



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

ACTION LEADS TO IMPACT

2021
ANNUAL
REPORT



A look back on a year of opportunity and results

The humanities center is about people. *All people.*
That includes all societies, all cultures, and all communities.

At the Minnesota Humanities Center, we focus on creating a just society through community engagement, education, and innovation within our state borders and beyond. We are committed to improving educational engagement by recognizing and appreciating the depth and richness of expression and excellence within all communities.

On the following pages, you'll see a snapshot of our 2021 fiscal year—the dollars spent, the actions taken, and the results realized.

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE CEO	<u>3</u>
2021 HIGHLIGHTS	<u>4–5</u>
PARTNERS	<u>6</u>
DONORS	<u>7</u>
STATEWIDE IMPACT	<u>7</u>
MHC@50	<u>8–9</u>
MHC@50 DONORS	<u>10</u>
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	<u>11</u>
FINANCIALS	<u>11</u>
LEADERSHIP	<u>12</u>



LETTER FROM THE CEO

As we move into our fifth decade of our existence, the Minnesota Humanities Council (MHC) remains a spry organization that continues to adapt, evolve, and grow.

This past year, we significantly expanded the number of our partners and expanded the scope of several of our collaborations. Our efforts resulted in the creation of many innovative and more diverse programs.

We made substantial progress in securing funding to make much needed repairs to our historic home. We broke ground this year and hope to complete all of the interior and exterior renovations next year.

The Minnesota Legislature also entrusted MHC with additional funds to make more Cultural Legacy grants than in any other point in time in our history. We were honored to help increase shared understanding in society by amplifying the stories of Minnesota racial and ethnically diverse and indigenous communities.

While we had several accomplishments to celebrate this past year, we were not completely immune to the impact of the COVID pandemic. We postponed our 50th anniversary celebration to the spring of 2022.

As we look toward next year, MHC sees the need to step into its vision and mission with more urgency to bridge divides and spark positive change that brings all of us together.

Let us therefore hope for an end to the pandemic and an opportunity to return to the work of community building by getting together to celebrate MHC's first 50 years.

Warmest wishes,

Kevin M. Lindsey

Chief Executive Officer



“

Thank you all for really walking the talk on making grant applications as smooth and inclusive as possible! You're doing excellent work to be responsive, proactive, and communicative with folks and working hard to meet needs.”

– **ANONYMOUS**, 2019–2021 CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT APPLICANT

2021 Highlights

We took a lot of action in 2021, sparking change and making a significant impact with the communities we serve. Facilitating difficult conversations and amplifying the voices and stories of our marginalized community members, we were first responders to vital issues Minnesotans are facing. Here is an at-a-glance look at our top achievements:

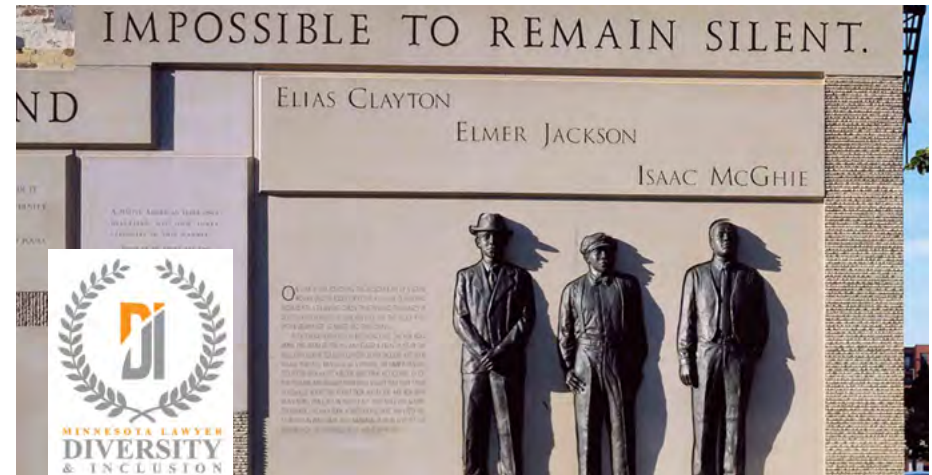
Received top honors for our *How Can We Breathe* program

Our four-part series, *How Can We Breathe* (HCWB)—our response to the Minneapolis protests following the murder of Mr. George Floyd—was recognized during the National Humanities Conference with the Federation of State Humanities Councils' top award, the Schwartz Prize, for our HCWB program.



Celebrated for our collaboration in remembering the lynchings in Duluth

The *Understanding Our Duluth Lynchings: Racial Violence in America and the Road to Justice and Reconciliation* event, in partnership with the Collaborative Legal Community Coalition (CLCC), had a significant impact throughout the state and region. We brought a board coalition together—the legal community, educators, and the general public—to examine and commemorate the 1920 lynchings in Duluth with thought leaders such as Dr. Harris, Jerry Blackwell, and Bryan Stevenson. The program was awarded Minnesota Lawyers' Diversity and Inclusion Award.



Introduced civic education for undergrads

MHC spearheaded a multistate effort to foster civic capacity and address the nation's deepening civic crisis at a point of major social leverage: the college undergraduate experience. We call it Third Way Civics, and it's a one-semester course now available at colleges and universities nationwide.

2021 Highlights

continued

Collaborated on a series of books about inspirational American Indian leaders

Together with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, we published three biographies of inspirational American Indian leaders written for third to fifth graders. The series was nationally recognized by the American Library Association. On a related note, Professor Gwen Westerman of University Minnesota–Mankato State University, who collaborated on the American Indian book series, was named Minnesota’s newest Poet Laureate—the first indigenous person to serve as Minnesota’s Poet Laureate!



Connected with communities and classrooms across the state

Our Chief Executive Officer Kevin Lindsey joined former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page and Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari on a statewide tour talking about Race in Education. Launching the tour in Duluth, Kevin also visited three local elementary school classrooms to read to them from our recently published, award-winning American Indian Lives series. He read from the book, “Peggy Flanagan: Ogimaa Kwe, Lieutenant Governor,” and talked with students about government, sports, and family.



Increased grant funding and reach

During the 2019–21 state biennium, we received funding from the Minnesota Legislature appropriated through the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy) to provide grants for humanities and cultural projects taking place across the state. Additionally, MHC administered federal grants in Minnesota through the American Rescue Program (ARP-COVID Relief grants).

Partners

We could not do what we do if it weren't for these generous individuals, government agencies, foundations, and businesses. Thank you for helping bring free and low-cost public humanities programs and exhibits to communities statewide from Nov. 1, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2021.

#unitecloud	Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans	Hmong College Prep Academy	Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)	Palmer Lake Elementary School	Staples-Motley School District (ISD 2170)
African American Registry	Creation in Common	Hmong Cultural Center	Minnesota Department of Health	Park Center Senior High School	State of Minnesota Office of the Governor
Aitkin High School	Crossroads Elementary Science and Montessori School	Hmong Museum	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR)	People's Movement Center	Strive Publishing
Allies: media/art	Crosswinds Arts and Science Middle School	Horizon Middle School	Minnesota Discovery Center	Pequot Lakes Schools (ISD 186)	Sweet Potato Comfort Pie
AMPERS	Dakota Wicohan	Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center	Minnesota Historical Society	Perpich Center for Arts Education (District 1000)	The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library
Arts & Mentoring Project	Detroit Lakes Middle School	In Black Ink	Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Phumulani	The Great Northern Festival
Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard	Duluth Head Start	Intermediate School District 917	Minnesota Opera	Public Art Saint Paul	Twin Cities Public Television (TPT)
AVEX	Duluth Public Schools (ISD 709)	Kettering Foundation	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Public Events	Transforming Generation
Battle Creek Middle School	East Union Elementary School	KMOJ	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment	TRUE Tuesdays
Black Family Blueprint	Eastside Freedom Library	Library of Congress	Minnesota Writers of English (MnWE)	Richfield Public Schools (ISD 280)	University of Minnesota
Braver Angels	Edgerton Elementary School	Lincoln Elementary School	MPR	Richfield STEM Elementary	University of Minnesota Extension (UMN)
Brimhall Elementary School	El Colegio High School	Lincoln Park Middle School	National Endowment for the Humanities	RISE	University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Study
CAAL	Elk River Area School District (ISD 728)	Listen Up Youth Radio	Native Governance Center	Roseville Area Schools (ISD 623)	University of St. Thomas
Capitol View Center	Emmet D. Williams Elementary School	Loft Literary Center	New Arab American Theater Works	Royalton Elementary	Urban Homeworks
Carleton College	Equity Alliance MN	Looking Glass Books	Normandale Community College	Saint Paul Almanac	VandenBerge Middle School
Cedar Creek Community School	Farmington Area Public Schools (ISD 192)	Love and Struggle	North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District	Saint Paul Public Schools (ISD 625)	Warrior Writers MN
Central High School	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Lower Phalen Creek Project	Northrup Auditorium	Salk Middle School	Washington Technology Magnet School
Central Park Elementary School	Folwell Performing Arts Magnet School	Macalester College	Oak Hill Montessori School	Speaking Out	Wayzata Public Schools (ISD 284)
Children's Theatre Company	Free Black Dirt	Mahtomedi High School	Oldenburg Arts and Cultural Community	St. Catherine University	Webster Elementary School
Circle of Healing	Friedell Middle School	Mahtomedi Middle School	OMG Media Solutions	St. Cloud State University	Westminster Town Hall
City of Rochester	Goodhue County Historical Society	Mangum Literacy Festival	Open Windows	St. Croix River Education District	White Bear Lake Area Schools (ISD 624)
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy	Great River School	McKinley Area Learning Center	Osseo Area Schools (ISD 279)	St. Francis High School	Wilson Elementary School
Coalition of Asian American Leaders	Gustavus Adolphus College	Meinders Community Library	Owatonna Public Schools (ISD 761)	St. Louis Park Community Education	Wise Ink
College of St. Benedict/ St. John's University	Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML)	Metropolitan State University		St. Mary's University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Campus	WithInsight, LLC
Community School of Excellence		Minneapolis College			Zimmerman High School
Como Park Senior High School		Minneapolis Public Schools			
Concordia University		Minnesota Council on Disabilities			
		Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs			
		Minnesota Department of Agriculture			

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 Nov. 1, 2020, to Oct. 31, 2021. Gifts of all sizes are treasured by us. **Thank you for your ongoing support!**

\$20,000+

The Andrew W.
Mellon Foundation
Minneapolis Foundation

\$5,000–\$19,999

Archie D. and Bertha H.
Walker Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation

\$1,000–\$4,999

Mary and Keith Bednarowski
Casey and Keith DeMarais
Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon
and Vogt PA
Patrick and Patricia Henry
Charles and Emily Kelley
Bryan and Theresa Ljung
Patricia Ploetz
Kennon and
Cornelia Rothchild
Kim Schaufenbuel
Trygve Throntveit
U.S. Bank

\$500–\$999

Harriet and Bruce Bart
Hildy Bowbeer
Columbus Jewish
Foundation
David and Aimee Dayhoff
Ali Elhassan
Rebecca Evan
Maureen Harms

Aby John
Lynne Leaf
Ann and Michael Mayers
Meryll and Christopher Page
Mary J. Surma
Kristin White

\$100–\$499

Gretchen and
David Anderson
Bremer Bank
Carol Buesgens
Keith Burke
Kendra Caduff
Ben Cady
Mary Curran
Joyce Eckes
Carl Fordahl
Eliza Gordon
Susan and Bert Gross
Phillip Handy
John Harrington
Les and Barbara Heen
Margaret Ann Hennen
Lisa Hill
Athena Kildegaard
Sheila Loughton
Ann Nelson
Joshua Ney
Trudy Ohnsorg
Susannah Ottaway
Anita Patel
Rebecca Lynn Petersen

James and Susan Peterson
Marie-Jean Proulx
Yvonne RB-Banks
John Sear
Robert Tapp
Paul and Karen Thissen
Mary Thompson
Diane and Jeff Tran
UBS Financial Services
Winifred West
Anne and Rob Wight

Up to \$99

Gary Agren
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Mary Burns-Klinger
Jen Caruso
Marilyn Chiat
Aaron Christofferson
Rose Chu
Rebecca Fillinger
Amy and Dawn Gabriel
Taylor Groenke
Melissa Hermes
Maxine and Kieran Hughes
Carla-Elaine Johnson
Caroline Julstrom
Annie Kuthart
Lajune Lange
Patricia Miltner
Jane and Gordon
Lynn Moore

Ellen Morehouse
Jessica O'Brien
Martha Prentice
Jen Sayler
Paul and Maggie Scanlon
Eric Smith
Wendi Storhoff
Helen Sullinger
Britt Udesen
Pramila Vasudevan
Ellen Zacharias

Statewide Impact

20,000
individuals served

28,151
total attendance

136
events held
in 2021

72
unique
humanities
scholars

94
grants
awarded

40
partner
organizations

MHC@50

The humanities connect people and communities, bridge differences, interpret the complexities of our world, and positively shape our collective future. As MHC embarks on a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary, we enlisted three scholars, poets, and thought leaders to reflect on MHC's new vision of building a just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate.



Curious

We are only going to learn from each other. We are only going to gain from each other. We are only going to be able to work together, if we have the humility to learn about each other, to be interested in

lives other than our own. And we can only accomplish this learning of who we are, as MHC proposes, if we are curious, willing to connect with wide-embracing compassion. For many of us, each day in America, a stranger walks into our village, or we are a stranger walking into someone else's village. But at the same time, the stranger looks at us differently than we look at ourselves. And so, we must question our own identity in ways we have not before. This can be a terrifying proposition, but it doesn't have to be.

– **DAVID MURA**, WRITER



Connected

When we are thinking about community-based regional food systems, food is something that we all have in common. It is the one piece that connects all of us because food is something that we all

need every day, no matter what our economic status is or what the color of our skin is. Everybody needs food to survive. To be happy, indigenous communities in the past worked hard as a collective to make sure that they had enough food for their entire community. It was hard work to think about utilizing all this food as it grows throughout the season. I think that is something we can be doing today—working directly with all of our community members to have a purpose of creating a lot of food for our community. The benefits of what that would look like, utilizing both permacultural designs and our landscapes, and placing food forests and food parks everywhere.

– **SEAN SHERMAN**, THE SIOUX CHEF



Compassionate

In the Buddhist tradition, which is really a philosophical tradition, compassion is not just a feeling, and it is not just empathy. It is truly the active desire to alleviate the suffering of others. And it

is important to remember that it is also not charity. It is also not missionary work because you have to start with yourself. If you do not understand yourself, you are going to harm others through your lack of understanding. And so, you have to work on your own suffering as well as work to help others and serve others. So, as a poet, writer, writing instructor, activist, and collaborator, usually my medium is language, and language itself is our tool as writers.

– 신 선 영 辛善英 **SUN YUNG SHIN**



MHC@50 Donors

We are grateful for the generosity of those whose support made action and impact possible throughout the year. Through the 50th and Many Voices, Once State campaigns, we successfully completed critical infrastructure projects, propelling our mission forward.

Carol Aegerter

Gary Agren

Ta-Coumba Aiken

Ben Ament

Donna and Robert Anderson

Gretchen and David Anderson

Nancy Aronson Norr

Gavin Bart

Harriet and Bruce Bart

Martha Beck

Mary and Keith Bednarowski

Geno Beniek

Bernice Berns

Blackwell Burke P.A.

Thomas and Elizabeth Boyd

Warren and Jackie Bradbury

Brian Bunkers

Kendra Caduff

David Campbell

Gerald Carlson

Michael Collins

Allen and Ivie Cooley

Carl Cooley

Will Cooley

Mary Cronin

David and Aimee Dayhoff

Nancy Dayhoff

Carolyn Dehnbostel

Casey and Keith DeMarais

Joanne Dorsher

JE Dunn

Samuel Edwards

Joel Elftmann

Ali Elhassan

Rebecca Evan

Ashley Findlay

Daniel Finn

Carl Fordahl

MayKao Fredericks

Jerry Garcia

Barry Gillespie

Ryan Gillespie

Mark Goodell

Nancy Goodell

Robyn Goodell

Christie Gordon

Grant Grissom

Nor Hall

Christopher and

Caitlin Heen

Les and Barbara Heen

Patrick Henry and

Patricia Welter

Stephan Henry

Cynthia Hokenson

Jacqueline Johnson

Rebecca Kalaidis

Diana Duane Kasper

Melissa Kath

Stephen Kelley

Nannerl Keohane

Jean King

Jim and Mary Kloppenberg

Jeffrey Kolnick

Thomas Krueger

Tom Krueger

Liz La Porte

Debra and Patrick Lalley

Michael Lambert

Daniel Larson

Jill Lawrence

Lynne Leaf

Mary Leaf

Elizabeth Lezark

Kevin Lindsey

Bryan and Theresa Ljung

Ann and Robyn

Mathews-Lingen

Ann and Michael Mayers

Maureen McCarter

Pamela McClanahan

Kathleen Michaelson

Cassandra Miles

Pat and Cathy Mullen

Mutual of America

David Muzic

Christina Nguyen

Myrna and Ron Ohmann

Susannah Ottaway

Brett Otteson

Cynthia Paley

Ann Pederson

Rebecca Lynn Petersen

Todd Pierson

Patricia Plötz

Leaf Robert

Jessica Rust

Kim Schaufenbuel

Russell Schmidt

Bri Sharkey-Smith

Sung Ja Shin

Christianna and

Pat Shortridge

Catherine and John Silver

MM Smith

Brian Steeves

Nancy Steinke

Janet Dickerson Stephens

Sylvia Strobel

Michael Sullivan

Carol Throntveit

Polly Throntveit

Trygve Throntveit

Diane and Jeff Tran

Amy Trombley

Brian Voerding

Connie and Jerry Von Korff

James Way

Donald Wesling

Dennis Whipple

Kristin White

Christine Wolf

Park Street Public

Sunrise Community Banks

The Justin and Susan

Kelly Foundation

U.S. Bank



“

Over the last 50 years, MHC has developed an innovative, community-focused model that amplifies narratives and empowers our diverse community. We now have the opportunity to ensure that our physical space continues to serve as a touchpoint of the creative and impactful humanities work throughout the state and helps move us forward for the next 50 years.

– KEVIN LINDSEY,
CEO

Strategic Priorities

MHC developed a strategic framework for 2020–2023.



LIFE-LONG LEARNING: Enhance humanities instruction, increase achievement in education, and broaden access to humanities learning.



STATEWIDE ACCESSIBILITY: Collaborate with individuals, creatives, scholars, and organizations to increase humanities programming to all corners of Minnesota.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: Deepen, broaden, and increase our capacity and collaborations that facilitate civic engagement and allow for the sharing of human experiences, particularly with traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.



HUMANITIES SUPPORT: Administer humanities grants, gifts, and appropriations to support individuals, creatives, scholars, and organizations to broaden humanities access and learning. We will be a leader in championing, sharing, and supporting humanities work.



EVENT CENTER GROWTH: Gain recognition as a premier regional resource to host events that bring people together to collectively find solutions and increase human connection.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH: Demonstrate a commitment to a healthy workplace culture, innovative programming, and excellence in financial management and governance. We will be an example of a strong, inclusive, and diverse organization.

Programs

Our programs help us take action. Action that leads to increasing understanding and sparking change to make an impact.

Professional Development

- K–12
- College

Public Programs

- Immersive Experiences
- Civics and Culture
- Exhibits
- Poetry and Literature

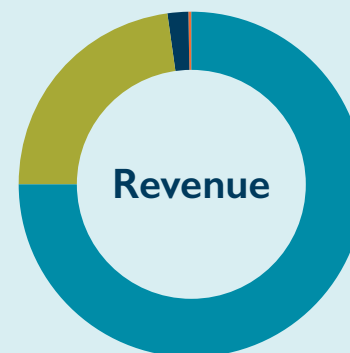
Grantmaking/Capacity-Building Books & Media

- Books
- Videos



Scan code to learn more about each program.

Financials



Government Grants*	\$12,154,783.10
Contributions	\$3,785,730.06
Programmatic	\$263,800.98
Investment	\$26,576.10

TOTAL **\$16,230,890**

* Includes restricted multi-year grant funding and pass-through funds.



Administrative	\$4,611,328.00
Staffing	\$2,579,825.84
ReGrants	\$2,485,665.40
Contract Services	\$2,402,645.76

TOTAL **\$12,079,465**

Leadership

FY2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Kristin White, Minneapolis

Vice Chair

Les Heen, Minneapolis

Secretary

Trudy Ohnsorg, St. Paul

Treasurer

Brian R. Steeves, Apple Valley

Nkem Chirpich, Ph.D., Minnetonka

Will Cooley, Robbinsdale

David Dayhoff, Minnetonka

Ali Elhassan, Woodbury

Rebecca Evan, Minneapolis

Annamarie Hill, Forest Lake

Patrick Henry, Waite Park

Nicholas L. Jenkins, Minneapolis

Jacqueline Johnson, Minneapolis

Athena Kildegaard, Morris

Lynn Leaf, Minneapolis

Bryan Ljung, New Brighton

Joshua Ney, Minneapolis

Anita Patel, Minneapolis

Rebecca Lynn Petersen, Fergus Falls

Kim Schaufenbuel, Owatonna

Sylvia Strobel, St. Paul

Christine Wolf, Apple Valley

Senior Staff

Kevin Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer

Aby John, Chief Operating Officer

MayKao Fredericks, Chief Humanities Officer



Appreciated the streamlined, easy form, especially the process that included an LOI stage, which made our initial investment in the application that much easier and gave us the opportunity to get some great feedback from Humanities Center folks.”

– **ANONYMOUS,**
2019–2021 CULTURAL
HERITAGE GRANT
APPLICANT

