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Minnesota
Humanities
Center

**Report on Impact of
Legacy Funding Appropriation
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023**
(2021 Minn. Laws, Chap. 2 Art. 4 Sec. 2 Subd. 8)

for

the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

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Submitted January 15, 2022

Minnesota Humanities Center Report on Legacy Funding from the 2021-2023 Biennium

The Minnesota Humanities Center received four direct appropriations totaling \$9,550,000 from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment during the 2021-2023 biennium.

This report includes detail on funds expended for each of the four appropriations from July 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021. We anticipate funds will be spent by June 30, 2024 or left unrequested.

Programs and Purposes (page 3)

\$1,250,000 the first year and \$1,250,000 the second year are for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center.

Children's Museum Grants (page 5)

\$925,000 the first year and \$925,000 the second year are for arts and cultural heritage grants to children's museums for arts and cultural exhibits and related educational outreach programs. Of this amount:

- (1) \$375,000 the first year and \$375,000 the second year are for the Minnesota Children's Museum for interactive exhibits and outreach programs on arts and cultural heritage;
- (2) \$550,000 each year is for grants to other children's museums to be distributed through a competitive grant process for program development. The Minnesota Humanities Center must administer these funds using established grant mechanisms.

Civics Programs (page 9)

\$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year are for grants to the Minnesota Civic Education Coalition: Minnesota Civic Youth, the Learning Law and Democracy Foundation, and YMCA Youth in Government to conduct civics education programs for the civic and cultural development of Minnesota youth. Civics education is the study of constitutional principles and the democratic foundation of our national, state, and local institutions and the study of political processes and structures of government, grounded in the understanding of constitutional government under the rule of law.

Community Identity and Heritage Grant Program (page 10)

\$2,500,000 the first year and \$2,500,000 the second year are for a competitive grants program to provide grants to organizations or individuals working to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities, including but not limited to Asian and Pacific Island communities, the Somali diaspora and other African immigrant communities, Indigenous communities with a focus on the 11 Tribes in Minnesota, the African American community, the Latinx community, and other underrepresented cultural groups, including communities of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, to celebrate the cultural diversity of Minnesota. An individual or organization that receives a grant under this paragraph must do at least one of the following:

- 1) Preserve and honor the cultural heritage of Minnesota;
- 2) Provide education and student outreach on cultural diversity;
- 3) Support the development of culturally diverse humanities programming by individuals and organizations; or
- 4) Empower communities in building identity and culture.

Programs and Purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center

Funds are appropriated for programs and purposes of the Minnesota Humanities Center. The humanities remind us of where we have been, bring knowledge and insights to current life, and help us envision where we are going. The Minnesota Humanities Center collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame community conversations, build and deepen relationships, and bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have often been left out or marginalized.

MHC is committed to programs that are built with a diversity of people in communities across the state. During the 2019-21 biennium, the Humanities Center's Legacy Funded work will be divided in five priority areas:

1) K-12 Public Education; 2) *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* Exhibition; 3) Veterans' Voices; 4) We Are Water MN; and 5) Public Humanities.

(1) K-12 Public Education

Total: \$0

The primary goal of the Humanities Center's Education Initiative is to increase student engagement and success; the foundation is strengthening the teacher-student relationship. Drawing upon the multiplicity of experiences and cultures represented in schools, educators gain insight into how to engage every student authentically and respectfully.

(2) *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations* Exhibition

Total: \$0

Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations is a traveling exhibition made in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit explores relationships between Dakota and Ojibwe Indian Nations and the U.S. government in this place we now call Minnesota. Legacy funds support the exhibit, host sites, and community engagement activities throughout the state in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and 11 sovereign nations.

(3) Veterans' Voices

Total: \$0

Drawing on the power of the humanities, Veterans' Voices changes the narrative of Veterans and honors their contributions. It empowers Veterans to speak in their own voices through plays, discussions, literature, and the Veterans' Voices Award. Veterans' Voices will recognize the next generation and illustrate that the Veteran's voice is essential to the work of building our great democracy.

(4) We Are Water MN

Total: \$0

We are Water MN is a program and partnership with the Humanities Center, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota section of the American Water Works Association, and six greater Minnesota communities. Legacy funding will support *We Are Water MN* work for relationship building with existing partners and for community engagement events at host sites.

(5) Public Humanities

Total: \$0

The Minnesota Humanities Center is dedicated to bringing informative, enlightening, and engaging events to the community, providing all Minnesotans opportunities to build relationships, listen to stories, and learn from one-another.

Program Management

Total: \$0

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding for program planning and management. This support includes work such as exploratory and planning meetings for new initiatives and program management of all our Legacy work.

Administrative Support

Total: \$0

The Humanities Center used a portion of the Legacy funding to provide administrative support for Legacy-funded work. This support includes work such as financial management, reporting, technology, and website maintenance.

Amount Expended as of October 31, 2021

	Direct Expense	Administrative Costs	Total
K-12 Public Education	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Why Treaties Matter</i> Exhibition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Veterans' Voices	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>We are Water MN</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Humanities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Management	\$0	\$0	\$0
Administrative Support	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Children’s Museums

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to children’s museums, including through a competitive grant process. A portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective museums.

Minnesota Children’s Museum Year I

Recipient: Minnesota Children’s Museum

Project Overview: Arts and Cultural Heritage funding will allow Minnesota Children's Museum to bring our mission to life by creating new dynamic experiences at the museum in St. Paul and engaging communities across the state in playful learning.

Contact: Dianne Krizan
President
651-225-6008
DKrizan@mcm.org

Funding Amount: \$358,125

Start Date: 10/01/2021

End Date: 06/30/2022

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

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- Improved visitor satisfaction as measured by surveying, observation, and other evaluation tools
 - Learning new ways to create immersive experiences by working with theater professionals
- We typically have a goal of number of visitors we would like to reach, but our admission numbers continue to be skewed by the pandemic.

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- Big Orange Dance Machine:
 - 100s of adults and children experience surprising and unexpected play time and joy during a series of community appearances
 - Measured by: Tracking number of people who interact with the machine
 - Play kits
 - Children in lower-income families engage in open-ended play by interacting with the play kits
 - Parents indicate that kids were engaged during play time with the kits
- Measured by: Feedback from survey of families who received a kit

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: Statewide; Ramsey

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 8.6

Board Members: Michael Fiddelke, Chair of the Board; Suzette Huovinen, Treasurer & Chair Elect; Kate McRoberts, Secretary; Will Au-Yeung; Kelly Axtell; Kevin Balon; Debra Bauler; Robert Befidi; Jennifer Bratton; Matt Brown; Tony Brown; Adrian Chiu; Elizabeth Cummings; Hayley Cunningham Tang; Gerald Denson; Liz Deziel; Albino Feijo; HT Fish; Abbey Godlewski; Krista Hagen; Julie Joyce; Michael Kaphing; Chris Kelley; Jim Mancini; Steve Mog; James Momon; Jim Mulrooney; Tim Noel; Pilar Oppedisano; Gail Peterson; Scott Peterson; Andrea Piepho; Elisa Rasmussen; Liz Revnew Wolf; Elizabeth Rominski; Nicole Server; Kimberlee Sinclair; Cassidy Steiner; Katharine Tinucci; Robert Wollan; Drew Zinkel

Children's Museums (Competitive)

Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota

Recipient: Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota

Project Overview: The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota (CMSM) will build upon its strong foundation of Minnesota Arts, Culture and Heritage (ACH) learning experiences made possible with previous Minnesota Legacy funding support to:

- Establish new exhibits designed to enhance ACH learning at the Museum.
- Expand existing exhibits with new additions designed to broaden ACH learning.
- Evaluate visitor engagement and learning outcomes associated with ACH exhibit experiences.

Contact: Louise Dickmeyer
Chief Executive Officer
507-344-9104
louise.dickmeyer@cmsouthernmn.org

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Start Date: 01/11/2022

End Date: 08/31/2023

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

As a result of this project, CMSM WILL EXPERIENCE INCREASED CAPACITY to serve as a valuable resource to promote MN Arts and Cultural Heritage learning through:

- The addition of dynamic new exhibits and exhibit enhancements.

In addition, MORE MINNESOTANS OF DIVERSE GEOGRAPHIES, AGES, ABILITIES, AND INCOMES WILL BENEFIT:

- New and enhanced exhibit experiences will attract diverse audiences from across Minnesota to participate in ACH learning opportunities at the Museum at pre-pandemic levels
- 90% of visitors engaged in evaluation processes associated with exhibit experiences will indicate positive

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: In progress

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 1.2

Board Members: Heather Carlson, Ann Hendricks, Barb Kaus, Kim Kleven, Tom Koch, Mark Monson, Trevor Park, Sarah Richards, Sue Schwickert, Paul Shneider, Christie Skilbred, Parker Skophammer, Jerhod Smithback, Liz Ulman, Chastity Valvick, Shane Van Engen, Heather VonBank, Christi Wilking

Otter Cove Children's Museum

Recipient: Otter Cove Children's Museum

Project Overview: Thanks to the support of the Minnesota Humanities Center in 2019, Otter Cove Children's Museum was able to complete the design, building, and installation of a variety of exhibits and interactive art features prior to our grand opening. Despite a delayed opening and months of limited operations due to the pandemic, Otter Cove's first year has been nothing short of incredible, attracting 17,299 children and families from 289 unique zip codes (179 of them in MN), 27 states, and 4 countries! Our guests have been so impressed that we have such a high-quality facility in a rural region. We are so proud of what we have accomplished in the past year, but we are committed to constantly improving and offering fresh, exciting exhibits to best serve our members, guests, and community. This project will allow us to enhance many of our existing exhibits to increase opportunities for rich play, as well as to offer new components and materials to introduce new and exciting learning experiences.

Contact: Katie Ganoë
Executive Director
218-998-5438
katie@ottercoveff.org

Funding Amount: \$51,014

Start Date: December 21, 2021

End Date: August 31, 2023

Proposed Measurable Outcomes:

Exhibit enhancements

The exhibit enhancements will provide new play opportunities for members and regular visitors. This outcome will largely be tracked using by observing how children (and adults) interact with the exhibits and components, as well as by soliciting member and visitor feedback. Observations and feedback will be documented. Some of the outcomes we expect to see include:

- Deeper, more focused dramatic play in Service Food using the new components
- Increased use of Lundeen's Bookstore exhibit by children and their caregivers

Full building interpretive plan

Upon completion of the interpretive plan, museum staff and the Board of Directors will use the plan as the foundation for developing a comprehensive, phased expansion plan.

Measurable Outcomes: In progress

Counties Served: In progress

Progress: In progress

Direct Costs vs. Admin: In progress

Number of FTEs: 0

Board Members: Tasha Rohlf, Amy Baldwin, Emily Sivertson, Courtney Owen, Erinn Webb, Greg Wagner, Chad Miller, Kyle Sem, Ryan Tungseth

Additional grants have been awarded and will be included in online reporting pending signed agreements.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Civics Programs

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants to civics organizations. A small portion of each appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. Should any portion of this reserve be unused, the difference will be awarded to the respective organizations.

Minnesota Civic Education Coalition Appropriations

Information is not yet available.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Grants Program – Community Identity Grants (Competitive)

The Minnesota State Legislature asked the Minnesota Humanities Center to award arts and cultural heritage grants through the competitive grant process. A portion of the appropriation was reserved by the Humanities Center for direct expenses related to administering the grant. These Community Identity funds will be distributed in three rounds of competitive grants, one in winter 2021-2022, one in summer 2022, and one in winter 2022-2023.

Information is not yet available.