

FINANCIAL-COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Montana Historical Society

For the Two Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2012

NOVEMBER 2012

12-24

REPORT SUMMARY

The Montana Historical Society is one of the oldest institutions of its kind west of the Mississippi River, which is responsible for managing Montana historic treasures. Approximately 57,000 people visited its museum and archives facility in fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012.

### Context

The Museum collection (over 50,000 artifacts) contains art and three-dimensional artifacts relating to all aspects of Montana history and culture. Of the 8,000 pieces of art represented in the collections, the best-known works are by Montana's "Cowboy Artist" Charles M. Russell. This collection (numbering over 200 pieces - 24 major oils, 33 major watercolors, 40 pen and inks, 15 original models, 60 bronzes, and 34 illustrated letters) is one of the most significant collections of Russell art anywhere. Another major art collection represents the life work of sculptor Bob Scriver (3,000 pieces).

The research center program consists of the library, archives, and photograph archives functions. The society houses approximately 30,000 linear feet of state, local government, and private records. The archive collection is constantly growing.

*Montana the Magazine of Western History* showcases the people, places, and events that shaped the state and the western region. The magazine has won numerous awards in the past two years, including the 2012 Arrington-Prucha Prize for best Western Religious History from the Western History Association.

The Montana Historical Society Press provides educational outreach for the Montana Historical Society by publishing readable and provocative books for students and adults focusing on the history and cultural resources of Montana. In 2011, *Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana* won the High Plains Book Award for Best Nonfiction.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office works together with all Montanans to promote the preservation of our state's historic and cultural places. In 2011, the State Historic Preservation Office initiated the Montana Post World War II (1945-1965) Architectural Survey and inventory. The project identified, documented, and evaluated selected properties from Montana's post war period.

The society was supported by approximately 13,000 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012. Volunteers provided school tours, helped with social functions, assisted in the museum, and performed clerical work. The Friends of the Society volunteer organization is celebrating its 40th year in 2012.

## Results

We audited the fiscal year 2010-11 and fiscal year 2011-12 financial schedules and tested compliance with state laws and federal regulation. This report contains no recommendations to the society resulting in an unqualified opinion.

Recommendation Concurrence	
Concur	0
Partially Concur	0
Do Not Concur	0
<b>Source: Agency audit response included in final report.</b>	

For a complete copy of the report (12-24) or for further information, contact the Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122; e-mail to [lad@mt.gov](mailto:lad@mt.gov); or check the web site at <http://leg.mt.gov/audit>  
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