



Emcee Nancy Pearl sparks conversation at Bedtime Stories in Seattle.
Photo by Tracey Salazar



Eager learners at Prime Time Family Reading in Lynnwood.
Photo by Adam Knight

OUR MISSION:

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state.

For Humanities Washington, 2012 was a year of tremendous evolution.

Through the lens of our recently refined mission statement (see above), we got to work retooling long-standing programs to better reflect our new focus:

- **Family Reading** piloted Prime Time Family Reading, a humanities-rich literacy curriculum that brings families together with the transformative power of story.
- **Grants** now include Spark Grants, which support cultural programs that bring people together to discuss issues important to their community.
- **Speakers Bureau** introduced a diverse new group of presenters, all eager to travel the state and engage Washingtonians in conversations about a wide range of topics.
- **Traveling Exhibits** found a new partner in the Washington State Historical Society, leading to a tour of the state-centric *Hope in Hard Times: Washington During the Great Depression* exhibition.

Along with newer programs – from Think & Drink to the Washington State Poet Laureate – these revamped offerings better positioned Humanities Washington to bring people together to discuss, think about and celebrate our differences *and* common ground.

In this Annual Report we share the highlights from this past year – and thank the supporters who made those successes possible. As we move into the new year – our 40th serving Washington state – I'd like to extend a personal invitation to join us: Visit our website (Humanities.org) and online magazine (SparkMag.org) for the latest on our upcoming programs and events.

Thank you for your continued support. The work we do would not be possible without you!



John A. Baule
Board Chairman

In 2012, Humanities Washington was involved with **PRODUCING 663 CULTURAL EVENTS** – an average of nearly two events each day!

2012 PROGRAM REPORTS

Humanities Washington's mission is to spark conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state. Our programs are how we make this happen:



An image from the Hope in Hard Times Traveling Exhibit.
Photo courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society



Washington State Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken works with Spokane students.
Photo by Yoyostring Creative

Core Programs

FAMILY READING

In 2012, Humanities Washington piloted the national Prime Time Family Reading curriculum at the Lynnwood Library. This humanities-rich curriculum uses reading, discussion and storytelling to emphasize the importance of families reading together and prompts conversations about significant cultural and ethical themes. The program creates a precondition for future learning by empowering parents and guardians to help children enjoy reading while improving literacy skills. The program will expand to Shoreline, Spokane and other public library locations in 2013 and beyond.

GRANTS

Our Spark Grants enable local organizations to create opportunities for their communities to come together and discuss important issues using the humanities. Funds go to organizations large and small, supporting public programs that increase and enhance community dialogue.

Our Opportunity Grants help small or rural organizations with program planning or public presentations, particularly ones interested in supporting projects that promote partnerships between community organizations and bring affordable humanities programs to underserved areas of the state.

In 2012, we awarded 37 grants across our state totaling \$101,000.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The 2012-14 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau features a diverse group of 28 scholars and cultural experts. Working with community partners, our Speakers Bureau provides free, conversational lecture events to local audiences in every corner of the state. Topics range from history to culture to current events.

In 2012, Humanities Washington staged 171 speaker events in libraries, schools, museums, community centers, retirement homes and on public radio, reaching more than 74,080 people.

THINK & DRINK

Launched in 2011, Think & Drink brings hosted conversations on provocative topics and new ideas to pubs and tasting rooms around the state. Each free event features lively, moderated conversations between topical experts and the audience. In 2012, we held Think & Drink events in Seattle, Spokane and Yakima on themes ranging from consumerism to negative campaigning. Look for Think & Drink to expand to Tacoma in 2013.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Working in partnership with large historical organizations, Humanities Washington brings museum-quality exhibits and dynamic programming to underserved areas and surprising venues around the state. In early 2012, we teamed with the Smithsonian Institution and the Prosser Branch of the Mid-Columbia Libraries to bring the *Journey Stories* exhibit to more than 1,150 attendees.

We later teamed with the Washington State Historical Society to plan a traveling program around their *Hope in Hard Times: Washington During the Great Depression* exhibit. In conjunction with local partners, *Hope in Hard Times* will visit eight communities in 2013-14.

WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE

The Washington State Poet Laureate serves to build awareness and appreciation of poetry — including the state’s legacy of poetry — through public readings, workshops, lectures and community presentations around the state. The program is presented in partnership with ArtsWA.

The 2012-14 Washington State Poet Laureate is Kathleen Flenniken, a Richland native and current Seattle resident. In 2012, she staged 110 events serving 7,932 attendees.

Other Offerings

BEDTIME STORIES

For more than a decade, Humanities Washington has hosted Bedtime Stories, an annual literary celebration featuring critically acclaimed Northwest writers unveiling original short stories created specifically for the dinner gala in Seattle. We debuted a second gala in Spokane in 2012.

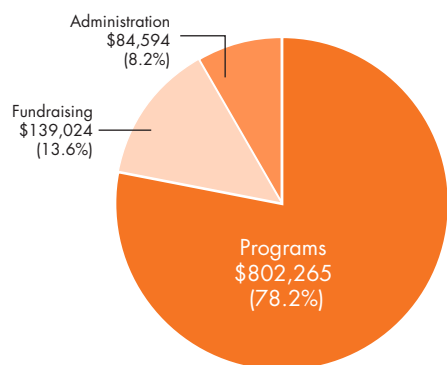
The inaugural Spokane lineup included writers Kim Barnes, Jim Lynch, Shann Ray and Nance Van Winckel, with emcee Jess Walter. The Seattle event, in its 14th year, featured Kathleen Flenniken, Charles Johnson, Kevin O’Brien and Amy Wheeler, with emcee Nancy Pearl.

Collectively, the Bedtime Stories events raised more than \$180,000 to support Humanities Washington’s work around the state.

HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AWARD

Every year, the Humanities Washington Award recognizes outstanding and exemplary achievement in the public humanities. The 2012 award honored Congressman Norm Dicks (WA-6), who retired following 36 years of service in Congress. During his tenure, Dicks proved to be a tireless champion for the humanities, culture and the arts.

2012 EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,025,883

IN 2012:

Humanities Washington’s programs reached **MORE THAN 164,000 PARTICIPANTS.**

Humanities Washington’s program offerings **REACHED EVERY ONE OF THE STATE’S 39 COUNTIES.**

Humanities Washington’s Speakers Bureau offered **171 PRESENTATIONS IN COMMUNITIES** all across the state.

“We really appreciate Humanities Washington. Throughout the years, its programs have played a critical role in enhancing the cultural life of our community.”

— PATRICIA BONNER, SHADLE BRANCH MANAGER FOR THE SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAKING IT HAPPEN: 2012 SUPPORTERS

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Our friends and supporters help Humanities Washington nurture thoughtful and engaged communities by ensuring we can continue to provide very low-cost or free programming in all corners of the state.

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PRAISE FOR OUR GRANTS PROGRAM:

“Our audiences are comprised of college students from a diverse range of socio-economic and geographic backgrounds, as well as community members young and old — people who bring practical life experiences and challenging perspectives to our Visiting Writers Reading Series. Humanities Washington’s grants have helped prompt valuable discussions and inquiries across cultures, impacting innumerable lives here on the east side in many profound ways.”

— KATRINA ROBERTS, DIRECTOR, VISITING WRITERS
READING SERIES AT WHITMAN COLLEGE

PRAISE FOR OUR SPEAKERS BUREAU:

“Without the assistance of Humanities Washington, we would not be able to afford to bring professional presentations of this nature to our rural communities. We always know the speakers will be well-rehearsed and extremely accessible to our audiences. The fact that they have been carefully selected for your program makes it much easier for organizations like ours to be confident of what kind of event it will be.”

— VALERIE STAFFORD, PRESIDENT, CONCRETE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SKAGIT COUNTY

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