Humanities Washington opens minds and bridges divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives.
Dear Friends,

What happens when a global pandemic tears open the very fabric of society, isolating people in silos of anxiety? How does one even begin to bridge that divide? It’s a question we have all grappled with over the last couple of years, a problem that deserves nuanced, innovative solutions.

As the humanities stewards for our state tasked with creating connections and promoting diverse thought, Humanities Washington got to work, adapting to support communities through a time of incredible, unprecedented uncertainty.

- In response to pandemic learning loss and exacerbated inequality, we expanded Prime Time Family Reading, committing to 100 programs over the course of the biennium.
- We also launched the Democracy Forward initiative to help high schoolers grapple with issues of identity, protest, voting rights, and more in the classroom.
- To address general feelings of isolation and discontent, we engaged with Washingtonians through the Humanities Challenge, a game meant to encourage creative thinking and human connection via the many branches of the humanities.

Your support has allowed us to take these big swings, helping Washingtonians connect through our shared humanity. It’s a big task to reweave the social fabric of our communities, but there is only one way to do it: together.

With gratitude,

Julie Ziegler
2022 In Review: Our Programs

PRIME TIME
We expanded our Prime Time Family Reading program by 300% in response to pandemic learning loss.

Of the children that participated in Prime Time, 93% experienced a positive change in their attitudes toward reading and 100% demonstrated improved critical thinking skills.

SPEAKERS BUREAU
We developed a new Democracy Forward series, which sends democracy-focused Speakers Bureau presenters to high schools across the state. Along with specially developed Social Studies curricula, the program encourages deep conversation in the classroom to increase civil discourse. The program is free to high school teachers.

“[Washingtonians] needed the humanities more than ever this [year] as we turned to the difficult task of reweaving the social fabric of our communities in the wake of a global pandemic.”
—Program participant
HERITAGE ARTS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
We welcomed a new cohort of 16 teams of artists and craftspeople to conserve cultural traditions important to Washington’s communities. Traditions included Nattuvangam recitation and cymbal playing, Mariachi music, bead weaving, ancient food preservation, Yakama nation cradleboard making, and much more.

THINK & DRINK
A record number of attendees, 700, turned out for our online Think & Drink event called “What Are We Afraid Of?”

“It is fascinating to consider the universality of certain stories and themes across different continents and peoples. From Iceland to Mexico City to the Pacific Northwest and even to Lake Powell, each story has its own cultural nuances, yet... all of these stories instill a fear of the unknown within their audience.”
—“What Are We Afraid Of?” attendee
2022 In Review: New Programs

HUMANITIES CHALLENGE
We launched the first edition of the Humanities Challenge, an interactive game that prompted players statewide to explore different facets of humanity through philosophy, poetry, history, music, museums, and more. Here are some of the prompts:

• Make a music playlist that encapsulates the human experience.
• Cook a dish that has meaning to you and discuss how it tells the story of your life, family, or culture.
• Visit your local museum or historical society, then write to the staff about the objects or exhibits that had the biggest impact on you and why.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES FELLOWS
We welcomed our inaugural class of Public Humanities Fellows. The Fellows developed curricula, produced podcasts, and created an interactive online exhibit to showcase their work and engage the public.

A MORE PERFECTION UNION RADIO SERIES
We collaborated with radio partners to broadcast a new series, A More Perfect Union, which explored civic education, Latine voting rights, and Native American ideas of democracy.

“[The Humanities Challenge] showed us how our beliefs, fears, relationships, and even family recipes are part of the humanities, and that we all are stakeholders in the questions and topics that the humanities alone can offer us.”
– Program participant
By the Numbers
2022 Humanities Washington Stats

Program Attendance: 27,727

91 cities and towns hosted events

Serving Washington Communities from Aberdeen to Yelm

Number of programs and events: 335

Number of partners and host organizations: 297

5,701 people attended in-person or online Speakers Bureau Events

483 people attended Prime Time Family Reading Events

6,083 people attended 40 Poet Laureate Events
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*All listed are active at the time of the 2023 publication date. 2022 Staff & Board may have varied.
FAMILY READING uses storytelling and discussion to explore cultural and ethical themes in children’s literature and emphasizes the importance of families reading together.

GRANTS assist local organizations in creating opportunities for their community to come together to discuss important issues using the humanities.

SPEAKERS BUREAU draws from a pool of leading cultural experts and scholars to provide free conversational lecture events for community partners to offer local audiences throughout the state.

THINK & DRINK brings hosted conversations on provocative topics and new ideas to pubs and tasting rooms around the state and online.

WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE builds awareness and appreciation of poetry – including the state’s legacy of poetry – through public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations throughout the state. Presented in partnership with ArtsWA.

CENTER FOR WASHINGTON CULTURAL TRADITIONS amplifies our state’s rich, diverse living cultural treasures through research and special programming. Presented in partnership with ArtsWA.

MEDIA PROJECTS brings online content such as live and recorded panel discussions and conversations, radio shows, and other accessible deep dives into important current topics to viewers on our YouTube channel.

“I heard from several families that the discussions we [started] on Zoom inspired richer conversation at home throughout the week.” – Prime Time Storyteller, Granite Falls
Financials

2022 Total Expenses: $2,212,845

Programs 78% $1,722,234
Fundraising 16% $348,175
Administrative 6% $142,436

Humanities Washington is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Washington State.

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“At this time in our culture our shared humanity needs reinforcement and affirmation.” – Grantee, Burien

Photo: Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest joined Tod Marshall, Jourdan Imani Keith, and Zinnia Hansen for Poetry and Civic Life, a reading and conversation event tackling the intersection of poetry and politics.
“I’m 60 years old... Thank you all for making this information available. You give me hope for the future I will not see.”
– Speakers Bureau attendee, Mill Creek
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Clarice J. Pool
Suzanne Poppema & John Cramer
David Powers & Amy Chasanov
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Eric Wagner
Meredith & Peter Wagner
T. Andrew Wahl
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Maggie Walker
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We make every effort to provide accurate donor information. If you prefer a different listing please contact shelley@humanities.org.

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Washington Secretary of State
Washington State Arts Commission
Washington State Department of Commerce
Wockner Foundation
2022 Opportunity Grant Recipients

Uncaged Art from Art Forces, fiscally sponsored by Allied Arts Foundation | Olympia

Internment, Assimilation, and Service: A Poet’s Reckoning from Arts & Humanities Bainbridge | Bainbridge Island

Free Capoeira Roda from Capoeira Life | Seattle

Pattachitra Art Workshop from Deepti Designs Inc., | Bothell

Native Plants, Poems and Musical Improvisations from EcoArts on the Palouse | Pullman

Ay Va el Chisme!—Building Community Power for Health, Justice, and Racial Equity from Estelita’s Library | Seattle

Vashon Island Ceramics Celebration from Friends of Mukai | Vashon

Artist Leo Adams Video Interview from Governor’s Mansion Foundation | Olympia

Crossing Borders with the Kiss Alley/El Callejon del Beso from Guanajuatenses en Washington | Lake Forest Park

Chief Leschi & Medicine Creek Treaty Memorial Year Initiative from Leschi Learning Legacy | Olympia

Community Conversations from Lower Columbia College | Longview

Crossroads in the Country from Music Community Resources | Kingston

Native American Read-In 2023 from Read-a-Rama | Seattle

Into the Fire: Sharing the history of the Triple Nickel Smokejumpers at the home of Smokejumping from Shafer Historical Museum | Winthrop

Spokane Is Reading | Spokane

6th Annual Historic Sites Tours of Stanwood and Camano Island from Stanwood Area Historical Society | Stanwood

Archiving Yoni Ki Baat—Documenting South Asian stories as cultural memory from Tasveer | Redmond

Spokane’s Diwali & Vegan Food Fest from The Family Guide | Spokane

Seattle Queer Film Festival from Three Dollar Bill Cinema | Seattle

Day of the Dead: V contest of altars, literary skulls and catrinas/catrines from WAGRO Foundation | Lynwood

“Thank you, Humanities WA, for being so generous with your support in bringing ancient heritage and traditional arts to the state and to the folks who love and enjoy it.”
— Grantee, Redmond

Photos: (top) Progress over three days at the Pattachitra Art Workshop from Deepti Designs; (bottom) Attendees at WAGRO Foundation’s Day of the Dead celebration
2022 Washington Stories Fund Recipients

Public Lands UnEarthed from Golden Bricks Events, fiscally sponsored by Young Women Empowered | Seattle

Transrural Lives: Connecting Trans+ Elders and Youth in Washington through Digital Storytelling from Helen House | Ellensburg

Home Front/War Front historical educational multimedia program from Living Voices | Seattle

Community Speaks 2023—South Asian social justice storytelling from Tasveer | Redmond

Japanese American Resisters to WWII Incarceration —Exhibition from Wing Luke Memorial Foundation | Seattle

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Woodinville
Zillah

“I want to learn so much more – it was education that I was innately craving.” – Speakers Bureau attendee, Federal Way