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Humanities Commission

http://www.mnhum.org

Small Agency Profile

Mission:

The Humanities Commission (Minnesota Humanities Center) creates, conducts, and supports cultural and educational programs which support and encourage exemplary teaching and provide opportunities for teacher renewal and partners with other organizations to create meaningful and engaging public humanities programming in communities statewide.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Humanities Commission supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.

Context:

Minnesota Statute 138.911 charges MHC with providing leadership, programs, and resources that advance the study of the humanities in schools, colleges, and cultural organizations throughout the state.

Accelerating cultural, linguistic, and economic diversity across the state creates challenges and opportunities. Minorities accounted for more than 80 percent of Minnesota's growth from 2000 to 2010. In 2000, minorities only made up 10.6 percent of the population compared to 15 percent in 2010. Opportunities and challenges include building shared knowledge so that people and communities can learn, cooperate, collaborate, and work effectively together.

The Humanities Center works to:

- Increase student engagement with curricular content by increasing accuracy and comprehensiveness of curriculum content
- Build the capacity of cultural organizations to conduct high-quality and meaningful humanities programs for the public
- Increase access to vibrant and engaged public programs that facilitate and frame community conversations
- Increase the economic vitality of communities by building the capacity of local cultural, historic, and educational organizations to expand new audiences, diversify revenue streams, and engage new partners.

MHC works with teachers, principals, schools and districts, as well as colleges and universities, cultural organizations, and state agencies to strengthen programs, expand reach and impact, and provide higher quality and more meaningful education. Business leaders, community leaders, public officials, and non-profit professionals convene to learn from and draw upon the varied skills and cultural strengths of the people of Minnesota to help create and sustain opportunity and strong economies.

MHC's competitive and collaborative grant making, financial management, and reporting responsibilities for Legacy funding build capacity and improved community programming with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM), Council on Black Minnesotans (COBM), and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC). MHC has similar responsibilities for Legacy Funds for the Civics Education Coalition and small to mid-size children's museums across the state.

MHC is funded by state, federal, and private funds. The National Endowment for the Humanities funds core operations and requires a partial match provided by funding from the State of Minnesota's general funds. MHC receives Legacy funds and raises private funds to expand its programmatic work.

Strategies:

MHC supports innovation in education and helps educators improve their practice so teachers can engage all students in their classrooms and develop the content, materials, and professional development necessary for the 21st century's increasingly global schools, classrooms, and communities.

To strengthen knowledge and understanding and deepen cultural connections, MHC creates and provides programs and resources that help Minnesotans fulfill their civic responsibility of being informed and active participants in the body politic. MHC also engages the community in activities and dialogue. Programs focus on the unique knowledge and contributions of Minnesota's communities, helping to create a common and shared future. For example, more than 300,000 veterans live in Minnesota and thousands are currently returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. MHC is partnering with Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs to launch Veterans' Voices, a program to bring the informed voice and experience of the veterans into greater public awareness, education, and civic life.

To promote community dialogues and professional development, MHC operates a full-service Conference and Events Center that provides meeting space at an affordable price for state agencies, colleges and universities, cultural organizations, foundations, and other nonprofits. It serves as a place for collaboration; and a place to plan for the future of the state.

To educate and connect people from divergent backgrounds in creating opportunity and achievement based on the strengths and knowledge of all Minnesotans, MHC works collaboratively with the Minnesota Department of Education, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the 11 sovereign nations that reside in the state, and the Councils mentioned above, to name a few.

To encourage informed and engaged public dialogue and deliberation, MHC partners with schools and school districts as well as regional museums, libraries, and media partners (e.g. *tpt* and SPNN). From large partners such as *tpt* and Fort Snelling to local museums in communities such as Dassel, Detroit Lakes, Virginia, Baudette, and Owatonna, MHC has deeply collaborative activities throughout the state.

Results:

MHC has no regulatory authority; no one is required or obligated to use any of our services or programs. One key measure of success is demand: Do people and communities use MHC's programs and services and is there continuing and increased demand? Do partners and participants experience a new level of engagement in their communities, classrooms, and organizations as a result of working with MHC?

For example, a recent Council on Black Minnesotans' event's projected attendance was 80 and 140 participated. The Way Treaties Matter exhibit projected to tour in 12 communities; it will have exhibited in 34 communities engaging more than 15,000 people by year-end.

A year ago, MHC began inviting its partners to collect information and data demonstrating the increases in engagement and the benefits for the people served. To this end, MHC partners with leading evaluation experts based at the University of Minnesota to implement "utility based" evaluation. As a result, MHC and partners in museums, civics, and the Councils have improved program evaluation methods.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Demand for professional development workshops: # educators attending	382	560	Improving
% participants reporting increases in their content knowledge	95%	95%	Stable
Deepen cultural connections and expand access to public educational programs (# of locations and # of participants)	12 7,000	31 30,542	Improving
Meeting and Event Center (# of events and # of participants)	302/7,800	317/8,662	Improving

Performance Measures Notes:

1. MHC maintains databases tracking service numbers, contacts, and other related agency data. Previous timeframe is July 2010 to June 2011. Current timeframe is July 2011 to June 2012.

Humanities Commission
Current, Base and Governor's Recommended Expenditures
(Dollars in Thousands, Biennial Totals)

	General Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	All Funds
Current Biennium Expenditures (FY 2012-13)	$474	$3,150		$3,624
Current Law Expenditures (FY 2014-15)	$474			$474
Governor's Recommended Expenditures (FY2014-15)	$502			$502
$ Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	$28			$28
% Change from FY 2014-15 Current Law to Governor's Rec	6%			6%

Humanities Commission
Sources and Uses
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Biennium FY14-FY15			
	General Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
APPROPRIATION	$502	$0		$502
SOURCES OF FUNDS	**$502**	**$0**		**$502**
EXPENDITURES	$502			$502
PAYROLL EXPENSE				
GRANTS, AIDS AND SUBSIDIES	$502			$502
USES OF FUNDS	**$502**			**$502**

Humanities Commission

Governor's Changes

(Dollars in Thousands)

		FY 14	FY 15	FY 14-15 Biennium	FY 16	FY 17	FY 16-17 Biennium

Operating Budget Increase

The Governor recommends additional funding for the Humanities Commission to bolster current programs, including programs for schools and school districts, online educational resources, and the state network of older adult learning. The additional funding will support a portion of an FTE. The increase will help leverage additional public and private funding.

Performance Measures:
MHC operates with a results-focused, entrepreneurial style, and innovative practices which support state goals in education and economic development. Key evaluation factors are: 1) demand for program services, 2) improved connections in teacher-student relationships, and 3) communities engaging in new and innovative ways.

General Fund	Expenditure	14	14	28	14	14	28
	Net Change	**14**	**14**	**28**	**14**	**14**	**28**
Net All Change Items	General Fund	14	14	28	14	14	28
	Net Change	**14**	**14**	**28**	**14**	**14**	**28**