



Cultural Heritage Center

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 state will appropriate \$8,881,785 in one-time funding to support the total renovation cost of \$19,900,000. The remainder of the renovation costs will be completed with maintenance and repair funds as well as privately raised dollars.

Each year, the Cultural Heritage Center welcomes more than 16,000 people. In 2019, visitors came from 49 states and 20 foreign countries. The CHC has been a symbol of South Dakota’s heritage since 1989 and 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. 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.

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