



Minnesota Humanities Center

FY2018 Annual Report

November 1, 2017–October 31, 2018

Building a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society.



Connecting Communities through the Humanities



In 2018, we embarked on new challenges and explored ways to deeply engage diverse audiences. Our powerful discussion series, **War and Memory**, brought four acclaimed authors to the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) for thought-provoking conversations. And we invested in a new collaborative project, **Truth and Transformation: Changing Racial Narratives in Media**, which addresses problematic racial narratives and their representation in local news media.

David O'Fallon announced his retirement as president and CEO last fall after a vibrant eight years at the helm of MHC. During his tenure, we experienced significant funding growth from the state legislature and developed innovative programs that support the broad context of humanities. David's contributions to MHC and the humanities in Minnesota will continue to have lasting impact.

David laid a strong foundation that we'll build on as we transition to new leadership in the year ahead. MHC's Board and staff are also engaged in a strategic planning process that will bring new energy to our programs and the organization. As part of this work, **we conducted 10 listening sessions statewide to explore local issues, convene people from diverse backgrounds, and surface how MHC might collaborate to support community solutions for change.**

While programs will evolve in the year ahead, **our commitment to bringing people together to forge connections and navigate critical conversations and issues remains steadfast.** We envision a more just and engaged society and are committed to illuminating authentic, diverse voices across Minnesota, especially those left out or marginalized.

I hope you've been touched by one of our programs in the past year. If not, I invite you to get involved. Our current program offerings can be found at www.mnhum.org.

Bryan Ljung, Chair
Board of Directors



Programs that Forge Connections

MHC's programs utilize personal stories to build empathy and bring people together in meaningful conversation. In FY2018, our programs spanned a broad range of topics from education to Native rights to Veterans issues and war—all explored through the lens of story. Our signature Absent Narratives Approach™ amplifies the voices of communities and individuals often overlooked or marginalized in public discourse.

K–12 Education



Using what I have learned through the [Educator Institute], I was able to see increased engagement and excitement in my classroom. I began to think about my lessons and method very differently. I also found myself creating stronger relationships with my students and their parents.

—Social Studies Teacher, SAGE Academy Charter High School



Educators share vision for their future curriculum and celebrate what they learned during MHC's weeklong Educator Institute.

Professional Development

This year marked the beginning of a shift to deepen engagement with schools and organizations through our foundational workshops. They provide tools that help teachers create more inclusive, engaging classroom experiences for every student, strengthening relationships and increasing participation. **We offered five new workshops primarily focused on American Indian content** and served a total of 586 educators at 23 program events.

Somali Youth Anthology

We received a wealth of **authentic, first-hand stories from Minnesota's Somali youth** and held workshops to help these young authors more deeply explore themes of journey, displacement, resiliency, racism, cultural adaptation, growth, and human connection. The first-of-its kind anthology will be published in 2019 and distributed to individuals and classrooms statewide.

Community Conversations



Minnesota author Kao Kalia Yang speaks during the War and Memory discussion series.

War and Memory Series

FY2018 saw the continuation of our powerful four-part discussion series moderated by **local poet Anh-Hoa Thi Nguyen**. The series highlighted **lauded authors Viet Thanh Nguyen, Kao Kalia Yang, Anton Treuer, and Lesley Nneka Arimah** in conversation with each other and a public audience about family, war, memory, grief, and human connection.

Truth and Transformation: Changing Racial Narratives in Media

In partnership with Minnesota Public Radio, Hamline University, KMOJ, Pillsbury United Communities, and ThreeSixty Journalism, we conducted **six listening sessions with communities of color and indigenous communities around the state using our Absent Narratives Approach™**. Insights and stories from these sessions helped media professionals examine their narratives, approach, and practices at a two-day conference in 2019.

Native Nations of Minnesota

This experience has inspired me to dig deeper and learn more about the rich history of Minnesota and the Native people who lived here—to find the true, accurate history instead of just relying on the information I've been taught. The tour has been the starting point for me to seek out reliable resources.

—Learning from Place: Bdote participant



Scholar Ethan Neerdaels (center) guides participants through Dakota perspectives in the Twin Cities during MHC's Learning From Place: Bdote.

Learning from Place: Bdote

This day-long immersive experience brings participants to sites of significance to Dakota people where they learn about them from Dakota perspectives. In 2018, it received widespread recognition, and participation grew by 47% with individuals and groups from local institutions joining educators. **More than 400 people learned to challenge typical assumptions about Minnesota history on 11 thought-provoking trips.**

Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations

In FY2018, this nationally-recognized traveling exhibit added three communities and 1,850 visitors to its lifetime total of more than 100 tour locations. Additionally, **MHC hosted conversations with two of Minnesota's most respected treaties scholars, Martin Case and David Wilkins, Ph.D.** Discussions at Red Lake Nation College and the Minnesota State Capitol focused on sovereignty, treaties, and self-determination.



Veterans' Voices

2018 Awardees, with Program Officer Blake Rondeau (left), MHC President David O'Fallon (third-from-right), and renowned journalist-filmmaker Sebastian Junger (back-center).

More than 7,700 people participated in 48 events: Workshops, salons, and community conversations helped Veterans tell their stories and expanded support networks for Veterans and their families. In partnership with Twin Cities PBS (TPT) and six host communities, **"Minnesota Remembers Vietnam"** conversations were held across the state to amplify the voices and experiences of individuals impacted by the war in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Our sixth **Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony** recognized 15 Awardees and included a keynote address from **internationally-renowned author and filmmaker Sebastian Junger**. Additionally, **we awarded eight mini-grants** for humanities-based projects and activities that help military personnel and Veterans bridge the divide between military and civilian life.

"We Are Water MN"

Never before have our state agencies considered humanities content in their program planning at such a depth and over such a length of time. A central part of this work is the face-to-face, relationship-building and humanities content provided by MHC during retreats, workshops, and facilitated meetings. We are able to focus on how declining water quality is a human problem that requires human solutions.

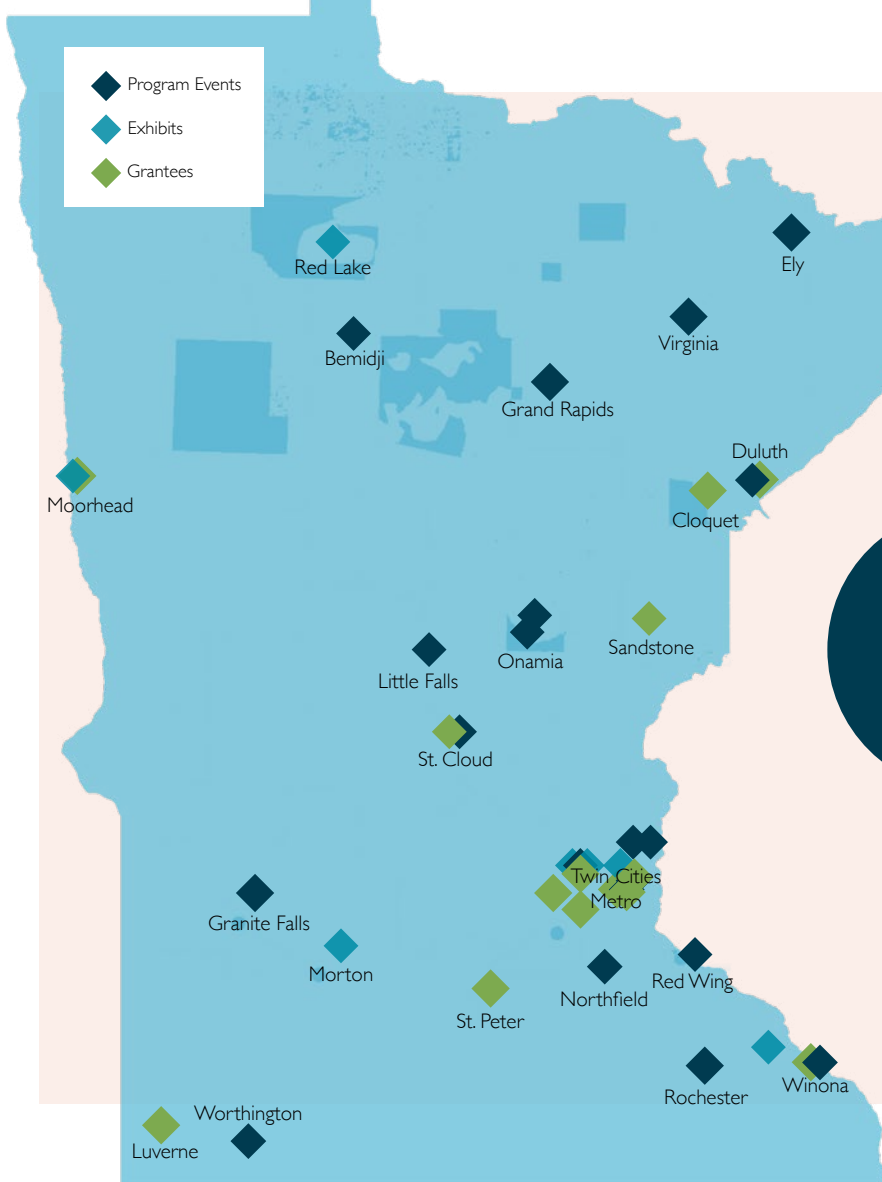
—Britt Gangeness, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Local child explores the "We Are Water MN" traveling exhibit.

"We Are Water MN" engages Minnesotans with our state's most important natural resource through personal stories, historical materials, and scientific information. **This innovative approach to environmental stewardship has fostered rich partnerships** at the local level and with four state agencies and the Minnesota Historical Society. During FY2018, nearly 3,600 people visited the

exhibit as it **wrapped up its first six-city tour and kicked off a second tour in October that will bring it to eight new locations.** To help ensure accessibility, we co-created a new docent and educator guide and translated the visitor's guide into Dakota, Anishinaabemowin, Spanish, Dinka, Nuer, and Anuak.

MHC Statewide Impact



14,600

Total Program Attendance

105

Total Events

32

Partner Organizations

56

Individual Partners

34

Grants Awarded

680

Absent Narratives Resources Distributed

6,420

Absent Narratives Online Resource Collection Visitors

Beyond Our Minnesota Programs

MHC's Grantmaking

We support the outstanding work of nonprofit organizations, schools, and collectives across the state through mini-grants. In FY2018, 26 humanities-based grants totaled \$180,000. Grantees created or enhanced projects that give voice to stories and identities in Minnesota that have been silenced, left out, marginalized, or otherwise absented from our education and public discourse.

Ananya Dance Theatre
Art to Change the World
Children's Theatre Company
County Seat Theater of Carlton
Equity Alliance MN
Great River Educational Arts Theatre
Jamie Ratliff
MIGIZI Communications
Minnesota Community Action
Association Resource Fund

Old School Arts Center
Project for Pride in Living, Inc.
Somali Museum of Minnesota
Gustavus Adolphus College
Anne Sullivan Community School
Telling Queer History
APIA MN Film Collective
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop
Poetry for People

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
Minneapolis Public Schools
Pillsbury House Theatre
Thomas-Dale District 7 Planning Council
BlackTableArts
St. James Public Schools
Regents of the University of Minnesota
Good Samaritan Society Laverne



Pass-Through Appropriations

Thanks to our reputation for responsible fiscal management, we were appointed the fiscal agent for a variety of government and community organizations by the Minnesota State Legislature. This means that we oversaw the disbursement of funds to these organizations, but we didn't make decisions about how the money was used or who received it. In FY2018, awards totaled nearly \$2.2 million.

Omaha Public Schools

For the past ten years, we've been deeply engaged with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) thanks to the support of a generous private foundation. MHC's Education Strategy for OPS is anchored in the belief that building and strengthening relationships between and among educators and their students, each other, families, and the community can lead to system-wide change. During the 2017–18 school year, more than 2,000 educators attended 250 professional development activities.

Event Center

MHC's full-service Event Center provides a welcoming space for our programs and partners and generates income to support the organization. It primarily serves other nonprofits, providing affordable space for them to build and strengthen their missions and programs. More than 10,500 people attended 370 events in FY2018.



Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Bryan Ljung New Brighton

Vice Chair

Meredith Beeson Minneapolis

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Tom Schmall Chanhassen

Sylvia Strobel St. Paul

Alex Tittle, Sr. Woodbury

Diane Tran St. Paul

Steve Troutner Maple Grove

Kristin White Minneapolis

KEY STAFF

President & CEO

David O'Fallon, PhD

Completed tenure 11/2018

COO

Carol Aegerter

Vice President

Leondra Burchall

Completed tenure 3/2019



Financials

This report reflects our 2018 fiscal year:
November 1, 2017 – October 31, 2018

Support & Revenue

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$856,489
Contributed Income	\$471,678
Omaha Public Schools Funding	\$12,596,336 <i>Received 3 years of support</i>
Campaign Contributions	\$85,425
Minnesota Programs Revenue	\$94,541
Other Income	\$33,055
Event Center Revenue	\$404,806
State of Minnesota	\$0 <i>Received support in FY2017</i>
Pass-Through Appropriations	\$0 <i>Received support in FY2017</i>

Total Support & Revenue **\$14,542,330**

Expenses

Minnesota Programs	\$1,454,532
Omaha Public Schools Program	\$3,970,258
Pass-Through Appropriations	\$2,175,255
Event Center - Program Exp.	\$321,272
Event Center - Non-program Exp.	\$108,271
Fundraising	\$169,868
Management & Administration	\$871,582

Total Expenses **\$9,071,038**

Net Profit (or Loss) \$5,471,292

Our Generous Donors

Support from the following individuals, government agencies, foundations, and businesses helped bring free and low-cost programs, exhibits, and workshops to communities statewide from November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2018. Thank you!

\$50,000+

MN Pollution Control Agency**
Minnesota Public Radio
National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Minnesota (Operating Support)†
State of Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund*†

\$20,000–\$49,999

Federation of State Humanities Councils
McKnight Foundation**
Minnesota Historical Society**

\$10,000–\$19,999

Hardenbergh Foundation
MN Department of Agriculture**
MN Department of Health**
MN Department of Natural Resources**
Mortenson Construction*

\$5,000–\$9,999

Boss Foundation
Ramsey County
The Saint Paul Foundation

\$2,500–\$4,999

Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Charles & Emily Kelley

\$1,000–\$2,499

Atomic Data*
Keith & Mary Bednarowski
Susan & Bert Gross
JNBA Financial Advisors*
Jacqueline Johnson

Jean King & Stuart Appelbaum
Mutual of America*
The Allegro Fund
David O'Fallon
Patricia Ploetz
Bruce & Audrey Richardson
Rose Francis Foundation
Valerie & Ed Spencer
Emily Anne Staples Tuttle
U.S. Bank*
Maxine H. Wallin

\$500–\$999

Meredith Beeson
Bremer Bank*
Guthmann Family Fund
Lynne Leaf
Tom & Sandy Schmall
UBS Financial Services*
United Health Group
Kristin White

\$250–\$499

Keith Burke*
Casey DeMarais & Keith Richter
Ali Elhassan
Brianna Erickson
Jeni Gregory
Patrick Henry & Patricia Welter
Bryan & Theresa Ljung
Mathew Meyer
Meryll Levine Page
Anita Patel
Sylvia Strobel
Diane Tran
Stephen Waller

\$100–\$249

Anonymous (2)
Mary Ann & David Barrows Wark
Lisa Belak
Carol Buesgens
Patrick Coleman
Jay & Page Cowles
Carl Fordahl
Annamarie Gutsch
Les & Barbara Heen
Gary Henrickson
John & Marcia Lally
Sheila Laughton
James E. Lindell
Rose M. McGee
Michael Morrow & Katherine MacKinnon
Trudy Ohnsorg
Tom Pfannenstiel
Erin Rahman
Christianna Shortridge
Brian Steeves
Dr. Robert B. Tapp
Alex Tittle, Sr.
Steve & Jill Troutner

Up to \$99

Anonymous (3)
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Colleen Aho
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Mary Burns-Klinger
Marilyn Chiat
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Thomas Cocchiarella*

David & Aimee Dayhoff
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James & Sandra Likely
Elle Lyons
Nicole McMahon
Anna Min
Richard & Colleen Miner
Michael O'Rourke
David & Mary Phipps
Mary Jean Proulx
Douglas Scofield

*Support in full or part for Veterans' Voices

**Support for "We Are Water MN"

† Funds received in FY2017 for the biennium

Many Voices, One State Capital Campaign

We are raising \$3.5 million to preserve and repair our home, an architectural landmark near Lake Phalen in St. Paul. This building provides a critical foundation that supports our statewide programs and impact. We are deeply grateful for the \$2.2 million in support we have received from the following individuals and institutions:

Carol Aegerter
City of St. Paul Neighborhood STAR Program
Jay & Page Cowles
David & Aimee Dayhoff
Dovehill Foundation

Brianna Erickson
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation
Patrick Henry & Patricia Welter
Jacquie Johnson
Jean King & Stuart Appelbaum

Lynne Leaf
Bryan & Theresa Ljung
Mardag Foundation
David O'Fallon
Trudy Ohnsorg
State of Minnesota Bonding Appropriation

The Saint Paul Foundation
U.S. Bank
Kristin White

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