

# MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

Presentation to:  
**Senate Environment, Climate, & Legacy Committee**  
**Kevin Lindsey, CEO & Tristy A. Auger, Grants Manager**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2025**



# OVERVIEW

To provide committee members with an update on the progress made by Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) in administering Legacy funding provided by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2023-25 biennium.

# ABOUT MHC

## FOUNDED IN 1971

MHC was created when the Endowment for the Humanities began funding state-based humanities programs.

## MISSION

Spark positive change by increasing collective understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our histories, through stories and experiences.



## VISION

A just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate.

# 2023-25 LEGACY GRANTS

During the 2023-25 biennium, MHC will administer more than **\$15.4 million** in grants to individuals and/or organizations in Minnesota **working to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities.**

This is the **highest** dollar amount administered by MHC.



# 2023-25 LEGACY FUNDING

**Total: \$15,428,952**

## Community Identity & Heritage Grant Program

Cultural Heritage  
\$8,816,952

Emergency Response  
\$100,000

Capacity Building  
\$750,000

Children's Museums  
\$2,200,000

Civics  
\$300,000

Festivals  
\$450,000

Cultural & Ethnic Studies  
\$500,000

Arts & Music Scholarships  
\$500,000

Direct Appropriations  
\$1,812,000

# PRE-APPLICATION



STREAMLINED  
APPLICATION  
PROCESS



LEVERAGED  
NETWORKS TO  
EXPAND  
OUTREACH



CREATED FAQs



HOSTED  
INFORMATION  
SESSIONS



PROVIDED  
SUPPORT &  
ASSISTANCE

# OUTREACH



Advertised on **16 radio stations** across BIPOC communities.



MHC's CEO, Kevin Lindsey, **interviewed with seven media outlets.**



**Advertised with Hmong Times, Sahan Journal, 3 Hmong TV stations** and promoted through numerous email lists, newsletters, etc.



Advertised on **41 media screens** in several BIPOC communities.

# OUTREACH



Advertised on **four** MHC social media channels.



**Outreach** to State and Legislative officials and Ethnic Councils.



Outreach to Community Festival Planners, Small Businesses, and Mayors/Deputy Mayors in **Minnesota**.



# APPLICATION SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



Responded to **hundreds of inquiries** from interested applicants via email and phone calls.



Hosted **ten informational sessions** that were attended by nearly 500 participants.



Hosted **30-minute informational meetings with 150** interested applicants.



**Reviewed 98 draft applications** and provided feedback prior to application submission.

# REVIEW PROCESS

## Step 1 – Initial Screen

### Ensure each application:

- Is complete
- All attachments have been provided
- Within statutory requirements



## Step 2 – Review Panel

### Each application is:

- Assessed against criteria and alignment with legislative intent
- Scored against rubric
- Recommend grant award amount



## Step 3 - Financial

### Ensure:

- Financial documents are within guidelines
- IRS check is complete
- Proposed expenses are in alignment with Legacy requirements

# REVIEW PANEL

- MHC assembled independent review panels to review **Cultural Heritage** and **Capacity Building** grant applications.
- **Twelve** Independent Review Panels were assembled to assess the Cultural Heritage program grant applications.
- Due to the limited number of applicants and prior experience with **civic organizations** and **children's museums**, MHC served as Review Panelists for both grant lines.
- **Emergency Response** and **Festival** grants were also reviewed by MHC staff due to the need to move expeditiously.
- **Cultural & Ethnic Study Materials** and **Arts & Music Scholarship** grants will be reviewed by Independent Review Panels.

# GRANT LINE SNAPSHOT

Grant Line	Total Requested	Allocated	Applications Submitted	# of Projects Funded
Children's Museums	\$3,864,307	\$2,200,000	14	12
Cultural Heritage	\$47,332,406	\$8,816,952	387	90
Capacity Building	\$7,204,440	\$750,000	130	17
Civics	\$1,778,100	\$300,000	31	7
Emergency Response	\$559,183	\$100,000	20	5
Festivals	\$2,434,737	\$450,000	91	16
Cultural & Ethnic Studies *	TBD	\$500,000	TBD	TBD
Arts & Music Education *	TBD	\$500,000	TBD	TBD
Direct Appropriations	-	\$1,812,000	-	10
Market Bucks (non-Legacy)	-	\$1,000,000	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$16,428,952</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>158</b>

\*This grant line will be announced in 2025.

# AVERAGE FUNDING REQUEST

## CURRENT GRANT LINES

Cultural Heritage  
\$121,990

Emergency Response  
\$26,311

Capacity Building  
\$55,418

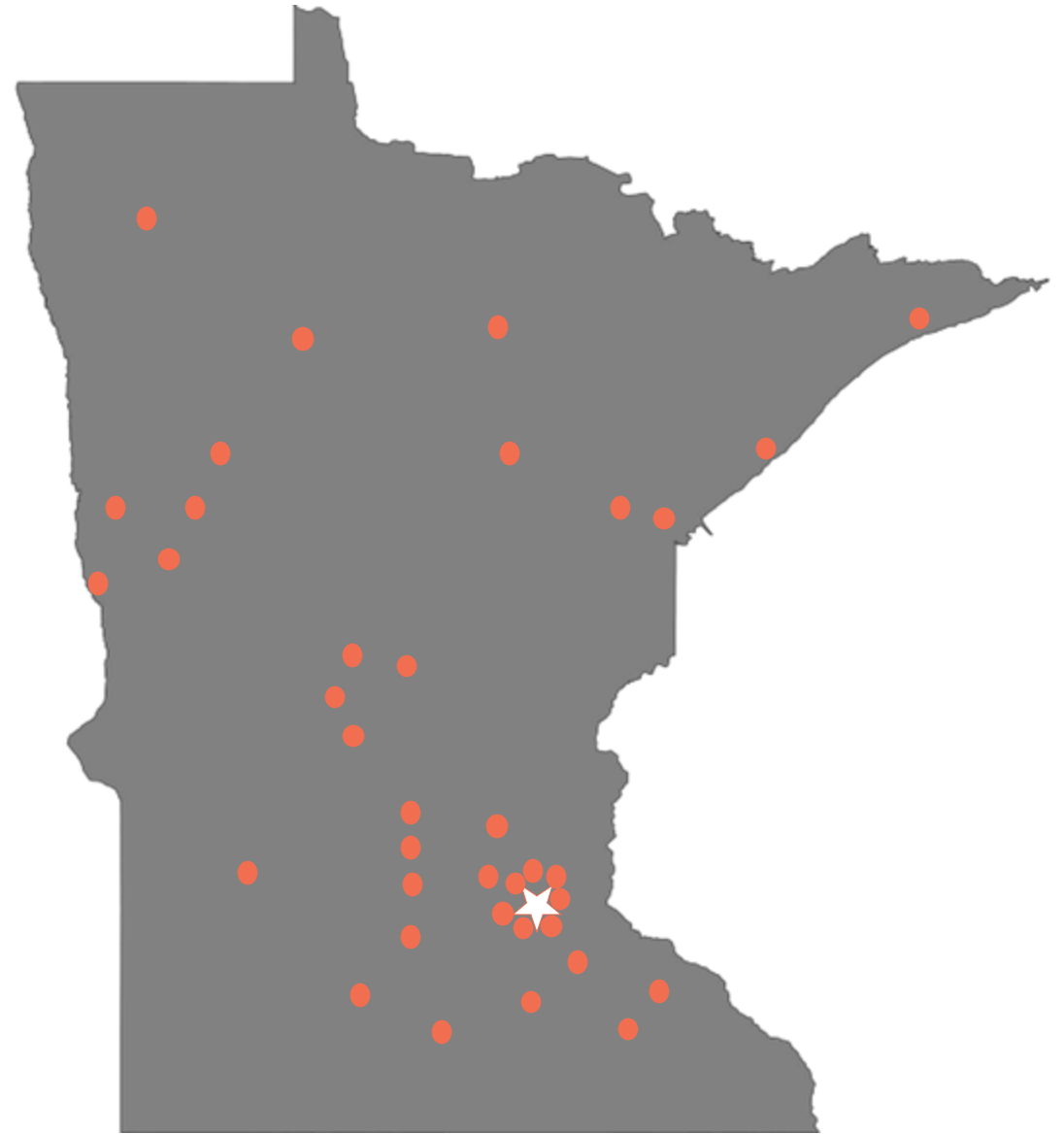
Children's Museums  
\$276,022

Civics  
\$127,007

Festivals  
\$32,267

# GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Anoka (2)	Mankato (1)
Bemidji (1)	Maplewood (1)
Benson (2)	Marcell (1)
Bloomington (1)	Minneapolis (60)
Brainerd (1)	Moorehead (2)
Callaway (2)	Morton (3)
Cottage Grove (1)	New Brighton (2)
Crystal (2)	Northfield (1)
Dayton (1)	Plymouth (1)
Duluth (5)	Red Wing (2)
Eden Prairie (1)	Rochester (1)
Eagan (1)	Saint Paul (41)
Fergus Falls (1)	Savage (1)
Golden Valley (2)	St. Cloud (3)
Grand Marais (1)	St. Joseph (1)
Grand Rapids (2)	St. Louis Park (2)
Granite Falls (1)	Thief River Falls (1)
Lake Elmo (1)	White Bear Lake (1)
Lanesboro (1)	Winona (2)
Little Canada (1)	Woodbury (1)



# GRANTEE SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



Provided training **Padlet** and technical assistance with MHC's grants management system.



Share **Best Practices** with monthly check-in emails and bi-monthly newsletter.



Hosted four **New Grantee Orientation Sessions**.



Held several **meetings with Grantees** to discuss grant activities, review reporting requirements, or review payment requests.



Held **one-on-one** meetings with Direct Appropriation recipients.

# RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



Provide clarity at the Beginning



Interim Report Check-in



Utilize Best Practices Grantee Newsletter/Emails



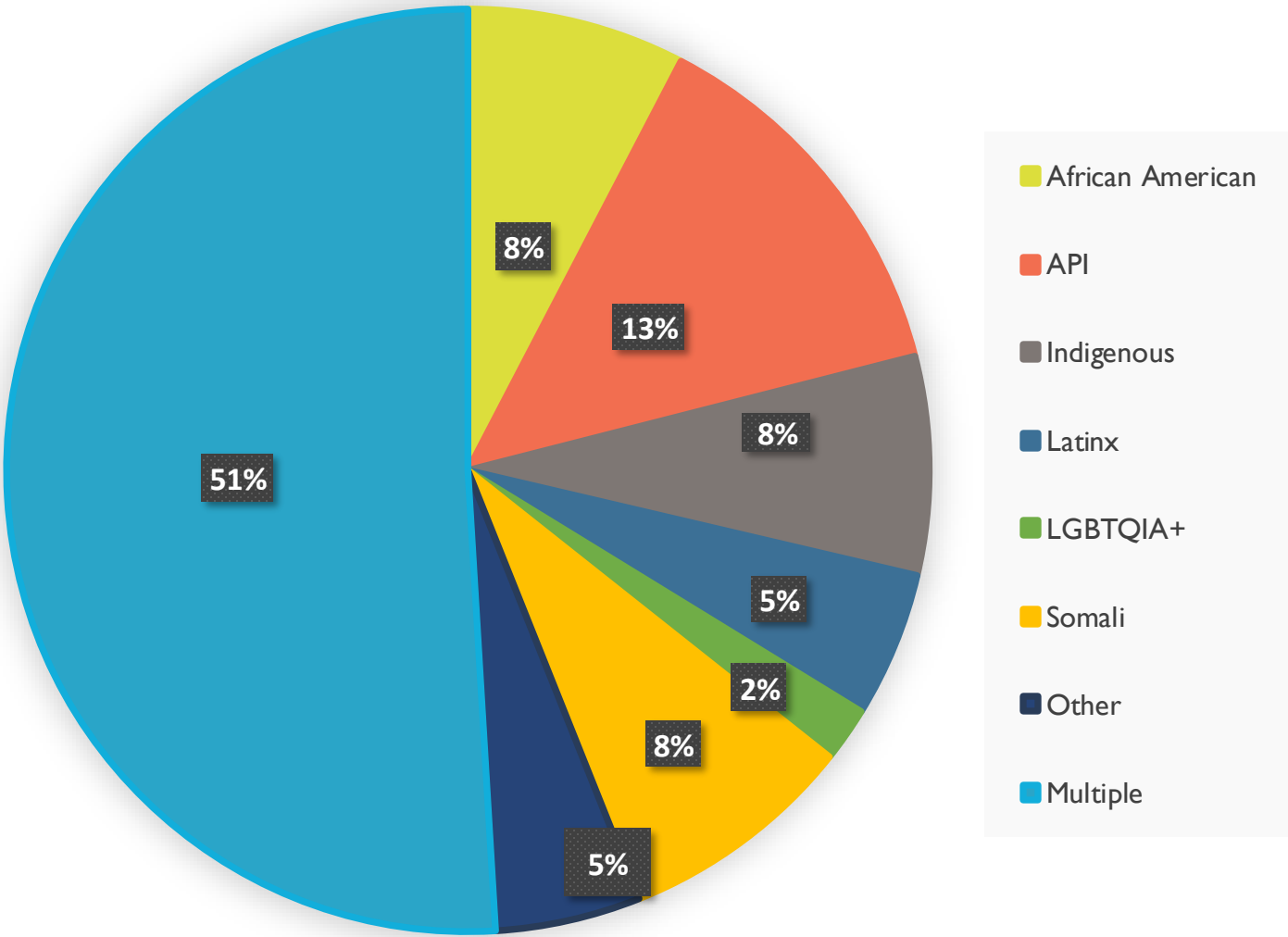
Be Available to Answer Questions



# COMMUNITIES SERVED WITH LEGACY

Total  
Grantees

157



# CLOSING

- **Unprecedented Demand:** Interest in grants is at an all-time high across all funding categories.
- **Exciting New Opportunities:** Recently funded grant lines have been met with overwhelming enthusiasm.
- **A Lasting Impact:** Legacy funding continues to be a vital resource for communities across Minnesota.



**THANK YOU**