Our Programs

With an emphasis on strengthening what connects rather than divides us, our relationship-based approach to humanities programming illuminates authentic voices of all people, especially those left out or marginalized.

Based in the humanities, our Education Strategy champions schools as human communities, emphasizing the educator-student connection as the root of educational transformation. By deepening understanding across cultural experience, that connection thrives, increasing engagement and achievement.

In partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society Press, the Humanities Center published *Blues Vision: African American Writing from Minnesota* to rave reviews. Already in its second printing, this collection by 45 black writers showcases the unique vision of Minnesota’s African American community.

Created in 2013, this flourishing program completes Veteran narratives, drawing on the power of the humanities to honor their contributions and life experiences. In addition to designating October Veterans’ Voices Month, we amplify Veterans speaking through the arts, discussions, and the Veterans’ Voices Award.

Along with The Telling Project, we produced *Telling: Minnesota 2015*, a play performed by a cast of Minnesota Veterans, written from their own experiences. Presented at the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Veterans Home, and St. Cloud Technical & Community College, it allowed area military veterans to speak, and their fellow citizens to listen.

Public Humanities emerged as program priority in 2015, and the Humanities Center continues its tradition of hosting public events to dialogue with Minnesotans around a range of issues and perspectives.

*An Evening with Krista Tippett* exemplified the power and depth of these Public Humanities conversations. Krista’s radio show explores questions at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live?

Water/Ways is a traveling exhibition and community engagement initiative of the Smithsonian Institution’s *Museum on Main Street* project, led by the Humanities Center, state and federal partners, and six greater Minnesota communities.

Each community will explore the meaning of water as part of their identity, history, and culture. Communities will tell local water stories and envision the future of water.
Our Highlights

2015 was a year full of powerful programming and community dialogues.

Our **Bdote Field Trip** opened to public audiences for the first time in 2015, educating nearly 100 participants about the importance of place from a Dakota perspective.

Increase Engagement through Absent Narratives—our foundational workshop—continues to create space for authentic engagement through the humanities, helping people engage others with respect and empathy. 42 educators completed our Educators’ Institute Pilot.

The #UncoveringPublic Salon Series brought participants together for conversations about the state of public life in the U.S., not only at the in-person events, but also on a Twitter Town Hall.

We have critical water quality problems...we cannot ignore them. We have to face up to them and work together to solve them.

—Governor Mark Dayton

**Veterans’ Voices Radio Series** explored the wisdom, experience, and leadership of Veterans. In partnership with ampers, a community radio association, the project broadcast 30 segments across 16 different radio stations multiple times, reaching nearly 300,000 Minnesotans each week.

The humanities are my battle buddy.

—Ryan Schmidt, MN Army Veteran

Always Lost: A Meditation on War, an emotionally powerful exhibit, toured across 14 Minnesota locations. The exhibit features the Wall of the Dead—a collage of over 6,500 faces, one for each U.S. military war casualty in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001—and reveals the story of SPC Noah Pierce, a Minnesota Veteran who took his life after serving two tours in Iraq.

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Photo by David Leeson, Dallas Morning News.

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@humanities | mnhum.org
Located in St. Paul, the Minnesota Humanities Center is a statewide agency that connects and serves all Minnesotans.

17,780 people attended our programs, events, and exhibits across...

104 MN communities.

800 resources distributed statewide.

1,200+ educators participated in our Ed Strategy.

$1.6m in grants given to MN organizations.

50,110+ online resource pages accessed.

9,000+ guests served in our Event Center.

Veterans’ Voices Award Ceremony crowd: 436

Veterans’ Voices Event
Why Treaties Matter Exhibit Site
Grant
MN Education Strategy (K–12)
Water/Ways Exhibit Site
Our Numbers

These financials reflect fiscal year 2015:
November 1, 2014 – October 31, 2015

Support & Revenue

- Contributions: 61%
- Government Grants: 37%
- Earned & Other Revenue: 2%

Expenses

- Program Services: 88.1%
- MGMT & General: 9.8%
- Fundraising: 2.1%

Support & Revenue

- Contributions: $10,857,135
- Government Grants: $6,591,810
- Earned & Other Revenue: $351,420

Total Support & Revenue: $17,800,365

Expenses

- Program Services: $5,510,380
- Management & General: $614,358
- Fundraising: $127,731

Total Expenses: $6,252,469

Net Operations Income: $11,547,896
Our Donors

$50,000 and above
Anonymous Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Minnesota (Operating Support)
State of Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

$20,000 to $49,999
George Family Foundation
Minnesota Historical Society

$10,000 to $19,999
Hardenbergh Foundation
Minnesota American Water Works Association
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Mortenson Construction
Wounded Warrior Project

$5,000 to $9,999
The Art of Youth Foundation
Boss Foundation
Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts
Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs
Jill & Stephen Troutner

$1,000 to $4,999
Anonymous
The Allegro Fund
AMVETS Department of Minnesota
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Patty Ploetz
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