

To: South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees
South Dakota Historical Society Foundation Board

From: Catherine Forsch, CEO
South Dakota Historical Society Foundation
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Subject: Foundation Board Updates

Date: August 2026

Campaign Kick-off & State Museum Ribbon Cutting

Governor Larry Rhoden joined us July 1 for the campaign kick-off and ribbon cutting for the newly renovated State Museum. The event was a wonderful success, with more than 500 guests visiting the Cultural Heritage Center that day.



We celebrated the opening of the museum's first three newly completed exhibits, an exciting milestone made possible in part by the generosity of our early campaign donors. This is just the beginning, with work continuing to complete the remaining exhibits and bring the full museum experience to life.

A special thank you to Board of Trustee member Francis Whitebird for sharing a beautiful Lakota prayer with attendees. We also appreciate Lt. Governor Tony Venhuizen for serving as our emcee and Board President Karly Winter for her encouraging remarks about the museum campaign.

Museum Capital Campaign

If you have not yet made a pledge to the museum capital campaign, we invite you to consider making a gift. Your support will help us complete the remaining exhibits and ensure that this important project reaches its full potential. Please contact Catherine Forsch to learn more about campaign opportunities, including exhibit naming opportunities.

Please consider a gift to help support these important projects:

- “Kylie and the Very Old Cat” by Linda Marshall (children’s picture book, true story about Badlands fossil find by an 8-year-old girl)
- “General William Beadle” (graphic style biography) - written by Justin Blessinger, illustrated by Hector Curriel
- “Buffalo Bill” by Bob Madison (South Dakota Biography Series)
- “Halháta and Ptéńčaka – Magpie and Bison” (Lakota language version board book)
- David Wolff’s Black Hills History Tours (volume 4 & volume 5)

Adopt a collection in the State Archives

Please help us to identify prospects to adopt a digital collection in the State Archives.

By adopting a collection, you will preserve South Dakota's stories told through local photographs and documents. For more information go to www.sdhsf.org/donate/special_projects/saving-sd-digital-collections.html or call Chelle Somsen/Catherine Forsch.

Gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.

Don't forget to purchase your South Dakota gifts from the Heritage stores run by the Foundation. As a State Historical Society member, you receive a 10% discount on store purchases. Call Juli if you need assistance placing your order. 605-773-6001

www.sdhsf.org/store/shopnow.html

Upcoming Events

History Talks 7pm CT / 6pm MT

Register at www.sdhsf.org/events

September & October History Talks will be held in person at the Cultural Heritage Center and via Zoom.

September 15 – Nancy Tystad Koupal's provides insight on her new book "The Footsteps of Laura Ingalls Wilder: An Editor's Reflections."

October 13 – Unlocking the Archives: How to Find SD History Online and Onsite