

**General Operating Grant
Final Report
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for the
Legislative Reference Library**



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

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**MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER
REPORT TO THE MN STATE LEGISLATURE
JULY 1, 2021- JUNE 30, 2022**

MHC Programs and Activities

JULY 1, 2021- JUNE 30, 2022

Education

A just society requires the cultivation of the talents and expertise of all its people. To promote the power of the humanities to generate ideas, solve problems, and change systems, MHC collaborated with community organizations to host the following two forums to examine how to strengthen and enhance the delivery of education in Minnesota:

MHC hosted an Educator Institute at MHC's Event Center in the summer of 2021. Inspired by conversations with educational leaders within the Roseville Area School District, MHC created an Educator Institute to support individuals working as paraprofessionals, counselors, and out-of-school program and community education program providers and to encourage and support their efforts to explore becoming licensed as teachers in Minnesota.

One of MHC's premier education offerings is the Educator Institute, a multi-day holistic and comprehensive cohort learning experience held at MHC. Created and developed with scholars, the Educator Institute seeks to create a welcoming environment for Minnesota educators to hone their expertise. The Educator Institute, coupled with the overnight accommodations of MHC's Event Center, serves as one of the premier full-service retreat centers for educators within Minnesota.

In collaboration with Roseville Area School District and recognizing the wide range of caring adults that have the power to impact student learning and potentially broaden the pool of teacher candidates, the Educator Institute was specifically targeted to serve individuals working as paraprofessionals, counselors, and within out-of-school programs and community education programs.

MHC hosted a variety of professional development offerings for educators within Minnesota. An example of a professional development offering provided by MHC would be our Increase Engagement Through Absent Narratives (IETAN) workshop. The IETAN workshop, through the humanities disciplines, allows learners to explore motives, personal narratives, and unconscious bias such that relationships built upon curiosity and compassion can flourish.

Immersive Experiences

Immersive experiences include offerings for public and educator audiences that connect people across cultural differences and explore what it means to be of a specific cultural and ethnic identity within Minnesota. These opportunities allow for participants to be reflective as they learn from community members and sometimes find themselves in places they have not yet visited or see familiar places in a new way. An example of a collaborative immersive experience was the "How Can We Breathe" (HCBW) program which was curated by MHC and Sweet Potato Comfort Pie (SPCP) to examine how the African American community in Minnesota could move forward after the death of Mr. George Floyd. HCBW was comprised of four virtual community conversations: The Mamas, Elders and Youth, Artists and Meaning-Makers, and Policy-Makers and Community. With each event, we worked with 10 organizations and distributed pies to community members in host cities – St. Cloud,

Duluth, Rochester, Mankato, St. Paul, and Minneapolis to build and heal community. MHC was recognized by the Federation of State Humanities Council (FSHC) for HCWB with its top prize, the Schwartz Award.

Many Fronts: Veterans' and Community Voices

During this past year, MHC convened an advisory task force comprised of Veterans, refugees, and community members to examine the name and scope of our Veterans Voices program. The Advisory Task Force was chaired by past Veterans Voices award recipient Alex Tittle and Professor Karin Aguilar-San Juan. MHC adopted the recommendations of the Task Force and renamed the program Many Fronts: Veterans and Community Voices and will be looking to curate programming focusing on Veterans, War, and the Military, and those that have borne the cost of war and conflict such as the loved ones of Veterans and refugees.

Civics

As the enabling legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides that “Democracy demands the wisdom of its citizens,” MHC seeks to provide opportunities for Minnesotans to engage in individual reflection, storytelling, small-group deliberation, and large-group constructive discussions that leads to the discover of common goals and strategies of action that enhance our democracy. A couple examples of efforts undertaken by MHC in the areas of civics include:

- We Are Water MN (WAW) (2017—): A multi-partner effort to bridge divides between scientific understandings of water and diverse human engagements with water, as well as to depolarize climate conversations. WAW’s traveling exhibit and public events use equity-based storytelling approaches to broaden and deepen participants’ understanding of the many ways that water quality and all the factors affecting and resulting from it affect human life.
- Restoring Trust in Our Elections (RTOE) (6/2021—): Three-part initiative to 1) understand Minnesotans’ concerns about our election systems and voting culture; 2) introduce them to distinct public strategies addressing those concerns in differing ways, in the context of a civic skills-building “deliberative forum”; and 3) replicate the model in other communities (and to address other issues) across the state and country

Event Center

MHC operates a full-service Event Center from its building that offers flexible meetings spaces, which accommodate groups of five to 150, has onsite catering, and 15 overnight guest rooms. MHC hosts many educational and community events that complement our programmatic work, reinforcing MHC as a place where people convene, strengthen connections, and participate in meaningful dialogues. MHC’s presence strengthens Saint Paul, the state’s capitol city, as one of the only retreat centers in the city and provides a space for groups working to improve Minnesota’s quality of life, and to design and shape the future.

Grants Program

In the last 50 years, MHC has made nearly \$30 million dollars in grants statewide. In the last two years, MHC distributed 246 grants totaling more than \$4.8 million to 211 organizations in more than 30 counties across Minnesota. In response to the economic repercussions of COVID-19, MHC awarded more than \$1 million through NEH CARES and ARP funding to support rapid relief efforts statewide.

Minnesota Humanities Center Enabling Legislation

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.

	State FY22	State FY23			
	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	Total For Biennium Expenses for Funding Period	Budget estimates for first year of funding only	
Revenue					
Grant Income State	750,000.00	-	750,000.00		GAAP requires booking the full appropriation upon award in FY22.
					<i>State records will show only the \$375,000 available each year</i>
Expenses					
Salaries	285,866.37	275,000.00	560,866.37		
Payroll Related Taxes Federal			-		
Mn Unemployment Taxes			-		
401K Benefits Employee			-		
Employee Benefits Insurance	56,026.63	55,000.00	111,026.63		
Contract Service Technology	33,107.00	45,000.00	78,107.00		
Recognition Activities			-		
Miscellaneous			-		
TOTAL EXPENSES	375,000.00	375,000.00	750,000.00	-	