

**Helping people explore
what connects us and
makes us human**

**2022 ANNUAL
REPORT**





Connecting people and ideas

The humanities provide us with pathways to reflect on what it means to be human, bringing meaning to our lives. In 1973, a group of citizens gathered to create a statewide nonprofit organization to make sure that the humanities were available to all Nebraskans, and for 50 years now, that has been our purpose.

We can tap into the humanities by ourselves, such as by reading a good book or watching an interesting documentary film, or we can come together and engage in the humanities with others. The year 2022 certainly brought a resurgence of group humanities activities, as people gathered to explore what connects us and makes us human through presentations, community conversations, writing workshops, museum exhibitions, reading and discussion programs, and many other ways.

Humanities Nebraska was up to the challenge, and worked hard to meet that demand through grants and council-conducted programs with countless partners across the state, just as we have been doing for the last 50 years. To reference just a couple of examples of the rapid growth in humanities activities this past year, the number of communities we reached grew from 128 in 2021 to 149 in 2022. Demand for our Speakers Bureau programs grew 39 percent, with 353 programs booked last year. Families all across the state enjoyed Prime Time Family Reading programs and summer reading kits, and interest continues to grow for those opportunities. High schools have jumped back into Capitol Forum on America's Future; Chautauqua was a big success in McCook; the "Crossroads" Smithsonian exhibition had a successful tour around the state, and the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities with Candice Millard in Lincoln drew an appreciative crowd in person and online and raised important funds for our statewide work.

HN's 2022 programming included a variety of online opportunities alongside in-person gatherings, and showed us that going forward, people will need to be able to access programs in both ways. The resurgence of people attending programs in person does show it is hard to beat the positive feeling of engaging in a meaningful discussion with someone in the same room as you. At the same time, we now have more ability and flexibility to tune in to great programs online, programs that we might otherwise miss.

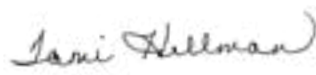
The Humanities Nebraska team of staff and board members recognize that we could not accomplish our mission without such strong support from our donors, or such good relationships with our organizational partners. We are grateful for the federal support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the state support of the Nebraska Legislature, the incredible partnership we have with the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and Nebraska Arts Council, and for the generosity of people like you. Thank you for your part in this, and we hope to see you at a Humanities Nebraska program in 2023 as we celebrate 50 years!



Chris Sommerich
Executive Director



Connie Duncan
2022 Chair, Nebraska
Humanities Council



Tami Hellman
2022 President, Nebraska
Foundation for the Humanities

2022 NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

- | | |
|---|--|
| Connie Duncan
Chair, Lincoln | Jeannette Eileen Jones
Lincoln |
| Beth Whited
Vice Chair, Omaha | Lynette Krieger
Hastings |
| Dori Wanitschke
Treasurer, Grand Island | Ana Lopez Shalla
Omaha |
| Mike Linder
At Large, Omaha | Matt Low
Omaha |
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| Graciela Caneiro-Livingston
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Omaha |
| Val Cuppens
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Omaha | Paulette Stefka
North Platte |
| Edgar J. Hicks
Omaha | David D. Vail
Kearney |
| | Jaclyn M. Wilson
Lakeside |

2022 NEBRASKA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tami Hellman
President, Kearney | Patrick Leahy
Omaha |
| Brenda Christensen
Vice President, Omaha | Reneé McClymont
Norfolk |
| Michael J. Homa
Treasurer, Omaha | Andy Pollock
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| Don Arp, Jr.
Lincoln | Thompson H. Rogers
Omaha |
| Keith N. Bystrom
Plattsmouth | Barb Schlothauer
Gering |
| Connie Duncan
Lincoln | Paulette Stefka
North Platte |
| Judy K. Ekelor
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Omaha | Ken Rae Wang
Omaha |
| Julia Gale
Lincoln | Beth Whited
Omaha |
| Linda L. Graff
McCook | Jaclyn M. Wilson
Lakeside |
| Karen Higgins, M.D.
Grand Island | Christine Zygielbaum
Lincoln |
| Lynette Krieger
Hastings | |

STAFF

- | | |
|--|---|
| Chris Sommerich
Executive Director | SheriLynne Hansen
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Manager |
| Katie Bradshaw
Grants Management & Outreach Specialist | Liz Makowski
Program Associate |
| Kristi Hayek Carley
Program Manager | Hannah Rentsch
Development
Associate |
| Barbara Grant
Office and Grants
Coordinator | Heather Thomas
Director of
Development |
| Susan Hale
Prime Time Assistant | Mary Yager
Associate Director |
| Erika Hamilton
Director of Literary
Programs | |

2022 Financial Overview

SUMMARY

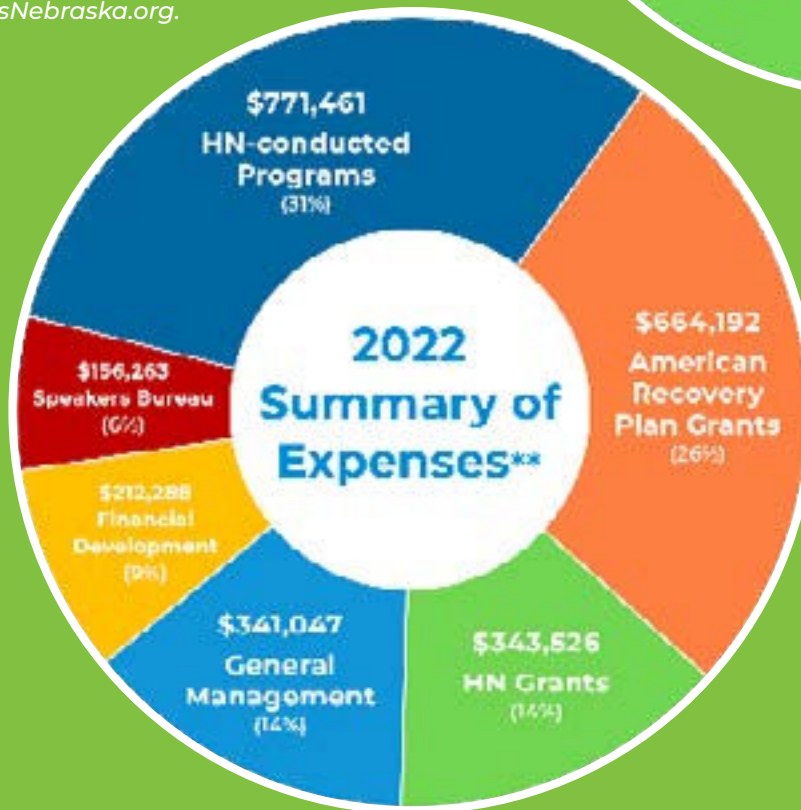
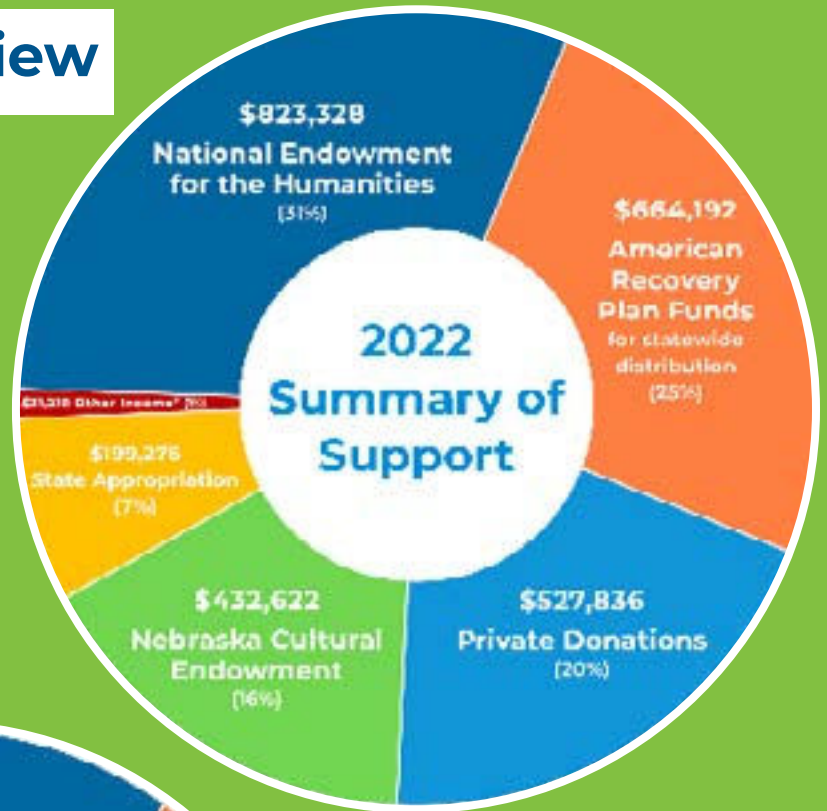
Total Support: \$2,332,995

Total Expenses: \$2,489,777

Excess (deficit) of support and revenue over expenses: **(\$156,782)**

Reserves from prior years: **\$156,782**

Deficit due to loss on investment. Audited financial statements from Dana F. Cole and Co. are available for inspection at the HN office and HumanitiesNebraska.org.



*Other income includes Earned Income (\$27,673), Interest Income (\$2,509), Miscellaneous Income (\$1,036).

**Does not include cost share from grantees and volunteers totaling \$1,875,295

\$664,192 of the expenses under Grants and support under National Endowment for the Humanities was for distribution of federal ARP funding to local humanities nonprofits.

333,347
People Reached

460
Programs Presented

149
Communities Served

\$343,526
Total Dollars Granted
Not including ARP grants

58
Organizations Funded
Not including ARP grants



Collaboration key in 2022

Humanities Nebraska's focus on growth and collaboration was the key to providing meaningful ways to help Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human.

Twelve Nebraska high schools participated in **Capitol Forum on America's Future**, using the Choices curriculum from Brown University, provided to them by HN. With funding from the Cooper Foundation and other generous donors, the schools sent delegations of students to discuss the five topics with peers from other parts of the state. They also heard from co-sponsor Secretary of State Bob Evnen, two instructors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) who shed light on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith, who answered students' questions about foreign policy and economics.

"The Fifties in Focus" **Chautauqua** program was hosted by McCook last summer, with workshops and evening events that showcased connections between the 1950s and today. Keynote speaker Jim Newton returned, as did scholars

Dr. Lenneal Henderson (Thurgood Marshall) and Becky Stone (Rosa Parks). Members of the community also provided special events that brought people together to explore this iconic decade.

New York Times Bestselling Author Candice Millard delivered the 27th annual **Governor's Lecture in the Humanities** at Lincoln's Lied Center for Performing Arts. During "A Clear and Steady



CAPITOL FORUM DAY

Major funding provided by the Dillon Foundation

100%
Capitol Forum teachers rated it excellent or good

"Capitol Forum showed me how to respond to and consider opinions different than mine, and showed me how small-town interests can be very different than those of larger urban areas."

— 2022 PARTICIPATING STUDENT

790
people attended "The Fifties in Focus" and related local events in McCook



Eye: Storytelling and Our Shared History," Millard shared insight, memories, and stories from her career as a biographer in a lively conversation with moderator William Padmore of Nebraska Public Media.



With sites growing more confident in hosting public programs, the HN **Speakers Bureau** rebounded with 353 events. This shows a steady increase from the 256 events in 2021 and the 2020 pandemic low of 143 in 2020. Thanks to special funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities initiative, "A More Perfect Union," HN was able to offer 36 Speakers Bureau programs related to democracy at a discounted rate.



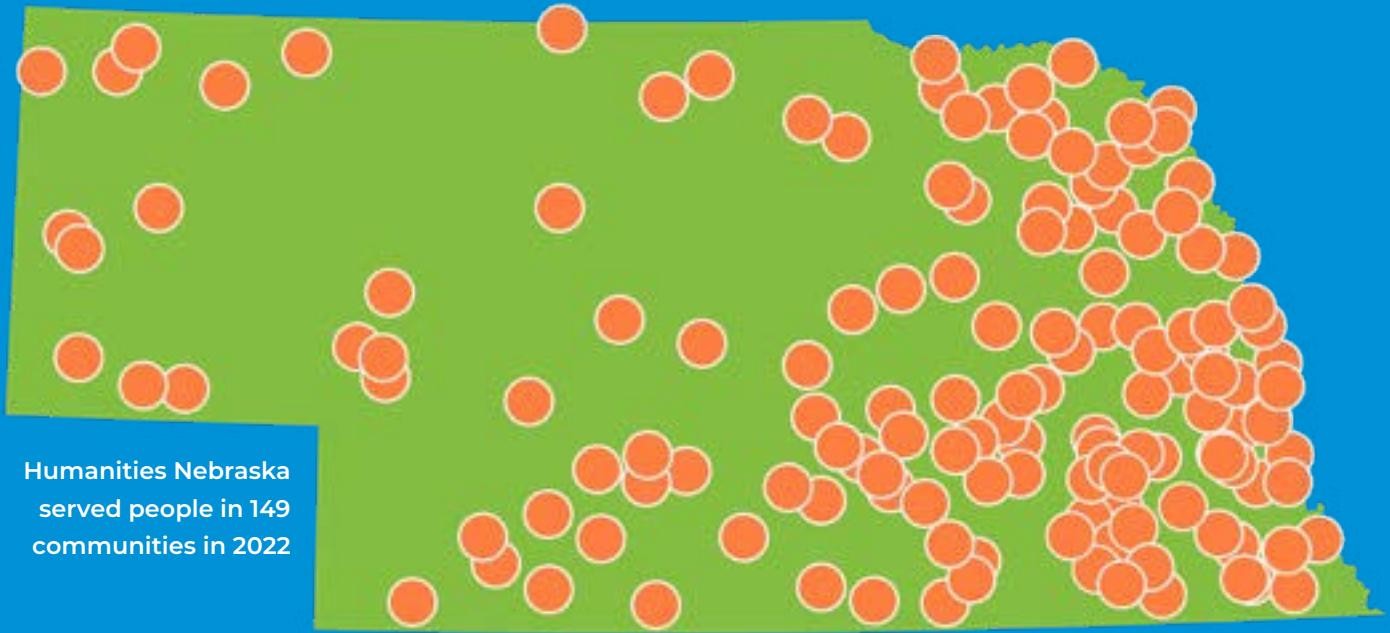
27TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES / LINCOLN & ONLINE



47% Speaker Events
took place outside Lincoln & Omaha
14,104 Nebraskans
attended Speaker Bureau presentations

"It's great to have this caliber of presenter in a rural area like this."

— 2022 SPEAKERS BUREAU HOST



Humanities Nebraska served people in 149 communities in 2022

3,753
people visited
"Crossroads"
in 2022

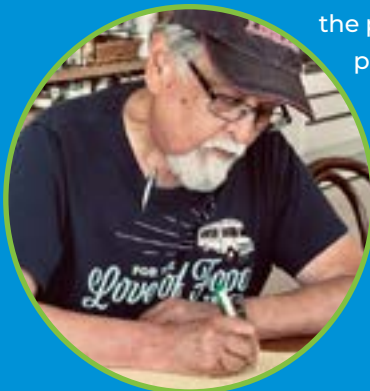


41
Prime Time Family Reading/Preschool programs were held in 2022

Between 2021 and 2022, about 6,000 Nebraskans visited the Museum on Main Street exhibition, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." It ended its seven-community tour in Wisner, Red Cloud, and McCook in 2022, offering these communities a space to celebrate their community's evolution and developments for the future

Prime Time Family Reading continued with 19 series for families in the spring, two during summer, and 20 in fall. HN also partnered with 24 libraries, schools, and community centers across the state to distribute 259 summer reading kits that invited families to explore history and culture.

HN hosted 15 **Nebraska Warrior Writers** workshops in Omaha and Lincoln with live online participation for those in other parts of the state. All of the participants agreed that the program improved their writing skills. One said, "The guest presenters are amazing and provoked a lot of writing and ideas. The resources made available (books and handouts) are helpful and I use them regularly."



Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason launched the Nebraska Poetry Pen Pal Program in western Nebraska. His goal is to take the program around the state as he continues his quest to visit all 93 counties before his tenure ends next year. He said, "By reading poems and engaging in conversation with audiences, we learn about far more than just writing, we learn about who we all are and how we see the world."



2,000
students participated in National History Day: Nebraska

HN again joined Nebraska Wesleyan University in sponsoring **National History Day: Nebraska**. After qualifying at the state competition at Lincoln's Nebraska Wesleyan University in April, 33 students competed in the virtual national competition in June, eight of whom received outstanding honors.

Also in June, HN presented "Weathering Uncertainty," a discussion featuring leaders in agriculture, public health, local economies, and the environment. Funded in part by the Mellon Foundation's 2021-22 "Democracy and the Informed Citizen" initiative and by Rhonda Seacrest, the program brought people together to seek common ground based on fact.

325?
people attended "Weathering Uncertainty" in person or online



WEATHERING UNCERTAINTY

Grants help fund statewide efforts

Competitive grants offered by HN each year are used to support a variety of humanities-based programs and projects, including the following:

African Culture Connection, Omaha

\$10,750 for summer student programming and event

Angels Theatre Company, Lincoln

\$1,225 to sponsor the Salon Reading Series

Antelope County Historical Society, Neligh

\$2,000 for a Native American Display

Arnold Area History Museum, Arnold

\$2,000 to help fund planning for a new website

Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln

\$1,450 supporting Camp Culture 2022 and \$1,900 for production of Untold Migrant Stories videos

BLIXT Locally Grown, Lincoln

\$1,565 for post-play history discussions

Bright Lights, Lincoln

\$5,000 for youth summer camp humanities sessions

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha

\$2,000 to help fund a lecture series

Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, McCook

\$2,000 supporting the 2022 event

Center for Legal Immigration, Lincoln

\$2,500 for the purchase of language learning materials and teacher stipend

Completely KIDS, Omaha

\$2,814 to sponsor "Multiculturalism Through Music"

Crane River Theater, Kearney

\$2,000 to help fund the "Page to Stage" outreach program and \$3,350 for the student matinee performance of "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"

The Durham Museum, Omaha

\$10,700 for the Museum Live! digital learning program

The Film Collaborative, Los Angeles, CA

\$15,000 to help fund a documentary film explaining race, identity and family

Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln

\$3,188 for the "Little But Fierce" children's summer writing workshop

Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue

\$7,750 supporting a speaker series coinciding with a new exhibit

Food Fort, Lincoln

\$1,100 to help fund its "Tree Top Education" elementary school reading and writing program

Friends of the Homestead, Beatrice

\$2,550 for the 2022 Prairie Visions Fiddle Festival

Friends of Loren Eiseley, Lincoln

\$6,500 supporting the "Star Thrower" series in Scotts Bluff County

Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation, Genoa

\$2,000 for the Recognition and Remembrance Day

Great Plains Theatre Commons, Omaha

\$10,000 to sponsor its 2022 New Play conference

History Nebraska, Lincoln

\$716 supporting an exhibit-based lecture

Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha

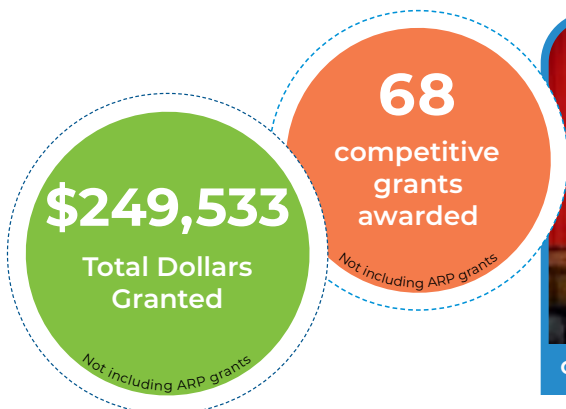
\$5,000 to help fund the Anne Frank Traveling Exhibit and accompanying education program

John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft

\$3,627 for the 41st Annual Neihardt Spring Conference

Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, Lincoln

\$300 for the Martin Luther King Jr. "Living a Dream" arts competition



Lincoln Orchestra Association, Lincoln

\$2,900 to help fund the 2022-23 Pre-Concert Chat series

LUX Center for the Arts, Lincoln

\$2,000 for the Gladys Lux retrospective

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Lincoln

\$2,000 for the 2022 Pilster Lecture & Sandoz Symposium

Nebraska Deaf Heritage Museum, Omaha

\$1,500 for a Deaf History Month kickoff event

Nebraska Journalism Trust, Omaha

\$1,925 to support a forum exploring the current state of journalism in Nebraska

Nebraska Poetry Society, Omaha

\$625 to help fund educational events and \$750 for autumn and winter virtual education events

Nebraska Public Media, Lincoln

\$10,000 for production of "Nebraska Stories"

Nebraska StoryArts, Omaha

\$2,000 supporting the Moonshell Storytelling Festival

Nebraska Thespians, Omaha

\$3,000 to help fund student workshops with a traveling artist at the 2023 Nebraska Thespian Festival

Nebraska Writers Collective, Omaha

\$7,500 for touring artist workshops and readings for the All Writes Reserved Youth Poetry Festival

Omaha Community Playhouse, Omaha

\$1,900 in support of a community discussion about a play and its playwright

O. NE Mentoring Academy, Omaha

\$1,250 to help fund mentoring for underserved students

Omaha Performing Arts, Omaha

\$4,189 to support the Voices AMPLIFIED arts and social justice series

Omaha Public Schools, Omaha

\$924 for a Buena Vista High School book club on diversity

Opera Omaha, Omaha

\$2,000 supporting the 2022-2023 Poetry & Music Project

Platte Valley Literacy Association, Columbus

\$2,000 for materials used in a citizenship class

Robert Henri Museum and Historical Walkway, Cozad

\$2,000 to help fund a new exhibit: "Boyhood on the Prairie: Robert Henri's Early Years in Nebraska"

Sidney Gold Rush Days, Sidney

\$1,500 in support of the annual community festival

Social Action Committee of Unitarian Church, Lincoln

\$4,000 supporting two lecture series: "Conflicts within Nations and the Right to Protect" and "Polarization in America: Is Foreign Policy Different"



9,662*
people attended programs funded by HN grants
*Preliminary Figures

Southern Heights Food Forest, Lincoln

\$1,500 to help fund "Cultural Foodways"

Stand In For Nebraska, Lincoln

\$5,800 to sponsor the Roots to Rise summer day camp

Stone Soup Productions, Washington, D.C.

\$12,500 for a Nebraska-based episode of "The People's Recorder" podcast on the 1930s Federal Writers' Project

TEDx Lincoln, Lincoln

\$2,000 supporting the 2022 Nebraska Storytelling Festival

Together We Achieve Miracles, Inc., Omaha

\$1,750 to help fund a townhall discussion sharing the history of Saratoga and the Beltline Railroad

Tri-Faith Initiative, Omaha

\$6,000 for the "Race, Religion, and Social Justice" conference

United by Culture, Lexington

\$6,950 for the Courageous Voices program for students

University of Nebraska-Kearney Board of Regents

\$10,000 to sponsor PAWS University summer Spanish immersion and humanities programming, and \$2,000 for an artist talk at the World Affairs Conference

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Board of Regents

\$10,000 to develop instructional frameworks to use "Nebraska Stories of Humanity" as a community and school educational resource and \$2,000 to help fund Contemporary Indigeneity 2022

University of Nebraska- Omaha Board of Regents

\$2,000 for its "Living Library" project, \$1,900 supporting the ArteLatinX exhibit, \$2,000 to help fund the "On the Inside" exhibition, and \$3,700 sponsoring the "Memory Serves" Symposium on Dementia

Vision Maker Media, Lincoln

\$2,000 to help fund its Filmmaker Summit in 2022

Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud

\$2,000 supporting supplemental programming for the Smithsonian Crossroads exhibition, and \$10,085 to help fund spring conference programming

The World Theatre Foundation, Kearney

\$1,900 to sponsor Jazz at the World

It all started 50 years ago with a spark of curiosity

As the “Nebraska Committee for the Humanities” was established in 1973 in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, its founding committee members questioned how to best harness these new resources of funding and people to positively impact the state. This dedicated team landed on a focus of bringing academic humanists and everyday citizens together to discuss significant public issues, and providing broad public access to the humanities.

The founding committee engaged with about 750 Nebraskans in 17 community-based meetings to learn more about what citizens and humanities scholars most wanted before presenting their case for funding to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Their dedication to amplifying statewide voices and their curiosity in the humanities secured full funding for the committee.

Since then, what eventually became the Nebraska Humanities Council and is now known as Humanities Nebraska has continued to carry out that initial mission by helping people explore what connects us and makes us human. Through competitive grants to organizations around the state and unique programs that help people make connections to history, culture, and each other, Humanities Nebraska has stayed true to sparking curiosity, and will continue to do so for decades to come.

GRANT-MAKING IN THE '70s

The initial priority of the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities (NCH) was grant-making for humanities programming, especially under the themes of land use, public policy, urbanization, and changing demographics. Within the first six months of its

existence, NCH had awarded 14 grants totaling \$55,000, and by 1974, 4,500 people in 20 communities had participated in programming. Grants supported programs like conferences for

the Omaha Chapter of Parents Without Partners, Exeter’s bicentennial celebration, public policy for the elderly, and

a film about land use produced by the League of Women Voters. A scholarly journal with essays about various humanities themes was launched in spring 1974 and distributed to a list of enthusiastic readers.

In 1975, NCH expanded into new themes of citizen participation in government, industry, and education. Notable events included a statewide humanist conference and a seminar for gathering senior citizen input. NCH continued to grant funds for humanities programming, such as supporting a yearlong tour of an Einstein exhibit across the state, the establishment of the Center for Great Plains Studies, and the National Issues Forum on Energy (which addressed similar topics to our 2022 program, “Weathering Uncertainty: Conversations About Climate in Nebraska”).

By 1979, NCH had granted \$680,000 to Nebraska organizations, with \$1.25 million in matching funds quite the start for the committee’s first few years.

EXPANDING PROGRAMMING IN THE '80s

By the 1980s, NCH began conducting its own council programming to meet more of the needs in Nebraska, especially in rural areas.

In an effort to recognize outstanding contributions made to public appreciation of humanities, NCH created the Sower Award in the Humanities in 1980. Ever since, this annual award has honored someone who is contributing to the public understanding of the humanities in Nebraska. The long list of honorees includes scholars, elected officials, philanthropists, and community volunteers.

In 1983, the Speaker’s Bureau was established to provide communities of all sizes across the state with high quality humanities programs. In the years since, there have been more than 15,000 speaker presentations, and we currently have more than 250 programs available. The first group of speakers focused on talks in schools, but programming has since expanded to



\$10,640,030

in grants awarded 1973-2022

?,??? organizations

have received grants from HN

**NUMBER OF SPEAKERS PRESENTATIONS
BY YEAR: 1984-2022**



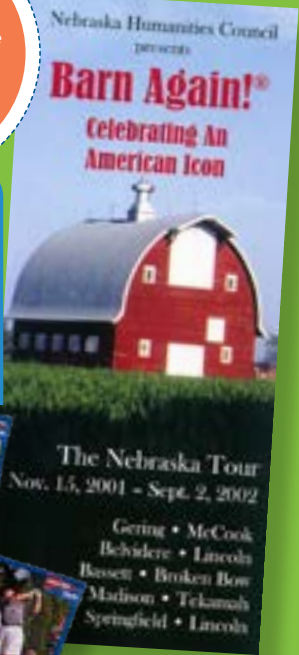
15,015
Speakers Bureau
programs
presented since
inception



43
communities have
hosted Museum
on Main Street
Exhibitions



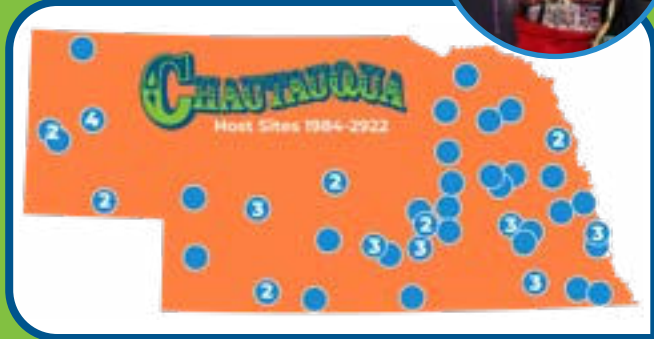
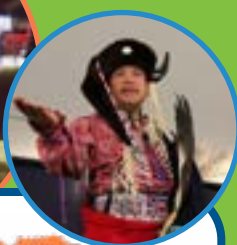
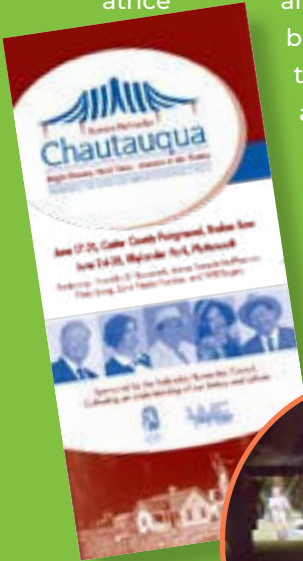
BETWEEN FENCES, 2008



include senior centers, libraries, churches, museums, and community centers across Nebraska.

Soon after introducing the Speakers Bureau, NCH kicked off the first of many Chautauquas with 1984's "Jefferson's Dream and the Plains Experience" in Beatrice

and Scottsbluff-Gering. Chautauqua brings communities together for historical presentations, workshops for all ages, and informal gatherings, including a traditional tent raising for many years. Since its launch, Chautauqua themes have ranged from the Gilded Age to home-steading, from WWI to the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and most recently, the 1950s in America.



EVOLVING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE '90S

After a name change to the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) in 1987, the 1990s brought a focus on more expansion of council-conducted programming in collaboration with other organizations.

The Museum on Main Street partnership with the Smithsonian began in 1996, with a focus of bringing high quality traveling exhibitions to smaller, rural communities throughout Nebraska. The goal is to nurture dialogue, build excitement, and open doors to each community's history, culture, people, and sense of local pride.

These exhibitions spend several weeks in each community, touring through six or seven locations over the course of the year. Local hosts produce their own accompanying exhibition, allowing visitors to draw connections between what happens on a national level and their own home town experience.

Museum on Main Street exhibits have come to Nebraska every two to three years, much to the delight of small town museums, libraries, and local community centers who draw audiences and educate people on subjects including agriculture, American roots music, water issues, changes in rural America, and more. These exhibitons never fail to increase foot traffic to the host sites, even for years afterward, as guests realize the value and joy of such experiences.

The Governor's Lecture in the Humanities was also introduced in 1996, bringing a statewide audience together for a free, public presentation with a nationally-renowned humanities speaker. The event alternates between Omaha and Lincoln each year, and is preceded by a benefit dinner. HN's first speaker was JFK speechwriter Ted Sorensen, and over the years we have had engaging humanities experiences with

GOVERNOR'S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES 1996-2022

- Millard: 2022
- Gates: 2021
- Goodwin: 2020
- Eisenhower: 2019
- Meacham: 2018
- Stiles: 2017
- Nazario: 2016
- Reynolds: 2015
- Abani: 2014
- Gordon-Reed: 2013
- Putnam: 2012
- Foner: 2011
- Whitman: 2010
- Miller: 2009
- Gergen: 2008
- Beschloss: 2007
- Nafisi: 2006
- Williams: 2005
- Halberstam: 2004
- Safire: 2003
- Friedman: 2002
- McCullough: 2001
- Painter: 2000
- Broder: 1999
- Ambrose: 1998
- Marty: 1997
- Sorensen: 1996



Doris Kearns Goodwin, David McCullough, David Gergen, Annette Gordon-Reed, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and most recently, Candice Millard. These and many other speakers have been a highlight of the year for many humanities-loving Nebraskans.

In 1999, NHC continued to expand programming to meet more needs by introducing Capitol Forum on America's Future in 1999. Capitol Forum empowers high school students to engage in the American democratic process and examine how key global issues affect our nation and state. Students are also given the opportunity to interact with elected officials. HN is proud to note that some of these students have gone on to become public leaders who are contributing to Nebraska's vitality in very real ways.



2000

26,000+
students have participated in Capitol Forum since 1999.

The mid 1990s also brought a tumultuous funding picture for NHC and all of the state humanities councils. A movement in Congress to eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities (and National Endowment for the Arts) ultimately resulted in a 40% cut to the budgets of those federal agencies. This "near-death experience" was a catalyst for NHC to double its efforts to diversify its funding sources. From this point forward, a companion entity called the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities became a vital and active partner in raising private funds alongside the Council. Nebraska has since become a leader in the nation in raising private dollars to continue growing our programs and meeting more needs in our state, due to the Council/Foundation side-by-side partnership we have built.

In the late 1990s, Nebraska took another big step forward in funding the humanities (and arts) through creating the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. State Senators LaVon Crosby and Don Pederson champi-



GOV. BEN NELSON SIGNED LEGISLATION CREATING THE CULTURAL ENDOWMENT

oned LB 799, which was the first legislation of its type in the nation that established the Cultural

Preservation Endowment Fund, which would set aside state funds as they were matched by private dollars, with the earnings going to support the work of the Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Arts Council. The private side of this public-private partnership is managed by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. This close partnership between the state humanities council, state arts council, a private endowment, and the state is completely unique in the nation, and is a vital contributor to the cultural life of Nebraska.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

As private, state, and endowment funding made more growth possible, NHC next launched Prime Time Family Reading. The first session was a pilot program in Lincoln City Libraries in 2002, followed by bilingual English/Spanish programs in South Omaha, Schuyler, and Scottsbluff in 2004.

Created by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 1991, Prime Time Family Reading is led by a storyteller and discussion leader, and brings together underserved children and parents who meet in public libraries, elementary schools and other community venues to read and discuss award-winning children's books. Discussion encourages critical thinking, develops connections between storybooks and real life, and, in the bilingual program, encourages Spanish-speaking family members to read and speak English. Since its creation, more than 18,000 children

and parents have participated in 370+ Prime Time programs throughout Nebraska. The

expansion of Prime Time continues to this day. HN has literally watched children in Prime Time grow up to become successful college students, enter the workforce, and even join the team as program leaders!

Following a 2011 rebranding to our current name of Humanities Nebraska (HN), the next program launched was Nebraska Warrior Writers in 2014, a collaboration between HN, UNL's Nebraska Writing Project, and the Lincoln Veterans Administration.

This program invites active duty military, veterans, and their families to practice expressing their thoughts and feelings into writing, led by a guest speaker each weekend. The group's first anthology of writings was published in 2021, and the program is currently collecting pieces for future publication.

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic where people had many challenges to connecting with each other, HN launched a letter-writing initiative called Dear Stranger. Nearly 50 participants in 2021 wrote letters to strangers across Nebraska. The program has continued into this year, with an assigned prompt of discussing a significant historical event in one's life.

With the CARES Act and American Recovery Plan (ARP), HN partnered with NEH to grant relief and recovery funds. HN distributed 152 federal relief grants across Nebraska, with additional funding from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and an anonymous donor.

Other one-time programs saw success as well. "An Issue of Trust" brought people together to discuss the state of news media in society and how it relates to American Democracy. "Weathering Uncertainty" sparked valuable conversations on climate change. "Valuing the Vote" educated people on hard-fought battles for suffrage.



2007 OMAHA SESSION



LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE

As Humanities Nebraska looks to its future, it's crucial to continue sparking moments of curiosity. Whether it's a preschooler seeing themselves in a children's book, a senior citizen learning about their town's history for the first time, or a high school student wondering how they can share their voice, these moments drive Humanities Nebraska forward.

Thank you to every person, organization, and partner who has helped Humanities Nebraska achieve its mission to help people explore what connects them and makes them human.

We look forward to the next 50 years.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

The statewide work of Humanities Nebraska is made possible by the generous support of the following individuals and organizations.

Thank you!

ORGANIZATIONS

\$10,000+

Anonymous
Academy of American Poets NEW YORK, NY
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*Deceased

This list reflects cumulative financial gifts received in fiscal year 2022 (November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022). We appreciate donations of all sizes, but due to space limitations recognition begins at the Friend level (\$50). 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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**“Thank you for
addressing a critical
topic with a well versed
and respectful panel.”**

— "WEATHERING UNCERTAINTY"
AUDIENCE MEMBER

100% "Crossroads" hosts
rated the experience excellent or good

92% Prime Time parents
read more often with their children



*Deceased

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			Sean Doolittle COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA	Don & Andi Goldstein OMAHA
			Beth & Amnon Dotan OMAHA	Victoria Grasso LINCOLN

“We saw a lot of new community faces through the doors as a result of this exhibit...first uptick since COVID...”

— "CROSSROADS" SITE HOST

353
Speakers Bureau programs were booked statewide



PRIME TIME FAMILY READING

*Deceased

98%

of Prime Time families rate it excellent/good



“We attend Prime Time so my children can be exposed to more Native American literature.”

— NATIVE AMERICAN PARENT

Karen Griffin LINCOLN

Stephen Griffith LINCOLN

Patty Gritzfeld SCOTTSBLUFF

George & Judy Haecker OMAHA

Kurt Haecker GRAND ISLAND

Lisa & Mick Hale LINCOLN

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Bill & Linda Pratt OMAHA

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Sue Quambusch LINCOLN

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*Deceased

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\$100 - \$249

continued

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HASTINGS

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OMAHA

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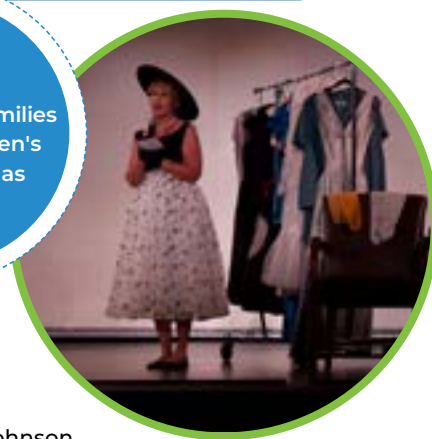
Jean Jeffrey LINCOLN

**“I love the critiques,
and we are given great
tools for writing and
publishing.”**

— NEBRASKA WARRIOR
WRITERS PARTICIPANT

75%

of Prime Time families
say their children's
schoolwork has
improved.



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PENDER

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Dale Olson FREMONT

Jean Pecha YUTAN

Karen & Oliver Pollak
RICHMOND, CA

Terri Porter
SOUTH SIOUX CITY

Vicki Pratt OMAHA



Katherine L. Walter

received the 2022 Sower Award in the Humanities

\$163,590 raised

via the Governor's Lecture for statewide programs

92%

Capitol Forum students said it will impact their entire lives as voting citizens.



SPEAKERS BUREAU

97%

of those attending Chautauqua were pleased with the event

- Terrilyn Quick LA VISTA LINCOLN
- Susan Radosti CREIGHTON Kathy & Larry Schmidt COLUMBUS
- Patrick J. & Mary Jo Randolph HASTINGS Jeff Schovanec LA VISTA
- Liz Rea OMAHA Cheri Schrader COLUMBUS
- Chris & B.J. Reed OMAHA Chuck & Kathi Schroeder LINCOLN
- Ward & Cheryl Reesman ELKHORN Ruth Ann Schultz AUBURN
- Sally Reinert DAKOTA CITY Nancy Schwertley NORFOLK
- Dennis & Sally Reinert DAKOTA CITY Bob & Carmen Shively LINCOLN
- Kenneth & Susan Rood OMAHA Michael Skau OMAHA
- Mary Jane Rosenthal COLUMBUS Wendy Smith LINCOLN
- Jan Rowley OMAHA Gloria Sorensen OMAHA
- John & Susan Russell ASHLAND Kim Sosin OMAHA
- Tammy & Steve Russell LINCOLN Jack & Norma Stevens M^CCOOK
- Leslie Schlichting Barbara & Donn Brian & Linda Striman LINCOLN

- Tassemeyer PLAINVIEW
- Don & Mary Jo Taylor DAVID CITY
- Doris Thompson MINDEN
- Vanessa Timberlake & Dick Flebbe OMAHA
- Chris Timm LINCOLN
- Bruce & Kate Trindle NORFOLK
- LaVila K. VanBoening HASTINGS
- Gilbert Vaughan WAYNE
- Ronald Volkmer OMAHA
- Kevin Wailes & Boots Primavera-Wailes LINCOLN

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- Dan Worth & Laurie Richards LINCOLN
- Loren & Barbara Wroblewski ST. PAUL
- Steve Wyant FORT COLLINS, CO
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- Carole D. Young GERING
- Zak & Amy Zutavern DUNNING

Tributes

During 2022, HN received multiple memorial gifts in honor of Pamela Hilton Snow. *Thank you!*

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In Memoriam

HN honors the memory of these donors, program partners and former board members who died in 2022.

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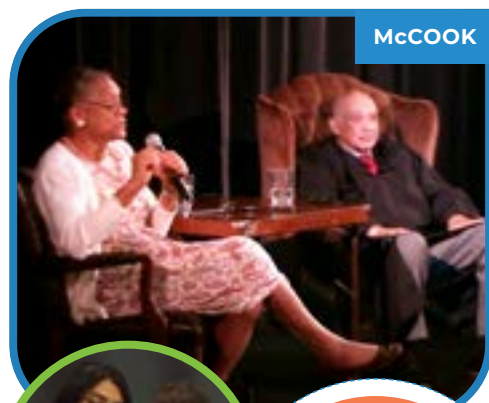
*Former Board Member

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



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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 HN's Heather Thomas at 402-474-2131 or heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.



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