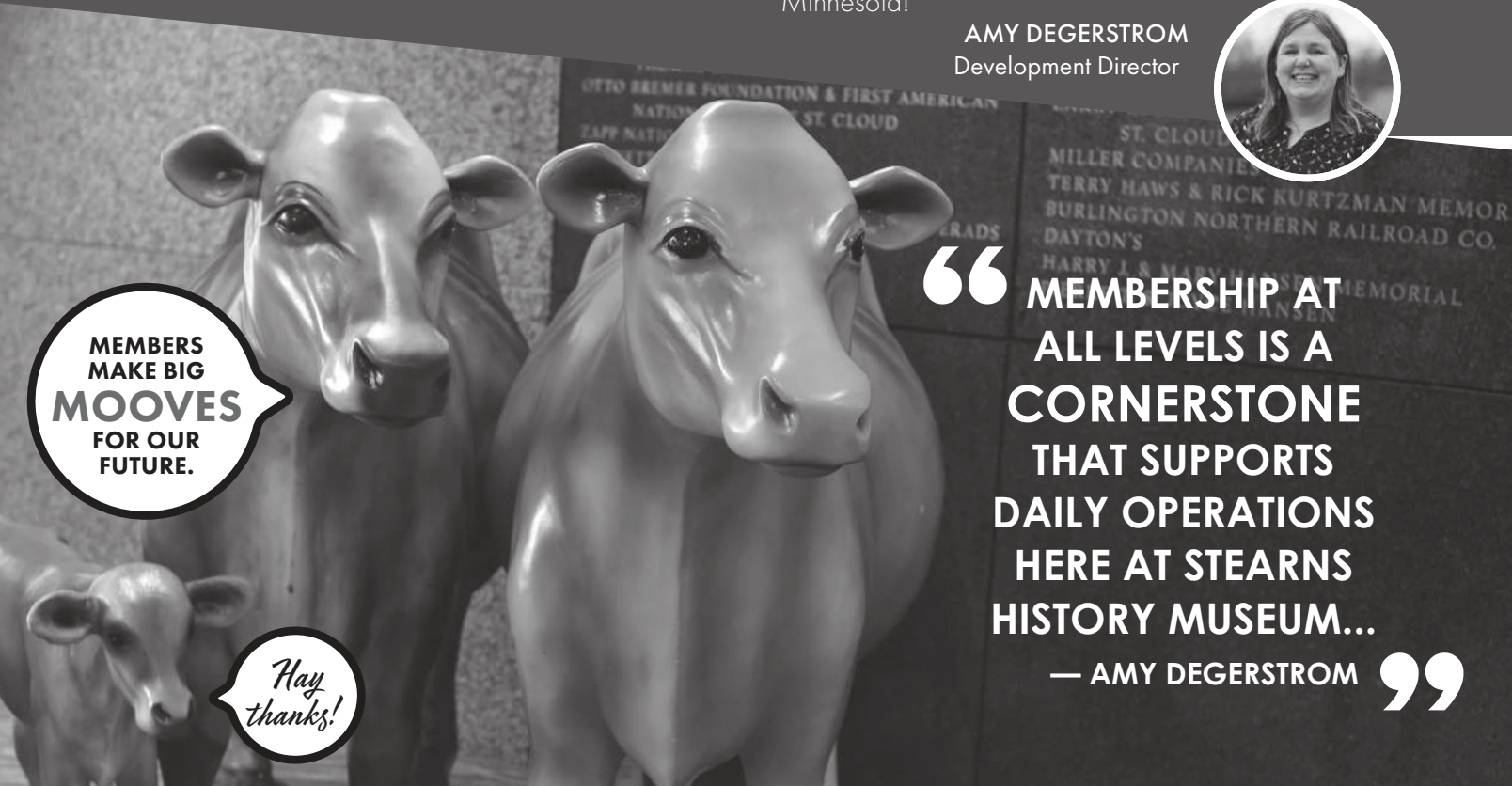


MEMBERS
MAKE BIG
MOOVES
FOR OUR
FUTURE.

*Hay
thanks!*

“MEMBERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS IS A CORNERSTONE THAT SUPPORTS DAILY OPERATIONS HERE AT STEARNS HISTORY MUSEUM...”

— AMY DEGERSTROM ”



Our Donors

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PRESERVE OUR FUTURE

\$5,000+

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