

**Curious
Connected
Compassionate**

**Appreciating
and Valuing
Our Humanity**

**2025
Annual
Report**



**Minnesota
Humanities
Center**



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Letter from the CEO Kevin Lindsey



History teaches us the hard truth that the greatest injustices throughout our past did not begin with violence but rather with dehumanization.

In a world that feels increasingly divided and tribalistic, **one of the most powerful and radical acts that we can undertake is to recognize humanity in one another.** The moment we stop seeing each other as human, empathy becomes optional, listening becomes rare, and conversations turn into contests instead of opportunities to learn.

We've all felt this. You're in a conversation that feels tense, and suddenly it's no longer about understanding, it's about winning and being right. In those moments, human connection disappears.

But we've also experienced the opposite. **A moment when someone really listens. When you feel seen. When you realize, even in disagreement, "This person cares."** Those moments stay with us because they remind us of who we are, and who we can be with one another.

At a time when our democracy feels strained and our public discourse is increasingly fractured, **all of us at the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) feel the urgency to provide humanities offerings that allow us to listen deeply, wrestle honestly with our past, and imagine a more just future together.**

Humanities live in the stories we tell, the histories that we confront, and the conversations that we are willing to have across our differences.

Throughout Minnesota in 2025, MHC partnered with communities to create spaces for learning, dialogue, and reflection, spaces where people could be heard and engage with one another over differences of opinion without becoming uncivil. **We worked to build connections between people to see their common humanity because that is essential to a vibrant democracy. We held events, convened neighbors, and provided grant funding throughout the state for a stronger Minnesota,** for a curious, connected, and compassionate Minnesota.

This 2025 annual report reflects the collective efforts of our staff, board, partners, and supporters who believe, as I do, **that investing in humanities is an investment in people.** I am grateful for the trust placed in us and inspired by the communities who continue to show what is possible when we lead with humanity.

The future of our democracy depends on our willingness to invest in understanding, empathy, and shared responsibility. The Minnesota Humanities Center stands ready to continue to do this work alongside you. If you are already an MHC supporter—thank you! If you are not yet an MHC supporter, I invite you to see yourself within our work.

A stylized, handwritten signature in yellow ink that reads "K. M. Lindsey".

Kevin Lindsey,
CEO of Minnesota Humanities Center





“There is something uniquely powerful about having a shared history.

It reminds us of how we are connected as Minnesotans, through our stories, songs, and art.

A reminder of the power of the humanities to build connections and celebrate our commonalities. ”



Gwen Nell Westerman is Minnesota's Poet Laureate, an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Oyate Nation, and the first Native poet to hold the role of Laureate for Minnesota. MHC is honored to facilitate the appointment process for the Minnesota State Laureate and promote and coordinate the work of the Poet Laureate through statewide programming.



2025 in Review

In 2025, people gathered across Minnesota to find understanding, learn about themselves and others, and have their emotions stirred. Minnesota Humanities Center brought 146 events to 7,095 people in more than 30 different communities across the state. In all, we connected with our neighbors young and old. We learned about how we are unique and distinct, while simultaneously similar and with our fates intertwined—that is the humanities at work.

Here is a snapshot of some of the external programming Minnesota Humanities Center delivered in 2025.

November 2024



Examining Military Service from the Margins

WINONA
Examining Military Service from the Margins

DULUTH
Juneteenth Reckoning with Slavery Film Screening & Community Conversation

MINNEAPOLIS
Radical Black Futures Series

December 2024



MN Writers Off the Page: Marcie Rendon

MARSHALL
National History Day: Honoring Histories with Care

MHC
MN Writers Off the Page: Where They Last Saw Her

January 2025



Resistance, Resilience, and Reimagination Affinity Group Session

MINNEAPOLIS
Minneapolis Public Schools Alabama Civil Rights Field Study Reconvening

VIRTUAL
National History Day Judges Workshop

MHC
Resistance, Resilience, and Reimagination Affinity Group Session

February 2025



Learning from Place, Bdote

GREAT NORTHERN FESTIVAL
Learning from Place: Bdote

ST. CLOUD & MINNEAPOLIS
Sketches of Minnesota Scripted Show

BEMIDJI
American Indian Education Leadership Network, Rural Indian Education Gathering

STAPLES
National History Day Educators Workshop

WINONA
Minnesota Writers Off the Page: A Nation Takes Place

ST. PAUL
Reckoning with Slavery Film Screening and Community Conversation

ST. PAUL
OMG Black History & Culture Art, Music, & Literature Exhibition



National History Day Educators Workshop

March 2025



We Are Water MN Exhibition

FOND DU LAC
Dakota & Ojibwe Language Symposium

MINNEAPOLIS
MPS Equity Retreat

MINNEAPOLIS
Latino Poetry Classroom Workshop

ORTONVILLE
We Are Water MN Exhibition

ERSKINE
National History Day Educator Workshop

PRIOR LAKE
Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference

April 2025



MN Writers Off the Page: Tarik Dobbs

SARTELL
Cultivating Cultural Understanding—Dakota & Ojibwe Educator Resources

VIRTUAL
Poetry Craft Workshop with Minneapolis Poet Laureate Heid Erdrich

ST. PAUL
Many Fronts, Veterans Poetry and Memorials at the Minnesota State Capitol Mall

ELY
We Are Water MN Exhibition

MHC
Spring Metro Indian Education Gathering

MINNEAPOLIS
MN Writers Off the Page: Nazar Boy

NORTHFIELD
Threads of Tanka—Poet Laureate Event

May 2025



Realizing Wakanda with Astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris

ROCHESTER
Realizing Wakanda with Astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris

MINNEAPOLIS
More than a Single Story with Jason Reynolds

ST. PAUL
Learning from Place: Bdote

June 2025



Juneteenth Brunch with Professor Sherrilyn Ifill

ST. PAUL
Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Juneteenth Joy with Dr. Jessica B. Harris

MINNEAPOLIS
Juneteenth Brunch with Professor Sherrilyn Ifill

MINNEAPOLIS
Reconstruction Destructed Juneteenth Film and Community Conversation

MHC
Leading Elementary Social Studies Inquiry Institute

ST. PAUL
Hmong Ancestral Art Weaving Immersive Experience

ST. PAUL
Kumbayah—the Juneteenth Story: Special Edition



Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Juneteenth Joy with Dr. Jessica B. Harris

July 2025



Learning from Place: Watt Munisotaram

MINNEAPOLIS
We Are Water MN Exhibition

MHC
Summer on the Lawn—Shakespeare in Our Parks

HAMPTON
Learning from Place: Watt Munisotaram

STAPLES
K-8 Social Studies Standards Workshop

August 2025



Native American Lives Series Book Launch

MHC
Summer on the Lawn—Movie Night & Puppet Performance

MHC
Native American Lives Series Book Launch

DULUTH
MN Writers Off the Page: Locker Room Talk: Women in Private Spaces

NEW ULM, BRAHAM, ROCHESTER & MN STATE FAIR
Sketches of Minnesota

HENDERSON
We Are Water MN exhibit opening

MAPLEWOOD
Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Asian Joy at the Pan Asian Center



Sketches of Minnesota MN State Fair

September 2025



Headscarf Story Circle

ROSEMOUNT & MINNEAPOLIS
Sketches of Minnesota

ST. PAUL
MN Writers Off the Page: Obligations to the Wounded

ST. PAUL
Reconstruction Destructed Film Screening and Community Conversation

ST. PAUL
Headscarf Story Circle



Shorelines and Storylines: An Artist Gathering

SHAKOPEE
Learning from Place: Mdwakanton Sioux Community

ST. PAUL/WEST SIDE
Learning from Place: 100 Years of Mexican American Culture

WINONA
Shorelines and Storylines: An Artist Gathering

October 2025



Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Unity

EDGE OF THE WILDERNESS, FERGUS FALLS, FOSSTON, & OTTER TAIL COUNTY
Sketches of Minnesota

FERGUS FALLS
Reconstruction Destructed Film Screening and Community Conversation

MHC
Objects of War, a Storytelling Circle

MINNEAPOLIS
Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Unity

ST. PAUL
Metro Indian Education Gathering

MINNEAPOLIS & ST. PAUL
50th Joint Commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War, Secret War in Laos, and Southeast Asian Conflict



50th Joint Commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War, Secret War in Laos, and Southeast Asian Conflict



Education for the Next Generation

Schools are where students explore who they are, the world around them, and how to be leaders in our society. As economic prosperity and democracy are not guaranteed to any future generation, MHC works with educators, scholars, and community leaders to exchange best practices, convene workshops, and create professional development materials for educators so that every student can be seen and can thrive in the classroom.

Supporting Educators with Content for Curriculum Development



U.S. Eras Project

Created a yearlong K-12 educator professional learning opportunity “Navigating the US History Eras: Content, Pedagogy, and Inquiry in the Classroom,” with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to implement Minnesota’s 2021 Social Studies Academic Standards. Educators have access to subject matter experts, recordings, curated resources, and collaborative planning tools.

History Programming

MHC, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, traveled to Central, Northwest, and Southwest Minnesota to provide books and resources about the history of Indigenous Boarding Schools to more than 200 teachers from more than 27 school districts. The collaboration with Minnesota Service Cooperatives supported National History Day.

Summer Institute

MHC presented the six-session Leading Elementary Social Studies Inquiry (LESSI) Institute to help curriculum and instruction leaders integrate English Language Arts and Social Studies standards into cohesive inquiry-based lessons that are engaging, interdisciplinary, and maximize impact in the classroom.



Minnesota Civics Summit

A collaborative effort involving the League of Women Voters, YMCA Center for Youth Voice, Federal Bar Association, MN Council on Social Studies, MDE, TeachingCivics.org, teachers, and community members supported teachers in their engagement of students in civics, voting, and new civics standards for 11th and 12th grade students.



The Minnesota Indigenous Education for All Legislation

ensures that all students learn about Indigenous history with material approved from the Tribal Nations. MHC partnered with Tribal Nations, MDE, and the National Indian Education Association to host Learning for Sovereign Futures, a first-of-its-kind event for educators to learn about resources to teach Indigenous history.



The Holocaust, Genocide of Indigenous Peoples, and other Genocide Education

statute was passed in 2024 and MHC staff served on the 2025 MDE implementation committee with scholars and educators. MHC, at the request of the implementation committee, is supporting the development of units that cover Black genocide and the Duluth Lynchings.

Learn more about how MHC works with school districts, administrators, teachers, librarians, and the community to create education resources for educators and students across the state at mnhum.org/what-we-do/k-12-education.



Telling Indigenous Stories

Generations of people in Minnesota have never received any books or information about Indigenous people during their early formal education. MHC worked with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) to close this gap by launching the Native American Lives Series (NALS), books that share stories of Dakota and Ojibwe leaders who have influenced and shaped Minnesota and the nation.

SMSC and MHC's goal is to deliver a complete set of the NALS series, including an accompanying educator guide for each book, in every school and library in Minnesota.

Our thanks to Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Lerner Publishing for their continued support.

Learn more about how MHC is working to represent Native Americans in literature at mnhum.org/program/native-american-lives-series/.

Upcoming 2026 Titles:

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

GEORGE MORRISON
Modern Artist



STACI DROUILLARD

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

MARIE LOUISE
BOTTINEAU BALDWIN
Political Pathfinder



HEMA ERDRICH PATEL

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

SHARON DAY
Water Walker



PAULINE
DANFORTH

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

PATRICK DESJARLAIT
Fine Artist



TASHIA HART

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

JOSEPHINE GATES KELLY
Native Rights Champion

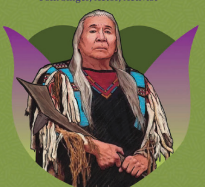


LAMAR RENVILLE

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

FLOYD RED CROW
WESTERMAN
Polk Singer, Actor, Activist



ERIN GRIFFIN

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

2025 Titles:

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

ELLA CARA DELORIA
Dakota Language Protector



DIANE WILSON

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

CHARLES ALBERT BENDER
National Baseball Hall of Fame Pitcher



KADE FERRIS

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

PEGGY FLANAGAN
Lieutenant Governor



JESSICA ENGELKING

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN LIVES

CARRIE CAVENDER
SCHOMMER
Dakota Language Teacher



DIANE WILSON

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

“As an Ojibwe child, I couldn’t even dream of access to books like these in the Native American Lives series.”

What these books illustrate to young Dakota and Anishinaabe kids is nothing short of an expanded view of life’s possibilities. ”

HEID E. ERDRICH
Native American Lives Co-Editor

Understanding Through Immersion

Immersive experiences that engage our senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste allow us to be transported from our everyday surroundings to improve learning, memory retention, and emotional connection. MHC has a wide variety of immersive experiences that help people learn about the stories, history, people, and places of Minnesota.

MHC celebrates communities within the state through the **Feeding Our Souls: The Essence of Joy** events series, which uses food as a conduit to discuss culture and tell stories. Each event features multi-cultural delicacies, cooking techniques, chefs, and businesses.

Across the globe, the headscarf is worn by women for expressions of cultural identity, health, religious beliefs, and as a fashion statement. **Headscarf Story Circles** were created to foster a place for expression, dialogue, and inspiration. In a powerful display of support, November 15 was declared "Headscarf Day" in Rochester by Mayor Kim Norton.

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Learn more about how MHC is collaborating with individuals and organizations to create immersive programming at mnhum.org/what-we-do/immersive-experiences.



“The Headscarf Story Circle demonstrated the power of storytelling to build community.

It reminds us of how we are connected as Minnesotans, through our stories, songs, and art.

A reminder of the power of the humanities to build connections and celebrate our commonalities. ”

CHAO MWATELA

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director, City of Rochester, Minnesota



Comedy Building Bridges

Comedy can be a powerful tool that helps people create shared joy, bridge cultural divides, and reduce social barriers. When we laugh together, we create a sense of belonging and allow ourselves to see the world from a different perspective.

MHC, to combat increasing polarization within society, sought the help of the improvisational comedians of Danger Boat Productions (Danger Boat) to create a unique civic engagement effort known as Sketches of Minnesota. Danger Boat, like MHC, seeks to illuminate ideas, lift people up, and educate and engage people on complex issues.

Sketches of Minnesota is a unique civic engagement project created to enhance respectful dialogue across ideological differences to build trust between neighbors. The concept is relatively straightforward. Find a trusted organization that can ask neighbors with different viewpoints to come to dinner so they can talk with their neighbors and enjoy a night of comedy.

Several improvisational comedians from Danger Boat and MHC staff facilitated conversations over dinner with four questions about their community and its future. Utilizing what they heard from community members, Danger Boat comedians would create comedic improvisational skits highlighting the best, the challenges, and the hope of the community.

After the half-hour of comedy, MHC and Danger Boat would facilitate a conversation about what was revealed during the comedy show.

“You have a gift for opening up dialogue in people who normally wouldn’t share. We learned a lot about the community and some of its needs.”

PAMELA MARKO

2025 Sketches of Minnesota Host Site Planning Team

Community organizations, foundations, and political leaders so greatly appreciated the night of comedy and the opportunity to build bridges that MHC and Danger Boat will bring Sketches of Minnesota for a 2026 comedy tour. We thank our wonderful local 2025 host partners in Braham, New Ulm, Rochester, Minneapolis, Fergus Falls, Rosemount, Bigfork, Fosston, and Otter Tail County.

Learn more about how the Sketches of Minnesota program fosters understanding and highlights the threads that make up the fabric of Minnesota at mnhum.org/program/sketches-of-minnesota.



“To gather conjures church basements, living rooms, coffee shops, gymnasiums, and concert halls.

**People come together,
joined by blood, belief,
language, and food.
Gathering doesn't
mean we agree. It
means we recognize
one another.**

When we laugh together, we become family.
When grief is shared, we know we are not alone.
To be part of something larger makes us larger,
part of a legacy, the resiliency of a shared past
and a trajectory toward the future. ”



Kevin Kling, on the importance of gathering.
Kevin is an American Storyteller for NPR, hailing
from Minnesota and is a long-time partner of MHC.



Known as America's Second Independence Day, MHC has created annual Juneteenth programming to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, honor the enduring spirit, resilience, and perseverance of Black people who fought for freedom and economic independence, and examine the history and progress of achieving racial justice and equality in America.

During the past year, MHC commemorated Juneteenth with the following programs:

JUNETEENTH JOY



Culinary historian and NYT bestselling author **Dr. Jessica B. Harris** led us in dialogue and celebration of the African diaspora and their outsized influence on the development of cuisine in the United States at the **Feeding Our Souls: Essence of Juneteenth Joy** at the Minnesota History Center. After the conversation, several local African American chefs treated guests to a wide variety of expressions of African American cuisine.

FILM PREMIERE



The **Reconstruction Destroyed** film premiere discussed resiliency of African Americans after slavery, failure of the Courts and broader society to support reconstruction, and current efforts to achieve justice and equality. Insights were shared by noted civil rights attorney and Equal Justice Initiative founder Bryan Stevenson and Minnesota Federal District Court Judge Jerry Blackwell.

BRUNCH & CONVERSATION



Author, renowned attorney, and Vernon Jordan Professor of Law of Civil Rights at Howard University School of Law **Sherrilyn Ifill** joined us at Quincy Hall for the **2025 Juneteenth Brunch**. The discussion focused on the history and continued relevancy of the 14th Amendment in today's society and the work ahead of us to achieve racial justice and equality.

MHC continues to plan meaningful, honest, and accessible programming about this important and often misunderstood part of our country's history. **Learn more about our Juneteenth programming at mnhum.org/juneteenth.**





THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

The **Kumbayah, the Juneteenth Story: Special Edition** theatrical stage production addressed the origins of Juneteenth and the imagined impact on the lives of individuals hearing the news of the Emancipation Proclamation.



Minnesota, on Film

Film is a powerful storytelling medium that can educate, facilitate social change, create empathy, and explore new perspectives. MHC was honored to partner and issue grants to filmmakers and organizations to make films that tell us about our history and the stories of the people and communities that call Minnesota home.



New Works! Lab

A new program from the APIA MN Film Collective called New Works! Lab featured a season of films created, produced, directed, and starring Asian American filmmaking artists from Minnesota. These films were shown throughout Minnesota in conjunction with screenplay writing workshops.



Images of Africa

MSP Film created the "Images of Africa" program to shine a spotlight on the larger African experience, storytelling, and contributions from a range of artists and filmmakers from African communities.

Oromia 11

This project was the creation of five videos documenting the challenges and triumphs of first-generation immigrants and introduced Minnesotans to Oromo Culture. Content focused on customs and traditions, preservation of heritage, cuisine, and religious variations within the Oromia Region.



Reasons for Moving

Reasons for Moving by Claudia Nascimento was a poetic documentary film connecting the experiences of immigrants living in Minnesota. The project provided opportunity for cultural leaders, scholars, and community members to gather at the Southern Theater to engage in conversations about shared immigration experiences across the state.



Twin Cities Film Festival

The new MNmicro Cultural Film Festivals showcased and celebrated the voices, cultures, and stories from our state through a selection of curated Minnesota films during Pride, Indigenous, Black, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage months.

Learn more about how MHC partners with groups and media companies to capture Minnesota's visual stories at mnhum.org/what-we-do/books-and-videos/videos.



Southeast Asian Diaspora

Minnesota is home to one of the largest Southeast Asian communities in the country, with more than half identifying as Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and Vietnamese

50th Joint Commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War, Secret War in Laos, and Southeast Asian Conflict

MHC, in collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society, worked with the community to plan a legislatively funded joint commemoration program for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, Secret War in Laos, and Southeast Asian Conflict. An MHC Advisory Council was formed with representatives from each of the five named communities. This Advisory Council, drawing on their own lived experiences, helped shape the commemorative programming vision, themes, and events.

Learn more about how MHC is honoring the stories and heritage of the Southeastern Asian diaspora at mnhum.org/program/50th-anniversary-joint-commemoration.

“Thank you for listening, bridging divided communities, and bringing people together to preserve history, connect younger generations, support those affected by the Vietnam War, and ensure no one is forgotten. Stories that touch others live on forever. Peace.”

TRẦN THỊ MINH PHƯỚC

Retired librarian, storyteller, and award-winning author





Veteran Recognition Dinner & Pinning Ceremony

This event honored Veterans and their widows from the Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, and U.S. Veteran communities. A special message from Governor Walz was read by Minnesota National Guard Colonel Eduardo A. Suarez, and the keynote address was given by Brigadier General Simon Schaefer, Director of the Joint Staff for the Minnesota National Guard.



Immersive, Digital Experience

The floor-to-ceiling projection technology at the Royalston Square event venue in Minneapolis illuminated the devastation and displacement of war, and deep love for homelands that were left behind.



Educational Programs and Entertainment

Union Depot in St. Paul drew crowds of people who were treated to a full weekend of highlights that included panel conversations, historical exhibits, musical performances, traditional dances, art pieces, and a variety of delicious foods and beverages that represented culinary treats from throughout Southeast Asia.



Celebrating Têt

MHC partnered with the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota to preserve and enrich the cultural heritage of the community through the celebration of the Têt new year, honoring the past, present, and future with food, music, dancing, theater, and poetry.



Experiencing Cambodian Temple Watt Munisotaram

MHC partners with the Cambodian American Partnership of Minnesota to take groups to the Watt Munisotaram, the largest Cambodian Buddhist temple in the United States. Tour groups explored the intersection of history and spirituality of the Temple. The tour also provides participants with insight into Cambodia's complex history, the impact of the Khmer Rouge genocide, and the Vietnam War which led many Cambodians to seek refuge in Minnesota.



Honoring Those Who Served

The service of our military, active duty and Veterans, deserves to be honored, remembered, and respected. MHC created meaningful opportunities for Veterans, their families, and civilians to engage with one another and bridge their understandings of the experiences of war and conflict.

MHC provided opportunities for Veterans to be heard through a Veteran-led tour of the Minnesota State Capitol called **Many Fronts: Poetry and Memorials at the Capitol Mall** and facilitated conversations for Veterans to speak with legislators in Washington, D.C. during **Humanities on the Hill**.

The Humanities' Dialogues on the Experience of War initiative, supported by the National Endowment for Humanities, has allowed MHC to bring Minnesotans together in conversation to examine their experiences, opinions, and knowledge about war.

“The art of humanities has positively impacted my life as a woman Veteran, poet, storyteller, mother, and mental health provider. Stories, history, art, and humanities is the common thread that connects us all. It’s not just words, it’s medicine.”

JESSI ATHERTON

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and U.S. Army Veteran

2016–2017 Launching Echoes of War

The first grant launched **Echoes of War**, providing intensive humanities training for community discussion followed by conversations grounded in literature, historical scholarship, and remembrance.

2017–2019 Expanding the Dialogue Network

MHC expanded **Echoes of War** to explore the cultural and historical dimensions of conflict through retreats that brought together scholars including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen, Veteran leaders, and community participants.

2023–2025 Centering Voices from the Margins

Examining Military Service from the Margins allowed further exploration into often overlooked narratives of military service, including those of women, LGBTQ members, and Veterans from immigrant and refugee communities. These conversations offered opportunities to examine how identity, history, and lived experience shape the public memory of war and military service.

Learn more about how literature, memoirs, oral history, and facilitated discussions examine how identity shapes the experience of military service and the ways those experiences are remembered at mnhum.org/program/many-fronts.

Water Stewardship

Learn more about how MHC is deepening the connections between the humanities and water and how your community can host the We Are Water MN exhibit at mnhum.org/water.

Water is sacred in Minnesota. The lakes, rivers, and streams hold memories, provide food, transport us to new places, and bring joy and peace to our lives. MHC worked with partners to capture and amplify the essence, importance, and history of waterways throughout Minnesota.

The decade-long partnership between MHC and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) continued with the annual **We Are Water MN** traveling exhibition, coming to five new locations in Minnesota. This exhibit brings a community on a journey of how their region interacts with, conserves, and protects water. Host sites create engagements for the public throughout the duration of the exhibition, further extending the network of people who protect water around the state.

We Are Water MN is a project of the MPCA and MHC in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society; the Board of Water and Soil Resources; the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources; and University of Minnesota Extension.

We thank our partners and the 2025 host teams in Ortonville, Ely, Minneapolis, Henderson, and Bloomington for their commitment to We Are Water MN and water stewardship in Minnesota.



Centering Native voice is essential to reclaim stolen narratives, validate Indigenous knowledge systems, and recognize land stewardship expertise. This focus allows the opportunity to correct historical erasure, develop public policy, and empower Indigenous communities to manage their own narratives, land, and future.

MHC's **Learning from Place** immersive offerings brought individuals and groups to sites of important Indigenous history. These experiences were used for professional development and team building and becoming aware of Indigenous knowledge and history.



Bdote: Dakota scholars and educators led this storytelling experience about three places of significance along the **Bdote**—the gathering place and source of life for the Dakota people at the intersection of the **Haŋáwakpa** (Mississippi River) and **Mnísoṭa Wakpá** (Minnesota River).



Hočokata Īi: The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) led a walking tour of the Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail including a stop at the **Hočokata Īi** cultural center and museum. Participants learned about Dakota history through an Indigenous meal and tour of the exhibit **Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake**.

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

exhibition, displayed permanently at the Minnesota State Capital and available for organizations to bring to their communities, offers insight, knowledge, and perspectives of Tribal Nations—allowing each Nation to tell their own stories of sovereignty, adaptability, and sustainability.

MHC hosted the 4th annual **Dakota & Ojibwe Language Symposium** in Carlton in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council's Language Revitalization Working Group to elevate the visibility of Indigenous languages throughout the state, celebrate successes, and help shape future language revitalization efforts.

Learn more about how MHC is immersing Minnesotans in locations of Indigenous significance at mnhum.org/what-we-do/immersive-experiences.



Power of Storytelling

MHC works to elevate storytellers, authors, poets, and editors to guide us through past, present, and future with words written or spoken and recorded for future generations.

MHC worked to enhance the state's vibrant literary ecosystem through the MN Writers Off the Page series, providing emerging storytellers the opportunity to gather in local libraries, bookstores, and community spaces to read, answer questions, and amplify their stories to new audiences.

In honor of **National Poetry Month** in April, MHC collaborated with the Minnesota Poet Laureate, several city (Minneapolis, Northfield, Rochester) Poet Laureates, and other award winning poets to expose Minnesotans from all walks of life and corners of the state to different types of poetry and to actively involve them in writing and creating poetry.

“Writers can inspire a kinder, fairer, more beautiful world, or incite selfishness, stereotyping, and violence. Writers can unite people or divide them.”

MARY PIPHER

American clinical psychologist and best-selling author

Many Fronts Poetry and Memorials at the Capitol Mall provided Veterans and civilians the chance to reflect upon military experience, monuments, and memorials on the Minnesota State Capitol Mall as well as space to create ekphrastic poems, vivid descriptions of works of art that they know and have appreciated in a new way.



Resistance, Voice, & Verse: A Latino Poetry Reading provided Rochester students with an opportunity to read personal poems and poems from “Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology,” in an event emceed by City of Rochester Poet Laureate, Jean Prokott. Latino Poetry was created with generous support from the Emerson Collective.



Let's Animate!— A Poetry Craft Talk and Workshop allowed individuals to enjoy poetry and also gave them an opportunity to create poetry and other writings upon receiving a prompt from Poet Laureate of Minneapolis Heid E. Erdrich's book “Verb Animate: Poems and Prompts from Collaborative Acts.”



Threads of Tanka: A Reading and Poetry Writing Event welcomed the Poet Laureate of Northfield, Russ Paladin, and Minnesota Poet Laureate, Gwen Nell Westerman, for an evening that took guests deep into preserving and appreciating the Japanese “short song” poetry genre of tanka that focuses on nature, emotions, or personal experiences.

Learn more about how MHC is showcasing storytelling, writing, and poetry to encourage personal reflection and greater understanding at mnhum.org/what-we-do/public-programming.



Grantmaking

With gratitude to the Minnesota Legislature in providing funding and identifying program grant lines through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, MHC was honored to be entrusted with administering grants to artists, authors, storytellers, filmmakers, and scholars to help them tell their stories, and keep cultural identities and histories of our diverse populations strong and vital in the state of Minnesota. In the 2023-25 grants biennium, MHC received 810 grant applications and granted over \$15.6 million to 175 organizations.

MHC is proud to shine a light on just a few of the grant recipients awarded funding to illustrate the impact of grants:



Hennepin History Museum Festivals Grant

The women-led Hennepin Fest welcomed 1,200 people to celebrate culture and performances by local women musicians, poets, artists, and community partners.



Lower Sioux Indian Community Cultural Heritage Grant

Funding was used to create cultural heritage expertise within the Cansayapi Cultural Department, collecting and protecting artifacts, and hiring an archaeology firm to identify areas for survey and investigation within the ancestral territories of Mdewakanton Dakota.



Marian Hassan
Cultural Heritage Grant

The Sing Again project worked to transcribe Somali lullabies, originally passed generation to generation through oral tradition, into a children's lullaby book and website for cultural preservation.



Healthy Community Initiative
Arts & Music Education Grant

This initiative increased access to visual arts, music education, and performing arts to youth living in rural Rice County who might otherwise not be able to participate due to cost and transportation factors.



Dakota Wicohan
Cultural Heritage Grant

This grant was used for a program to guide Dakota youth in the intricate process of crafting their own dance regalia outfits and provide dance lessons for students, preserving the history and traditions of the Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota.



Minors
Cultural & Ethnic Studies Grant

This grant was used to create a 60-page Hmong-to-English language book for 6th grade social studies students, which included a comprehensive photographic and narrative account of the refugee life experienced by tens of thousands of Minnesotans.



(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico
Cultural Heritage Grant

Grant funding was used to revitalize Mexican cultural heritage through the creation of a pop-up mobile museum with art exhibits, installations, and development opportunities for Minnesota-based Latinx artists. Funding also supported the creation and curation of the 10,000 ALEBRIJES outdoor public art exhibit that featured giant sculptures representing the spirit world in Mexican culture.





Theatre Novi Most Cultural Heritage Grant

As a direct artistic response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the theater worked with playwright Andrei Kureichik, dramaturg Wendy Weckwerth, directors Lisa Channer and Vladimir Rovinsky, and community advisors to create the new play "An Ocean Away". This play told the stories of immigrants from the post-Soviet diaspora living in Minnesota who are watching the war in Ukraine from afar.



The Park Place Arts & Music Education Grant

This project expanded culturally rooted arts and music enrichment for Latine youth in South Minneapolis, integrating a no-cost arts program taught by professional Latine artists into existing after-school elementary programming, creating a more expansive, educational offering focused on cultural preservation.



Tiwahe Foundation Cultural Heritage Grant

Tiwahe developed an online home for the Oyate Leadership Network, a facilitated, relational space where Indigenous leaders from across Minnesota come together to reflect, connect, and collectively navigate how to embody traditional knowledge and values across the diverse settings of their lives and community.





**Twin Cities R!SE
Cultural Heritage Grant**

This initiative linked the history of African American-led labor struggles to today's fight for economic empowerment and depicted this connection and understanding through story circles and a gallery of videos, photos, oral history recordings, and paintings.



**White Earth Land Recovery Project
Cultural Heritage Grant**

These funds helped preserve and celebrate Anishinaabe art and culture, with workshops for the community on the Hand Drum, Moccasin, Bandolier Bag, Ribbon Skirt Powwow Belt, Men and Boys' Roach, Jingle Dress Making, Natural Medicines, Medicine Bags, Beading a Daisy Chain, Women's Bear Bundle, and Dreamcatchers.



**WonderTrek
Children's Museums Grant**

Funding supported a project that highlighted the art, culture, and heritage of North Central Minnesota from the perspectives of Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe children.

Ying Li | Cultural Heritage Grant

Dancer Ying Li introduced the rich history of Chinese dance and music to communities throughout the Twin Cities and Rochester, fostering appreciation and understanding for these ancient art forms through classes and collaboration with artists.



MHC Grant Recipients | A Complete Listing

The following organizations received funding in 2025 that supported many incredible projects, initiatives, and opportunities, and continued weaving the fabric that represents people in Minnesota:

Arts & Music Education

Alive & Kickin | Minneapolis
Community Action Center | Northfield
Duluth Art Institute | Duluth
Fahan Organization | Saint Cloud
GREAT Theatre | Waite Park
Lotus Arts Center | Minneapolis
New Arab American Theater Works | Minneapolis
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative | Northfield
Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute | Saint Paul
StoryArk | Stillwater
The Park Place | Minneapolis
Theater Mu | Saint Paul
Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community | Duluth

Capacity Building

African Economic Development Solutions (AEDS) | Saint Paul
ASAL CHARITIES | Minneapolis
Asian American Business Resilience Network | Minneapolis
Asian Media Access Inc | Minneapolis
Brownbody | Saint Paul
Cow Tipping Press | Minneapolis
Dakota Wicohan | Morton
Department of Public Transformation | Granite Falls
Duluth Art Institution Association | Duluth
Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts | Saint Paul
Life House Incorporated | Duluth
(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico | Saint Paul
QUEERSPACE collective | Minneapolis
Somali Artifact & Cultural Museum | Minneapolis
StoryArk | Minneapolis
The Cedar Cultural Center | Minneapolis
Urban Roots MN | Saint Paul

Children's Museums

Asian American Business Resilience Network | Minneapolis
Children's Discovery Center | Campbell
Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota | Mankato
Duluth Children's Museum | Duluth
Great River Children's Museum | Saint Cloud
Judy Garland Children's Museum | Grand Rapids

Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum | Benson
(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico | Saint Paul
Otter Cove Children's Museum | Fergus Falls
SPARK Children's Museum of Rochester | Rochester
The Works Museum | Minneapolis
WonderTrek Children's Museum | Brainerd

Direct Appropriations

African Immigrants Community Services | Minneapolis
Art from the Inside | Maplewood
Augsburg University – Minnesota Urban Debate League | Minneapolis
Hunger Solutions Minnesota | Saint Paul
Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum | Benson
Minnesota Children's Museum | Saint Paul
Monkeybears Harmolodic Workshop | Minneapolis
(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico | Saint Paul
Rondo Community Land Trust | Saint Paul
Siv Yig Culture Center | Saint Paul
St Paul Neighborhood Network/SPNN | Saint Paul

Cultural Heritage

826 MSP | Minneapolis
Andrea Manolov | Minneapolis
APIA MN Film Collective | Savage
ASAL Charities | Minneapolis
Asian Economic Development Association | Saint Paul
Asian Media Access | Minneapolis
Bemidji State University: Department of Professional Education | Bemidji
Civic Bridgers | Saint Paul
Claudia Nascimento | Minneapolis
Coalition of Asian American Leaders | Saint Paul
College of Saint Benedict | Saint Joseph
COMPAS, Inc. | Saint Paul
Cow Tipping Press | Minneapolis
Dakhóta Iápi Okhódakičhiye | Osseo
Dakota Wicohan | Morton
Donna Mosley | Minneapolis
East Phillips Neighborhood Institute | Minneapolis
ESHARA (Ethnic Self-Help Alliance for Refugee Assistance) | Moorhead
Face to Face | Saint Paul
Folk Will Save Us | Minneapolis
Friendship Academy of the Arts | Minneapolis
Funny Asian Women Collective (FAWK) | Saint Paul
Giving Voice Initiative | Minneapolis
Great Lakes Lifeways Institute | Minneapolis
Great Northern Winter Festival | Minneapolis
Green Card Voices | Minneapolis
Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota | Saint Paul
Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County | Red Wing
In Progress | Saint Paul



Jena Holliday | Dayton
Ka Ly Bliatia | Saint Paul
Kairos Alive! | Minneapolis
Karen Sieber | Saint Paul
Katha Dance Theatre | Crystal
Lanesboro Arts Center | Lanesboro
The Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota | Morton
Many Faces | Saint Paul
Marian Hassan | Woodbury
May Hang | Cottage Grove
Maya Washington | Plymouth
Memorialize the Movement | Minneapolis
Midtown Greenway Coalition | Minneapolis
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) | Minneapolis
Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society | Saint Paul
Minnesota Museum of American Art | Saint Paul
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop | Saint Paul
Mong United Equality Association | Saint Paul
More Than a Single Story | Saint Paul
MSP Film Society | Minneapolis
(Neo)Muralismos | Saint Paul
North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems | Minneapolis
North House Folk School | Grand Marais
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative | Northfield
Oromia 11 | Minneapolis
Pan Asian Arts Alliance | Saint Paul
Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute | Saint Paul
Privia Group, LLC | Minneapolis
Public Art Saint Paul | Saint Paul
Queer Voices Minnesota | Saint Paul
Regents of the University of Minnesota | Minneapolis
Rondo Community Land Trust | Saint Paul
Saint Paul Civic Symphony | Saint Paul
Seeds4Hope | Little Canada
Serpentina Arts | Minneapolis
Speaking Out Collective | Minneapolis
Special School District #1 Minneapolis Public Schools | Minneapolis
St. Catherine University | Saint Paul
StoryArk | Stillwater
Telling Queer History | Minneapolis
Theater Mu | Saint Paul
Theatre Novi Most | Saint Anthony
The Givens Foundation for
African American Literature | Saint Louis Park
The Link | Minneapolis
The Qalanjo Project | Minneapolis
The University of Minnesota | Minneapolis
The Urban Village Inc. | Saint Paul
Tiwahe Foundation | Saint Paul
Twin Cities Film Fest | Minneapolis
Twin Cities Iranian Culture Collective | New Brighton
Twin Cities R!SE | Minneapolis

Twin Cities West Metro Asian Fair | Plymouth
United Way of Central Minnesota | Saint Cloud
Walker West Music Academy | Saint Paul
White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP) | Callaway
Winona County Historical Society | Winona
Wonderlust Productions | Saint Paul
Ying Li | Eagan
Youth Leadership Initiative | Minneapolis
Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community | Duluth

Civics

ASAL Charities | Minneapolis
Civic Bridgers | Saint Paul
Legal Rights Center | Minneapolis
Minnesota Legislative Society | Saint Paul
Young Men's Christian Association of the North | Minneapolis
Youthprise | Minneapolis

Emergency Response

Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA) | Saint Paul
Central Area Neighborhood
Development Organization (CANDO) | Minneapolis
East Phillips Improvement Coalition Inc | Minneapolis
Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA) | Minneapolis
Lyricality | Sauk Rapids

Cultural and Ethnic Studies Materials

Abdirizak Diis | Minneapolis
Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing | Duluth
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College | Cloquet
Green Card Voices | Minneapolis
Minors | Elk River
Regents of the University of Minnesota | Minneapolis

Festivals

Advance Thief River | Thief River Falls
Afoutayi Haitian Dance, Music and Arts | Golden Valley
Asian Economic Development Association | Saint Paul
Great Lakes Lifeways Institute | Minneapolis
Hennepin History Museum | Minneapolis
Hmong Cultural Center of Minnesota | Saint Paul
Indigenous Roots | Saint Paul
Karina Kelton | Lake Elmo
Memorialize the Movement | Minneapolis
MSP Film Society | Minneapolis
New Roots Midwest | Moorhead
Oromo Diaspora Media | Minneapolis
Project FINE | Winona
Vietnamese Community of MN | Brooklyn Center
Yoo Min (Lina) Lee | Duluth
Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community | Duluth



Valued Partners

Many voices united for change. MHC's work is enhanced by partners who bring the humanities, in many forms, to communities across the state. We thank our 2025 partners for their commitment to this critical work, and with grateful hearts, look forward to continuing to amplify voices, provide resources, and curate programs that bring our neighbors together.

Anderson Center at Tower View
Anderson Middle School
Anwatin Middle School
Art From the Inside
Association of Minnesota Public
Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS)
Augsburg University
Bemidji Public Schools
Birchbark Books
Blue Earth County Historical Society
Cambodian American Partnership of Minnesota
Capri Theater
Centro Tyrone Guzman
Chateau Theatre
Children's Defense Fund (Freedom Schools)
Classical Actors Ensemble
Clean River Partners
Coalition on Asian American Leadership
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans
Courageous Change Collective
Creation In Common
Danger Boat Productions
Dual Studios
Gender Justice
Hamline University

Henderson Elementary
Historic Fort Snelling
Hmong American Partnership
Hmong Cultural Center
Hmong Women Achieving Together
HmongTown Marketplace
Illinois Humanities Council
Independent School District 622
Independent School District 917
Juxtaposition Arts
KMOJ 89.9 FM
LaJune Thomas Lange International
Leadership Institute
Lao Culture and Dance & Traditional Fashion Show
LatinoLEAD
Lavender Magazine
Lerner Publishing
Liberal Arts Engagement Hub
Little Free Library/Indigenous Little Free Library
Macalester College
Maine Humanities Council
Mentor MN
Metro State University
MIGZI
Minneapolis Public Schools (Special School District 1)

Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Minnesota Association of Curriculum Leaders
Minnesota Black Authors Expo
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Historical Society Press
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Minnesota Justice Research Center
Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Minnesota Multifaith Network
Minnesota National Guard
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop
Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)
Minnesota State – Academic and Student Affairs
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota African American Heritage
Museum and Gallery
MN BIPOC Kidlit Creators
MN Indian Education Association



Montes de Oca Solutions Group
More Than a Single Story
National Indian Education Association
Native Governance Center
(Neo)Muralismos de México
Nobles County Integration Collaborative
Northwest Service Cooperative
OMG Digital Media Solutions
Open Eye Theatre
Out of the Box Tour and Travel
Pan Asian Center
Picture Book Parade
Pilgrim Lutheran Church (St. Paul)
Pillsbury United Communities
Planting People, Growing Justice
Quatrefoil Library
Quincy Hall
Radio Mankato (KTOE 98.7 FM)
RECLAIM
RedGreen Rivers
Resource Training and Solutions
Riverview Library, Saint Paul
Rochester Public Library
Rochester Public Schools
Roosevelt High School

Rose Lani and The Rosie Posies
Royalston Square By Entourage Events Group
Saint Paul Public Schools
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sourcewell
Southwest West Central Service Cooperative
Spirittfolk
Sprout Press
St. Paul Area Chamber
Stearns History Museum
Sweet Potato Comfort Pie
The Anika Foundation
The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library/
MN Center for the Book
The Great Northern Winter Festival
The Harris Institute
The Nocturnist Podcast
Thomas Lake Elementary School
TJ Turner Pictures
TriLingua Cinema
Twin Cities Diversity Equity and Inclusion Roundtable
Twin Cities Public Television (TPT)
University of Minnesota Extension
University of Minnesota Press

University of Minnesota, Center for Race, Indigeneity,
Disability, Gender & Sexuality Studies (RIDGS)
University of Minnesota, Department
of Chicano Latino Studies
University of St. Thomas Morrison Family
College of Health
Urban Research and Outreach
Engagement Center (UROC)
We Are Still Here MN
West Central Initiative Foundation
Win Back
Winona County Historical Society
Wonderlust Productions
Wussows Concert Café
YMCA Center for Youth Voice
Youthprise



MHC supporters can choose to extend their commitment to Minnesota's cultural life through legacy gifts such as bequests or beneficiary designations. Planned gifts are often one of the most accessible ways to make a lasting impact, regardless of gift size, while maintaining flexibility during one's lifetime. Learn more at mnhum.org/legacy.

A legacy gift is not about a moment, it's about meaning.

Ruth A. Reister (1936–2015) was a pioneering leader whose career spanned law, finance, and public service at a time when women faced significant professional barriers. From being the only woman in her law school graduating class to serving in senior roles at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and as Deputy Undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ruth forged a path defined by excellence, determination, and service. Her lifelong commitment to education, history, and civic life reflected a deep belief in the role of the humanities in public life.

Together with her husband, Raymond A. Reister (1929–2005), a distinguished attorney, civic leader, and former Minnesota Humanities Commission Board member, the Reister's shared a profound commitment to the humanities, intellectual life, and community engagement. Their shared interests in history, literature, and public discourse shaped a legacy grounded in curiosity, learning, and service to others.

In 2016, Ruth's legacy was transformed into lasting public impact through a bequest to the Minnesota Humanities Center that established the Ruth & Ray Reister Award for Historical Contributions to the Humanities, supported by the **Reister Endowment**, established through the generosity of the Ruth A. Reister Revocable Trust. This annual award recognizes historians whose work deepens understanding of our state's past and brings history into public conversation, ensuring sustained support for public historical scholarship in Minnesota.

2025 Reister Award Recipient Spotlight: Dr. Christopher Lehman

Dr. Christopher Lehman's award-winning scholarship, including *Slavery's Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State*, examines how histories of race and power shaped Minnesota's development. His work invites Minnesotans to engage more fully with our shared past, centering voices and experiences long excluded from dominant narratives and enriching public understanding of history.

Nominations for the 2026 Ruth & Ray Reister Award for Historical Contributions to the Humanities will open in Spring 2026. Through this award, MHC continues the Reister's shared commitment to recognizing scholarship that expands how Minnesotans understand, and engage with, our shared history.

Committed to Connections

MHC relies on generous national, regional, and local sponsors and donors who believe in our work. Amplifying the stories of people and communities in our 87 counties would not be possible without the financial support of these committed individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations:

\$50,000+

Federation of State Humanities Councils
Minneapolis Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
Northwest Area Foundation

\$15,000–\$49,999

Blandin Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation
Initiative Foundation
The Teagle Foundation

\$5,000–\$14,999

Minnesota Diversified Industries (MDI)
Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
Robins Kaplan LLC
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\$1,000–\$4,999

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Park Street Public
Rebecca Lynn Petersen
Patricia L. Ploetz
Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts
Kim & Darren Schaufenbuel
University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts

\$500–\$999

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Margaret Ann Hennen
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Eric Misbe
Nancy A. Aronson Norr, via the Nancy Aronson Norr Charitable Gift Account at Fidelity Charitable
Carolyn Roby
Jay Sieling
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Winifred D. West
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\$100-\$499

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In Memorial

Kathy Jacobson
Bette Revoir

We make every effort to ensure accuracy for gifts received between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2025. If your name is misspelled or missing, please accept our apologies and contact development at ann@mnhum.org.

MHC's work is guided by the following strategic priorities, adopted by the MHC Board of Directors in the fall of 2023:

Prioritize Organizational Strength creating a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization that excels in operations, governance, and financial management.

Champion Innovative and Responsive Programming that increases a collective understanding in society, with particular emphasis on stories of traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities throughout Minnesota.

Ensure Broad Humanities Support of individuals, creatives, scholars and organizations throughout the state through partnership with the Minnesota Legislature, National Endowment for the Humanities, and private donors.

Statement of activities November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025 (FY25) for Minnesota Humanities Center. Please note the grant funding is for the two-year biennium (2023-2025).

REVENUE

Grants (Government):	\$28,483,461.84
Programs:	\$2,197,112.97
Investment:	\$164,095.47
Contributions:	\$75,047.72
Total Revenue:	\$30,919,718.00

HOW MHC USES EACH DOLLAR



Total Expenses	Programs	Administrative	Fundraising
\$14,732,106.00	\$13,498,058.00	\$1,158,697.86	\$98,073.00

MHC utilizes GAAP-compliant accounting practices. MHC's Statement of Activities reflects the biennium (two-year) funding that MHC receives from the State of Minnesota. Consistent with GAAP practices, MHC recognizes all the revenue it receives from the State of Minnesota, at the time of appropriation, the first year of the biennium. MHC receives no funding from the State of Minnesota during the second year of the biennium. The majority of funding MHC receives from the State of Minnesota is pass-through funding. Pass-through funding is funding that MHC grants to organizations throughout Minnesota and for which MHC retains only 5.5% for grant administration. Accordingly, MHC's Statement of Activities reflects a "surplus" in year one (FY 2025) and an "operating deficit" in year two (FY 2026). This fluctuation aligns with the timing of revenue recognition over one year and the distribution of grants spanning the two years.



The Minnesota Humanities Event Center is a vibrant, warm, historic building on the east side of St. Paul. Like so many structures built on foundations of our state's history, what happens within these walls and the people that participate make it truly special. From nonprofit retreats to educator professional development, to corporate and state agency strategic planning summits, our state-of-the-art technology pairs beautifully with comfortable surroundings and delicious meals.

The Event Center is available to rent. Allow our in-house chef and experienced, knowledgeable staff to support, encourage, and nurture your team at an upcoming personal or professional gathering.

Learn more about the offerings at the Minnesota Humanities Event Center at mnhum.org/event-center/.



We thank MHC's 2025 board members for their guidance and dedicated service to the mission and vision of our programming and grantmaking, and for their commitment to amplifying the stories and truths of the history of all Minnesotans.

Chair

Joshua Ney | Minneapolis
Senior Government Relations Manager,
Ewald Consulting

Vice Chair

Mattie Harper DeCarlo, PhD. | Stillwater
Grantmaking Officer, Bush Foundation

Secretary

Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts | Minneapolis
Vice President DEI, Greater Twin Cities
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Instructor, Liberal Arts, Alexandria
Technical and Community College





Minnesota Humanities Center

987 Ivy Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106



I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving the Minnesota Humanities Center as Board Chair for three years. Working alongside dedicated staff, my fellow board members, and community partners, I've seen firsthand **how the power of the humanities can connect Minnesotans to one another, to our shared history, and to the ideas that shape our collective future.**

MHC has expanded programs that reach classrooms, communities, and neighborhoods across the state. **We have been showing up for Minnesotans to remind us all that humanities matter most when they show us our shared experiences and help us to imagine who we can be, together.** Humanities are a guide for navigating the challenges of today and imagining a stronger, more curious, compassionate, and connected Minnesota.

My hope, too, is that every person feels invited to explore, reflect, and contribute to MHC and our mission and vision. Whether through teaching, volunteering, attending events, or simply reading and discussing, with one another. **Humanities inspire us to understand our past and shape our future, and now more than ever we need to be inspired.**

The Minnesota Humanities Center remains committed to **illuminating the stories, histories, and ideas that define our state and ensuring every voice has a place at the table.** Engage, learn, and share because your story, and Minnesota's story, are still being written. And we all have a role to play.

—**Josh Ney**, *Senior Government Relations Manager, Ewald Consulting
& Minnesota Humanities Center Board Chair 2023–2025*

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and compassionate by getting involved:

Attend an event
mnhum.org/calendar

Support our work
mnhum.org/give

Partner with us
info@mnhum.org

Follow us
[@mnhumanities](https://twitter.com/mnhumanities)  