

Cultural Heritage Center Renovation

Department of Education and Bureau of Administration

Overview

Governor Noem’s recommended budget includes funding to support a full renovation of the iconic Cultural Heritage Center (CHC) in Pierre. The \$19.9M package is a combination of state one-time funds, existing maintenance and repair funds, privately raised dollars, and existing museum funds. The CHC houses the state history museum, state archives, South Dakota Historical Society Press, and state historic preservation office.

Each year, the Cultural Heritage Center welcomes more than 16,000 people. In 2019, they came from 49 states and 20 foreign countries. It has been a symbol of South Dakota’s heritage since 1989, when it opened as part of the state’s centennial celebration. Three decades later, it’s time to modernize the facility as a place for South Dakotans, and our guests, to fully experience the state’s rich past and captivating stories.

Project Description

This investment will provide an improved visitor experience in the museum, ensure the integrity of significant artifacts and records, and provide improved educational programming for future generations. The renovation will result in a state-of-the-art museum, including updated exhibits and interactivity. The building’s entry will greet guests with expanded educational and programming spaces, connecting young students, serious historians, and everyone in between with exhibits, resources, and artifacts of interest.

Foundational to the renovation will be improvements to the building’s site and structure, including HVAC and electrical systems. Artifact preservation relies on tightly controlled temperature and humidity levels. The renovation will also incorporate improved access for individuals with disabilities and better accommodate school and tour bus traffic.

The State Historical Society is responsible for collecting and preserving the state’s history. Increased storage space, particularly for the state archives and South Dakota Historical Society Press, will be made available through the updates.

Funding

Funding for this project will be a partnership of the state – specifically through the Department of Education and Bureau of Administration – and the fundraising efforts of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation from 2022 through 2026. The governor’s budget calls for \$8.8 million in General Funds (one time) and authority to spend privately raised funds to support this effort. The M&R funds would come from existing resources.

Revenue Source	Purpose	Estimated cost
General Funds	Renovations	\$8,881,785
Maintenance & Repair Funds	Site, structure, and systems	\$7,743,340
Other Funds	Authority for interactive and enhanced museum exhibits	\$3,301,800
	TOTAL	\$19,926,925