2019: a lot to talk about

Let’s talk! Let’s talk about Humanities Nebraska and how it has been serving the state for 47 years. In 2019, we provided 655 different programs to provide access to the humanities in our most urban and rural areas, including private donors, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State and grants throughout Nebraska. Thanks to diverse funding sources and grants, Humanities Nebraska was able to weather the storms in 2019. Grants and programming continued uninterrupted during the governor’s shutdown in early 2019 that delayed grant distributions from the NEH to all of the state councils. For 47 years, Humanities Nebraska has served the entire state, striving to provide access to the humanities in our most urban and rural areas, and everything in between. In 2019, we provided 655 different programs in 155 Nebraska communities, enriching the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

We know that you, like many Nebraskans, value the vital importance of the humanities in personal and public life through thoughtful engagement in history, literature, culture, and curiosity about what connects us as humans. We share your belief that these connections help us find our way forward to a better future. Humanities Nebraska is committed to stewarding our public and private resources and to continuing to meet the needs of our state. Thank you for your part in this effort, and for all you do for Nebraska. Let’s talk more in 2020!
MEASURING OUR REACH

For the 46th consecutive year, Humanities Nebraska had a successful year of programs, events, and speakers. Capitol Forum on America’s Future once again drew participating high schools from all five regions of Nebraska – West, Central, East, Lincoln and Omaha. More than 1,200 students used the Choices curriculum from Brown University (provided by HN) in the classroom, and 110 arrived at the Nebraska State Capitol on March 29 to deliberate with their peers from other communities. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry was in town for the question-and-answer session, while Rep. Adrian Smith and Rep. Don Bacon participated via teleconference.

August 1 & 2, HN presented a new style of Chautauqua in Kearney. “The Fifties in Focus” started Friday evening with a fashion show featuring HN Speakers Bureau member Sue McLain and her large collection of 1950s clothing, followed by a keynote address by Dr. William Hitchcock. The next day, Kearney Public Library hosted a series of workshops on everything from the Korean War to rock-and-roll. The event ended with Chautauqua scholars portraying Rosa Parks and Thurgood Marshall, plus a Q&A.

The 24th annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities featured David Eisenhower, author, historian and grandson of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. More than 2,000 came to the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha for the free public lecture by Mr. Eisenhower, which was titled “D-Day + 75 in the Eyes of America’s Postwar Generations.” He shared a number of interesting “behind the scenes” insights and a few family stories, to the delight of the audience.

This year, 83 grants were funded for a total of $262,222. Grants went to a variety of organizations in various parts of the state, supporting community conversations, meaningful cultural experiences, museum exhibits, storytelling festivals, poetry workshops, film festivals, documentaries, and many other programs.

“Water/Ways,” the Museum on Main Street exhibition that explored the practical, political, religious and social significance of water in our culture, finished its Nebraska tour with visits in Alliance and Gering. In 2019, HN’s 41 Prime Time programs reached a diverse group of 997 children and 622 adults. When these 265 families were surveyed about their experience, 93% said Prime Time changed how they read and discuss books together and 87% said they spend more time reading as a family.

A total of 393 speakers programs reached more than 25,000 Nebraskans across the state in 2019. Multiple new programs and more opportunities to participate. Ultimately, 100% said that they benefited from the program and want more opportunities to participate.

Patient Adam Block, a veteran with undiagnosed PTSD, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in the Veterans Administration.

The Prime Time Family Reading Time and Prime Time Preschool set a Humanities Nebraska record with 41 total Prime Time programs to participate.

In January 2019, Matt Mason was appointed to a five-year term as Nebraska State Poet. In his first year, he offered 129 poetry presentations and interviews in 27 counties. His goal is to visit every Nebraska county by the end of his tenure in 2023.

Nebraska Warrior Writers, a collaborative effort between Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Writing Project and the Veterans Administration, had consistent attendance in Lincoln and Omaha in 2019. The therapeutic aspect of this program became more evident in surveys of participating veterans and active duty military.

Ultimately, 100% said that they benefited from the program and want more opportunities to participate.
The statewide work of Humanities Nebraska is made possible by the generous support of the following individuals and organizations. This list reflects cumulative financial gifts received in fiscal year 2019 (November 1, 2018 - October 31, 2019). We appreciate donations of all sizes, but due to space limitations recognition begins at the Friend level ($50).
Strength in donor choice

The Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. Working with 62 different charitable agencies, CSF has built a vibrant, creative, healthy community during the last 30 years. CSF has helped make Nebraska a better place to live. CSF celebrates the arts and humanities, protects our environment and creates green spaces, furnishes health care to those who could not afford it, and provides education and advocacy and works to protect at-risk children. For more information, visit www.communityservicesfund.com or call 402-489-4332. Humanities Nebraska greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through CSF workplace giving campaigns last year.

Tributes

IN MEMORY OF DON PEDERSON

Ageing Partners of Lincoln Staff
Rod & Nolan Bates
Cindy Bradley
Tom Brockett
Dianne & Keith Broom
Kathy & Dick Campbell
Laura & David Buntain
Anne & Nicholas Baxter
Virginia & John Aita
OMAHA
Hastings
Fremont
January 7, 1938 — May 26, 2019

IN MEMORY OF ANN SPENCE

Jack Campbell
Leslii Corbett
Paul & Sandy Epstein
Jody & Charles Fike
John & Carol Gale
Barbara & Dave Haggart

Funding Partners

National Endowment for the Humanities

Humanities Nebraska receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal agency created in 1965. NEH serves and strengthens our nation by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history and culture to all Americans.

State of Nebraska

Because humanities programs foster an engaged and informed citizenry, the Nebraska Legislature provides annual appropriations to support HN’s statewide efforts.

Nebraska Cultural Endowment

The Nebraska Cultural Endowment (NCE) is the private partner in a public-private relationship with the State of Nebraska created to sustain and expand the arts and humanities in Nebraska. The first arrangement of its kind, the NCE remains the only public-private cultural endowment in the nation to sustain both the arts and humanities, preserving Nebraska’s long-standing tradition of arts and culture. Contributions to the NCE are matched by the State of Nebraska and invested in perpetuity. The earnings from these private and public investments support the statewide educational projects and programs of Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Arts Council. In the 21-year history of the NCE, it has distributed over $11.8 million back into communities and accounts for around 17% of the Humanities Nebraska budget.

Please consider joining NCE in its mission to cultivate a legacy of stability, advocacy and leadership for the arts and humanities in Nebraska. To learn more about contributing to the NCE, or to become a Legacy Donor by designating the NCE in your estate plans, please contact Kyle Cartwright, Executive Director, at 402-430-1328 or via email to kyle@nebraskaculture.org, or HN's Thursday Heather at heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.