



## Mission Statement

The Magnus Archives exist to preserve and represent the diverse narrative of our community's history through comprehensive archival methods and dynamic educational programming. We are dedicated to being stewards of our community's collective story by fostering public engagement and encouraging scholarly inquiry. We will use all available resources to provide interpretive programs, research assistance, and means to encourage dialogue around our community's collective heritage through collaboration with local institutions and our citizens. Our facility will always cultivate an inclusive environment that honors the past while inspiring future generations to explore and appreciate the significance of history.

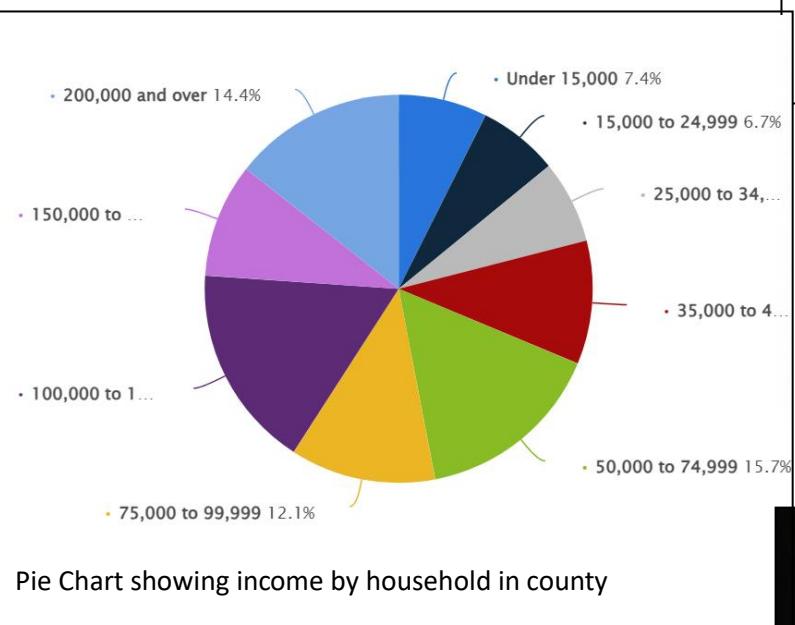
## Vision Statement

The Magnus Archives share a vision for a vibrant public history archive that serves as a dynamic hub for exploration and engagement; a place where individuals of all backgrounds can connect with their cultural heritage as it relates to our community. We aim to inspire a deeper appreciation for history by making diverse narratives accessible and relevant, fostering critical dialogue between all facets of our community, and promoting lifelong learning with engaging programming. We aspire to be a leader in the stewardship of our public history, cultivating an environment that empowers our community to understand the past and its impact on the present and future.

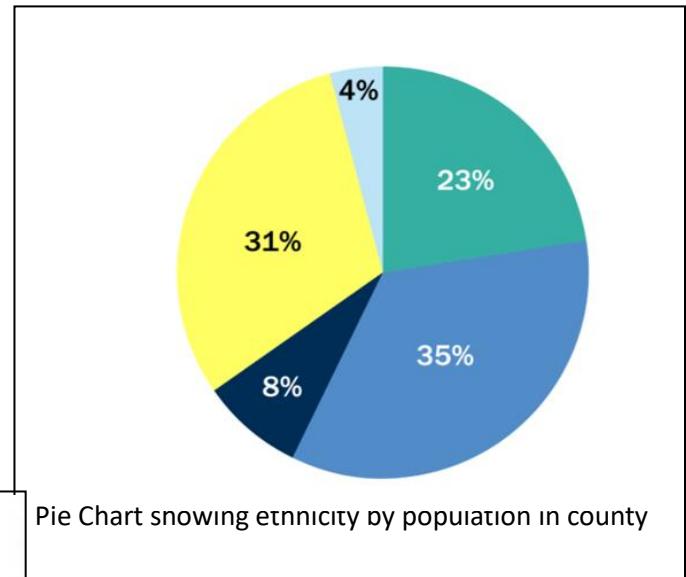
# Who We Serve

History is not a luxury for the elite to explore. Our archives do not exist solely for the pleasure of the scholarly elite. The Magnus Archives serves the entire community that supports it, and our goal is to provide a place for study, exploration, and discovery for anyone who wants to pursue the joy of learning more about our community's story. To that end:

- We recognize that we serve a diverse community with the right to learn more about its past. Our collection will reflect the many facets of our community, and our guidance in exploration of these collections will be tailored to meet the education, priorities, and desires of the community in order to better serve it.



- We recognize that we are stewards to a collection of materials that are unique and priceless, most of which have been donated to us by the residents of our community for safekeeping. It is our priority to protect and preserve these materials while making them accessible to the public that seeks them out, caring for them in a manner that ensures that our community continues to support us and entrust us with their history.



- We recognize that we serve a community that is recognized as being economically challenged, and that while nearly two thirds of our community lives below the poverty line they will always have the right to explore any historical avenues that brings them pleasure.



Image of item being scanned into archives

# Values

As stewards of our community's history, we value honesty, integrity, responsible conservation and preservation, inspiration for education, and equal representation and service to all of the diverse communities we serve.

## ❖ Honesty

- Our collections represent a priceless collection of primary resources that tell the history in the words of those that lived it. Our mission is to connect our patrons with those resources without bias, and with honest interpretation to assist the understanding of our resources and how they can be used to further the historical understanding of our community's story.

## ❖ Integrity

- The primary resources in our collection will never be redacted, edited, or altered in any way that would change or alter their meaning. We will collect, preserve and present materials from all walks of our community's history without bias or prejudice, in order to best present the accurate story that it has to tell.

## ❖ Responsible Conservation and Preservation

- We will undertake all efforts in the best interest of the preservation of our collection, and will actively pursue better materials, knowledge, and formats to ensure that the collection endures for generations to come and is constantly expanding its availability to the public that we serve.

## ❖ Inspiration for Education

- The public that wishes to learn is the public that we serve, and simply having a collection is not enough to serve that public that is hungry for knowledge. We will always seek new and innovative ways to present and engage our history with those eager to learn.

## ❖ Equal Representation and Service

- We are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that reflects the rich diversity of our community. We actively represent and engage voices from all backgrounds to better ensure that a wide array of perspectives is preserved and shared. As embracing diversity enriches our understanding of history and enhances our collective narrative, we strive to create accessible programs and resources that welcome everyone to participate in the exploration of our shared heritage.

# Goals and Objectives

## Build an Active Community that Shares in Our Stewardship

- Our archives embrace the community it serves and encourages engagement with the collection by everyone from the degree-holding scholar to the inquisitive child. For this, we will make it a priority to
  - Provide a welcoming environment and knowledgeable staff to assist and encourage our patrons as they access our collections
  - Provide programming and activities that draw in the public and give them something to be proud of
  - Provide services and programming that is free of charge but full of value, and charge the most minimal fees possible to ensure that income is not a barrier to engaging with our collection

## Expand and Innovate Access and Use of Our Collections

- A collection of information is of no use if it is not of use to the community it serves. Because we wish to make our collection accessible to as many people as possible, we will make it a priority to
  - Schedule programs at varying times and locations, responding to community input so that we can help the community have many chances at access to our services
  - Work towards expanding our digitization efforts so that we are able to accession more digital donations of materials from our community
  - Continually work to improve our collection by any means possible, and improve ourselves as archival employees so that our knowledge is always getting better
  - Begin the process of building a website so that our digitized collection can be put online and access expanded through the internet

## Continual Improvements of Staff

- Our service is only as good as those who provide it. As an archival staff, we will always make it a priority to
  - Serve the public with the respect, dignity, and enthusiasm it deserves
  - Improve our service through continuing education and expansion of our knowledge of best practices, including new and innovative techniques
  - Always provide our public with service regardless of age, sex, gender, sexuality, race, religion in accordance with the ALA Code of Ethics.

# Plan of Action

## Goal: Building Our Community

- By FY2027, we will have achieved a sustained goal of
  - 200 in-person visitors monthly
  - 100 reference assistances monthly
  - 4 in-house programs monthly
  - 2 outreach programs monthly
  - Partnership with at least six new local groups or institutions
  - Establishing a Friends of the Archives group/advisory board

## Goal: Expanding and Innovating Collections

- By FY2027, we will have achieved a sustained goal of
  - At least 50% of existing collections digitized
  - At least 50% more digital donations added to our collection
  - Establishing a working website for the exploration of the collection

## Goal: Continual Staff Improvements

- By FY2027, we will have achieved a sustained goal of
  - Each staff receiving a certification in one new aspect of archival care and maintenance
  - Each staff attending at least one professional conference
  - Each staff participating in expanding programming by developing at least one new program to present to the public

## References

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