HN adapts to meet the moment

Thanks to your support and involvement, Humanities Nebraska rose to the challenges and expanded community engagement efforts throughout this past year, one unlike any other. HN has always been about bringing people together to explore what connects us and makes us human. How do we accomplish that mission in a global pandemic when people can't physically be together for programs?

As we all realized life would be disrupted for many months to come, HN developed a multi-pronged approach to meet the changing needs of our communities. We quickly adapted to keep people connected to the humanities and to each other virtually. We began offering online programs and resources through “Humanities at Home.” Our staff worked with program partners across Nebraska to determine what programming could be converted to online versus postponed or canceled. For example, some of our Prime Time Family Reading programs moved to Zoom, many of our Speakers Bureau speakers adapted their programs to online formats, and the Governor’s Lecture with Doris Kearns Goodwin moved to a hybrid format with in-person and online audiences.

We are proud of our substantial and successful undertaking to provide pandemic relief grants to local humanities partners across the state who had to close their doors and whose revenue sources had largely evaporated. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, HN first awarded 79 CARES relief grants totaling more than $440,000 for local partners to continue paying their staff or other bills. By summer it was apparent that the situation was still dire for many cultural organizations. Our partners at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment decided to provide a special distribution of $150,000 to HN (and similarly to Nebraska Arts Council) to continue pandemic relief grantmaking. During this second round, an anonymous foundation generously offered to match the Cultural Endowment funding to HN to help us reach more organizations in need, especially in greater Nebraska. Consequently, HN awarded another 74 grants for $308,000. In total, 153 pandemic relief grants were awarded by HN in 2020 for more than $750,000, an unprecedented effort to support Nebraska’s cultural infrastructure in a time of crisis. This was only possible because of the dedicated efforts of HN staff and our close working relationships with NEH, the Cultural Endowment, and private supporters.

Throughout all of this, we are very grateful that our donors continued to support our humanities work in these uncertain times. Thank you for believing in HN and the value of the humanities in our lives. The spirit of generosity, collaboration, and resilience in Nebraska is truly special, and we are thankful to be a part of that.
2020 Financial Overview

**Summary**

- **Total Support:** $2,672,231
- **Total Expenses:** $2,339,760
- **Excess of support and revenue over expenses:** $332,471

Audited financial statements from Dana F. Cole and Co. are available for inspection at the HN office and HumanitiesNebraska.org.

*Does not include cost share from grantees and volunteers totaling $1,540,038.

**Other income includes Earned Income ($12,830), Interest Income ($1,005), PPP Loan Forgiveness ($134,900), and Unrealized Gains on Investment ($7,242).
The 2020 challenge

Fiscal Year 2020 began like any other. In January, the first of 21 spring Prime Time series began, as well as Nebraska Warrior Writers. Members of the HN Speakers Bureau were giving presentations across the state, and high school students in 25 different communities were preparing for Capitol Forum on America’s Future Day in March.

After in-person programming came to a temporary halt in March, the HN staff shifted to home offices. They met on Zoom, brimming with ideas for online programs that could keep people connected to the humanities — and each other — online.

“Humanities at Home” was born. While staff collected themed lists of books, movies and online opportunities, several Speakers Bureau members gave Facebook Live versions of their in-person talks. Prime Time team members were forced to end their six-week series early. Staff reallocated hours to create Prime Time First Aid Kits filled with books, toys, activities and a discussion guide for families who did not have an online option.

Capitol Forum Day had to be canceled. Nebraska Warrior Writers continued to meet on Zoom as they perfected their pieces for their first published anthology. “The Fifties in Focus” Nebraska Chautauqua was postponed to August 2021, with a couple of online presentations to tide eager audience members over until then. Meanwhile, HN used inspiration from our sister council in Oregon to launch “Dear Stranger,” an anonymous letter exchange program that paired strangers from different parts of the state.

For the first time in its 25-year history, the annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin was held online, with some people attending at the Lied Center and others from home or other remote locations from far away counties. HN was gratified to welcome these new viewers while meeting fund-raising goals for this annual event. In fact, giving remained strong all year long, enabling HN to begin FY2021 with creative, flexible programming.

Nearly $1 million in grants and relief dollars awarded to protect our state’s cultural richness

In addition to the competitive grants that Humanities Nebraska awards each year, pandemic relief funds were made available to HN from the National Endowment for the Humanities for distribution to cultural institutions throughout the state. A second round of relief grants was made available through the generosity of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and an anonymous foundation. Organizations receiving grants include:

- African Culture Connection, OMAHA
- Albion Area Arts Council
- American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, LINCOLN
- Antelope County Historical Society, NELIGH
- The Archway, KEARNEY
- Asian Community and Cultural Center, LINCOLN
- Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, OMAHA
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, ELMWOOD
- Blixt Locally Grown, LINCOLN
- Bluebarn Theatre, OMAHA
- Bluebird Cultural Initiative, BELLEVUE
- Bright Lights, KARNEY
- Brownville Fine Arts Association
- Brownville Historical Society
- Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, MCCOOK
- Buffalo County Historical Society, KARNEY
- The City of Lincoln Commission on Human Rights
- Completely KIDS, OMAHA
- Crane River Theater Company, KARNEY
- Creighton University, OMAHA
- Custer Co. Historical Society, BROKEN BOW
- The Digg Site Productions LLC, FREMONT
- Douglas Co. Historical Society, OMAHA
- The Durham Museum, OMAHA
- El Museo Latino, OMAHA
- Elkhorn Valley Historical Society, NORFOLK
- Father Flanagan’s Boys’ Home, OMAHA
- Film Streams, Inc., OMAHA

Nearly $1 million in grants and relief dollars awarded to protect our state’s cultural richness.
62 competitive grants awarded
153 relief grants awarded, funded by the CARES Act, Nebraska Cultural Endowment and an anonymous match

Flatwater Shakespeare LINCOLN
Fontenelle Forest BELLEVUE
Fort Atkinson Foundation FORT CALHOUN
Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries FRENCH CREEK
Fremont Area Art Association FORT ATKINSON
Friends of Lied in Lincoln FORT CALHOUN
Friends of Opera, UNL LINCOLN
Friends of Paplin, Inc. LOUP CITY
Friends of the Homestead BEATRICE
Friends of the International Quilt Study Center and Museum LINCOLN
Friends of the Kenfield Gallery OGDALLA
Friends of the Midwest Theater SCOTTSBLUFF
Front Street Cowboy Museum OGDALLA
Gage County Historical Society BEATRICE
Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation HEAFFORD
Golden Spike Tower NORTH PLATTE
Great Plains Black History Museum OMAHA
Great Plains Theatre Commons OMAHA
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center WYMORE
Hall County Historical Society GRAND ISLAND
Hastings College HASTINGS
Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History HASTINGS
Heartland Military Museum LEXINGTON
Historical Bryant House TEKAMAH
Historical Society of Ravenna HASTINGS
History Nebraska LINCOLN
John G. Neihardt Foundation BANKROFT
Johnson County Historical Society TECUMSEH
Joslyn Art Museum OMAHA
Joslyn Castle OMAHA
Kaneko OMAHA
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Kregel Windmill Factory Museum NEBRASKA CITY
La Casa del Pueblo OMAHA
Legacy of the Plains Museum GERING
Lewis & Clark Visitors Center NEBRASKA CITY
Lincoln Calling LINCOLN
Lincoln Children’s Museum LINCOLN
Lincoln City Libraries LINCOLN
Lincoln County Historical Society NORTH PLATTE
Lincoln Crossroads Festival LINCOLN
Lincoln Orchestra Association MALONE CENTER LINCOLN
Mari Sandoz Heritage Society LINCOLN
Merrick County Historical Museum CENTRAL CITY
Metropolitan Community College OMAHA
Mildred D Brown Memorial Study Center OMAHA
MRB Lewis & Clark Visitors Center NEBRASKA CITY
Multicultural Coalition GRAND ISLAND
Museum of Nebraska Art KEARNEY
Nebraska Firefighters Museum & Education Center/Nebraska Firefighter & EMS Memorial KEARNEY
Nebraska Indian Education Association WALTHILL
Nebraska Prairie Museum HOLDREGE
Nebraska Shakespeare Festival OMAHA
Nebraska Wesleyan University LINCOLN
Nebraska Writers Collective OMAHA
NET Foundation for Television LINCOLN
Norfolk Arts Center NORTH PLATTE
North Platte Community Playhouse NUCKOLLS
Omaha Children’s Museum OMAHA
Omaha Community Playhouse OMAHA
Omaha Girls Rock OMAHA
Omaha Symphony OMAHA
Opera Omaha OMAHA
Oregon Trail Community Foundation SCOTTSBLUFF
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The statewide work of Humanities Nebraska is made possible received in fiscal year 2020 (November 1, 2019 - October 31, 2020).

If we have not reported your gift correctly, please accept our apology and contact us at •

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We appreciate donations of all sizes, but due to space limitations recognition begins at the Friend level ($50).

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Gary & Betty Bittfield  KENESAW
Constance Bostock  RED CLOUD
Edna M. Broad  ALLIANCE
Michael & Stephanie Brogan  NORFOLK
Melissa Cast-Brede  OMAHA
David & Jessica Chamberlain  NORFOLK
Glenn & Dixie Colson  ELSIE
Ed & Jan Connolly  BELLEVUE
Warren R. Crawford  ALLIANCE
Wayne & Mary Crawford  ALLIANCE
Bonnie Daenzer  SEWARD
Meenakshi Nath Dalal  WAYNE
Nancy H. Dawson  LINCOLN
Steven & Sally DeLair  LINCOLN
Walt & Bobbe Dietz  BROKEN BOW
Dennis Dohner & Zoya Zeman  LINCOLN
Robert & Phyllis Dunne  OMAHA
Judy Dworak  LINCOLN
Robert & Betty Faling  LINCOLN

*Deceased
Following the death of former board member John Schleicher, HN received multiple memorial gifts in his honor, including the following. Thank you!

Anonymous
Carol Ahlgren & Mike Bedeau MINNEAPOLIS, MN
John & Virginia Aita OMAHA
Mark & Kathy Anderson ROBINSON, TX
Richard Callaway & Cherrie Beam-Callaway FREMONT
Randy & Marilyn Brown COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA
Judy & Jack Ekeler FREMONT
Steve Elliott WAYNE
Andrea (Bunny) Faling LINCOLN
Molly Fisher LINCOLN
Greg & Judy Hinze SCOTTSBLUFF
Gretchen & Roy Lauby WYMORE
Cindy Lee BUNDIDGE, AL
David & Mary Lemppke WALLACE
Dan & Carol Lindstrom KEARNEY
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Marty Magee OMAHA
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Bryce McBride LINCOLN
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Mike & Mary Ann McQuillan GREELEY
Fern Medlin ABERON
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Maxine Mitchell OMAHA
Patty & Jim Neid LINCOLN
Nina M. Nelson COLUMBUS
Anna Nolan & Allen Covault DAVID CITY
Phil & Dana Odom HASTINGS
Molly & Tim O’Holleran NORTH PLATTE
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Tim & Maryanne Rousse OMAHA
Steve & Tammy Russell LINCOLN
Matt & Maggie Schaefer LINCOLN
LaRayno Topp & Sheryl SCHMICKPEPER NORFOLK
Kathy & Larry Schmidt COLUMBUS

In Memorium

HN honors the memory of these donors, program partners and former board members who died in 2020.

Laurie Smith Camp
Janice Collins-Brooks
Geraldine Cox
JoAnn Fike

Philip Heckman
Darrel Lloyd
Jack Maddux
Fred Matthies
Mary Ostergard

Sheppard Perkins
Ann Rawley
John Schleicher
Charles Trimble
We thank these generous individuals who contributed $1,000 or more during our fiscal year (11/1/19 — 10/31/20). If you are interested in joining the Patron’s Circle and helping to nurture a vibrant civic and cultural life in Nebraska, please call HN at 402-474-2131. Thank you!

Anonymous
Virginia & John Alta
Marian B. Andersen
Lynne & Paul Anderson
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Cindy & Mogens Bay
Laura & David Buntain
Laurie Smith Camp*
Brenda Christensen & Michael Morris
Linda & Cloyd* Clark
Kristen & Geoffrey Cline
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Sue & Ed Tricker
Harriet Turner
Katherine L. Walter
Jen & Maj. Alan Wang
Dori Wanitsche
Carol & Tom Waring
Susan & Kent Warneke
Nancy & John Webster
Sheila & R. Ted Weschler
Beth & Kelvin WhitEd
Iris & Roger Winkelhake
Kristie & Peter Zandbergen
Chris & Art Zygelbaum

$189,000+
was raised via the Governor’s Lecture

2,000+
viewers watched the Governor’s Lecture online or at the Lied Center

The annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin became a hybrid event, with many viewers tuning in from home, university classrooms or other meeting spaces.

The Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. Working with 70 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.

Catherine P. Chia
John P. Christen
John & Nancy Comer
Bruce I. Dvorak
Nancy K. Escamilla
Sherilyn C. Fritz
Don Hickey
Jeanette E. Jones
Nancy K. Klimek
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Elizabeth Lorang
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Lyle L. Schmidt
William G. Thomas III
Christine K. Timm
Christine Walsh

*Deceased
I’ve never been to far-east Nebraska, so Dear Stranger really helped me discover more of the state.

— ERIKA SIEBRING, NORTH PLATTE

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 $15 million back into communities throughout the state.

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 the many ways to support this perpetual mission, including becoming a Legacy Donor by designating the NCE or Humanities Nebraska in your estate plans, please visit NebraskaCulture.org/mylegacy or contact Kyle Cartwright, executive director, at 402-430-1328 or via email to kyle@nebraskaculture.org. You can also contact HN’s Heather Thomas at 402-474-2131 or heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.

Speaker Dianne Bystrom was one of many who gave online presentations to statewide viewers.

While a handful of Prime Time Family Reading teams started their six-week sessions before things shut down, by summer, teams had learned to present the program to families via Zoom.
Dear Stranger

Speakers Bureau

Discovery

Global

Perspective

Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

Humanities at Home

Prime Time Preschool

Prime Time Family Reading

Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

Museum on Main Street

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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