



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

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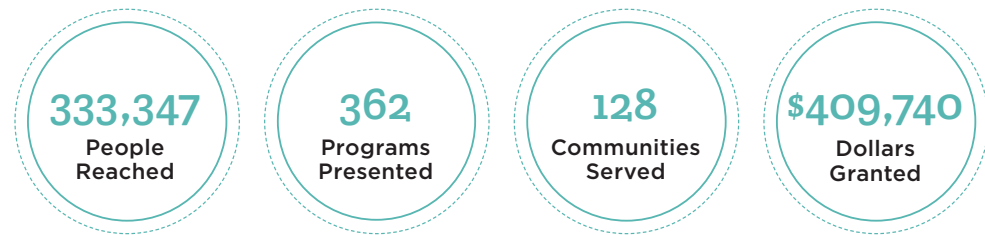


Helping Nebraskans explore  
what connects us and  
makes us human



**2021** ANNUAL  
REPORT





## Striving to meet Nebraska's needs

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 past year and reflect on 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 HN 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. Last fall's 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.

Christopher Sommerich  
Executive Director

Connie Duncan  
2021 Chair, Nebraska  
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Tami Hellman  
2021 President,  
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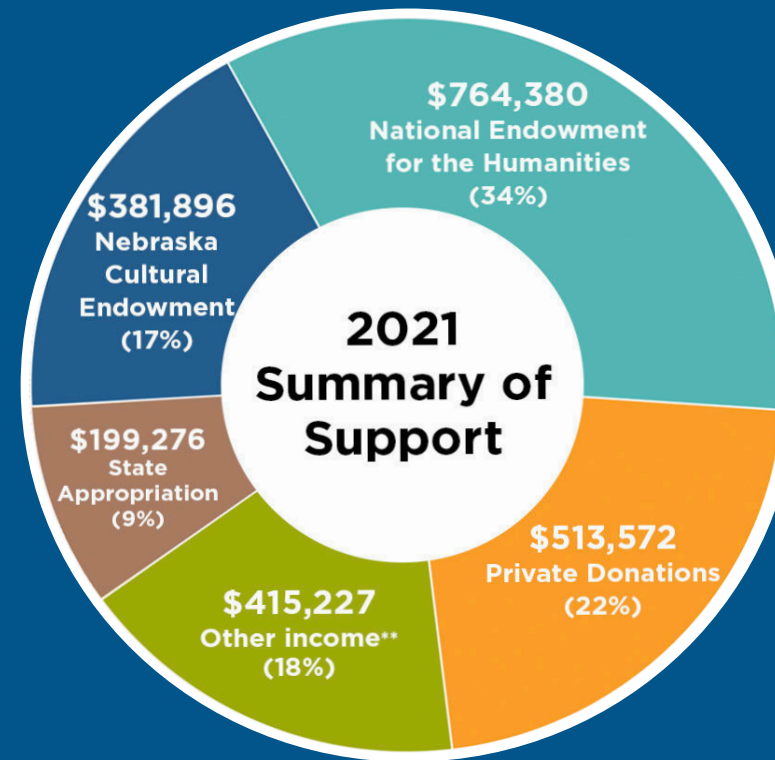
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## 2021 Financial Overview



\*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).

### 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.





## Flexibility in 2021

Humanities Nebraska found that the key to helping Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human during continuing uncertainty was flexibility.

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.

Other programs offering online options included Nebraska Warrior Writers (NWW) and Prime Time Family Reading. NWW's first anthology was published, while more Prime Time families were reached through "First Aid Kits" filled with books, activities, and journals. Give to Lincoln Day donors funded more kits last summer to help prevent the "summer slide" of reading skills. Thanks to major support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Sherwood Foundation, an anonymous funder, and other donors, Prime Time was a model of program flexibility in FY2021.

After kicking off with a live online event, "The Fifties in Focus" Chautauqua was hosted by Ashland in early August, just missing the surge of the Delta variant. The big Chautauqua tent helped allow for fresh air and social distancing, and each program was uploaded for online viewing. Though a severe storm cut the final evening short and canceled the 1950s sock hop that Ashland had scheduled, participation was high and audience surveys were very positive.

Thanks to funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 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's Museum on Main Street exhibition, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" at the end of FY2021. Each community

added local exhibits and hosted in-person programs 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. More than 80% of



Chautauqua scholars Becky Stone (Rosa Parks, left), Jim Newton, and Lenneal Henderson (Thurgood Marshall) gave audiences insight into the 1950s.



Communities Served



NORFOLK

1,995

people visited "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" in Kimball or Tecumseh

233

individuals or teams of students participated in National History Day

**"This type of program is so important for Southeast Nebraska. We don't have a lot of opportunities for humanities programs."**

— SPEAKERS BUREAU SITE HOST

the audience tuned in live online for "Finding Your Roots: A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." while Professor Gates participated virtually on the Holland Performing Art Center's big screen. William G. Thomas III, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Angle Chair in the Humanities, served as moderator and asked questions submitted by audience members.

Capitol Forum on America's Future has been greatly affected by the pandemic. For the second year in a row, the in-person Capitol Forum Day at the State Capitol that culminates the student experience had to be canceled. Despite that and the challenges faced by teachers across the state, 23 schools used Capitol Forum's "Choices" curriculum from Brown University, exposing students to key global issues, 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.

67 competitive grants awarded

\$285,405 program grants awarded



BEMIS CENTER: ART IN PRACTICE: THE INTERSECTION OF POETRY AND VISUAL ART

## 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 Charitable Fund allowed HN to hire a grants specialist to assist with pandemic relief funds.

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 BANCROFT

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

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 2021 (November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021). We appreciate donations of all sizes, but due to space limitations recognition begins at the Friend level (\$50). **Thank you!**  
*If we have not reported your gift correctly, please accept our apology and contact us at 402.474.2131 or info@humanitiesnebraska.org.*

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 Joanne Ferguson Cavanaugh in memory of Janice Collins-Brooks PAPILLION  
 Barbara J. Coffey, Ph.D. OMAHA  
 Ed & Jan Connolly BELLEVUE  
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 Jason Cyza OMAHA  
 Bonnie Daenzer SEWARD  
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 Jenny Gubbels OMAHA  
 Kim Hachiya & Tom White LINCOLN  
 Kandra Hahn LINCOLN  
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 Diane Harris BLADEN  
 Patricia & Britt Harris GREELEY  
 Ellen M. Haskins FREMONT  
 Jim & Marge Hewitt LINCOLN  
 Elizabeth Hunt ALBION  
 Richard D. Hunt ADAMS  
 Katrina Jagodinsky LINCOLN  
 Sitaram & Alice Jaswal LINCOLN  
 Jean Jeffrey LINCOLN  
 Dale Kaisershot OMAHA  
 Jean & Gerald Karlen PENDER  
 Ken & Connie Keith OMAHA  
 Paul D. & Kay A. Knox AINSWORTH  
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 Jim & Patty Manhart FREMONT  
 Rebecca & Rick Matticks HASTINGS  
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 Mike & Mary Ann McQuillan GREELEY  
 Mr. & Mrs. William F. McQuistan PENDER  
 Fern Medlin ALBION  
 Lyn & Bruce Messersmith ALLIANCE

\*Deceased

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 James Miller PAPILLION  
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 W. Don & Andrea Nelson LINCOLN  
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Ward & Cheryl Reesman ELKHORN  
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 Mary Jane Rosenthal COLUMBUS  
 John Sanks KEARNEY  
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 Bob & Carmen Shively LINCOLN  
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 Kathryn Stofer HASTINGS  
 Debra Sturges OMAHA  
 Julie Sullivan LINCOLN  
 Barbara & Donn Tassemeier PLAINVIEW  
 Vanessa Timberlake & Dick Flebbe OMAHA  
 Chris Timm LINCOLN

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 Diane Wanek OMAHA  
 Janyce Warneke PLAINVIEW  
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 Nate Woods LINCOLN  
 Mary Yager HICKMAN  
 Bob & Janet Yanike FREMONT  
 David & Kathy Young FALLS CITY  
 Mary Zimmerman LINCOLN  
 Zak & Amy Zutavern DUNNING

\*Deceased

98%

of Prime Time Families rate it excellent or good

61%

of competitive grants helped fund new programs.

"Finding a creative outlet and pursuing it can be energizing and healing."

— NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS PARTICIPANT

85% Speaker Programs took place outside Lincoln & Omaha

15,330+ Nebraskans attended Speaker programs in person or online



BROKEN BOW

## Tributes

During 2021, HN received multiple memorial gifts in honor of the following. **Thank you!**

### Gifts in Memory of Cloyd Clark

Annette Eisenhart CULBERTSON  
 Jane Renner Hood LINCOLN  
 Charles & Ellen Lierk ALLIANCE  
 William & Heather Thomas LINCOLN

### Gifts in Memory of Carol Waring

Jane Renner Hood LINCOLN  
 Rhonda Seacrest LINCOLN  
 William & Heather Thomas LINCOLN  
 Judy Vitters FREMONT

### Gifts in Memory of Sunya Peters-Kash

Melanie Chesley CALLAWAY  
 Nancy Fuller CHAMPAIGN, IL  
 Diane Harris BLADEN  
 Cynthia Peters KENNARD

## In Memoriam

HN honors the memory of these donors, program partners and former board members (indicated by \*) who died in 2021.

Steve Achelpohl*	Marylou Giles	Lois E. Poppe
Tom Baxter	Carolyn Johnson	Delphine Sanks
Diane Brownell*	Virginia Jones*	Dan Semrad*
Bob Chitwood	Marion Kline	Leonard Sloup
Cloyd Clark	Gretchen Lainson*	Deb L. Thomas*
Leo Fettman	James Lightbody	Antonette W. Turner
Jody Fike*	Flora Lundberg	Morrie Tuttle
Carolyn Fowler	Elaine Norton	Carol Waring*
Joel Gajardo	Dave Perkins	Sheryl Williams

If you know of someone we missed, please email us: [info@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:info@humanitiesnebraska.org).

# Patron's Circle

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!**

- |   |                                     |  |   |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Anonymous                                 | Kay Fowles GRAND ISLAND             | Beverly Kracher & Jerry Stegeman OMAHA | Brenda Robinson NORTH PLATTE                | Paulette & Robert Stefka NORTH PLATTE        |
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| Katherine & Dick Endacott PLEASANT DALE   | Pat & Don Kingsley HASTINGS         | June Pederson LINCOLN                  | Gene Spence OMAHA                           |  |

\*Deceased

## 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.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

### State of Nebraska

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



### 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 23-year history of the NCE, it has distributed more than \$16 million for arts and humanities projects and programs 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](http://NebraskaCulture.org/mylegacy) or contact HN's Heather Thomas at 402-474-2131 or [heather@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:heather@humanitiesnebraska.org).



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT  
*Endless*  
ARTS & HUMANITIES

## 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](http://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.

- |                    |                         |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| John & Nancy Comer | Sherilynne Hansen       | David F. Marsh      |
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| Nancy K. Escamilla | Tony Lazarowicz         | Courtney Van Hoosen |
| Sherilyn C. Fritz  | Elizabeth Lorang        | Christine Walsh     |

\$196,000+

was raised via the Governor's Lecture

930

viewers watched in person at the Holland Center or online



The annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities featuring Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was a hybrid event, with many viewers tuning in from across Nebraska.

"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.