



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION

FINANCIAL-COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Montana Historical Society

For the Two Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2010

SEPTEMBER 2010

10-24

REPORT SUMMARY

The Montana Historical Society (society) had approximately 60,000 people visit its museum and archives facility in fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010. The Museum collection contains over 50,000 artifacts including art and three-dimensional artifacts relating to Montana history and culture. The best known works in the art collection (8,000 pieces) are by Montana's "Cowboy Artist" Charles M. Russell. Another major art collection represents the life work of sculptor Bob Scriver (3,000 pieces). The society also houses approximately 30,000 linear feet of state, local government, and private records.

Context

The Montana Historical Society (society) was established in 1865 to acquire, preserve, and protect for future generations historical records, art, archival and museum objects, historical places, sites and monuments important to the understanding of Montana history. The society was supported by approximately 14,300 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010. Volunteers provided school tours, helped with social functions, assisted in the museum, and clerical work.

Recommendation Concurrence	
Concur	2
Partially Concur	1
Do Not Concur	0
Source: Agency audit response included in final report.	

Results

We identified several instances where the society does not have controls in place to ensure financial activity is recorded in accordance with state policy and complies with applicable regulations. These instances included the improper recording of assets, recording of adjustments, and the recovery of indirect costs.

We identified unconstitutional investment activity totalling \$761,154.

For a complete copy of the report or for further information, contact the Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122; e-mail to lad@mt.gov; or check the website at <http://leg.mt.gov/audit>. Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse to the Legislative Auditor's FRAUD HOTLINE Call toll-free 1-800-222-4446, or e-mail lad@mt.gov.