

VISION

Humanities are the ideas and writings that help us make sense of our lives and enhance our ability to think imaginatively and critically about our world, profoundly enriching both our private lives and our civic communities. Through the humanities, we hone skills of inquiry, analysis, reflection, evaluation, and conversation. The humanities strengthen ties between people, between the past and the present, and between idealism and action. The humanities provide a framework for examining how we think, what we value, and what it means to be human.

Humanities Washington seeks to kindle a passion for ideas, both in the individual and in the public square. Drawing on the storehouse of learning and achievement known as the humanities, particularly the tools of critical thinking and civic dialogue, Humanities Washington seeks to enrich the lives of all Washingtonians, regardless of circumstance, and to build bridges among them and to the world. To achieve these goals, Humanities Washington provides programs that serve our vision of a citizenry energized and connected through the humanities.

MISSION

Humanities Washington is dedicated to improving life for individuals and their communities through cultural and educational programs that nurture creativity, promote dialogue, and spark critical thinking.

Humanities Washington serves as an essential state-level connector

- between individual/corporate givers and humanities programs and projects.
Bedtime Stories
- between NEH and museums, libraries, historical societies and community centers.
Project and Quick Grants
- between scholars and lifelong learners.
Inquiring Mind / Community Conversations
- between national cultural institutions and community organizations.
Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibitions
- between national initiatives and statewide partners.
Motheread family reading programs; civic reflection dialogues
- between arts, culture, and humanities groups statewide.
Poet Laureate; advocacy for cultural programs

VALUES

- We believe that the humanities have the capacity to transform the lives of all Washingtonians, enriching, exciting, opening and informing our minds with ideas and new understandings.
- We believe that the humanities contribute to the continued vitality and prosperity of our civilization by helping us understand not only our important differences but also our common humanity.
- We believe that the humanities create bonds of mutual respect, understanding, and trust, which form the underpinnings of civility, citizenship, and healthy dynamic communities in a democratic society.
- We believe that the humanities are essential to acquiring knowledge and wisdom, and therefore should be part of our life-long learning.