

SB 88
HB 5

Montana Heritage Commission

We Share Montana History

Mission:

Our job is to preserve, maintain, protect and develop the state owned historic resources that we manage in Virginia City, Nevada City & Reeder's Alley.

Key Points

1. The State has a responsibility to protect and maintain these historic resources.
2. Our site is an important economic engine in southwest Montana.
3. State funding is critical for attracting other private and federal funds.



Visitor Services

- We operate 7 day a week, lease space to over 25 private businesses, operate a railroad; and service tours, an 800 # and website.
- Virginia City & Nevada City are the 5th most visited tourist destination in Montana.
- State assets in our collection have increased in value to over \$30 million.



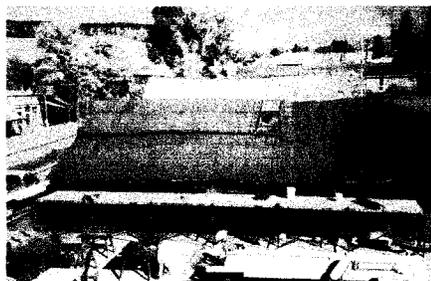
Education & Interpretation

- 100s of living history volunteers provide an authentic experience for visitors.
- History Camp attracts kids from across Montana.
- Volunteers provide assistance on preservation projects, maintenance and site security.

*Virginia City * Nevada City * Reeder's Alley*

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Building Preservation

<< Here, Field school students help replace a sill log.

- We manage 248 buildings in Virginia and Nevada Cities.
- The casual observer does not “see” the improvements; as restoration and structural supports are masked.

<< *these photos show “before and after” work restoring the Contents Corner Building.*

- All our work is done to State and US Interior historic preservation standards.
- A huge backlog of preservation and building stabilization work remains.
- Our team works on stone, brick, log and frame construction, and each project is unique and requires a custom effort.

The new roof “looks” old. Reused materials and masking are used to retain historic character.

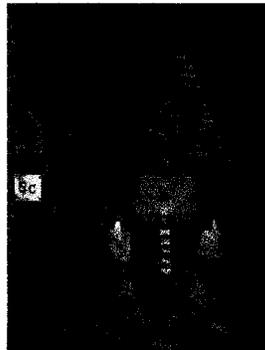
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Curatorial & Archaeology

- Completed catalog & inventory of artifacts.
- Archaeology assessment is part of every building preservation effort.
- We restore and preserve items that are rare or threatened as funding permits.
- Many collections are used by concessionaires and “living history” volunteers.



<< 1910 Gypsy Fortune Teller, restored.

- The MHC manages the largest public collection of music machines in the Nation. Most still operate and are open for public use and enjoyment.



Maintenance

- We operate and maintain a railroad.
- Upgrade water and sewer connections.
- Added fire protection and hydrants.
- Snow removal.
- 1000s of volunteer hours leverage staff resources.

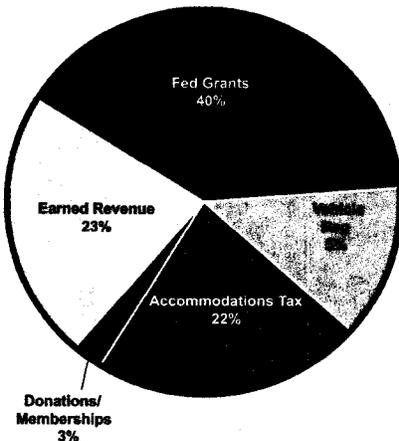


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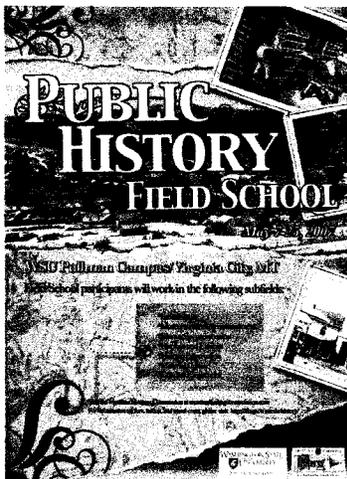
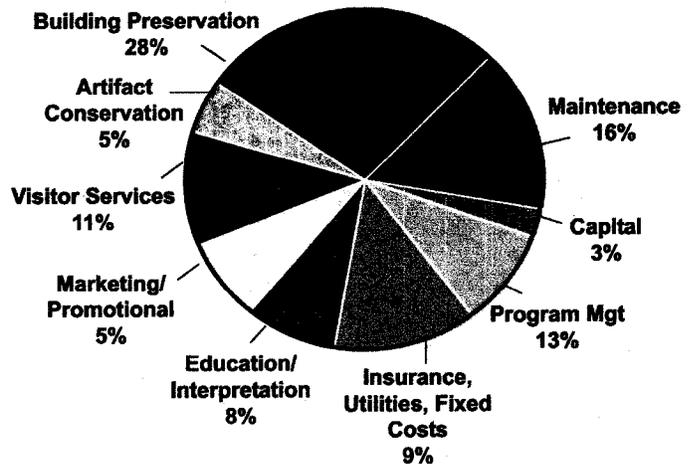
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CY 2005 & 2006

Revenue

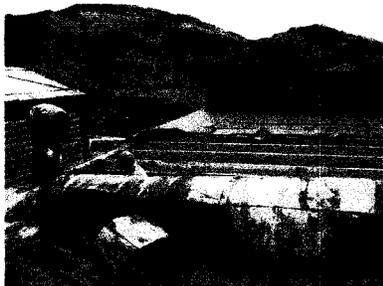


Expenditures



Growth Opportunities

- *The Virginia City Institute:* Our sites are used as a working “research lab” - we offer training in masonry/log restoration, artifact care, stabilization techniques & more...to other agencies in the U.S.
- *Building Ties to Education:* A new partnership with Washington State University is attracting national experts to a new field school program.
- *Expanding Partnerships:* We have strong working relationships with the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, Universities and many others.



MHC preservation crew lends a hand with a project in Bannack.

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