



## Wyoming Historical Society

Executive Committee

March 12, 2025

Dear Valued Members,

This letter is to inform you of a significant change in the relationship between the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming Historical Foundation.

After careful consideration, thorough research, and extensive deliberation, our Executive Committee has made the decision to formally separate from the Wyoming Historical Foundation effective immediately.

This decision was not made lightly. For many years, our partnership with the Wyoming Historical Foundation has been instrumental in the creation of and continued growth of the Wyoming Historical Foundation's long-term endowment. We deeply appreciate the support and collaboration we have received.

As a reminder, the approximate \$750,000 that resides with the Wyoming Community Foundation as the Wyoming Historical Foundation's Long-Term Endowment was and is considered an irrevocable gift from the Wyoming Historical Foundation to the Wyoming Community Foundation and can never be withdrawn or cashed out. Only a portion of the yearly dividends from that endowment were shared with the Wyoming Historical Society, an amount that resulted in less than \$20,000 annually.

The funds received from the Wyoming Historical Foundation were limited to earmarked donations and annual dividends from the Wyoming Community Foundation's endowment fund. This relationship had constrained the Wyoming Historical Society from initiating additional, critical fundraising campaigns and seeking further donations to sustain the Wyoming Historical Society's operating budget at an optimal level.

However, as the Wyoming Historical Society (WHS) has grown and evolved, our Executive Committee determined that a separate and independent structure would best serve our long-term strategic goals and the needs of the communities we serve. This separation will allow us to:

- **Enhance the Wyoming Historical Society's Autonomy and Flexibility**
  - This will allow both the WHS to pursue our unique vision, mission, and strategic goals more freely and to foster a higher rate of growth and long-term sustainability.
- **Improved Wyoming Historical Society Brand Identity and Recognition**
  - As a stand-alone entity, the Wyoming Historical Society can further establish and strengthen our own brand while gaining recognition for our specific projects, work and community impact.
  - Reach a wider range of supports, both financially, professionally, and through volunteerism
  - We can better initiate, enhance, and fortify our professional partner relationships with other organizations

- **Secure Diversified Funding Opportunities**

- Being separate from the Wyoming Historical Foundation allows the Wyoming Historical Society to seek alternative funds, apply for program grants, launch capital campaigns, and pursue partnerships and donations that were previously restricted by our prior relationship with the Wyoming Historical Foundation.
- This reduces the Wyoming Historical Society’s reliance and dependence on a single, limited, source of funding. Having diversified funding opportunities will lead the Society to greater financial stability and sustainability.

The Executive Committee and Staff of the Wyoming Historical Society are fully committed to advancing our fundraising efforts. We are dedicated to exploring and implementing innovative strategies to generate alternative sources of funding. We are confident that these new initiatives will significantly surpass the financial support previously received from the Wyoming Historical Foundation. Our goal is to ensure a robust and sustainable financial base for the Wyoming Historical Society, enabling us to continue preserving and promoting Wyoming's rich historical heritage.

We want to assure you that this separation is amicable and that we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition. We are confident that this change will strengthen the Wyoming Historical Society and enable us to more effectively pursue our mission.

We understand that you may have questions, and we are committed to providing you with clear and transparent information. Please reach out to us at 307.322.3014 or at [info@wyshs.org](mailto:info@wyshs.org).

We value your continued partnership and support as we embark on this new chapter. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and remain dedicated to serving our community with integrity and excellence. Thank you for your understanding and continued commitment to Wyoming Historical Society.

Respectfully,

The Wyoming Historical Society Executive Committee

/s/

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