



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOUTH CAROLINA'S ONLY STATEWIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Since 1855, the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS) has collected, protected, published, and shared the history of the state. It is the state's oldest and largest private repository of books, letters, journals, maps, drawings, and photographs about South Carolina history. In addition to maintaining a research library, archives, and museum, the SCHS sponsors programs and publications throughout the state which expose students, teachers, scholars and the public to the history and culture of South Carolina. It also cares for the Robert Mills Fireproof Building, one of the state's most iconic historic structures.

After 167 years of caring for some of the state's most important historic documents and artifacts, this institution is struggling financially. Despite a 30% cut in staff and other cost-saving efforts, the organization is forced to withdraw funds from its small endowment in order to operate. In most other states, historical societies receive recurring funding from their respective state legislature. The SCHS is requesting the same.

- The SCHS is a four-star charity, rated by Charity Navigator, which attests to its transparency and good governance.
- Since 1900, the SCHS has published the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, an award-winning academic journal that focuses on cutting-edge scholarship. It is the only such journal in the nation.
- The SCHS Museum, which tells the story of "The People, The Place, and The Promise" of South Carolina, is visited by over 4000 people each year.
- The SCHS Archives, which serves students, teachers, scholars, and genealogists, has over 2000 in-person researchers each year and thousands more are served by phone and email. These researchers have come from 44 states and 15 countries to visit the collection of the SCHS.
- For over a century, the SCHS has preserved the history of our state at no cost to taxpayers. Just a few of the outstanding items that have been stored, secured, and conserved include:
 - Land Grant from Lord Anthony Ashley Cooper to Governor Joseph West (1690)
 - The Henry Laurens Papers (includes letters from George Washington)
 - Eliza Lucas Pinckney's Receipt Book and Letterbook
 - Francis Marion's Powder Horn and Pistol
 - Charleston's Slave Mart Flag (only one in existence)
 - The Secession Banner (flew over delegates signing the Secession Ordinance in 1860)
- The SCHS provides valuable assistance to public teachers through professional development, lesson plans, traveling trunks, and exhibits.
- Both the Georgia Historical Society and Virginia Historical Society receive state funds. The state government of North Carolina oversees the North Carolina Historical Association (the NC Historical Society does not collect items).

REQUEST: \$500,000 per year.