



## ITASCA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KARJALA GENEALOGY & HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER  
201 North Pokegama Avenue • Grand Rapids, MN 55744

February 3, 2025

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Senator Founq Hawj  
Chair of Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee  
95 University Avenue West  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 0575, Old Central School Renovation

Dear Senator Hawj;

It is my understanding that the City of Grand Rapids has requested \$3.8 million in funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage to assist in \$7.6 million in necessary remodeling expenses at Old Central School.

Since 1895, Old Central School has been a hub in our community for school and community events inside and on the grounds. Old Central School is a majestic building where all are welcome to participate in learning about our culture and history. It is one of two identified school buildings remaining with the Richardsonian Romanesque architecture design. The community has come together several times to preserve Old Central School for future generations.

As a county we are not blessed with many historic buildings. Old Central School is one of the few remaining in our county. It is critical that we preserve and improve the building for all county residents. The Itasca County Historical Society fully supports the City of Grand Rapids request for funding from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund.

Regards,

Lilah Crowe

Executive Director

Itasca County Historical Society

CC: Senator Justin Eichorn  
Representative Ben Davis  
Representative Spencer Igo