

Humanities WASHINGTON Annual Report 2009

From the Co-Chairs

The Board of Trustees began 2009 by launching a search for the right person to guide Humanities Washington through the challenging times now facing all non-profits.

We found that person in Julie Ziegler, who became our new executive director last June. Julie has a distinguished background in philanthropy, having led corporate giving programs for Safeco Insurance and the Bank of America Foundation. She has been a Humanities Washington trustee and supporter since 1998.

Julie is a true believer in the transformative role of the humanities, and she is keenly aware of the value we bring to the communities we serve through our Inquiring Mind speakers bureau, our Motherhead family literacy program, our traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibits, and our grants program. She is always looking for ways to improve our impact so that we may meet the broadest needs in the deepest, most meaningful ways possible.

Already, we have seen rapid progress. Under Julie's leadership, Humanities Washington has launched a strategic planning initiative to establish a new vision for the organization, expand our offerings, and reevaluate the impact

of our programs. We have set new goals for leveraging resources, increasing and diversifying our donor support, and streamlining our operations.

The combined efforts of our outstanding staff and dedicated board have turned a difficult year into a success story. We hope you will enjoy reading about these successes in the pages that follow.



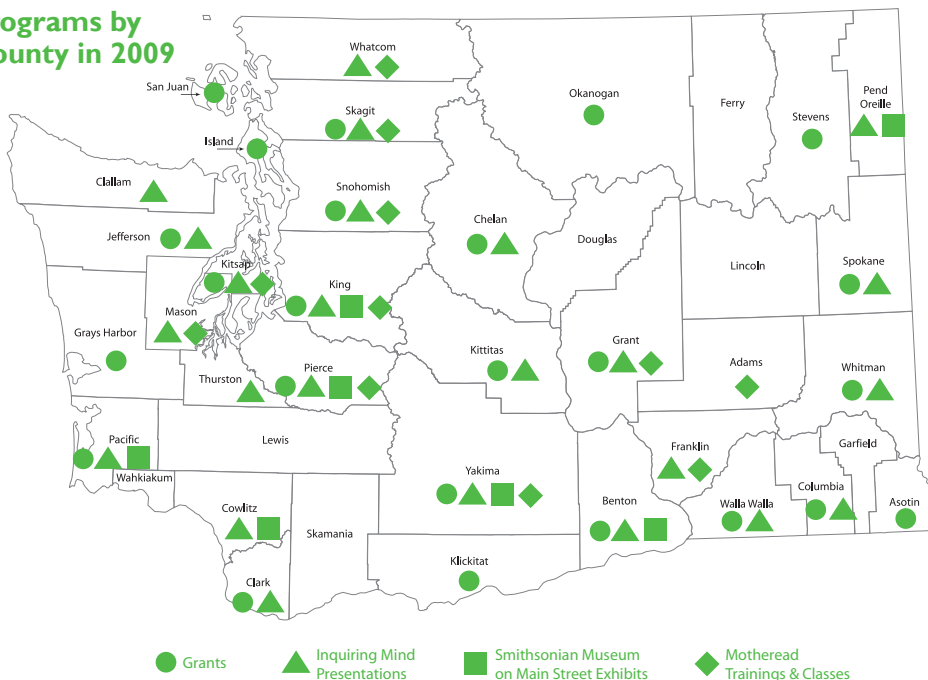
Teaching artist Hannah Franklin leads a Living History class with Ingraham High School students. The program was funded by a Humanities Washington grant.

Lucia Huntington

Karen Munro

Co-Chairs
Board of Trustees

Programs by County in 2009



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Grants

During 2009, Humanities Washington awarded \$155,000 to 65 projects that served nearly 400,000 people.

Activities explored the stories, ideas, and writings that make sense of our lives and enhance our ability to think imaginatively about our world.



Jonathan Santos with his videocamera. Courtesy of Matthew Drake/Patricia Boiko.

“We are beyond happy with the turnout for the screenings. Thank you for all you have done to make this dream a reality. The film showing at the Pickford (Film Center) was another way for my son to ‘come home.’”

—Doris Kent

Doris' son, Jonathan Santos, was killed in Iraq in 2004. Humanities Washington sponsored screenings of The Corporal's Diary, a documentary about his written and video journals.

Examples of 2009 grants:

- Skagit River Poetry Project, which supports live performances of poetry in Skagit, Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties.
- Refugees: The Asian Pacific American Experience, an exhibit documenting the struggles of Asian refugees living in Washington State.
- Methow Arts Humanities Collaborative, which promotes cultural programming in rural Okanogan County.

Inquiring Mind



Inquiring Mind presenter Gerardo Calderon demonstrates pre-Columbian instruments from Mexico.

In 2009, Humanities Washington sponsored 130 Inquiring Mind presentations that reached a total audience of more than 9,000 people in 65 communities around the state. These presentations connect the audiences of libraries, museums, schools, and other community organizations with Washington State's leading authors, scholars, musicians, and actors through discussions

about diverse humanities topics, from the life and times of the early Northwest to the rhythms of South America.

“Again, a huge success; folks here love the quality and content of the programs and already talking about another series next year, I hope there will be funding available.”

—Arlene Morris

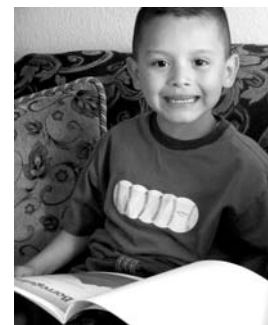
Hurstone Island Community Center

Motheread

In 2009, Humanities Washington continued a strong partnership with the Washington State Migrant Council to train Head Start teachers serving migrant families in the Yakima Valley.

Humanities Washington also trained preschool teachers working with the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program in Snohomish

County. These trainings, in which teachers received nearly 4,000 children's books to start classroom libraries and to give to students, will benefit an estimated 1,200 children per year in addition to the thousands of families served through ongoing classes held by past trainees throughout the state.



A recipient of a Motheread book in Yakima Valley.

“The greatest challenges these parents face in their everyday lives are the tools necessary to provide opportunities for their children to learn. With the help of Humanities Washington I was able to address these challenges in my classroom.”

—Teodora Martínez-Chávez

Motheread Instructor, Yakima Valley

Exhibits



Kalama Strawberry Festival princesses, c. 1940. Courtesy of Cowlitz County Historical Museum.

In 2009, Humanities Washington helped six sites host the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit *Key Ingredients: America by Food*. The exhibit explores connections between Americans and the foods they produce, prepare, preserve, and present at the table—a provocative and thoughtful look at the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations.

Host sites served nearly 9,500 exhibit visitors and included:

- Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science & Technology, Richland
- Renton History Museum, Renton
- Cutter Theatre, Metaline Falls
- Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society & Museum, Gig Harbor
- Ilwaco Heritage Museum, Ilwaco
- Cowlitz County Historical Museum, Kelso

Humanities Washington Award



NORTHWEST
MUSEUM
OF ARTS
& CULTURE

Donivan Johnson, a musician and teacher in the Selkirk School District, and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture were honored with the 2009 Humanities Washington Award in Spokane last June.



Donivan Johnson

The award, given each year in memory of Heather C. Frank of Yakima, recognizes outstanding achievement in the humanities in Washington State.

Johnson received the award for his exemplary and inspirational commitment

to bringing the humanities—music, literature, theater and visual art—to the people of the Inland Northwest. In his nomination letter, Gonzaga Professor Tod Marshall described Johnson as a “one-person humanities department for Metaline Falls.”

Humanities Washington selected the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture for its ongoing commitment to developing diverse programs that serve a variety of audiences in Eastern Washington.

Longtime Supporters Leave Legacy Gifts

Humanities Washington received two major legacy gifts from longtime supporters Barbara Krohn and Vivian Winston, both of whom passed away in 2009.

Krohn, of Seattle, held leadership positions with various humanities organizations including Humanities Washington, the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. An award-winning journalist, she founded and published Landmarks magazine. She received the 1999 Humanities Washington Award for her work as a passionate advocate for historic preservation.

Winston, of Spokane, was a renowned social justice activist who co-founded the Women Helping Women Fund, which has raised more than \$3 million for 256 programs during the past 16 years. She was a past trustee of Humanities Washington.

The contributions, which will support Humanities Washington’s mission and programs, provide a lasting tribute to the life work of these two remarkable community leaders.

Bedtime Stories

Humanities Washington raised more than \$65,000 during its 11th annual Bedtime Stories at the Arctic Hotel in downtown Seattle on October 2, 2009.

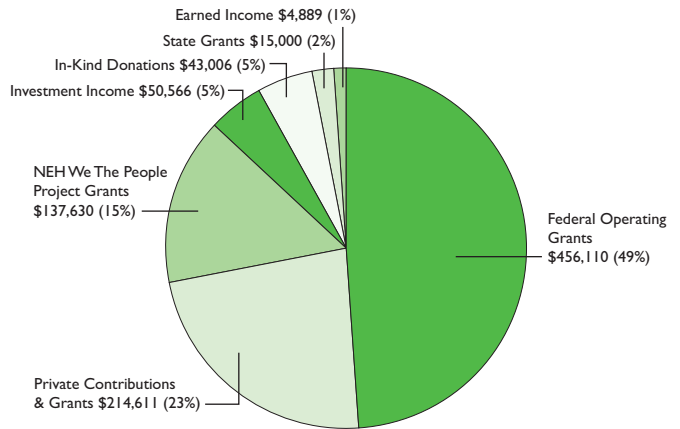
Celebrity librarian and *Book Lust* author Nancy Pearl served as the master of ceremonies. Writers reading original works included:

- Charles Johnson, MacArthur Fellow and National Book Award winner
- Samuel Green, Washington State Poet Laureate
- Margot Kahn, Seattle CityArtist Award winner
- Bharti Kirchner, novelist and author of four acclaimed cookbooks

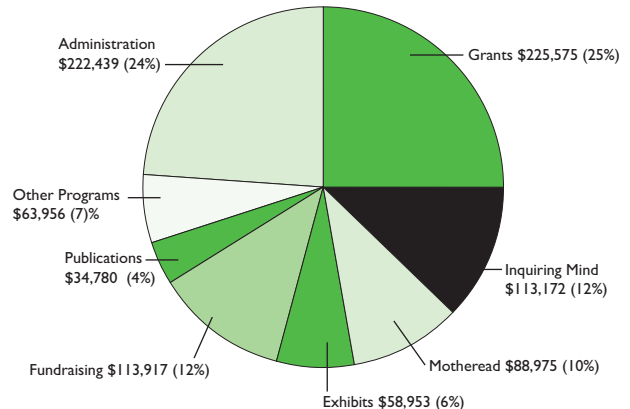
Sponsors included Amazon.com, Pemco Insurance, and the Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation.

Fiscal Year 2009 Financial Information

Support and Revenue \$921,812



Expenses \$921,767



Thank YOU for Your 2009 Donations!

Contributions from our community of supporters improve lives throughout Washington State by nurturing creativity, promoting dialogue, and sparking critical thinking. Your support enables us to meet the growing demand for our programs around the state.

\$10,000 and Above

The Boeing Company
Estate of Barbara Krohn
Fordham Street Foundation
The Norcliffe Foundation
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Humanities Washington
1204 Minor Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2825

Phone: (206) 682-1770
E-mail: info@humanities.org