

**Minnesota Humanities Center
Announces Anton Treuer as the 2026 Recipient of the
Ruth & Ray Reister Award for Historical Contributions to the Humanities**



For Immediate Release

October 20, 2026 – ST. PAUL, MN – The Minnesota Humanities Center names Anton Treuer of Bemidji as the 2026 Ruth & Ray Reister Award for Historical Contributions to the Humanities awardee.

Anton Treuer is a professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, author, historian, and cultural educator whose work has advanced understanding of Ojibwe and Minnesota history for more than three decades — by bringing Ojibwe voices, language, oral history, and community knowledge into the historical record and public conversation. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota and has authored or edited more than twenty books, including *The Assassination of Hole in the Day*, *Warrior Nation: A History of the Red Lake Ojibwe*, *Ojibwe in Minnesota*, *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*, and *The Language Warrior's Manifesto*.

Beyond publication, Anton Treuer has brought his work to Minnesotans through teaching, public humanities, language revitalization, community-based research, and public presentations. Across these efforts, his purpose has remained consistent: to preserve knowledge, broaden whose voices shape Minnesota history, and help Native and non-Native Minnesotans better understand one another and the histories that shape our shared life.

The Reister Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the understanding, preservation, interpretation, and public appreciation of Minnesota history.

“The work of the committee was undeniably difficult with so many wonderful candidates. We are elated to bestow the Reister award upon Anton Treuer, a wonderful scholar who has done so much to amplify and preserve Ojibwe language, history, and knowledge,” MHC CEO Kevin Lindsey remarked, “We are looking forward to continuing to work with Dr. Treuer and further share and extend his amazing work.”

The Reister Award honors the legacy of Ruth A. Reister (1936–2015) and Raymond A. Reister (1929–2005). Together, Ruth and Ray shared a deep commitment to history, education, and community

engagement. Raymond was a respected attorney and community advocate whose contributions extended well beyond his legal career. He served on the board of the Minnesota Humanities Commission (now MHC), as Treasurer of the Minnesota Historical Society, and as Vice President of the Minneapolis Athenaeum, along with other arts and civic organizations. Ruth was an accomplished leader in law, finance, and public service who held senior positions at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also served on the boards of Gustavus Adolphus College and the Minnesota Historical Society.

A bequest from Ruth's estate established an endowment at MHC in 2016, making the award possible and carrying forward their shared legacy. Learn more about the Reister Award at <https://www.mnhum.org/program/ruth-ray-reister-award/>.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC)

The Minnesota Humanities Center is a nonprofit which aims to create a just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate. We do this by bringing people together to share experiences and stories, working alongside partner organizations through grantmaking, co-created programs, and shared events. MHC also operates a full-service event center in a historic building on St. Paul's East Side. We believe that humanities live in the stories we tell, the histories that we confront, and the conversations that we are willing to have across our differences. MHC is funded by generous donors, the people of Minnesota who voted the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund into law in 2008, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which helped establish MHC in 1971. More information is available at mnhum.org.

About Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment

The Minnesota Legislature passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) in 2008 to ensure clean water, preserve opportunities for Minnesotans to enjoy nature, parks, and trails, and to appreciate arts and culture that exists within the State. The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent to fund four distinct funds to achieve the goals of the Legacy Amendment. – 19.75% of the funding raised under the Legacy Amendment is dedicated to the Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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