

**8A.707 Powers and duties of board and department.**

1. The state historical society board of trustees shall:
    - a. Recommend to the state historical society a comprehensive, coordinated, and efficient policy to preserve, research, interpret, and promote to the public an awareness and understanding of local, state, and regional history.
    - b. Make recommendations to the director on historically related matters.
    - c. Review and recommend to the director or the director's designee policy decisions regarding the department as it relates to the historical resources of the state.
    - d. Recommend to the state historic preservation officer for approval the state preservation plan.
    - e. Perform other functions prescribed by law to further historically related matters in the state.
    - f. Serve as the central advisory body for historical records planning in the state and as a coordinating body to facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories and other information agencies within the state.
    - g. Serve as a state level review body for grant proposals submitted to the national historical publications and records commission.
  2. The department shall:
    - a. Have authority to acquire by fee simple title historic properties by gift, purchase, devise, or bequest; preserve, restore, transfer, and administer historic properties; and charge reasonable admission to historic properties.
    - b. Maintain research centers in Des Moines and Iowa City.
  3. The department may:
    - a. By rule, establish advisory groups necessary for the receipt of federal funds or grants or the administration of any of the department's programs relating to the historical resources of the state.
    - b. Develop and implement fee-based educational programming opportunities, including preschool programs, related to arts, history, and other cultural matters for Iowans of all ages.
  4. The state historical society board of trustees may:
    - a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the state records commission, the state archives and records program, and other statewide archival or records agencies.
    - b. Seek moneys from the national historical publications and records commission or other grant-funding bodies for sponsoring and publishing surveys of the conditions and needs of historical records in the state; for developing, revising, and distributing funding priorities for historical records projects in Iowa; for implementing projects to be carried out in the state for the preservation of historical records and publications; or for reviewing, through reports and otherwise, the operation and progress of records projects in the state.
- [C73, §1902; C97, §2858, 2884; S13, §2881-a; C24, 27, 31, 35, §4515 – 4517, 4544; C39, §4541.03, 4544; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §303.3, 304.3; C75, 77, 79, 81, §303.4, 303.5; [82 Acts, ch 1238, §7](#)  
 C83, §303.6  
[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1309](#)  
 C87, §303.8  
[89 Acts, ch 78, §4](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1026, §106](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §1405, 1406, 1424](#)  
 C2024, §8A.707  
[2024 Acts, ch 1170, §131, 132](#)  
 Additional board duties, see [§103A.41](#) and [§103A.45](#)