

# **General Operating Grant Final Report (7.1.19-6.30.20)**

*for the*

## **Legislative Reference Library**



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Humanities  
Center

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**MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER  
REPORT TO THE MN STATE LEGISLATURE  
JULY 1, 2019- JUNE 30, 2020**

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**REPORTING PER 138.911 MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER.**

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Subdivision 1. **Establishment.**

The Minnesota Humanities Center, a nonprofit organization, is established to advance the study of the humanities and enhance the work of schools, colleges, and cultural organizations throughout the state.

Subd. 2. **Reports.**

The Minnesota Humanities Center shall report to the legislature by September 1 of each year on the use of state funds appropriated to the commission. The report shall include an itemized account of the programs and projects supported and the source of money for each. The report shall show actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending the preceding June 30 and proposed expenditures for the fiscal year beginning the preceding July 1.

Subd. 3. **Humanities center.**

(a) The Minnesota Humanities Center may establish a humanities center to ensure balance in public education and in the cultural life of the state, and to improve humanities education through the establishment of two institutes: the Minnesota Institute for Lifelong Learning and the Minnesota Institute for the Advancement of Teaching.

(b) The humanities center may transport people and resources to small towns, rural communities, and urban settings to provide grants, technical assistance, and high-quality educational and cultural programs to schools and community organizations throughout Minnesota.

(c) The Minnesota Institute for the Advancement of Teaching may conduct seminars and other activities for the recognition of the teaching profession and the advancement of teaching in Minnesota.

**NARRATIVE PROGRAM REPORT  
JULY 1, 2019- JUNE 30, 2020**

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The Minnesota Humanities Center connects our past, present, and future by bringing people together to increase understanding and spark change. Consistent with Minnesota Statute 138.911, we partner with schools, state agencies, cultural and community organizations to advance the study of the humanities in education and the broader society, cultural awareness and knowledge, and greater understanding between people in Minnesota. In the last twelve months, MHC has reached more than 74,575 participants in person and virtually through traveling exhibits, educator professional development, public programs, and grantee-supported activities.

Please Note: The data below is for July 2019-June 2020, which includes four months of interruptions and closures due to COVID-19. As of March 2020, under the guidance of Governor Walz, MHC closed its Event Center and adapted programmatic events and activities to virtual experiences starting in April 2020.

**Minnesota Educator Professional Development, Resource Creation, and Community Events:**

In the last twelve months, MHC has been working with educators (K-12 and college faculty), the general public and humanities professionals on the following humanities offerings:

Educator Professional Development: MHC's humanities-based Education Strategy builds partnerships with schools and districts across the state to provide rigorous professional development opportunities for educators that further the schools' and districts' priorities. Through immersion-based learning, -our online resource collection, and in-person workshops, educators in Minnesota are building their networks, and increasing student engagement in the classroom. 483 educators participated in 26

offerings include Increase Engagement Through Absent Narratives and Story Circle workshops, Teaching Bdote workshops, and the Veterans' Voices Educator Salon series.

MHC shared the Absent Narratives Resource Collection – an online searchable database of over 1,000 ready-to-use videos, teacher guides, and readings – with 479 educators to help them in their efforts to amplify absent narratives in their classrooms.

Resource Creation: Community-led, co-created culturally-specific resources include:

- Published: “Crossroads: An Anthology of Resilience and Hope by Young Somali Writers” - an anthology of writing by youth and young adult Somali Minnesotans.
- A series of prominent American Indian biographies for young readers, about to be published.

Community Events: 3,798 participants broadened their worldviews through 41 interactive humanities-based experiences including: “The Duluth Lynchings: 100 Years Later” online event in partnership with TPT, Read Brave community discussion in partnership with City of Saint Paul, “Learning From Place: Bdote” and Nibi walks in partnership with Indigenous scholars, and the 2019 Veterans’ Voices Award Ceremony. In addition, more than 36,000 were reached through MHC’s Humanities-To-Go virtual series in partnership with community organizations and individuals.

MHC conducted a series of statewide Community Input Sessions in the communities of Granite Falls, Moorhead, Marshall, Grand Rapids, Leech Lake, St. Cloud, Duluth, Mankato, and Rochester. A diverse cross-sections of cultural leaders, civic leaders, business leaders, public media makers, librarians, historians, creatives, artists, educators, and educational leaders, etc. from a range of demographics, as well as people who are both familiar and unfamiliar with MHC gathered to share insights into their community needs, opportunities, and learn about MHC’s work. What MHC heard influences its programming and decision-making.

**Traveling Exhibits** In the last twelve months MHC facilitated two traveling exhibits.

We Are Water MN Traveling Exhibit: Participants explored their professional and personal connections to lakes, rivers and water in Minnesota through this touring exhibit comprised of national, state, and local components. 14 statewide communities hosted the exhibit between 2017-2019 and the exhibit is scheduled to reach six more communities in 2020-2021 (Saint Paul, Morris, Mankato, Rochester, Chislm, and Pipestone). Attendance for the We Are Water exhibit in FY2020 is 2,458.

Why Treaties Matter: This statewide traveling exhibit, in partnership with Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, includes updated content with new multi-lingual exhibit panels. Communities that hosted the exhibit in FY20 include Saint Paul, Bagley, Side Lake, Welch, Apply Valley, St. Joseph and Maple Grove and exhibit attendance for all is 31,236.

**Grants** In the last twelve months, MHC administered legislatively mandated grants to children’s museums, civics organizations, and cultural organizations. Additional grantmaking includes competitive grants to amplify absent narratives in the classroom, develop community partnerships, and launch new humanities projects. MHC awarded \$3,215,198 in grants during this period

**The Minnesota Humanities Event Center:** In the last twelve months, MHC hosted 266 meetings and events in its meeting and event spaces, serving over 8,632 people associated with communities and colleges and health care and service organizations from across the state.



Legal Fees			-	-		
Subscriptions	55.00	55.00		110.00		
Dues and Membership	3,249.00	3,249.00	-	6,498.00		
Postage and Delivery		-	-	-		
Printing		-	-	-		
Office Supplies	4,336.23	4,000.00		8,336.23		
Building Supplies		-		-		
Resource Books,Media,Wkshop supplies			-	-		
Telephone and Internet	5,814.15	5,900.00		11,714.15		
Conference Calls/GO-to mtg			-	-		
Staff Travel	204.46	200.00		404.46		
Participant Stipends				-		
Meals and Entertainment	56.27	50.00	-	106.27		
Promotion/Marketing-Community	179.74	200.00	-	379.74		
Bank Fees				-		
Interest Expense			-	-		
Internal Use of Conference Center	153.30		-	153.30		
Offsite Rental			-	-		
Recognition Activities	171.59			171.59		
Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00		200.00		
			-	-		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>375,000.00</b>	<b>375,000.00</b>	-	<b>750,000.00</b>		-