



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

# Stories behind the numbers

Humanities Nebraska board and staff recently discussed the results of our 2025 programming and grantmaking and our year-end financials. Behind all of the numbers, there are many stories. The most challenging story of 2025 is how, after more than 50 years of partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the sudden termination of vital NEH funding by DOGE cast the entire state humanities council network into crisis.

The councils have valiantly adapted through that upheaval to try to continue our respective missions of serving all people of our states with humanities opportunities, but Humanities Nebraska was one of very few that was *not* forced to rapidly reduce programs or grants, or to terminate staff. Nebraska is uniquely diversified in our revenue sources, thanks to the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, and hundreds of individuals and entities across the state who generously support our work through private donations.

Because of that, HN's year-end results for programs and grants look very similar to past years, despite the loss of approximately half a million dollars of federal support. We awarded 81 grants, provided 246 Speakers Bureau programs, conducted 40 Prime Time Family Reading programs, and had a very successful Chautauqua in Gering/Scottsbluff and Governor's Lecture in the Humanities in Omaha. We partnered with 424 organizations on humanities programs that reached 543,116 Nebraskans all across the state. Each one of those programs contains its own stories of enriching lives through the humanities.

Another story is how many HN donors stepped up during this year of uncertainty, and did so in record-breaking fashion! One hundred fifty-eight new donors gave to HN, and levels of giving increased by nearly 47%, including a 64% jump in Give to Lincoln Day donations. Donors also rose to the occasion with a record-setting Governor's Lecture event that raised more than \$250,000 for statewide programming. We have a lot to be thankful for from our supporters who helped so much in this challenging year. We also appreciate the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and the Nebraska Arts Council for the strong relationship that we have with them. This unique public-private partnership is essential to Nebraska and helps enhance arts and humanities in our state.

When we provide our next annual report to you a year from now, it's hard to predict how the year will have unfolded. What we do know is that the humanities are vital for our complex and challenging world, helping to bridge divides, address social isolation, inform people, and build trust and engagement in our communities. We remain steadfast in our commitment to our work, thanks to you.

**Chris Sommerich**  
 Executive Director

**David D. Vail**  
 2025 Chair, Nebraska  
 Humanities Council

**Mike Homa**  
 2025 President, Nebraska  
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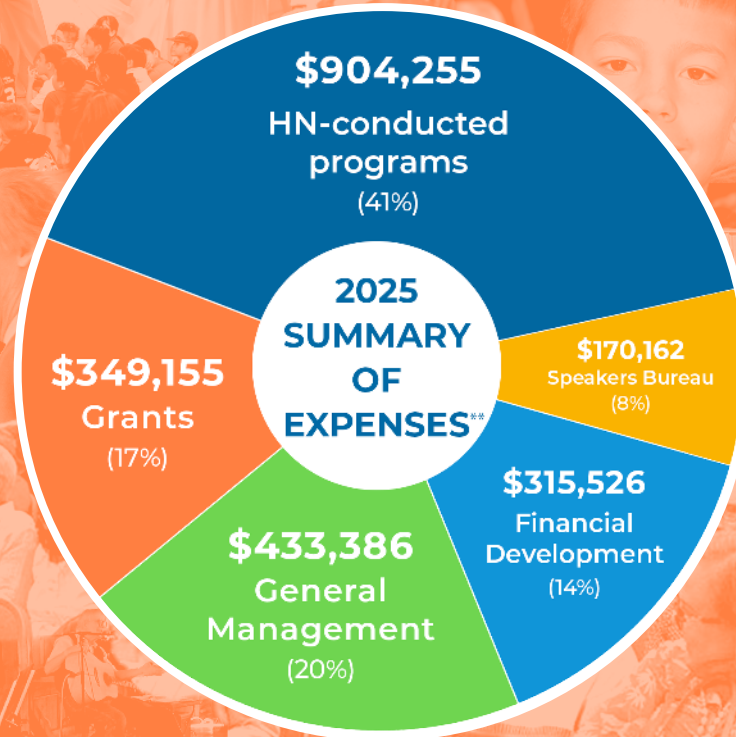
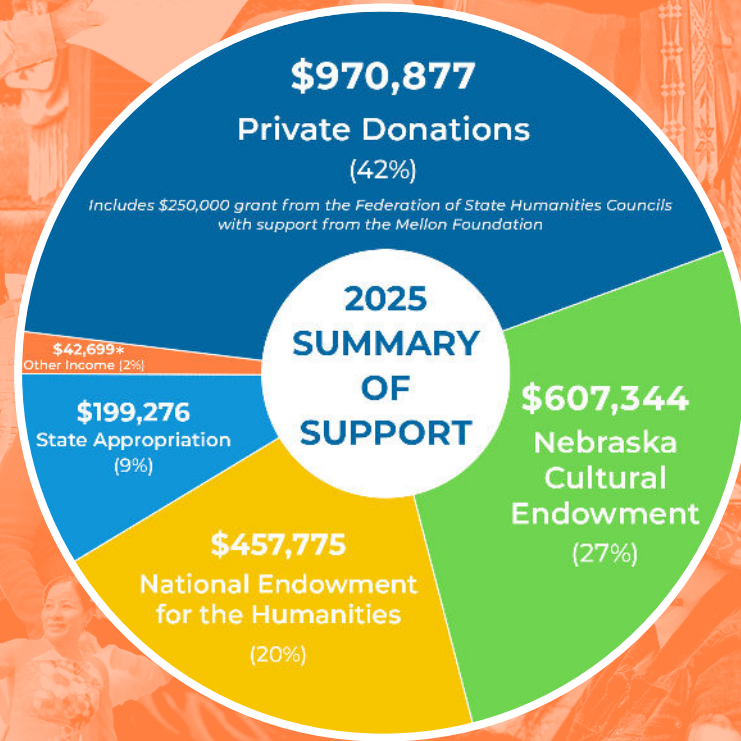
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| <b>Erika Hamilton</b><br>Director of Literary Programs           | <b>Valeria Facio-Lom</b><br>and <b>Anika Keese</b><br>Interns |

# 2025 Financial Overview

## SUMMARY

**Total Support: \$2,263,502**  
**Total Expenses: \$2,172,484**  
**Excess (deficit) of support and revenue over expenses: \$91,018**



*Includes Mellon Foundation funding*



*Includes media grant audiences*



\*Other income includes Earned Income (\$28,230), Interest Income (\$14,465), Miscellaneous Income (\$4) and does not include additional gains on investments of \$493,710.

\*\*Does not include cost share from grantees and volunteers totaling \$1,537,717

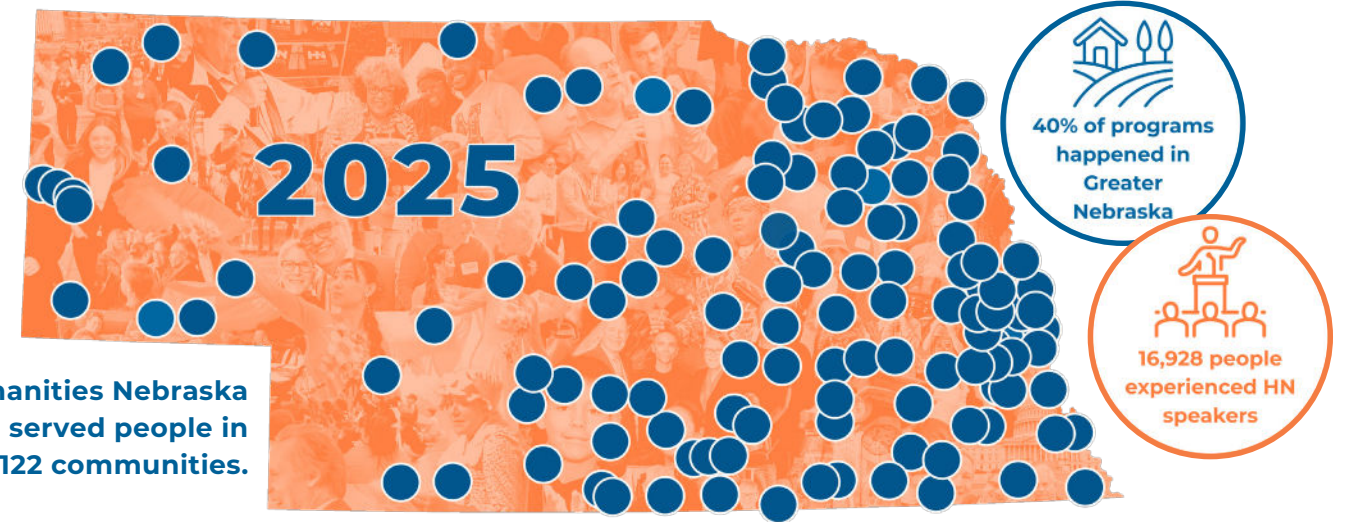
*Audited financial statements from AMGL, P.C. are available for inspection at the HN office and at [HumanitiesNebraska.org](http://HumanitiesNebraska.org).*

“We are truly blessed to have this program in our town.”

— MADISON, NEBRASKA

## Programs brought meaningful experiences to people across the state

Despite the financial uncertainty caused by federal funding cuts halfway through FY2025, Humanities Nebraska remained committed to providing programming in communities around Nebraska. Most participants rated HN programs as “excellent” or “good,” and people in rural communities expressed gratitude for the opportunities HN provides to them.



Humanities Nebraska served people in 122 communities.



### Prime Time Family Reading

Prime Time continues to be a flagship program, with more partnerships and applicants than ever. With a new site host in Madison, more families in rural Northeast Nebraska were able to discover a new way to read and discuss books together. After attending, 95% of all Prime Time families spent more time reading together, and 97.5% said they would participate in the program again. Participating parents reported their children improving in school. The reading and discussion skills learned at Prime Time will aid them for years to come.



### Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

Zahn McClarnon and Bird Runningwater were the featured speakers at the 30th annual Governor's Lecture on October 21. More than 1,000 people attended the “Indigenous Storytelling through Film and Television” lecture in person or by live stream to learn how things have changed for Native Americans in the television and film industry. The 2025 Sower Award in the Humanities was presented to Mary C. López. At the benefit dinner prior to the event, a record-setting \$252,620 was raised to support statewide HN programming.



### Speakers Bureau

The HN Speakers Bureau was rated “excellent” or “good” by 99% of hosting organizations. Speakers continue to have a large impact on rural areas, with their programming reaching every corner of the state. Several new topics and new speakers were added in 2025. To encourage audience participation, HN also introduced five new workshops led by seasoned speakers. Additionally, five existing programs are now available in Spanish for communities that have a high population of native Spanish speakers.



### Nebraska Chautauqua: Weaving a Nation

“Weaving a Nation” in Gering and Scottsbluff was a great success, thanks to the combined efforts of both communities to create a meaningful look at the founding of our nation. Attendees heard the stories of the first people to populate Nebraska's plains, gained new perspectives on the Lewis and Clark expedition, learned about local Japanese settlers, and reflected on the words of Omaha Chief Big Elk, Abigail Adams, and America's first cowboy, El Vaquero. “Weaving a Nation” will make its final appearance in Hastings in 2026.



### Nebraska State Poet

In January, Jewel Rodgers was announced as the new Nebraska State Poet. She immediately began appearing throughout the state. Additionally, Rodgers was awarded an Academy of American Poets fellowship, which has assisted in funding her statewide work.



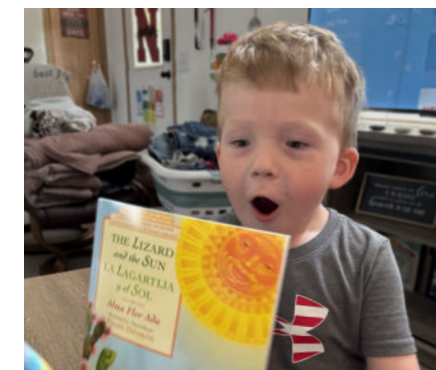
### Capitol Forum on America's Future

Capitol Forum led to many meaningful exchanges about global issues between Nebraska high schoolers. In 2026, a re-envisioned “Nebraska Forum on Global Issues” will continue the Capitol Forum tradition of connecting teens to peers and government officials.



### Nebraska Warrior Writers

More veterans/military joined this program in 2025. This program earns high marks from participants, the majority saying their writing skills have improved by attending.



### Summer Reading Kits

To reach areas of Nebraska where Prime Time is not yet hosted, HN distributed 496 reading kits to families with children ages 5-8, with books, activities, and more.



### National History Day: Nebraska

HN joined Nebraska Wesleyan University once again in sponsoring National History Day: Nebraska, an opportunity for middle- and high-school students to engage in history.

**“This form of art/cultural understanding is needed (and brilliant).”**

— AUDIENCE MEMBER

## Grants helped people connect with history, culture, and more.

Each year, HN offers ten opportunities to receive competitive grants to support a variety of humanities-based programs and projects. Grants are carefully allocated to ensure distribution throughout the state, reaching a wide variety of audiences with high-quality humanities programs, exhibits, and other endeavors. In 2025, these included the following.

### ACLU of Nebraska, Lincoln

\$2,000 for “Art from the Inside” storytelling event

### African Culture Connection, Omaha

\$15,000 for the 2025-2026 “African Kingdom & Authentic Cultural Experience”

### Arnold Area Historical Society, Arnold

\$2,000 for a Veterans Day program

### Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln

\$2,000 for 2025 Camp Culture, \$5,000 for “Untold Migrant Stories” and \$500 for a Harvest Moon festival

### Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha

\$1,500 for an art lecture by Lisa Sutcliffe and \$7,600 for facilitated discussions & a film premiere

### Bright Lights, Inc., Lincoln

\$4,500 for humanities teachers' daycamp stipends

### Buffalo County Historical Society, Kearney

\$1,998 for “Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy” Humanities Texas Traveling Exhibit

### Butler County Historical Society, David City

\$2,000 for “History Comes Alive in '25” speaker series

### Cathedral Arts Project, Omaha

\$2,000 for lectures on a Mexican and Spanish Colonial devotional art exhibition and \$2,000 for a film premiere

### Center for Legal Immigration, Lincoln

\$425 for a “Know Your Rights Under the Constitution” class

### Circle Theatre, Omaha

\$1,500 for a Japanese cultural festival

### Completely KIDS, Omaha

\$3,168 for the Museum Explorers Club

### Crane River Theater Company, Kearney

\$2,000 for “Page to Stage” library outreach and \$3,315 for a student matinee series

### Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center, Walthill

\$2,000 for a hospital dedication event and \$5,000 for Native American exhibits

### The Durham Museum, Omaha

\$4,000 for the Aksarben Gown Collection exhibition and \$10,000 for “The Negro Motorist Green Book” with elements from a Smithsonian exhibit

### Educational Service Unit #11, Holdrege

\$2,000 for humanities instructors at high school summer honors classes

### Elkhorn Valley Museum, Norfolk

\$10,000 for Riverwalk history panels

### El Museo Latino, Omaha

\$5,950 for its 2025-26 lecture series

### Empowering Families, Scottsbluff

\$1,925 for a Native American cultural retreat

### Great Plains Theatre Commons, Omaha

\$6,000 for its 2025 new play festival

### The House of Afros, Capes & Curls, Omaha

\$9,700 for its Young History Detectives program

### Inclusive Communities, Omaha

\$1,000 for Jane H. and Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks “Conversations for Change” lecture

### John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft

\$1,237 for the 60th annual Neihardt Day celebration and \$2,250 for the Neihardt spring conference

### Johnson County Nebraska Historical Society, Tecumseh

\$2,000 for educational display placards

### Joslyn Castle Trust, Omaha

\$1,935 for its “Architecture on Tap” series, \$2,750 for a digital tour of the castle and gardens and \$4,913 for the 2025 Art and Literary Festival, “Harlem Renaissance”

### Kearney Area Community Foundation

\$1,800 for Kearney Area Storytelling Festival and \$2,000 for a Native American dancer/storyteller at the 2025 Family Fun Fest

### Lincoln Orchestra Association

\$3,660 for 2025-2026 pre-concert chats

### McCook Arts Council

\$2,000 for 2025 Buffalo Commons Storytelling and Music Festival

### Meadowlark Hearth Living Environment Foundation, Scottsbluff

\$4,052 for an archaeology fair

### Metropolitan Community College, Omaha

\$2,300 for “African American Debutante Cotillions: History, Tradition, and Culture”

### Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College, Newton, Massachusetts

\$2,000 for Abraham's Bridge Discussion Guide

### Museum of American Speed, Lincoln

\$1,900 for a Nebraska BMX Hall of Fame celebration

### National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center, Concordia, Kansas

\$4,855 for Nebraska presentations

### Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival, Lincoln

\$7,500 for Dinuk Wijeratne's workshops and lecture

### Nebraska Journalism Trust, Omaha

\$2,000 for a panel discussion

### Nebraska National Guard Museum Society, Seward,

\$8,900 for “Faces of Rushmore” during the America 250 celebration

### Nebraska Poetry Society, Omaha

\$1,050 for Spring 2025 Speakers & Educational Events, \$1,200 for six speakers for its online series and \$1,200 for its 2026 reading series

### Nebraska Public Media Foundation, Lincoln

\$3,200 for a screening and discussion of the Ken Burns documentary, “The American Revolution”

### Nebraska StoryArts, Omaha

\$2,000 for the 2025 Moonshell Storytelling Festival

### Nebraska Writers Collective, Omaha

\$2,000 for Verbal Gumbo performance poetry event and \$7,000 for the National Youth Poet Laureate Commencement and community visits

### Norfolk Public Library

\$2,000 for “Telling Stories with Christina Diaz Gonzalez”

### Omaha Performing Arts

\$1,750 for “Voices Amplified – Ain't No Food Like Soul Food,” \$2,000 for “Ladies of Hip Hop: SpeakMyMind” panel discussion and \$12,400 for O-pa Culture Talks

### Opera Omaha

\$2,000 for the Poetry & Music Project 2025-26

### Operation Christmas Card, Inc., North Platte

\$4,000 for the North Platte Pow Wow

### Partners for Livable Omaha

\$2,000 for OurStory: aging ready housing exhibition and lecture, and \$2,000 for the “OurStory” exhibition

### Peru State College Foundation

\$5,515 for a lecture by Joel Sartore

### Sheldon Art Association, Lincoln

\$2,000 for Indigenous Cultural Programs

### Sidney Gold Rush Days, Inc.

\$5,500 for its annual event

### Social Action Committee, Unitarian Church, Lincoln

\$1,900 for the 2025 Winter Lecture Series

### Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton

\$1,700 for the “Return of the Thunderbirds” event

### Stone Soup Productions, Washington, DC

\$2,000 for a virtual discussion on the Federal Writers' Project in Nebraska as part of “The People's Recorder” series

### Together We Achieve Miracles, Inc., Omaha

\$6,500 for an exhibit, “Walking through Memory Lane with African American Activists”

### University of Nebraska at Kearney

\$5,000 for Loper Launch Enrichment Camp

### University of Nebraska at Lincoln Board of Regents

\$1,700 for 2025 Great Plains Conference speaker, \$1,216 for Understanding the Poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, \$1,950 for the “Legacy of Leadership: Faces of Nebraska Women in Agriculture” display, \$6,600 for “Nebraska Stories”, \$8,500 for the “BISON” exhibit at Morrill Hall and \$6,905 for the 50th annual Center for Great Plains Studies conference

### University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents

\$1,867 for 2025 Winchell Lecture and \$5,400 for the “Enchanted Cathedrals” lecture series

### Vision Maker Media, Lincoln

\$13,800 for its 50th anniversary film festival

### Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud

\$1,900 for the National Willa Cather Author Series and \$8,770 for the 70th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference



### Completely KIDS, Omaha

\$3,168 for the Museum Explorers Club

### Crane River Theater Company, Kearney

\$2,000 for “Page to Stage” library outreach and \$3,315 for a student matinee series



**“Without this support, this exhibition would have been a financial burden for us to deliver.”**

— PARTNERS FOR LIVABLE OMAHA

**“I wish I had this education years ago.”**

— WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



The statewide programs and work of Humanities Nebraska is made possible by generous support provided by you, our donors. **Thank you!**

This list reflects gifts received in fiscal year 2025 (November 1, 2024 — October 31, 2025). We appreciate donations of all sizes, but due to space constraints, recognition begins at \$50.

If we have not reported your gift correctly, please accept our apology and contact us at [info@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:info@humanitiesnebraska.org) or 402.474.2131.

**“Union Pacific Railroad is committed to establishing vibrant and healthy communities for employees, customers, and residents to work, visit, and call home. We support Humanities Nebraska’s mission.”**

— LIISA STARK,  
VICE PRESIDENT –  
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## Thanks to you!

### ORGANIZATIONS

Humanities Nebraska is grateful for an operating grant from the Federation of State Humanities Councils with support from the Mellon Foundation, and for the following generous organizations.

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Frontier County Historical Society CURTIS

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Prime Timers of St. Wenceslaus OMAHA

#### \$50 - \$99

The Most Unlikely Place LEWELLEN

St. Benedict Center & Mission SCHUYLER

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 Lynne & Paul Anderson OMAHA  
 Pam Baker LINCOLN  
 Bob & Barbara Bartle LINCOLN  
 Charles & Jane Bauer HASTINGS  
 Margaret & Steve Berry LINCOLN  
 Patty H. Beutler LINCOLN  
 Troy & Candy Bridgford LINCOLN  
 Eric & Ruth Brown LINCOLN  
 Graciela Caneiro-Livingston & Dana Livingston LINCOLN  
 Mary Cannella OMAHA  
 Daniel Claes & Shireen Adenwalla LINCOLN  
 Glenn & Dixie Colson ELSIE  
 Linda Crandall OVERTON  
 Todd Crawford LINCOLN  
 Jennifer & Michael Creager LINCOLN  
 Congressman Hal & Mary Daub OMAHA  
 Norine Davis BLAIR  
 Sid & Patty Dillon FREMONT  
 Karen & Roger Doerr HASTINGS  
 Sheila Dorsey Vinton LINCOLN  
 Karen Wyatt Drevo NORFOLK  
 Dr. Ali Eminov WAYNE  
 Carol Enderle SCOTTSBLUFF  
 Jim & Marsha Fairbanks SHELTON  
 Joel & Stacey Falk OMAHA  
 Polly Feis LINCOLN  
 Nancy Finken LINCOLN  
 Bruce & Beth Forney ALLIANCE  
 Devin Fox &

Robbie Block OMAHA  
 Tom Gallagher NEW YORK, NY  
 Korby Gilbertson LINCOLN  
 Galen & Marilyn Hadley KEARNEY  
 Kurt Haecker GRAND ISLAND  
 David & Barbara Haggart OMAHA  
 Paige & Justin Hall OMAHA  
 Erika Hamilton LINCOLN  
 Susan Henrie HASTINGS  
 Cecil Hicks & Nicole Brown OMAHA  
 Margaret Hornady-David GRAND ISLAND  
 Loren & Cleo Jacobsen BROKEN BOW  
 Sissy Katelman Silber BELLEVUE  
 Audrey Kauders KEARNEY  
 Ruth H. Keene OMAHA  
 Helen Krause FREMONT  
 Carrie Kusy LINCOLN  
 Dr. Richard & Monica Lloyd HASTINGS  
 Matt & Laura Low OMAHA  
 Dr. Mel Luetchens MURDOCK  
 Brenda Mainwaring COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA  
 Linda & Terry J. McClain FREMONT  
 Jan M. McKenzie OMAHA  
 Angenette & Bob Meaney RIVERSIDE, CT  
 Heath Mello OMAHA  
 Dave & Tammy Miller LINCOLN  
 Ron & Marlene Mischnick ALLIANCE  
 Peggy & Arlyn Montgomery PAPILLION  
 Dave & Marilyn Moore LINCOLN  
 Kent Neumeister OMAHA  
 Sharee & Murray Newman OMAHA  
 Rosemary & Fred Ohles LINCOLN  
 Glenn & Pat Ohlmann SEWARD

\*Deceased

Molly & Tim O'Holleran NORTH PLATTE  
 Mary Lainson Olsen HASTINGS  
 James Oneby LINCOLN  
 Mary C. Parrish OMAHA  
 Polly & Frank Partsch OMAHA  
 Jeff & Sarah Peetz LINCOLN  
 Gale & Julie Pokorny LINCOLN  
 Neal & Deb Ratzlaff OMAHA  
 Susie & Ted Rudberg EMERSON  
 Cindy Ryman Yost & Jeff Yost LINCOLN  
 Matt & Maggie Schaefer LINCOLN  
 Charles & Vickie Schaepler KEARNEY  
 J. Richard Shoemaker & Becky Van de Bogart CAMBRIDGE  
 Horton Simons OMAHA  
 Rich & Deanna Sincovec LINCOLN  
 Scott & Sarah Snell HASTINGS  
 Drucie & Terry Stark HAZARD  
 Judith & Clarence Ueda CAMINO, CA  
 David & Rosanna Vail KEARNEY  
 Richard & Karen Vierk LINCOLN  
 Gino Vigil KANSAS CITY, KS  
 Kate & Roger Weitz OMAHA  
 Justin & Kili Wenburg HASTINGS  
 Jaclyn Wilson LAKESIDE  
 Sara & Kirby Woods OMAHA  
 John A. [Jay] Yost & G. Wade Leak NEW YORK, NY  
 Birgit Young LINCOLN

Ray & Carolyn Zeisset LINCOLN  
**\$100 - \$249**  
 Anonymous (7)  
 Steve & Sara Arnett WOOD RIVER  
 Henry Atkinson BELLEVUE  
 Jeff Barnes OMAHA  
 Ed & Maggie Bates LINCOLN  
 Rick & Kathy Bell OMAHA  
 Doug & Louise Bereuter ALAMO, CA  
 Deb & Tom Berger NEBRASKA CITY  
 Doug & Liz Bisson OMAHA  
 Kim Bodensteiner LINCOLN  
 Sharon Bohling M<sup>C</sup>COOK  
 Linda Bors OMAHA  
 Julie Bringelson GRAND ISLAND  
 Robert & Kate Brooke LINCOLN  
 Kelcey Buck LINCOLN  
 Judy & Gale Bullard HASTINGS  
 Dr. David & Kimberly Cantral KEARNEY  
 Kyle & Koren Cartwright LINCOLN  
 Judy Chaloupka SCOTTSBLUFF  
 Terry Christensen ALLIANCE  
 John & Nancy Comer LINCOLN  
 Ed & Jan Connolly BELLEVUE  
 Patricia & David Crews LINCOLN  
 John & Dr. Sara Crook PERU  
 Linda High Daniel CULPEPER, VA  
 Al Davis LINCOLN  
 Steven & Sally DeLair LINCOLN  
 Rosemary & Arthur Dobson LINCOLN

Dennis Dohner & Zoya Zeman LINCOLN  
 Mary Dupuis LINCOLN  
 Karrie & Bruce Dvorak LINCOLN  
 Russ & Annette Eisenhart CULBERTSON  
 Tom Elser & Stephen Hug OMAHA  
 Katherine & Dick Endacott PLEASANT DALE  
 Mark & Barb Engler LAKEVILLE  
 Dean & Christine Faubel LINCOLN  
 Martha Feit ELKHORN  
 Joan Fisher GERING  
 Steve & Cathy Fosselman GRAND ISLAND  
 Barb & Charles Francis LINCOLN  
 Allen T. Freye BEATRICE  
 James K. Fruehling SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CA  
 Carol Gale LINCOLN  
 Deb & Lee Glenn SCOTTSBLUFF  
 Mike Gloor & Marie de Martinez GRAND ISLAND  
 Eunice Goldgrabe SEWARD  
 KayLynn Goldner OMAHA  
 Don & Andi Goldstein OMAHA  
 Mark Griep LINCOLN  
 Patty Gritzfeld SCOTTSBLUFF  
 Michael & Kathy Gross OMAHA  
 Sanford L. Grossbart & Priscilla Henkelman LINCOLN  
 Kim Hachiya & Tom White LINCOLN  
 George & Judy Haecker OMAHA  
 Susan Hale LINCOLN  
 Lisa & Mick Hale LINCOLN  
 Jim & Suzie Harder LINCOLN



**“I felt entertained, but more than that, it was very nice to feel connected to these stories from our local history.”**

— PARTICIPANT



## INDIVIDUALS, continued

**\$100 - \$249**  
continued

Ellen Hargus OMAHA

Patricia & Britt Harris  
GREELEY

Dee & Jerri Haussler  
HASTINGS

Casey Hermanson  
SIOUX FALLS, SD

Ellen Hornady  
GRAND ISLAND

William D. & Cindy  
Humphreys OMAHA

Renae Hunt GRAND ISLAND

Sue Imig SEWARD

John & Jayne James  
NEBRASKA CITY

Carmen & Richard Jirovec  
LINCOLN

Elaine Johnson LINCOLN

Sally Johnson LINCOLN

Belva Junker JUANITA

Con & Barbara Keating  
LINCOLN

Sarah A. Kelen LINCOLN

Marissa & Kelvin Kemp  
LINCOLN

Carlece Kenner HEBRON

Louise & Douglas Kent  
SCOTTSBLUFF

Betty Kenyon MITCHELL

Robert & Michelle Kerr  
HASTINGS

Paul & Bernadette  
Korslund LINCOLN

Jane & Peter Kotsiopulos  
KEARNEY

David & Vicki Krecek  
OMAHA

John & Cynthia Kugler  
OMAHA

K. Wayne & Carole Lainof  
PAPILLION

Jody Lamp ASHLAND

Elayne & James  
Landwehr HASTINGS

Donna Lightbody  
LINCOLN

Vickie Longsine LINCOLN

Tim Lundy BROOKLINE, MA  
David & Sharon Lybarger  
NEBRASKA CITY

Jerry & Suzi Martin  
NEBRASKA CITY

Melissa Marvin OMAHA

Bryce & Samantha  
McBride LINCOLN

Daniel McGill OMAHA

Tom & Evelyn McKnight  
FREMONT

Robert & Maureen  
McMaster LINCOLN

Mary McNamee &  
Kieth Simmons OMAHA

John & Linda McPhail  
COLUMBUS

Fern Medlin ALBION

William & Mary Meyer  
NORFOLK

Jane Morrison LINCOLN

Stephen Morton &  
Joanne Roberts ELKHORN

Rick & Suzanne Myers  
GERING

Karen Nelson  
SILVER SPRING, MD

Dawn & John Mark  
Nielsen BLAIR

Paul & Ann O'Hara  
LINCOLN

Natalie & Sam Olson  
LINCOLN

Wil & Shari Packard  
SCOTTSBLUFF

Harvey & Susan Perlman  
LINCOLN

Bill & Gretchen Peters  
GERING

Jerry & Mary Ann Petr  
LINCOLN

Sarah Pichler NORFOLK

Karen & Oliver Pollak  
RICHMOND, CA

Helen Raikes ASHLAND

Patrick J. & Mary Jo  
Randolph HASTINGS

Katherine Rhea FREMONT

Amy Richardson OMAHA

James R. Robinson  
& Pamela A. Gardner  
TEMPE, AZ

Kenneth & Susan Rood  
OMAHA

Donald & Dian Roth  
GERING

Max & Karen Rudolph  
PAPILLION

Jim & Kris Scheer  
NORFOLK

Barb & George  
Schlothauer GERING

Joe & Sandy Schon  
SCOTTSBLUFF

Nancy Schwertley  
NORFOLK

Charlotte D. Basford &  
Robin F. Scully LINCOLN

Bryan Seck &  
Janell Walther LINCOLN

Matt & Shelly Sehnert  
M<sup>C</sup>COOK

Charles & Joan Shapiro  
OMAHA

William & Laura  
Shiffermiller OMAHA

Steve Shively LINCOLN

Robert & Carmen Shively  
LINCOLN

Maureen & James  
Skavdahl MARSLAND

MeMe Smith OMAHA

Shannon Smith GORDON

Steve Smith LINCOLN

Karen Sommerich  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Gloria Sorensen OMAHA

George & Glenda  
Steinsberger COLUMBUS

Barbara Stephens  
GRAND ISLAND

Josephine R. Stewart  
LINCOLN

Kelley Stuckey OMAHA

Neal & Jo Suess  
COLUMBUS

Ginger Talbot OMAHA

Duane & Diana Tappe  
WAVERLY

Don & Mary Jo Taylor  
DAVID CITY

Sherry & Dennis  
Thompson OMAHA

Art & Carol Thompson  
LINCOLN

Vanessa Timberlake &  
Richard Flebbe OMAHA

Janice Tompkins OMAHA

Bruce & Kate Trindle  
NORFOLK

Kevin & Amanda Turner  
HASTINGS

Jerry & Mary Vaughan  
LINCOLN

Peter Vuchetich OMAHA

Jeanne Walter GORDON

Janyce Warneke  
PLAINVIEW

Stephen & Marlene  
Wehrbein PLATTSMOUTH

Aaron Weiner OMAHA

Janet Wightman  
LEXINGTON

Paxton J. Williams  
DES MOINES, IA

Sarah & Bruce  
Williamson TECUMSEH

Nancy & Philip Wolf  
OMAHA

Steve Wyant FORT  
COLLINS, CO

Dan Yost LINCOLN

Zak & Amy Zutavern  
DUNNING

**\$50 - \$99**

Anonymous (5)

Harriett Aden  
SCOTTSBLUFF

Charise Alexander  
Adams OMAHA

Richard H. Allen &  
Mary Rabenberg LINCOLN

Dr. Adrian & Mrs. Tracy  
Anderson ST PAUL

Diane R. Bartels LINCOLN

Mary Barton LINCOLN

Kent & Peggy Been  
INDIANOLA

Mayrene Bentley OMAHA

Don R. Brittin  
GRAND ISLAND

Greg Burrows  
BENKELMAN

Gene Burton FULLERTON

J. Douglas & Mary  
Campbell LINCOLN

Cory Carlson OMAHA

Matt & Kristi Carley  
SEWARD

Ann Chambers GRAND  
ISLAND

Dale & Joan Clark  
GRAND ISLAND

Warren R. Crawford  
ALLIANCE

Mary & William R.  
Davenport LINCOLN

Nancy H. Dawson  
LINCOLN

Walta Sue Dodd OMAHA

Jack & Judy Ekeler  
FREMONT

Frances Evans-Kreifels  
NEBRASKA CITY

Frank Ferraro LINCOLN

Mildred Fisher RAPID  
CITY, SD

Robert Foley TYNDALL, SD

Alan & Barbara  
Johnson Frank LINCOLN

Robert & Bette Frels  
HERSHEY

Robert Glenn HASTINGS

Jenny Gubbels  
RANDOLPH

Kandra Hahn LINCOLN

Twyla Hansen &  
Bryce Darling LINCOLN

David & Connie Hansen  
ANSELMO

Peggy Haskell BURWELL

Randy & Eloise Hiatt  
LINCOLN

Gloria & Jack Hoban  
KENESAW

Molly Holcher GRAND  
ISLAND

Richard D. Hunt ADAMS

Barbara Jacobson  
LINCOLN

Sitaram & Alice Jaswal  
LINCOLN

Jean Jeffrey LINCOLN

Byron & Deb Jensen  
HASTINGS

Marjorie Johnson BLAIR

Carol Johnstone-Hornig  
LINCOLN

Donna Jorgensen  
CENTRAL CITY

Michael Keenan  
VALENTINE

Michele King PAPILLION

Logan & Anne Kinnison  
COLUMBUS

Chad Koch LINCOLN

David & Melodee Landis  
LINCOLN

Andrea Lang OMAHA

Marie Law HASTINGS

Yoko Lawing NORTH  
PLATTE

David & Mary Lempke  
WALLACE

Linda Linder LINCOLN

Stuart Luttich GENEVA

Carol Maddux WAUNETA

Liz Makowski LINCOLN

Wayne & Cyndi Mattson  
OMAHA

Katherine "Toni" Mayer  
GRAND ISLAND

Vickie McDonald &  
Larry Harnisch LINCOLN

Fred & Pat Meisinger  
PLATTSMOUTH

John Meyer WISNER

Patty & Terry Miller  
SPRINGFIELD

Mike Murphy STANTON

Barb Neels DUNBAR

Ila Nelson HASTINGS

Lance Nielsen LINCOLN

Meg Noyes OMAHA

Robert Olson FREMONT

**"This story  
needs more  
telling, as  
many have  
forgotten or  
are gone."**

— AUDIENCE MEMBER



**"The  
importance  
of our local  
and regional  
history  
cannot be  
understated."**

— "WEAVING A NATION"  
CHAUTAUQUA  
ATTENDEE



## INDIVIDUALS, continued

**\$50 - \$99  
continued**

Kenneth & Norene Pavlik  
VERDIGRE

Jennifer Perry LINCOLN

Vicki Pratt OMAHA

Jim & Dee Price  
GRAND ISLAND

Vern & Theresa Rasmussen  
ALLIANCE

James & Arlene Rea LINCOLN

Mary Read AMHERST, NY

Ward & Cheryl Reesman  
ELKHORN

Dennis & Sally Reinert  
DAKOTA CITY

Dawn & Brian Rockey  
LINCOLN

Virginia Ross NORTH PLATTE

Erin Sample OMAHA

Janet Schmidt HASTINGS

Wally Seiler ALLIANCE

Deborah Sheehan BELLEVUE

Jimmy & Carol Shelbourn  
LINCOLN

Katharine Shiffler LINCOLN

Shirley K. Sneve LINCOLN

Jeanie Steinkuhler UNADILLA

Jack & Norma Stevens  
M<sup>C</sup>COOK

Dan & Barbara Sturgis  
NORFOLK

Angela Sukstorf FREMONT

Gary Timm LINCOLN

Cynthia Todd OMAHA

Dale & LaRayne Topp WISNER

LaVila K. VanBoening  
HASTINGS

Gilbert Vaughan WAYNE

Ronald Volkmer OMAHA

Bill Waddell LINCOLN

Connie Wagner KEARNEY

Florence Walter GORDON

Katherine Walter &  
Timothy Rinne LINCOLN

Sandra Washington LINCOLN

Steve & Joye Wees OMAHA

Sarah Weiner OMAHA

Cheryl Welding BELLEVUE

Duane Westing LINCOLN

Theodore Wheeler OMAHA

Cheryl Whitten Steckelberg  
LINCOLN

Kiley Wiechman LINCOLN

Mary Yager LINCOLN

Laurie Yocum COZAD

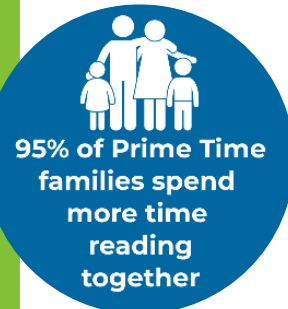
Janie York OMAHA

Dennis Zabel DAYKIN

Amy Zlotsky LINCOLN

“Learning about the traditions helped me understand more about myself and my family, and now it’s even helping as we grow in our community.”

— STUDENT PARTICIPANT



“I’m very appreciative of everything Humanities Nebraska does for us out in Western Nebraska!”

— CHAUTAUQUA ATTENDEE

“The Q&A was not just a formality, but became a vibrant, sustained discussion that underscored the need for continued dialogue around these topics.”

— GRANT RECIPIENT

### In Memoriam

HN honors the memory of these program partners, donors, and former board members who died in 2025.

*If you know of somebody we missed, please contact our office.*

- Barb Batie
- Cherrie Beam-Calloway
- N.P. “Sandy” Dodge
- Sandy Gallentine
- Rex German
- Evelyn Harris Haller
- Elizabeth Hunt
- Jane Johnson
- Richard Kopf
- Elaine Kruse
- Roger Lewis
- Tom Oshlo
- Walt Radcliffe
- Toni Sampson
- Opal Stivrins
- Barbara Tripp
- Don Wesely

## Funding Partners

### 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 27-year history of the NCE, it has distributed more than \$20 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 Erin L. Moran at 402.474.2131 or [erin@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:erin@humanitiesnebraska.org).



### State of Nebraska

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



### National Endowment for the Humanities

Humanities Nebraska is the state partner of 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.



## Workplace Giving

Working with 76 different charitable agencies, Give Nebraska has built a vibrant, creative, healthy community during the last 40 years, helping to contribute to the high quality of life in Nebraska. For more information, please call 402.475.7759 or visit [www.givenebraska.org](http://www.givenebraska.org). Humanities Nebraska greatly appreciates our donors who designated gifts to us through Give Nebraska workplace giving campaigns last year. They will be recognized by name at a later date.



“I think the history of it all is fascinating because it’s important to know where you come from and to understand what it truly means to live in the place you call home.”

— YOUTH SUMMER DAY CAMP ATTENDEE

