




Minnesota Humanities Center

FY2019 Annual Report

November 1, 2018–October 31, 2019

A photograph of a classical building facade. The image shows a large, light-colored stone archway. Above the arch, there is a circular relief sculpture depicting two figures, possibly a man and a woman, in a classical style. The building's surface is made of light-colored stone or concrete. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

*Connecting our past, present, and future
by bringing people together
to increase understanding
and spark change.*

Empowering Communities



Through the humanities, we have continued to positively shape our state, bridging differences and inspiring individuals to be informed and engaged. In 2019, MHC utilized the power of narrative to grow our statewide impact with a new large-scale collaborative project – Truth and Transformation: Changing Racial Narratives in Media. We also published an impactful new book, “Crossroads: An Anthology of Resilience and Hope by Young Somali Writers.”

MHC’s Board and staff wrapped up a rigorous strategic planning process that is bringing new energy to our programs and the organization. We updated our mission and vision to better align with our goals and operations. **We renewed our commitment to making the humanities more broadly relevant and accessible to people across the state through educational opportunities, cultural experiences, and public engagement.**

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. We heard from individuals, nonprofit and civic leaders, artists, K-12 educators, scholars, and college faculty who shared ideas about how MHC can help support a more connected and curious Minnesota. **We heard that our work shaping and supporting the humanities is vital, valued, and relevant.**

We envision a just society that is connected, curious, and compassionate. Our work in FY2019 reflects this vision, and we will continue building meaningful relationships and partnerships with diverse communities to create rich content that reflects myriad perspectives. I invite you to get involved. Our current program offerings can be found at www.mnhum.org.

Kevin Lindsey
Chief Executive Officer



Challenging Perspectives

MHC's programs utilize personal stories to build empathy and bring people together in meaningful conversation. In FY2019, 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.

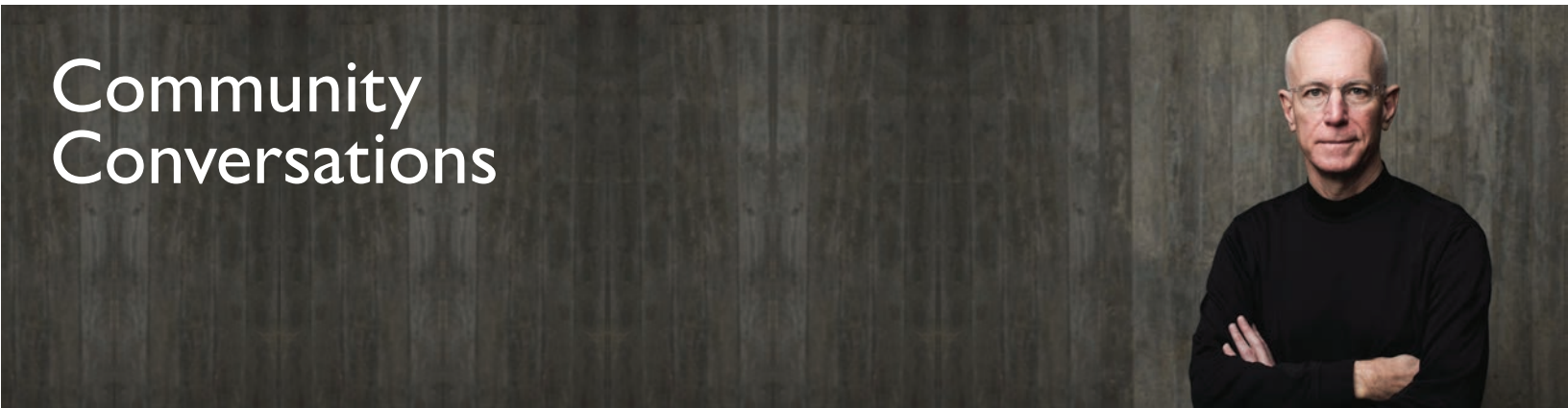
—Social Studies Teacher,
SAGE Academy Charter High School

Professional Development

MHC worked in-depth with a number of schools and organizations, developing and delivering content to help create more inclusive, equitable classrooms. We also served educators and professionals from across the state with nearly 1,000 participants attending a week-long institute and workshops designed to increase engagement by creating culturally safe and conducive learning environments.

MHC worked alongside Hmong community members, educators, and Twin Cities PBS (TPT) to develop an online educator toolkit that supports classroom use of the TPT documentary “Minnesota Remembers Vietnam: America’s Secret War.” This expanded into the design of a daylong workshop for 40 educators.

Community Conversations



Truth and Transformation: Changing Racial Narratives in Media

MHC played a lead role in this collaborative project that helped Minnesota media professionals uncover and dismantle assumptions that contribute to problematic racial narratives perpetuated by the media. Using MHC’s Absent Narratives Approach, we worked with communities frequently marginalized by mainstream media to share their stories and amplify community solutions to narrative change.

In March 2019, the project culminated at a two-day statewide conference that helped 300 professionals change their approach and practices to more justly represent the

lived experiences, stories, and perspectives of the people represented. Partners include Hamline University, KMOJ-FM, Minnesota Public Radio, Pillsbury United Communities, and Three Sixty Journalism.

The Slaveholders of Payne-Phalen: A Discussion with Author Dr. Christopher Lehman

Local community members gathered at the Humanities Center to learn more about the complex history of the surrounding Payne-Phalen neighborhood. Author and professor Dr. Lehman discussed slavery’s influence in Minnesota and its direct ties to this neighborhood.

Native Nations of Minnesota

I have been so excited to take my 4th and 5th grade students on the Bdote field trip while simultaneously feeling woefully unprepared. Now, I have so many ideas for not just preparing for this trip, but for integrating Native voices and knowledge throughout my curriculum.

—Teaching Bdote Participant



Learning from Place: Bdote

This thought-provoking experience brings participants to sites of significance to Dakota people. **More than 360 people learned about Minnesota history from Dakota perspectives on nine day-long immersive experiences.** In partnership with Dakota scholars, MHC also facilitated a workshop—Teaching Bdote: Tools for Teaching American Indian Content—which was designed to empower and support educators who have been on a Bdote trip and want to share the experience with their students.

Why Treaties Matter:

Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations

In FY2019, this nationally recognized traveling exhibit added 10 communities and 30,000 visitors to a running total of more than 100 locations including a permanent exhibit at the Minnesota State Capital. We connected more communities to our online resources including complimentary Why Treaties Matter educator guides, and videos such as the “Contemporary Dakota and Ojibwe Authors” series and “American Indian Responses to Statehood.”

Veterans' Voices



In 2019, the annual Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony continued to honor the outstanding work of Minnesota's Veterans in an inspiring new format that celebrated their poetry, prose, essays, and memoirs. The intimate gathering featured nine Veterans sharing their personal stories before 160 attendees. Additional workshops, salons, and events expanded support networks for Veterans and their families.

"We Are Water MN"

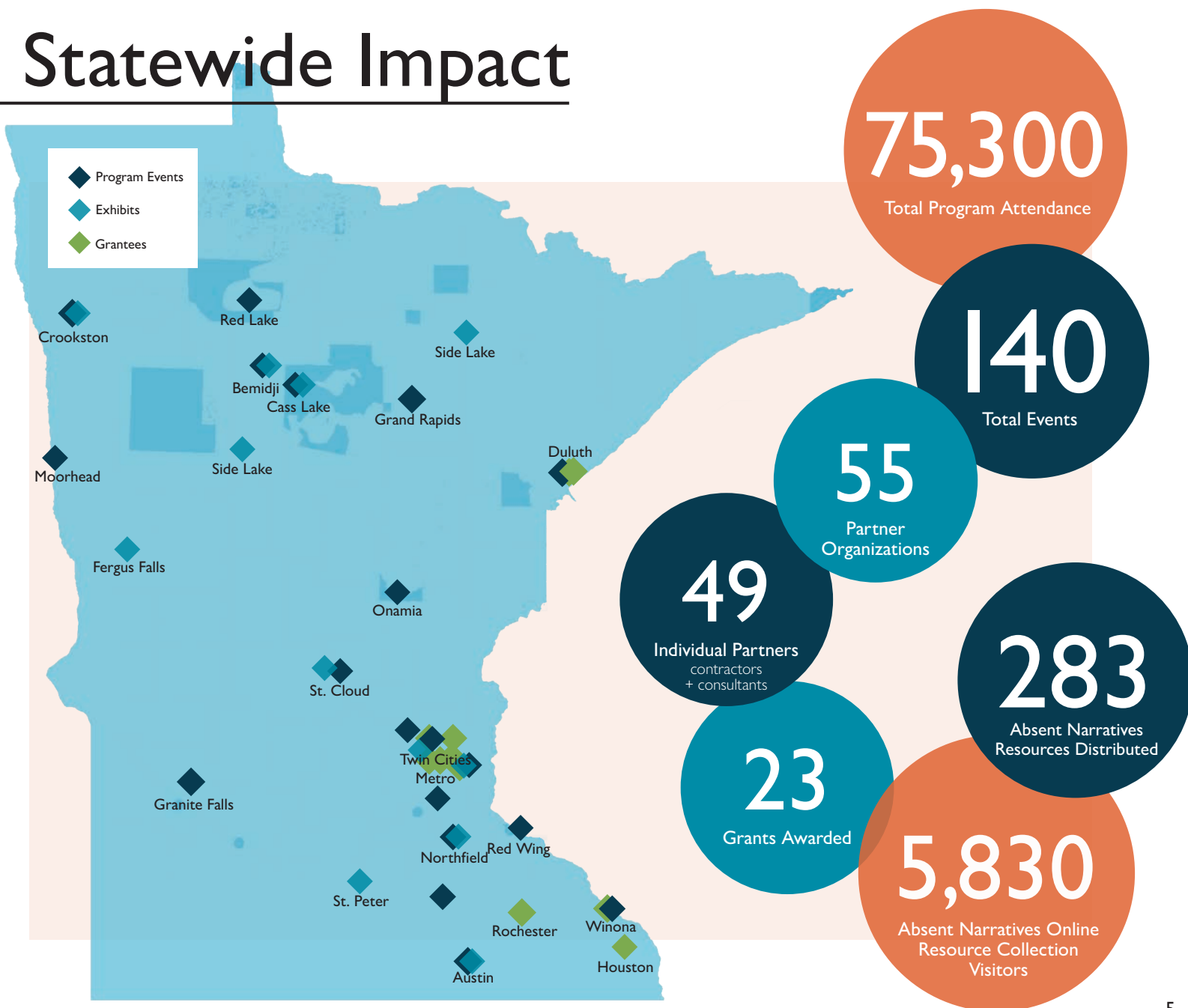
The story of water and the important conversations and decisions needed for its future have brought these organizations and state agencies into a unique partnership. For MNHS and the greater history community, it's a great opportunity to show how history is a valued tool in examining critical issues.

—Jennifer Jones

Deputy Director of Preservation & Outreach
MN Historical Society

This hands-on exhibit taught visitors about water in Minnesota through personal stories, historical materials, and scientific information. **A record 42,000 people visited the exhibit during its second statewide tour of eight locations in FY2019.** MHC awarded more than \$67,000 in grants to seven organizations hosting the exhibit. This innovative approach to environmental stewardship has fostered rich partnerships at the local level and with four state agencies and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Statewide Impact



Partnerships with Impact

MHC's Grantmaking

We support the outstanding work of nonprofit organizations, schools, and collectives across the state through our grants. **In FY2019, 21 humanities-based awards totaled \$6,935** for projects elevating the stories of communities often marginalized or absent from dominant culture.

New in 2019, the **Community Partner Fund** awarded **\$100,000 each for two projects that foster collaboration between organizations addressing community-identified goals and opportunities.**

Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop will create new platforms to help incarcerated writers present their stories and voices to broader audiences at prisons in Faribault, Lino Lakes, Moose Lake, Shakopee, and Stillwater. **The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition** will partner with the Upper Sioux Nation to increase access to student records from the Pipestone Indian Boarding School, unveiling narratives and histories that have been intentionally hidden in order to oppress indigenous communities.



Pass-Through Appropriations

MHC has been appointed the fiscal agent for a variety of government and community organizations by the Minnesota State Legislature because of our responsible fiscal management. **In FY2019 we oversaw the disbursement of more than \$1.7M to 26 organizations.** These included both competitive and named entity grants identified by the state.

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. Nearly 11,000 people attended 375 events in FY2019.

Omaha Public Schools

MHC has had an ongoing education partnership with OPS since 2008. With the support of a generous funder, we have developed in-depth programming that increases student success by strengthening relationships among educators, parents, communities, and students. We believe this approach leads to system-wide change. **During the 2018-19 school year, MHC hosted 160 professional development activities with nearly 5,000 attendees.**



Leadership

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Kristin White Minneapolis



Financials

This report reflects our 2019 fiscal year:
November 1, 2018–October 31, 2019

Support & Revenue

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$831,371
Contributed Income	\$70,650
Omaha Public Schools Funding	\$0 Received support in FY2018
Campaign Contributions	\$690,996
Minnesota Programs Revenue	\$98,301
Other Income	\$157,919
Event Center Revenue	\$408,061
State of Minnesota	\$2,850,000 2-yr biennium approp.
Pass-Through Appropriations	\$4,905,454 2-yr biennium approp.

Total Support & Revenue

\$10,012,752

Expenses

Minnesota Programs	\$1,424,028
Omaha Public Schools Program	\$4,012,732
Pass-Through Appropriations	\$1,647,335
Event Center - Program Exp.	\$383,562
Event Center - Non-program Exp.	\$102,046
Fundraising	\$128,071
Management & Administration	\$1,106,127

Total Expenses

\$8,803,900

Net Profit (or Loss)

\$1,208,852

KEY STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

Kevin Lindsey

Chief Operating Officer

Carol Aegerter

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, 2018 to October 31, 2019. Thank you!

\$40,000 +

McKnight Foundation**
National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Minnesota (Operating Support)
State of Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund*

\$10,000 – \$39,999

Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation
MN Pollution Control Agency**

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Katherine R. Curtis Legacy Gift
Hormel Foods**

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Charles & Emily Kelley
U.S. Bank*

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Mary & Keith Bednarowski
JNBA Financial Advisors*
Jean King & Stuart Appelbaum
Mutual of America*
Meryll Levine Page & Christopher Page
Patricia Ploetz
Regions Hospital Foundation*
Kennon & Nina Rothchild
The Justin & Susan Kelly Foundation
Maxine H. Wallin

\$500 – \$999

Casey DeMarais & Keith Richter
Keith Burke*
Bremer Bank*
Brianna Erickson
Susan Hill Gross & Bert Gross
Lynne Leaf
Bryan & Theresa Ljung
United Health Group
Kristin White

\$250 – \$499

David & Aimee Dayhoff
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Jacqueline Johnson
Athena Kildegaard
John & Marcia Lally
James E. Lindell
Anita Patel
Sylvia Strobel
U.S. Bank
UBS Financial Services*
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\$100 – \$249

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Bruce & Harriet Bart
Carol Buesgens
Thomas Cocchiarella

Lewis Cunzeman*
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Andy Currie & Ames Sheldon
Rebecca Evan
Carl Fordahl
Margaret Fossett
Ronald & Renee Hunter
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Joshua Ney
Trudy Ohnsorg
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Catherine & John Silver
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Up to \$99

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Diane Tran
Nancy Vanderburg
Mary R. Ward
Ernie Windhauser*

*Support in full or part for Veterans' Voices

**Support for "We Are Water MN"

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 committed from the following individuals and institutions through FY2019:

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
Nicholson Family Foundation
Nancy B. Nicholson 2003 Charitable Lead Trust
David O'Fallon
Trudy Ohnsorg
Anita Patel

State of Minnesota Bonding Appropriation
Brian Steeves
The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
U.S. Bank
Kristin White



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