

**For Immediate Release**

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**Share Your Voice in Rock County and See Design Concepts on a New, Modern  
Wisconsin History Museum**

Janesville, WI. – The Rock County community is invited to join the Wisconsin Historical Society on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018, to share their thoughts and ideas and see design concepts for a new, modern, state history museum on Wisconsin's Capitol Square in Madison. The goal of these sessions is to get feedback from educators, families, business leaders, and every sector of the public.

"The input we receive at these public workshops will help shape future exhibits and storylines," said Christian Overland, Ruth and Hartley Barker Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society. "We want the public to know that the new state history museum project is about more than bricks and mortar, it will connect to and tell the stories of Wisconsinites from all 72 counties."

During these sessions, guests will have the opportunity to share feedback on current design concepts and share their thoughts on "What makes Wisconsin, Wisconsin." This is an opportunity for the public to be a part of this process and to provide their vision of how the new museum can represent their community and the state to create relevant stories that have local significance and national impact.

The event will be held at The Rock County Historical Society, 426 N Jackson St, Janesville, WI 53548 on Thursday, Nov. 1 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The evening will start with light refreshments and an introduction to the new museum project. Heritage Rock County, the consortium of Historical Societies in Rock County is the local partner for the event.

"We are so excited to have the State Historical Society visit Rock County and share their vision for the new museum," said Tim Maahs, executive director of the Rock County Historical Society. "This is the perfect platform for our voices to be heard."

The Wisconsin Historical Society will be holding over 30 Statewide Engagement events which include 19 public community events and 14 American Indian nation community events across the state over the next year. All sessions are free and open to the public. Guests can pre-register and find an event close to them at [wihist.org/yourvoice](http://wihist.org/yourvoice).

"As we hold more listening workshops across the state it is important for us to be inclusive and understand what types of stories and programs our guests would like in the new history museum," Overland continued. "We also want to understand how we can better serve our audiences in their towns and cities because we feel that everyone should feel welcomed in this museum, whether they visit in person or participate digitally."

The Wisconsin Historical Society has been working towards building a new \$120 million, 100,000-square-foot museum for more than 20 years. The new museum will more than double exhibition space, and include state-of-the-art technology while providing learning, meeting and flexible spaces. The new museum will reach and connect people all across the state through distance learning technology and exciting, modern exhibits.

For more information on the Wisconsin Historical Society visit [wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org).

### **About Wisconsin Historical Society**

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).

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