David Kelliher is the Director of Public Policy and Community Relations for the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), which is a statewide organization promoting education and preservation of Minnesota’s history. In this role, David helps to assemble MHS’ budget and policy initiatives and shepherd them through the legislative process, as well as organize grassroots support for history programs at MHS and other organizations. David was recently awarded the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota’s Weiming Lu Award for Visionary Leadership for his work on historic preservation public policy, including the passage of a Minnesota historic preservation tax credit incentive, which is resulting in the preservation of dozens of historic buildings in Minnesota while creating thousands of new jobs in the construction field.

While at Carleton, David majored in History, focusing on 19th and 20th-century U.S. History. In addition, David took many political science classes, including State and Local Government with Professor Paul Wellstone, a course that introduced him to the world of the Minnesota State Capitol. His job at the Minnesota Historical Society combines a passion for history with a fascination with how the political world works.

When he’s not at the Minnesota State Capitol, David likes to bike, run, read and hang out at the family cabin with his wife Margaret and two teenage kids and two mischievous dogs.