

February 7, 2019

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Haila,

The Ames Historical Society Board and staff are alarmed to learn of a recommended 16% cut from City funding received in FY18/19. We provide important services to the community as the only organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing local history.

The following services (and others) are provided as part of the contract with the City of Ames:

- Present programs and open houses to the public, community groups, homeschool groups, visiting groups and individuals from out of town, and class reunions
- Host open hours at the History Center and Hoggatt School (Ames' first schoolhouse)
- Create high-quality exhibits at the History Center and in the community
- Research questions about Ames history and make resources available on our website
- Catalog collection objects to document and preserve the history of the community
- Present an engaging hands-on Ames history program to 3rd graders
- Collaborate with community organizations to provide exhibits, events, and programs

We consistently deliver on goals set out in the City contract, even with a small staff of just 2 ¾ full-time employees. Each feature exhibit at the History Center strives to be of higher quality than the previous exhibit. Each year, more objects are cataloged, more collaborative projects happen, and more research questions are answered.

After feedback from City Council, we added Saturday hours at the History Center. We are also open during community events such as Music Walk, the Octagon Art Festival, and Snow Magic.

About 27% of our annual income comes from governmental sources (City of Ames and Story County). We have been successful at pursuing additional funding from grants, businesses, and individual members. While we do not rely only on City funding, it is a critical part of our budget.

In the past, Council has awarded a small increase to Ames Historical Society funding each fiscal year. We have a track record of successfully achieving our goals and are proven partners with the City of Ames. We respectfully ask that Council approve our full funding request of \$45,200, a small increase over FY18/19.

Sincerely,

Sharon Wirth and Peter Hallock
Ames Historical Society Co-Presidents

Casie Vance
Ames Historical Society Executive Director