

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Humanities Center works to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society by increasing the academic performance of all students, closing the achievement gap, and engaging the broader community in activities and dialogue that strengthen knowledge and understanding and deepen cultural connections.

M.S. Chapter 138.911 charges the Minnesota Humanities Center with providing leadership, programs, and resources that advance the study of the humanities in schools, colleges, and cultural organizations throughout the state.

At a Glance

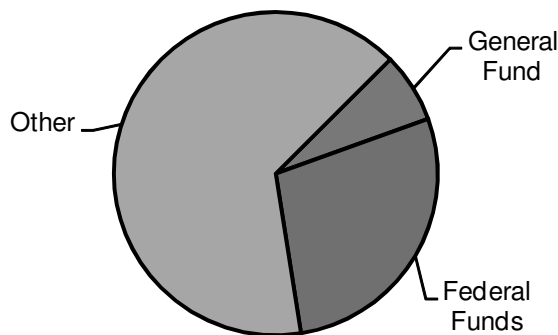
Humanities Center Programs

- 256 meetings and events a year are conducted at the Humanities Center, serving over 8,000 people associated with local community organizations.
- 30,500 individuals attended Humanities Center-conducted and supported programs in 2009.
- 85% of program participants report increases in community engagement and activities as a result of the Humanities Center’s programs.
- More than 1,000 educators are trained annually by the Minnesota Humanities Center’s professional development offerings—impacting over 84,000 students.
- 80% of teacher workshop participants report increased competency in classroom instruction.
- Recent evaluation of the Humanities Center’s work with partner schools in Minneapolis shows statistically significant improvement in overall student test scores in reading and math compared with their counterparts in non-participating schools. (Wilder Research Center 2010).

Humanities Center Legacy and Councils of Color

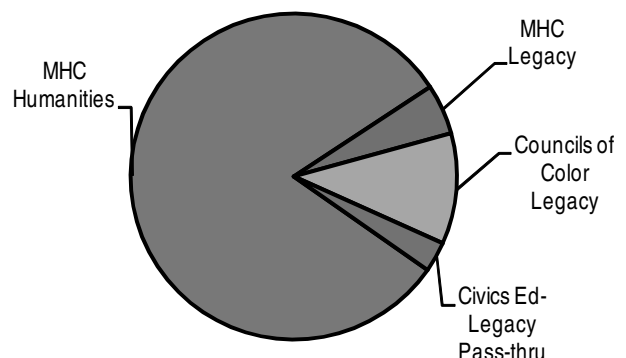
- An average of 285 people per month have benefited from community programming, including monthly artistic, cultural and historical events.
- The Humanities Center is coordinating and distributing a collection of stories rarely shared outside of traditional cultural circles in partnership with the four councils of color: Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Black Minnesotans, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Minnesota Humanities Center Financial Reports

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program



Source: Minnesota Humanities Center financials and estimates

Strategies

The Minnesota Humanities Center focuses on three strategies to meet the agency's goals.

1. The Humanities Center strengthens cultural awareness in communities and increases academic success for students by creating partnerships, promoting relationships and collaborating with cultural organizations, libraries, educational institutions, schools and districts, and historical societies.
2. The Humanities Center utilizes distance learning and multi-media content to eliminate time and space barriers, thus engaging a broader section of Minnesotans in its programs. These new delivery methods allow educators and community members access to training programs from any location to increase professional skills, improve student engagement and academic success, as well as build connections across communities.
3. The Humanities Center aligns core or “anchor” lessons seamlessly with state standards so that classroom content reflects Minnesota’s student populations by engaging all students through relevant curriculum and meaningful content.

Operations

The Humanities Center provides professional development programming and community-based programming through both remote access and at its meeting and event center to accomplish its strategies.

Professional Development Training - Through on-line training and live workshops, the Humanities Center offers high quality, content-rich professional development opportunities for educators and community members statewide that they use to help their students achieve academic excellence.

- Strengthen engagement with the curriculum, ensure academic success and close the academic gap. The Humanities Center uses its content trainings to supplement the traditional narratives by providing stories, histories, culture, and art traditionally left out of educational texts and resources.

Community Programs - The Humanities Center provides humanities programming statewide by partnering with cultural and educational organizations, libraries, and museums to increase access to, and engagement in, robust public humanities in educational settings across the state. Specific examples include:

- **Museum on Main Street** — The Humanities Center partners with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the Minnesota Historical Society, and rural communities to bring this one-of-a-kind cultural project to small town museums and residents of outstate Minnesota. Over the past seven years, Museum on Main Street exhibits have engaged thousands of Minnesotans in over 25 rural communities.
- **Re-grants** — In all but two of the last nine years, the Humanities Center has fostered strong community arts and cultural heritage by providing grant funding for programming for all ages throughout Minnesota.

Meeting and Event Center - Created by the state legislature in 1996, the Humanities Center is a restored architectural landmark that serves as a gathering place for humanities-based learning and community dialogue. Its presence strengthens Saint Paul’s east side neighborhood and provides a meeting and event space for people working to improve Minnesota’s quality of life.

Legacy Funds and Humanities Center alliance with the Councils of Color – In May 2009, the state legislature asked the Humanities Center and the four state councils of color—the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Black Minnesotans, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans—to collaboratively create new programs and events that celebrate and preserve the artistic, historical and cultural heritages of the communities represented by each council. The programs and events are beneficial to all regions and residents of the state.

Key Activity Goals & Measures

Goals

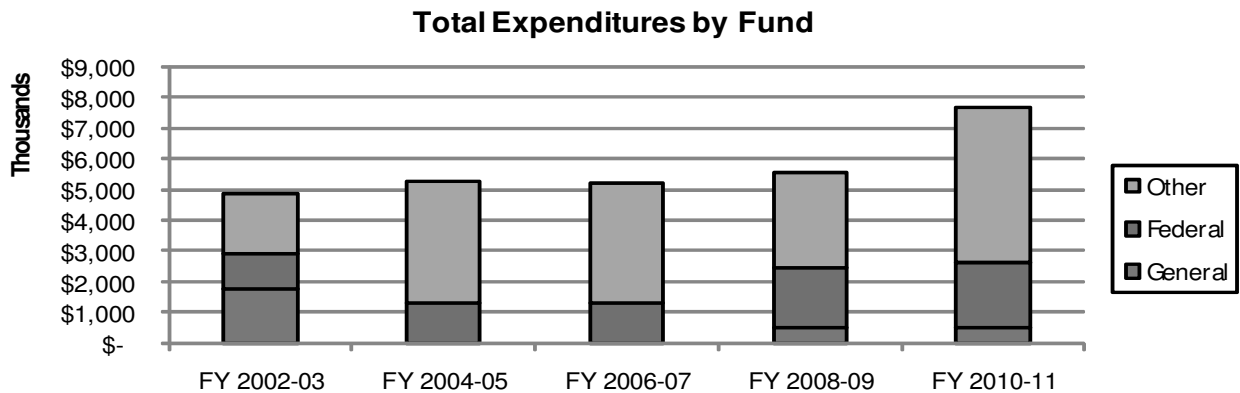
- Increase teachers’ content knowledge.
- Increase teachers’ implementation of new knowledge and resources in their classrooms.
- Increase students of color’s engagement with accurate and comprehensive curriculum content.
- Build the capacity of cultural organizations to conduct high-quality and meaningful humanities programs for the public.
- Increase access to vibrant and engaged public programs that facilitate and frame community conversations.
- Increase the economic diversity of communities throughout Minnesota by building the capacity of local cultural, historic, and educational organizations to expand new audiences, diversify revenue streams and engage new partners.

Measures

- 95% of participating educators report increases in their content knowledge and understanding of the respective content upon completion of Humanities Center programs.
- 50% of participating educators use and implement new knowledge and resources in their classroom curriculum.
- 50% of educators who use the newly enhanced curricula, lesson plans, and/or resources report increases in engagement with the content by the students of color in their classrooms.
- 50,000 Minnesotans positively benefit from high-quality public humanities programs.

To help ensure academic success for all students and increase cultural awareness, the Humanities Center has increased the program budget from 48% of the total expenses in 2007 to 74% in 2009 and a projected 75% in 2010, while decreasing administration and event center overhead. Also nearly 85% of building rental income by outside organizations is used for educational and professional development programs.

Budget Trends Section



* FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Humanities Center records.

External Factors Impacting the Humanities Center -

One trend the Minnesota Humanities Center is trying to remedy is the achievement gap for underserved student populations. For Minnesotans between 25 and 34 years of age, 42.2% of Latinos, 22.6% of American Indians and 18.6% of African and African Americans have less than a high-school diploma. In stark opposition, only 4.3% of White Minnesotans have not attained this degree.

Minnesota's demographics are changing: there are greater numbers of immigrants, people of color, and communities with lower income and lower education attainment. If the region's growing disparities among groups and neighborhoods are not addressed, these gaps will erode the community's economic competitiveness.

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