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FOR RELEASE ON Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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BEMIDJI, MN – Beltrami County Historical Society Awarded National Endowments for the Humanities Grant

Beltrami County Historical Society was awarded a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities for its project, Collections Care Training Prioritized for Responsive and Proactive Preservation. The Historical Society was among 61 awardees of 114 eligible applications in this grant round.

The grant, valued at $8,910, will be used to train staff and volunteers at Beltrami County Historical Society to deliver appropriate collections care in response to action items outlined in the Society's 2022 Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) study. The study identified approximately twenty recommendations for the Historical Society to improve its collection preservation, many of which included minor recommendations that contributed to broader goals. Several recommendations directly suggested that our staff and volunteers participate in training; in other instances, completing the directives will require one or more persons acting on those directives to complete training so that our actions align with professional standards.

In light of these recommendations and our existing strategic plan, Beltrami County Historical Society identified five workshops facilitated by the Midwest Art Conservation Center that fulfill our development goals. Two of the five workshops will be delivered by the consultants and expert guests in person at Beltrami County Historical Society in Bemidji (condition reports and the care and handling of Native American Collections). We look forward to opening this workshop to up to thirteen other participants to build our regional wisdom on these critical topics; more information to follow for workshop dates and registration. Grant work may begin after January 1, 2024.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

Formed in 1952, Beltrami County Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares the history of the people, land, and stories of Beltrami County to honor our past, to understand our present, and to build our future. Additional information about the Beltrami County Historical Society may be found on our

website: beltramihistory.org, or by visiting our museum, archives, and gift shop at 130 Minnesota Ave SW, Bemidji, MN, 56601.