

April 10, 2024

Chair Founj Hawj  
Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
Assistant Majority Leader, MN State Senate  
95 University Avenue W. Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5285

Dear Chair Hawj:

I am writing this letter to testify and asking you and your committee's full support of the SF No. 5065/HF No. 4996, which is "appropriating money to celebrate 50 years of Hmong and Southeast Asian communities in Minnesota." All of your support of this legislation will provide the Southeast Asian communities and/or organizations the opportunities to organize, curate, and develop educational programs for all Minnesotans to come learn about their sacrifices and human stories that began here 50 years ago. This Anniversary will have life-changing, strong impacts for these communities and all Minnesotans as they come to pay tribute, honor, celebrate, and bring closure and healing from the Vietnam War Era that tore their homelands and lives apart.

I experienced first-hand the positive impacts that Legacy dollars have had on my Hmong community. In 2015, I was the co-curator of the "We Are Hmong Minnesota" exhibit at the MN History Center to commemorate the Hmong's 40th Anniversary of migrating to Minnesota that began in 1975. I volunteered for the most part, but the outcome had a tremendous cultural impact on the Center and the communities. This celebration - through exhibits, community gatherings, and story-telling - brought both Hmong and non-Hmong to come together to learn about each other's narratives. For the Hmong students, this celebration gave them inspiration and the opportunity to learn about their history and identity. For the Hmong parents, they felt appreciated that their stories are being honored and not forgotten.

The Legacy funds from this bill will have positive outcomes for our underserved SE Asian communities as they plan and implement programs to honor and commemorate a part of our State of Minnesota's heritages and legacies. Shall you or any of your committee members have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to reach me by email at [vangminnesota@gmail.com](mailto:vangminnesota@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Noah Vang  
Hmong Community Researcher  
St. Paul, MN 55130

**Community impacts from the “We Are Hmong Minnesota” exhibit, celebrating the Hmong’s 40th Anniversary at the MN History Center in 2015:**





MINNESOTA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## We Are Hmong Minnesota Exhibit Opening & Family Day FY15 FAMILY PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Program Description

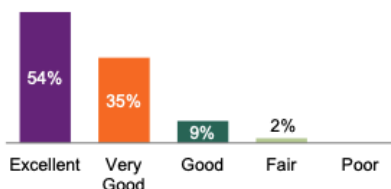
Experience the journey the Hmong took from Southeast Asia to their new homeland in Minnesota four decades ago at the opening of "We Are Hmong Minnesota." Celebrate the contributions of this vital and active community with music and dance performances, displays, fashion, games, demonstrations and multi-generational hands-on activities.

### Program Details

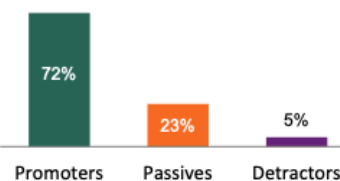
**Date:** March 7, 2015  
**Site:** Minnesota History Center  
**Program Manager:** Wendy Freshman  
**Total Attendance:** 3,500  
**Survey Respondents:** 240  
**Response Rate:** 7%

### Institutional Dashboard

#### Overall Experience



#### Net Promoter Score: +67



### Family Audience Dashboard



Increased my family's appreciation of the Minnesota Historical Society as a meaningful family recreation experience.



Increased my family's interest in learning more about Minnesota's diverse history and cultural traditions.



Increased my family's knowledge of Minnesota history, places and culture.



Increased my family's awareness of Minnesota's people and history.



Program prompted sharing of information among family members



#### Liked best about the event:

Art activities & games	18%	40
We Are Hmong Minnesota exhibit	18%	39
Artifacts/Clothing/Displays	15%	33
Historical Content	15%	32
Performances	11%	25
Celebrating/Pride in Hmong culture	10%	22
History Center exhibits	10%	22
Kid/Family-Friendly	10%	21
Cultural Content	10%	21
Informative/Educational	10%	21
All Others	46%	131

#### Could improve event:

Nothing to improve	26%	46
Overcrowded/More event space	20%	36
More/Different artifacts	10%	18
Wayfinding/signage	9%	16
Parking	8%	14
We Are Hmong Minnesota exhibit - too small/improve flow	7%	13
More performance/activities	6%	11
More/Improved content	5%	9
All Others	18%	36

Diversity of activities, friendly and warm environment, and the overall excitement throughout the day from everyone.

All those belongings [in the Hmong exhibit] reminds me of who we are. It was nice to finally see us behind glass cases

Hmong, all ages, gathered to learn their history and appreciate being Hmong

Well, there is so much that did not make it into the exhibit. I think for the 50th anniversary, maybe more space could be provided.

Add other Hmong styles of clothing to represent all of the other tribes too.

Parking information ahead of time, better directions to locations of exhibits inside the museum.

### RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Gender:

Female	67%	152
Male	33%	76

#### Age:

18-29	47%	107
30-39	23%	53
40-49	13%	30
50-59	6%	14
60-69	6%	13
70-79	3%	6
80 or above	1%	2

#### Ethnicity:

Asian American/Pacific Islander	73%	165
-Hmong-American	62%	139
Caucasian/White	20%	45
Multi-racial	4%	8
African American/Black	1%	3
Hispanic/Latino	1%	3
Declined to answer	1%	3

#### Respondent residence:

Twin Cities Metro	95%	180
Greater Minnesota	4%	7
Out of State	1%	2

#### Household income:

Less than \$25,000	15%	34
\$25,000 - \$49,999	28%	64
\$50,000 - \$74,999	24%	55
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9%	20
\$100,000 - \$124,999	7%	16
\$125,000 or more	5%	12
Declined to answer	11%	24

#### Attended event with:

Family member(s)	64%	145
Friend(s)	26%	59
Spouse/significant other only	18%	40
Came alone	5%	12
Other	4%	9

#### Visiting with children:

Yes	51%	116
No	49%	112

#### MNHS Membership:

Yes	11%	26
No	89%	201

#### History Center visits in past year:

First time	59%	133
2-3 times	29%	65
4-5 times	7%	16
6-7 times	1%	3
8-9 times	2%	4
More than 10 times	2%	5

#### Heard about event

Facebook	49%	112
Word of Mouth	44%	100
MNHS Website	13%	30
Newspaper	13%	29
Billboard	11%	26
Hmong Radio	11%	24
MNHS Magazine	9%	20
Email Notification	9%	20
Staff/volunteer	8%	19
Hmong Times/Hmong Today	8%	18
Hmong TV	7%	16
Other Radio (i.e. MPR)	7%	15
Twitter	3%	7
Other	3%	7

\*Other responses: Hmong Pages, Hope Community Academy Family Activity, Kare11, Unaware of event