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Twelve Heritage Institutions in Dakotas Selected to Receive Free Collections Assessments, Host Workshops

PIERRE, S.D. – The Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI) has selected 12 heritage institutions in North Dakota and South Dakota to receive free collections assessments and host collections care workshops this summer. These institutions were chosen through a competitive process that drew applications from more than 40 museums, archives and libraries across the two states.

Selected South Dakota institutions include the Gregory County Historical Society in Dallas, Yankton County Historical Society in Yankton, Fort Sisseton Historic State Park in Lake City, Timber Lake and Area Historical Society and Museum in Timber Lake, Tri State Museum in Belle Fourche, and Keystone Area Historical Society Museum in Keystone.

Selected North Dakota institutions include Griggs County Historical Society in Cooperstown, Ox Cart Trails Historical Society in Drayton, Northwest Art Gallery in Minot, Lewis and Clark Trail Museum in Alexander, Stoxen Library in Dickinson, and Pioneer Trails Regional Museum in Bowman.

“The number of applications received shows the commitment of staff and volunteers to improve the preservation of heritage collections across the two states,” said Chelle Somsen, project co-director for DCCI and state archivist for the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, a DCCI partner. “These assessments and hands-on workshops will increase understanding of the best practices in collections care at small- and mid-sized heritage institutions and build a network of individuals committed to good stewardship of collections so they are available to future generations.”

Free workshops open to all staff and volunteers from area museums, libraries and archives will be held at the host institutions in North Dakota in May and June and in South Dakota in August and September. Workshop details and registration information will be available by mid-April on the South Dakota State Historical Society website www.history.sd.gov.

Other DCCI partners include the Association of South Dakota Museums, North Dakota Library Association, Plains Art Museum in Fargo, South Dakota State Library, and State Historical Society of North Dakota. Terri Schindel, a conservator affiliated with the Museum Training Network, will lead the institutional assessments and training workshops.

The project is made possible by a two-year Connecting to Collections implementation grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. To learn more about the Institute, visit www.imls.gov.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.