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VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

Mission

Vermont Historical Society believes understanding the past changes lives and builds better communities. Our purpose is to engage Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart with outstanding collections, state-wide outreach, and dynamic programming.

Vision

Every person and every moment create the story of Vermont. Through sharing these collective stories, Vermonters will increase their knowledge of our state's complex past, inform our present, and understand how our unique experiences impact and shape this ongoing narrative.

Goals

PROVIDE Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart the resources to access Vermont's rich historical collections from anywhere in the world.

RECOGNIZE and support local history efforts; understanding that local societies are an integral part of sharing and preserving Vermont's story.

BUILD resilient and connected communities, so Vermonters will understand Vermont's history and its place in the broader world.

ENRICH guests' experience through deeper understanding of Vermont and its people.

1. PROVIDE Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart the resources to access Vermont's rich historical collections from anywhere in the world.

1.1 Statewide digital platform: bring together Vermont's history from across the entire state.

1.2 Research & Exhibition Gallery: engage researchers, educators, and students in pursuit of material culture study.

1.3 Collections inventory: complete an inventory of the objects in the museum collections.

1.4 Library & archives cataloging: unify cataloguing practices and make digitally accessible.

2. RECOGNIZE and support local history efforts; understanding that local societies are an integral part of sharing and preserving Vermont's story.

2.1. Workshops/roundtables: train and support local historical societies and museums.

2.2. Grant program: support local history efforts that reflect a broad and inclusive story of Vermont.

2.3. Support 250th programming/events: highlight the contributions, struggles, and connections of Vermonters.

2.4. Local History Gallery: explore the rich cultural heritage of Vermont through curated exhibits, expanding the focus to support untold and underrepresented narratives.

3. BUILD resilient and connected communities, so Vermonters will understand Vermont's history and its place in the broader world.

3.1. History Day: expand access to the contest and identify pathways for all interested students to participate.

3.2. Provide VT history content/support to teachers and students: become the premier state history resource.

3.3. Digital media: tell nuanced, strategic stories that share a window on the past and how they inform life today.

3.4. Future of traditional publications: evaluate new avenues.

3.5. Redefine membership for a modern history organization.

4. ENRICH guests' experience through deeper understanding of Vermont and its people.

4.1. Update *Freedom & Unity* exhibit: enhance the telling of Vermont stories to drive public engagement.

4.2. Vermont History Center identity: envision a History Center that facilitates inclusive access, supports the mission, and makes the best use of resources and capacity.