About Us

The Willa Cather Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that works to promote Willa Cather’s legacy through education, preservation, and the arts. Our home at the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, Nebraska, provides a state-of-the-art archive and museum for the preservation and study of a large and growing collection of Cather materials. Through on-site programming, virtual resources, and highly-acclaimed publications, we routinely serve people from all fifty states and over a dozen countries outside of the U.S. on an annual basis.

How You Can Help

“The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman.” —O Pioneers!

Make a pledge. You may satisfy your pledge over a 5-year period, through payments by check, ACH withdrawal, or credit card.

Make a gift of securities. Gifts of appreciated assets such as stock help you avoid costly gains.

Make a deferred gift. A planned gift by beneficiary designation for a retirement account, or by bequest in a will or a trust arrangement may fit your financial and planning needs.

To learn more about how you can help, please contact:
Ashley Olson, Executive Director
866-731-7304 toll-free
aolson@willacather.org

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Our programs and services:

- Operation of an archive, museum and study center
- Preservation of the largest collection of nationally designated historic sites devoted to an American author
- Arts and humanities programs in the restored Red Cloud Opera House
- Guided town and country tours of over twenty historic sites relating to Cather’s life and work
- Conservation of the 612-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie
- Outreach to and curriculum support for K-12 teachers and students
- Scholarships awarded to future English and history majors
- Publication of the Willa Cather Review
- Conferences and seminars held regularly in Red Cloud, nationally, and internationally

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“I call this happiness: to be dissolved into something complete and great. When it comes to one, it comes as naturally as sleep.” —My Antonia

Willa Cather’s influence is undeniable. A Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, she is one of the most highly-acclaimed 20th century authors and her writing has been translated into more than forty languages. Decades after her death, her work remains popular and loved by readers worldwide.

Campaign for the Future

“Great-grandmother Carrie Miner Sherwood was a visionary and a collector. A lifelong friend of Willa Cather, she saved Cather’s letters and Cather family artifacts in her large attic with the hope there would one day be a place for them. We believe in the mission of the Willa Cather Foundation and want to further this legacy. This project preserves the historic sites associated with Cather’s life in Red Cloud and enables the Foundation to expand its outreach and programming across the country. We hope you’ll join us in supporting it.”

—Brad and Nancy Sherwood
Lead Donors

“Through Willa Cather’s writing, we have a better understanding of one of the most remarkable and compelling periods in American History. The sites and collections that make up the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, Nebraska are cultural treasures, and I am grateful for the community that supports the preservation of these historic landmarks. Your generosity ensures that our children and grandchildren will be able to travel back in time to hear the “nimble air” and learn from Willa Cather’s example for many generations to come.”

—Mrs. Laura Bush
Honorary National Campaign Chair
In early 2019, History Nebraska, formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society, transferred ownership of their Willa Cather State Historic Sites to the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial (WCPM) Collection—comprised of approximately 8,000 documents and artifacts related to the life, times, and works of Cather—to the Willa Cather Foundation. Our acceptance of these historic sites and collections ushered in a new era for our work. It provided an opportunity not only to restore the sites, but to reimagine the entire visitor experience. Restoring and reinterpreting these nationally significant cultural assets will ensure memorable experiences for future generations of readers and literary tourists.

Now we’re ready—with your help—to take the next steps.

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