It has been said that in nonprofit work there is no finish line, and for many of us that sentiment rings even more true these days. Here at Humanities Nebraska, our mission of helping Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human is work that is never finished, pandemic or not. This report gives an opportunity to look back at the many accomplishments amidst the many challenges...a series of finish lines crossed, so to speak.

Throughout the pandemic seesaw of 2021, HN was committed to providing people with the ability to access humanities programs in ways that worked for them, whether in person or virtual. Many of our humanities speakers have continued to offer online versions of their programs, while also getting out on the road again and visiting communities across the state. For the “Fifties in Focus” Chautauqua in Ashland in early August, all of the in-person programs were either livestreamed or recorded and made available afterwards on our YouTube channel.

Thirty-one Prime Time Family Reading programs this past year were almost evenly split between in person and online. Nebraska Warrior Writers workshops moved from being exclusively on Zoom earlier in the pandemic to a hybrid format, allowing participating veterans to come in person or attend by Zoom. The 26th annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was perhaps our most complex hybrid program, with some in-person audience at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, hundreds more people viewing via livestream around the state (thanks to Nebraska Public Media), and Professor Gates himself appearing virtually in conversation with our moderator, who was on the Holland stage.

All of these examples have been learning experiences for HN, helping us continue to broaden our program reach. As a result, 333,347 people were able to attend HN-funded programs in ways that worked for them in 2021. This rebound in humanities programming across Nebraska would not have been possible without hundreds of steadfast partners, from small-town libraries and museums, to statewide partners like the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and the State of Nebraska, to major national entities like the National Endowment for the Humanities. It also would not be possible without the many individual and organizational supporters who make gifts to Humanities Nebraska to advance our mission. When we read all of those names in this report, our hearts are filled with gratitude, and with resolve to continue striving to enrich the lives of all Nebraskans through the humanities. Thank you for being an important part of our work.
2021 Financial Overview

**SUMMARY**

- Total Support: $2,274,351
- Total Expenses: $1,819,303
- Excess of support and revenue over expenses: $455,048

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 $1,179,500.

**Other income includes Earned Income ($16,050), Interest Income ($113), Miscellaneous Income ($5,553), and Gains on Investment ($393,511).
Flexibility in 2021

Humanities Nebraska staff found that the key to being able to continue to help Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human during a year of continuing uncertainty was remaining flexible.

The HN Speakers Bureau saw a wonderful rebound, with 256 events booked in person or online in 2021, compared to the pandemic low of 143 a year earlier. Most of these occurred outside Lincoln and Omaha.

Most other programs also offered online options, including Nebraska Warrior Writers (NWW) and Prime Time Family Reading. NWW participants published their first anthology in early FY2021. HN found that the at-home benefits of Prime Time “First Aid Kits” were so significant, Give to Lincoln Day donors were asked to help fund a new kit filled with books, activities and a journal for families to use during summer months to prevent the “summer slide” of reading skills.

After kicking off with a live on-line event, “The Fifties in Focus” Chautauqua was hosted in Ashland in early August, just missing the surge of the Delta variant. A tent was pitched for evening presentations to allow for fresh air and social distancing, and each component of the two-day festival was videotaped and uploaded to YouTube for viewers at home. Though a surprise tornado forced an early end to the final evening and canceled the 1950s dance that Ashland had scheduled for the closing event, participation was high and audience surveys were very positive.

HN also presented “Valuing the Vote” online, a series exploring the hard fought battles waged historically to give all Americans the right to vote.

Kimball and Tecumseh hosted the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibition, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” at the end of FY2021. Each community added a local exhibit and hosted in-person events as they were able to do so.

Popular PBS star and historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. delivered the 26th annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities. “Finding Your Roots: A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.” was a truly hybrid event, with more than 80% of the audience tuning in live online via Nebraska Public Media and the guest speaker appearing from his home on the Holland Performing Art Center’s big screen, where William G. Thomas III of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln served as moderator.

Capitol Forum on America’s Future is the program that has suffered the most from the pandemic. For the second year in a row, the in-person event at the State Capitol that culminates the student experience had to be canceled. Despite that and the incredible difficulties faced by teachers across the country, 23 schools used the Choices curriculum from Brown University, exposing students to key global issue, the importance of civic engagement, and techniques for productive deliberation between people with varying opinions.

HN also continued to partner with Nebraska Public Media for its humanities desk features, as well as with Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason, National History Day: Nebraska, and One Book One Nebraska.

Humanities Nebraska thanks the many donors who made these programs possible, listed on pages 5-8.
Grants help fund statewide efforts

Competitive grants offered by Humanities Nebraska each year have been used to create a variety of humanities-based programs and projects, ranging from summer enrichment camps for youth to documentary films. Funding from the Woods Foundation allowed HN to hire a grants specialist to assist with pandemic relief funds in early FY2022.

Arts for All, Inc., Youth enrichment program OMAHA
Asian Community and Cultural Center, Camp Culture 2021 / Untold Migrant Stories LINCOLN
Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, “Art in Practice: The Intersection of Poetry and Visual Art” OMAHA
Blixt Locally Grown, Fellowship program for emerging playwrights LINCOLN
Bright Lights, Inc, Humanities programming for summer camps LINCOLN
Central Community College, New Native American curriculum GRAND ISLAND
Crane River Theater Company, “Page to Stage” library outreach program/ student matinee series of “The Miracle Worker” KEARNEY
Creighton University, Carson Fable Collection/ “Waves in the Sandhills” OMAHA
The Durham Museum, “Omaha Uncovered” exhibit OMAHA
El Museo Latino, Latin culture and traditions lecture series OMAHA
Ethiopian Community Association, Family restoration project OMAHA
Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Little But Fierce summer sonnet writing workshop for children LINCOLN
Fort Laramie Historical Association, Writing festival FT. LARAMIE, WY
Friends of Lied, The Future We See: Town Hall LINCOLN
Friends of the Homestead, Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival BEATRICE
Great Plains Theater Commons, GPTC Connect/Annual theatre conference OMAHA
John G. Neihardt Foundation, 40th annual spring conference BANKROFT
Joslyn Art Museum, Karl Bodmer exhibition OMAHA
Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, Social justice programming LINCOLN
Lincoln Crossroads Festival, Speakers Bureau training for music festival LINCOLN
Lincoln Orchestra Association, Pre-Concert Chats LINCOLN
Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, 2021 Pilster Lecture/Symposium LINCOLN
McCook Economic Development Corp., Youth engagement MCCOOK
Metropolitan Community College, “The Perfect Latino” with Javier Avila OMAHA
Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity, Five events exploring social factors that often divide communities OMAHA
Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, Susan Picotte documentary LINCOLN
Nebraska Public Media, Title IX legislation videos LINCOLN
Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Inc., Shakespeare on Tour OMAHA
Nebraska Wesleyan University, Humanities insight on COVID/ “Spooky Evenings” LINCOLN
Nebraska Writers Collective, Touring artist series OMAHA
Omaha Performing Arts, “Voices Amplified” 2021-2022 OMAHA
Omaha Public Library Foundation, Omaha Lit Fest OMAHA
Opera Omaha, “Poetry & Music 2021” OMAHA
Operation Christmas Card, Educational programming for Pow-Wow NORTH PLATTE
Papillion Community Foundation, Ulysses Grant & Mark Twain appearance PAPILLION
Plum Creek Children’s Literacy Festival, 2021 Festival SEWARD
Robert Henri Museum and Historic Walkway, National Conference COZAD
Social Action Committee of Unitarian Church, Winter lecture series LINCOLN
Strategic Air and Space Museum, Museum app/ “Cold War in Film” ASHLAND
Together We Achieve Miracles, Inc., Digital media OMAHA
Tri-Faith Initiative, Pre-production for a documentary film OMAHA
United by Culture, Courageous Mujer podcasts LEXINGTON
University of Nebraska at Kearney Board of Regents, Spanish immersion and humanities components for youth summer enrichment program KEARNEY
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Board of Regents, Educational Chief Red Cloud materials/Human Trafficking summit/documentary film/OLLI Fall Symposium/ “Nebraska Stories of Humanity” / “Reckoning and Reconciliation” LINCOLN
University of Nebraska State Museum Morrill Hall, “Exploring a Square Meter of Prairie” exhibit LINCOLN
University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents, “Singing Stones” lecture/ “Conversaciones: Latino and Latina Voices of Omaha”/ “Charting Our Paths” traveling exhibit and speakers OMAHA
White River Wacipi, Educational events for Pow-Wow CRAWFORD
Willa Cather Foundation, Annual spring conference RED CLOUD
Our Heartfelt Thanks

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

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- John Schleicher
- Carol Waring
- Sunya Peters-Kash

---

HN honors the memory of these donors, program partners and former board members who died in 2021.

**In Memoriam**

- Steve Achelphohl
- Tom Baxter
- Diane Brownell
- Bob Chitwood
- Cloyd Clark
- Leo Fettman
- JoAnn Fike
- Carolyn Fowler
- Joel Gajardo
- Marylou Giles
- Carolyn Johnsen
- Virginia Jones
- Marion Kline
- Gretchen Lainson
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- Leonard Sloup
- Deb L. Thomas
- Antonette W. Turner
- Morrie Tuttle
- Carol Waring
- Sheryl Williams
We thank these generous individuals who committed $1,000 or more during the fiscal year. If you are interested in joining the Patron’s Circle and helping nurture a vibrant civic and cultural life in Nebraska, please call HN at 402-474-2131. Thank you!

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Strength in donor choice

After 30 years as Community Services Fund of Nebraska, the nonprofit federation rebranded as Give Nebraska (GN). The new brand more accurately conveys the organization’s mission — to make it easy for Nebraskans to support their preferred local charities through payroll deduction and workplace giving campaigns.

Working with 74 different charitable agencies, Give Nebraska has built a vibrant, creative, healthy community during the last 30+ years, making Nebraska a better place to live. For more information, visit www.givenebraska.com or call 402.489.4332. Humanities Nebraska greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through GN workplace giving campaigns last year.

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The annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities featuring Henry Louis Gates, Jr., was a hybrid event, with many viewers tuning in from Nebraska, 10 other states, and the District of Columbia.

$196,000+ was raised via the Governor’s Lecture
930 viewers watched in person at the Holland Center or online

*Deceased
“My daughter is reading more at home. She’s asking for books and loves reading with her family.”

— NATIVE AMERICAN PRIME TIME PARENT

Several speakers, including Marci Broyhill (pictured) were able to give in-person presentations.

110 Letters were exchanged in the Dear Stranger program

510 views were logged of Chautauqua videos on YouTube

The Smithsonian traveling exhibition, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” began its 10-month Nebraska tour in September 2021 with visits to local museums in Kimball and Tecumseh.
Helping Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human