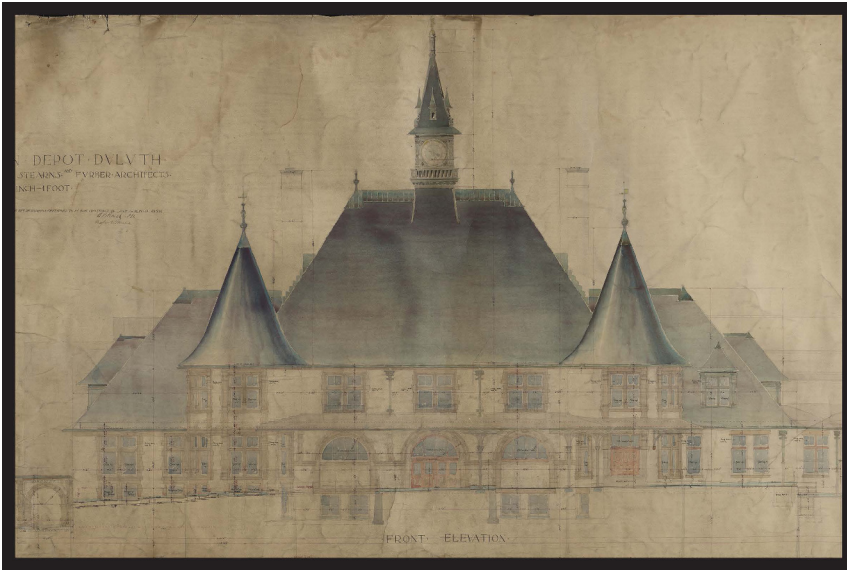




A LEGACY IN MOTION.

THE 2026 DEPOT UNITED CAMPAIGN.

The 2026 Depot United Campaign, a Legacy in Motion, is supporting us during a historic time of construction and enhancement. This

year, we are featuring the original Depot rendering from 1890, which included a clock tower! All donors will receive a 4x6 print. Donors \$250 and above will receive an 8x10 to enjoy. Thank you.

Every Gift to the Depot United Campaign Equally Supports 6 Amazing Organizations

**L Y R I C
O P E R A
O F T H E
N O R T H**

Lyric Opera
Of the North



**Duluth Superior
Symphony Orchestra**

Dirk Meyer, Music Director

**Duluth Superior
Symphony Orchestra**



**Lake Superior
Railroad Museum**



MN Ballet



**St. Louis County
Historical Society**

**DEPOT
FOUNDATION**
ESTABLISHED 1979



Depot Foundation

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION



Jason Young
Executive Director

All gifts are appreciated..

The 2025 Giving USA data has been released and studied every which way. So, what does this year's report show us and what is trending for 2026? The trend for the past 20+ years has been donors down, dollars up. The number of Americans giving to charities has slowly decreased since the year 2000, however, the dollars Americans give has steadily increased. We've seen mega

donors playing a huge role in philanthropy, increasing donations

overall. But why are fewer Americans giving today than there were in 2000? There are a multitude of factors...

The Depot Foundation has bucked this trend, growing donors of all gift sizes for the past 5 years. We are truly appreciative of all gifts we receive and do not take any one of you for granted. The \$8.5 million in grants and awards we've been able to support for the past 47 years have been extremely impactful in our community. None of the good work we do could have been done without you and the thousands of Depot Foundation supporters since our inception in 1979.

Enjoy the Magic. Support the Spirit. **Thank you.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Elissa Husby

It has been an honor to serve nine years on the Depot Foundation Board alongside amazing staff, trustees, and arts and culture organizations housed within. Like many others, my love of the Depot began as a child enjoying rides up the North Shore Scenic Railroad, cheering on my friends at local productions, helping my family by volunteering at the Empty Bowl fundraiser, and climbing the infamous

tree staircase of the Duluth Children's Museum countless times; where I later worked as an intern on their capital campaign when they outgrew the space.

Though there have been many changes since I first stepped foot in the Depot, the heart of our shared goal remains the same, summed up nicely with our new mission statement:

The Depot Foundation advances the cultural and artistic life of our community by providing financial support to the historic St. Louis County Depot and charitable organizations utilizing the Depot.

In our fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, we grew to 365 gifts (the highest number in our Foundation's history). With this kind support, we are able to fund exciting capital improvement projects and vital programming to keep this special place vibrant and welcoming for future generations.

A highlight for me in service is our Arts For All Scholarship, an idea brought to life by Jessica Peterson, our Development Director

from 2021-2022, and with continued success by Jason Young who took over this role and has since been promoted to Executive Director.

When our scholarship recipients shared the significance of receiving this scholarship at our annual Circle of Friends events in 2024 and 2025, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I still recall these important words of thanks shared:

"It has empowered me to pursue my passion, and without it, it is likely I would not have been able to be a part of the youth symphony, and I would have missed out on all of these great opportunities, like playing on this stage a few months ago."

"I am so grateful for having earned this scholarship, not only has it helped my family financially, but it has also helped me appreciate this art form even more. I would like to thank the Depot Foundation for not just the scholarship, but for believing in me."

We welcome you to our website, www.depotfoundation.org, to see more stories and facets of giving wherever your heart leads you. Your gifts are appreciated and important.

We also welcome you to read our Letter to Ken as we wish him well with his retirement from the Lake Superior Railroad Museum; he will be dearly missed, and we thank him for his 25+ years of service, enthusiasm and generosity.

Though I am rotating off the board, I look forward to continuing to support the Depot Foundation. Cheers to what is ahead; the future is looking bright!

TRIBUTE GIFTS

7/1/2025 THRU 6/30/2026

IN HONOR OF:

Ken Buehler
Dennis Lamkin

IN MEMORY OF:

AL "Chip" & Sharen Bergren
Jennifer Dee
Bob Wahman
Ray Privette II
Cheng-Khee Chee
Cheryl Husby
Cynthia Campbell-Kiger
Dr. Curtis Frank Ahrens
Eliot Haycock
Gordon Beck
Ken Donovan
Lois Paulucci
Louise O'Day Hover
Oscar and Anna Sjogren
Perry Gallagher
Roy Gunderson
Roy Tuttle
Stephanie Fehringer
Wayne Olsen

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS* OF THE DEPOT FOUNDATION

The Annual Meeting of the
Corporation will be held on:

Thursday, September 24,
2026 at 4:00 p.m.

in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum
Center Square (Depot Train Museum).

The purpose of this meeting will be to
elect new and continuing Directors.

RSVP is requested to [info@
depotfoundation.org](mailto:info@depotfoundation.org)

Light refreshments and appetizers
will be served. Thank you for
your generous support.

*Members include persons with
cumulative donations of \$1,000+

THE DEPOT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Melone, Chair
Bob Fischer, Secretary
Jenny Miller, Treasurer
Erica Walli, Secretary
Kyle Bosley
R. Craft Dryer
Elissa Husby

Kris Kapsner
Rick Lubbers
Barbara Perrella
Jill Pinkney Pastrana
Pat Cutshall
Staff: Jason Young, Executive Director
Shelly Vanneste, Administrative Assistant

THANK YOU KEN



For decades, Ken Beuhler has been far more than the leader of the Lake Superior Railroad Museum—he has been one of the enduring voices and faces of Duluth’s Historic Union Depot (St. Louis County Depot). Through his passion, vision, and unwavering dedication, Ken helped preserve not only locomotives and railroad history, but also the stories and memories that connect generations.

To countless visitors, volunteers, and railroad enthusiasts, Ken’s voice became synonymous with the Historic Union Depot. Whether welcoming guests, sharing the rich history of the railroad, or inspiring others with his deep knowledge and enthusiasm, he made every person feel that they were part of something special.

Under Ken’s leadership, the Lake Superior Railroad Museum grew into one of the nation’s premier railroad museums, earning admiration from visitors near and far. His commitment to preserving our railroad heritage ensured that future generations will be able to experience the sights, sounds, and spirit of the railroads that helped build our region.

Retirement marks the end of an extraordinary chapter, but Ken’s legacy will remain woven into every gallery, every restored locomotive, and every whistle that echoes through the Historic Union Depot. His influence will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.

Thank you, Ken, for your decades of faithful service, your friendship, your leadership, and your love of history. You have left an indelible mark on the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, the Historic Union Depot, and the entire Duluth community.

You will be greatly missed, and your legacy will continue to roll forward for generations to come.

THANK YOU KRIS KAPSNER, ELISSA HUSBY, AND JILL PINKNEY PASTRANA!

Thank you to Kris Kapsner, Elissa Husby, and Jill Pinkney Pastrana for your dedicated service to the Depot Foundation. With Kris and Elissa serving 9 years and Jill serving 6 years on our Board of Directors. We are grateful for your time and talent, and we will miss you!



SPOTLIGHT

"I LOVE DANCING BECAUSE IT IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME FEEL FREE AND HAPPY."

"SHE NOT ONLY DEVELOPS TECHNICAL AND MUSICAL SKILLS BUT ALSO BUILDS SOCIAL CONNECTIONS WITH HER PEERS."

"WHEN I'M TAKING A CLASS OR PERFORMING ON STAGE EVERYTHING ELSE I WORRY ABOUT GOES AWAY."

The Arts for All Scholarship continues to be in high demand! This opportunity would not happen if it wasn't for generous donations from friends like you and our local businesses and service organizations. There are few opportunities in our area for art and culture support like this. The Arts for All Scholarship strengthens financial opportunities for youth and young adults pursuing art and culture activities through our Depot partners. Support the Arts for All Scholarship today by check or at depotfoundation.org. Thank you.

58 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$17,000+ IN AWARDS
\$300 AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP

THANK YOU TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE ARTS FOR ALL SCHOLARSHIP





SUBMIT YOUR NOMINEE ONLINE

Do you know a local art and culture superstar? Nominate them for our 26th annual Circle of Friends, to be held in Spring 2027. We present 6 amazing awards. Go to our website, depotfoundation.org, and enter their information. It is easy to do!

1. Artist Award

This recognizes an artist that has burst onto the arts scene and/or whose distinguished career has made significant contributions to the development of both artists and the arts.

2. Historical Preservation Award

This recognizes an individual, organization or project that has made a substantial impact on historic preservation and/or interpretation in the region.

3. Community Enrichment Award

This recognizes bold steps taken to strengthen the arts and culture of our region.

4. Initiative Award

This recognizes those individuals or organizations demonstrating exemplary initiative in creating opportunities in, or expanding access to, the arts and culture of our region.

5. Lifetime Artist Award

This recognizes a regional artist whose lifetime artistic excellence, dedication and vision have made a positive impact on our community.

6. Lifetime Achievement Award

This recognizes an individual or organization for lifetime contribution to the arts and culture of our region.