Annual Report 2009

MichiganHumanitiesCouncil

Discover the Michigan in You

Our Mission: The Michigan Humanities Council connects people and communities by fostering and creating quality cultural programs.

Michigan's People and Communities

For more than 35 years, the Michigan Humanities Council has helped the people of Michigan discover their identity and understand the lives of others through cultural programming and grant support in communities. The Council serves as a catalyst to engage the public with thought and dialogue about the strength of citizenship, an appreciation of heritage, and a sharing of values.

Responding to community needs

Today, the people of Michigan are learning how to reinvent themselves. This reinvention employs diverse perspectives, cultural assets, and critical examination of the past. The council responds to community needs through public programs, creating a context for understanding the past and preparing for the future. Turn to pages 8-9 and pull out the map to learn how the Michigan Humanities Council reaches the people of Michigan.

You're invited to join us in our journey.

Front cover photo credits (from left): Michigan Humanities Council; Kerrytown BookFest; Grand Valley State University. Page 2 photo credits (from top): Peggy Brisbane, Central Michigan University; Kerrytown BookFest; Marcin Chumiecki, Polish Mission at Orchard Lake.

"The stories we captured, the voices we heard, the lives we changed are what the humanities are all about … the collective story of the human experience."

Jan Fedewa, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to present the Michigan Humanities Council's 2009 Annual Report. As you will note, our journey has taken us to every corner of the state as we explored, showcased, listened, and provided programs and a voice for so many. The stories we captured, the voices we heard, the lives we changed are what the humanities are all about … the collective story of the human experience.

Through our programs, we help Michiganians reflect and understand their own lives and the world around them through community conversations, critical thinking, informed discussions, and collaborative programming.

The *Picturing America in Michigan* museum program linked 4,890 students to American history through the lens of American art. The *Arts & Humanities Touring Program* continued to bring hundreds of cultural programs to schools and many other nonprofits. *Poetry Out Loud* gave 4,000 high school students the opportunity to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. Four library sites offered PRIME TIME Family Reading Time® to 122 at-risk families. The *Great Michigan Read*, a statewide reading club, focused on a single book, *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, by Bich Minh Nguyen, a tale of cultural understanding and acceptance.

This is only a sample of the many programs and opportunities the Council brings to Michigan citizens. It is through the financial contributions of so many donors and supporters like you that we are able to continue our journey in making public humanities programming accessible to all Michiganians. Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for believing that what we do makes a difference in people's lives.

Jan Fedewa

Our Vision:

The Michigan Humanities Council will be known as a unifying force throughout Michigan, whose programs help people connect with one another and the places where they live, by fostering a greater understanding and engagement in the cultures, histories, and values which tell us who we were, are, and hope to be.

Photo by Lynne Brown, Media Graphics.

"Workshops motivated students with a tangible end goal and provided a permanent document that helped promote Michigan's literary culture."

— Ann Arbor participant in the Council's Great Michigan Read.

Read Michigan Literature

In the past three years, the Michigan Humanities Council invited Michigan's young and old to participate in a shared reading experience through the *Great Michigan Read*. Reading benefits our ability to learn different perspectives, to take pride in stories about who we are, and to boost our creative energies.

Discovering how our past affects our present

In 2009, selecting *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* as the second *Great Michigan Read* provided an opportunity to discuss cultural identity and how our stories, our family heritage, and our own cultural experiences help define who we are. Through author Bich Minh Nguyen's perspectives, we learned how cultural similarities and differences help create Michigan's social fabric.

Giving communities the resources to read

The *Great Michigan Read* stimulated hundreds of programs in communities across the state. The Council awarded dozens of grants to support community programs. We created reader and teacher guides sent by the thousands across the state. We partnered with the *Detroit Free Press* to disburse more than 300,000 copies of a book excerpt and curriculum to classrooms and citizens. We supported a five-city tour by the author, attended by more than 1,100 individuals. And, the Council created a traveling exhibit about the Vietnamese immigration experience in Michigan.

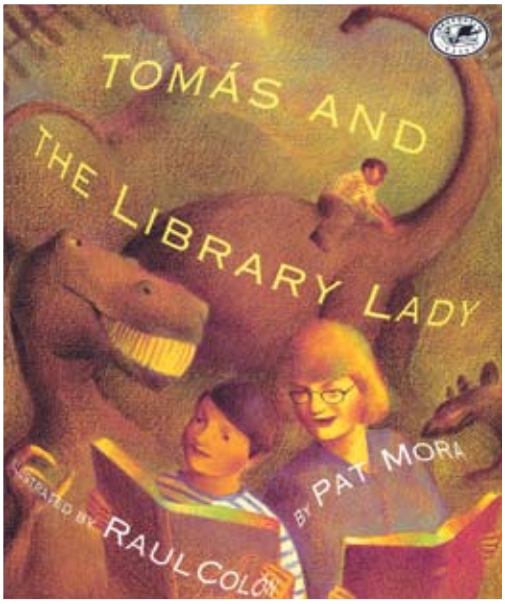
Promoting reading statewide

The Michigan Humanities Council created a quality, statewide reading program reaching hundreds of communities throughout the state. By reading more, our society will be more open to new ideas, and in turn, be prepared to function dynamically and creatively.

Photo credits (clockwise): Plymouth District Library; Michigan Humanities Council; Penguin Books; Michigan Humanities Council.

"Adults and children talked about the power of books to educate and to foster imagination."

— Tanya Grunwell, Children's Librarian, Hoyt Public Library, Saginaw.



Experience Libraries Through Family Reading

Through PRIME TIME Family Reading Time®, libraries bring low-income, low-literacy families together to read children's literature and explore themes from everyday life.

Strengthening reading and understanding

What makes PRIME TIME® unique is its use of accessible literature to reach marginal readers. Libraries seek out intergenerational and multicultural participation. Children and adults are encouraged to share their experiences and express their feelings about themes from the stories. The unintended events in *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* lead to discussions of justice and fairness. Storytellers help families discover, learn, grow, and smile by talking about courage, dreams, and determination.

Prompting community investment

Community involvement is key to the program's success. In South Haven, the library reached out to businesses to donate food for a potluck before each program. And, the public school system helped transport migrant families from outlying areas.

Providing encouragement and hope

In 2009, the Michigan Humanities Council brought PRIME TIME Family Reading Time® to hundreds of families in Saginaw, Detroit, and South Haven. PRIME TIME® provides economically challenged families with encouragement and hope through access to libraries.

PRIME TIME® was developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities with support from the American Library Association.

Photo credits (from top): Michigan Humanities Council; Dragonfly Books; Detroit Public Library.

> *"Poetry Out Loud has allowed my students to take risks like never before and gain self-confidence."*
>
> — Margaret Charette, Teacher, Holt High School.

Discover the Power of Poetry

Poetry Out Loud is a highly anticipated tradition in high school English and language arts classes across the state. Since 2005, more than 8,000 students have explored the concepts of poetry through memorization and performance. *Poetry Out Loud* helps students master public speaking, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

Taking risks, gaining confidence

In 2009, student participants reported:

- 97 percent could understand and explain different poetic elements.
- 97 percent developed their own individual interpretation of poems.
- 87 percent saw connections between poetry and everyday culture.
- 67 percent understood that poetry can be a powerful tool for expression.

Fostering creative thinking

Poetry Out Loud allows students to discover the history of poetry and the creative use of words. The Council is proud to invest in a program that helps high school students foster creative thinking and gain a deeper understanding of some of the most timeless poems of the English language.

The Michigan Humanities Council sponsors *Poetry Out Loud* in partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the State Library of Michigan, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and Michigan Youth Arts.

Photos by Michigan Humanities Council.

"Presentations from the Arts & Humanities Touring Program fill an important cultural need ... a live performance lends itself to a much greater experiential effect on young minds."

—Timothy Fuller, Manager, Vicksburg Performing Arts Center.

Explore Michigan's Best in Arts and Culture

As one of the Michigan Humanities Council's most popular programs, the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program* meets community needs with real dollars. Each year, the Council helps schools and communities host some of the best artistic and cultural performers and presenters in the state.

Sharing traditions

An online Touring Directory assists communities and schools with finding dancers, musicians, storytellers, theater acts, tradition bearers, museum exhibits, or visual artists. Communities use the directory to schedule events that help residents experience Michigan's cultural traditions and performing arts. And, school teachers find individuals who help students discover the various art forms and learn about history and culture.

Bringing arts and culture to you

The idea of the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program* is to bring arts and culture to you, instead of you traveling to find arts and culture. Many of the touring programs nurture creativity, enhance critical thinking, and provide global understanding. In difficult economic times, schools and communities appreciate the funding to meet their cultural programming needs.

Educating, entertaining, and enriching

Financial support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs is paired with resources from the Michigan Humanities Council to provide quality interactive programs exploring Michigan's stories, traditions, and culture. *More than 1.5 million residents* have been educated, entertained, and enriched by the *Touring Program* since 1998.

Photo credits (from top): Mustard's Retreat; City of Dearborn; Michigan Humanities Council.

"From the very beginning I was impressed at how excited the participants were with books. Even the littlest children were eager to get books."

— Janet Rubin, Ph.D., Professor of Theatre, Saginaw Valley State University.

Empower Individuals, Enrich the State

The Council provides resources and public humanities programs to Michigan citizens to help improve their lives and enrich the state. The Council offers six main programs (listed below) used by hundreds of communities across the state and featured in this map.

- **The Great Michigan Read** encourages Michiganians to learn more about their state, their history, and their society by focusing on a single work of Michigan literature.
- **Prime Time Family Reading Time®** is a humanities-based family program focusing on reading, discussion, and storytelling that takes place in public libraries.
- **Poetry Out Loud** helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage though memorization and performance of great poetry.
- **Arts & Humanities Touring Program** provides an arts and cultural experience through interpretation, story, visual arts, and performance.
- **Community Partnership** grants play a vital role in defining our culture, our state, our community, and ourselves.
- **Picturing America in Michigan** helps students gain a deeper understanding of American history through the study and understanding of art.

Photo credits (from top): Peggy Brisbane, Central Michigan University; Minority Coalition of Cass County; Flint Institute of Arts.

"Not only does a great nation deserve great art, festivals and events can be a boon to local economies. These are dollars well spent!"

— Joy Butler, Executive Director, Bay Arts Council.

Fold out (up) this sheet, and you will see an illustration of the Michigan Humanities Council's impact in communities across the state. With its wide variety of programs and community partnerships, the Council reaches thousands of citizens every day. Our partnerships also raise public awareness of the stories, traditions, and events that shape Michigan's communities.

Map photo credits (from top, clockwise): Michigan Humanities Council; Michigan Humanities Council; Deb Westman, Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School; Kalamazoo Institute of Arts; Peggy Brisbane, Central Michigan University; and Grand Traverse Lighthouse Museum.

Fold pages 8 and 9 up for map

Discover the Michigan in You

2009 POETRY OUT LOUD

Houghton High School was among 24 high schools participating in the fourth annual poetry recitation contest in Lansing, directed by the Michigan Humanities Council. More than 2,500 students participated statewide. Pictured here is Katie Zutter of Hancock, who traveled to represent her school at the state championship. Read about *Poetry Out Loud* on page 6.

MichiganHumanitiesCouncil

- Great Michigan Read
- PRIME TIME Family Reading Time®
- Arts & Humanities Touring Program
- Picturing America in Michigan
- Poetry Out Loud
- Community Partnership Grants

– +

Population Density

PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®

Dozens of low-income, low-literacy families were introduced to the Hoyt Public Library and Butman-Fish Library in Saginaw as part of the PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME® supported by the Michigan Humanities Council. Themes like fairness, courage, and determination were drawn from children's literature and used as discussion points. (In 2010, the Council will expand PRIME TIME® from four to eight libraries in Michigan.) Read about PRIME TIME® on page 5.

ARTS & HUMANITIES TOURING PROGRAM

On June 20, Kitty Donohoe and Carl Behrend performed Great Lakes-themed music at the Northport Lighthouse & Maritime Festival before 1,000 attendees. The festival, which also included maritime historical displays, boatbuilding demonstrations, and weather tower interpretations, received support from the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program*. More than 40,000 residents witnessed a touring program performance in 2009. Read about the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program* on page 7.

COUNCIL GRANTS: 2009 Michigan Story Festival

Michigan Humanities Council awarded a $15,000 grant to Central Michigan University in support of the seventh annual event, featuring cultural dance performances, interactive exhibits, film screenings, and workshops on storytelling, book-making, and poetry. Nearly 4,000 individuals participated in the Story Festival. In all, the Council reached 182 communities with grants in 2009. Read about Council grants on page 10.

PICTURING AMERICA IN MICHIGAN

The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts was one of 12 museums participating in the Michigan Humanities Council's *Picturing America in Michigan*. The program helped students gain a deeper understanding of American history by learning about American art. In 2009, nine classrooms from southwest Michigan visited the "Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times" exhibit with support of Council funds. And, 73 classrooms from all across the state received Council support to travel to museums. Read about *Picturing America in Michigan* on page 11.

GREAT MICHIGAN READ

More than 280 organizations across the state registered to participate in the *Great Michigan Read*, including more than 130 K-12 schools. The sophomore class at Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School selected *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* as its "Junk Food Journey" community read, using it across their entire curriculum to reinforce reading and comprehension, to promote tolerance for global perspectives, and to expand critical thinking. The year-long program included personal reflections, research papers, and class dialogue to help learn about the sophomore class as a group. Read about the *Great Michigan Read* on page 4.

"One root solution is education, giving people the tools to solve problems and bridge the gaps between communities."

— Grant participant, Regional Roots, Detroit Orientation Institute, Wayne State University.

Build Community Through Grants

A cornerstone of the Michigan Humanities Council's success is its ability to help build communities by awarding grants. The Council supports programs that play a vital role in defining culture, the state, communities, and individuals. Organizations work with the Council to explore and retrace histories, roles in societies, advancements and changes, meaning in self-expression and fulfillment, commonalities and differences.

Reaching audiences statewide

Our reach into communities is best demonstrated by our partnerships with local organizations. Cultural organizations rely on the Council's leadership and connections to help design quality humanities programs. Our funding opportunities are designed to be flexible enough to meet community needs. In 2009, the Council invested in humanities and cultural programming with grants in 182 Michigan communities and 62 counties.

Investing in collaboration

Collaboration is a leading principle of the Council's major grant funding in communities. A shining example is Grand Valley State University's documentary, *Up from the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream*, which featured cultural, educational, and community-based collaborations. Quick grants connect communities to humanities scholars through author visits, lectures, symposiums, cultural celebrations, and exhibits. The council funded 45 guide grants in 2009. These included the Fifth Annual Anishnabek Pow Wow at the Holland Museum and a presentation at the Muskegon Museum of Art about the works of Henry Ossawa Tanner.

Photo credits (from top): Michigan Humanities Council; *Your Story and Mine,* Advent House 2009; Grand Valley State University; Grand Valley State University.

"Our rural community doesn't have many opportunities for cultural experiences. This was an invaluable opportunity for inspiration and understanding in my classroom."

— Laura Gajewski, Teacher, Ovid Elsie High School.

Learn About History Through Art

Consider the national impact of Norman Rockwell's art, Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, and Hannah and Emm Greenlee's quilts. Using art as a lens to understand American history is at the heart of the Michigan Humanities Council's program, *Picturing America in Michigan*.

Partnering with Michigan museums

The Council partnered with 12 art museums to share their resources about the American experience with thousands of students. An example is Michigan State University's Kresge Art Museum, in which students traveled from Bad Axe and Alpena to learn American history through the paintings of Ezra Ames and photos by Dorothea Lange.

Broadening teaching skills

More than 100 teachers traveled to museums to learn about incorporating American art into their curriculums. Teachers learned visual thinking strategies and tools for exploring a painting's historical content.

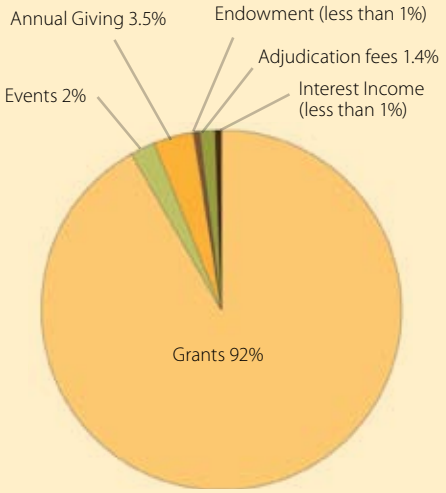
Documenting students' community perspectives

Students from a dozen Michigan high schools shared their interpretation of their communities by creating video documentaries in partnership with Michigan Television. For instance, students created vignettes about the World War II prisoner of war camp in Allegan, the urbanization of Hartland, and how the Defoe Shipbuilding Company shaped Bay City.

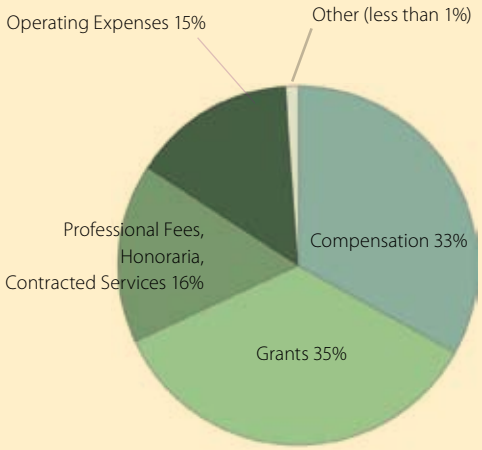
Photo credits (from top): "A Mother and Her Two Children on the Road (Tulelake, Siskiyou County, California)," by Dorothea Lange courtesy Kresge Art Museum at Michigan State University; Detroit Institute of Arts; Michigan Television.

For every dollar the Council invested in community-based humanities programs, three dollars were leveraged in additional support.

Revenue



Expenses



Financial Statement

By investing in public humanities programs, you help promote a society that values ideas, reflection, critical thinking, informed discussion, and reasoned action. Nurturing these abilities is especially crucial today, both for our individual futures and that of our state.

As you can see in the charts, grants accounted for 92% of the Council's income in 2009. The remaining 8% of our budget comes as gifts from individuals and businesses. That money makes a big difference, providing more flexibility in using the money where it is needed most.

There is another crucial piece of the Council's financial picture that is not reflected in these charts and tables: our ability to leverage in-kind and matching dollars for public humanities programs throughout the state. Last year, the Council provided $415,691 in direct support for humanities projects to hundreds of schools, libraries, historical societies, universities, community centers, museums, and other nonprofits. In turn, these institutions marshaled Council funds with more than $1,351,846 in additional funding for their programs. That's a 3-to-1 return on our investment.

The Council is privileged to serve the citizens of Michigan, thanks to the generosity of the people and institutions you see on pages 14 and 15.

On the following pages are hundreds of individuals, businesses, and institutions who are making the Michigan Humanities Council a more powerful force for exploring, understanding, and revitalizing Michigan's communities.

Statement of Financial Position

October 31, 2009

Assets

Unrestricted Cash	$221,252
Investments in Certificates of Deposit	$49,673
Grant Receivables	$776,150
Accounts Receivable - Other	$150
Prepaid Expenses	$2,033
Endowment Investments	$32,700
Property and Equipment, Less Accumulated Depreciation	$7,561
Rent Deposit	$1,000
Total Assets	**$1,090,519**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	$2,428
Accrued Expenses	$13,106
Grants Contract Payable	$254,877
Deferred Grant Revenue	$531,497
Total Liabilities	**$801,908**

Net Assets

Unrestricted	$239,418
Temporarily Restricted	$16,493
Permanently Restricted	$32,700
Total Net Assets	$288,611

Total Liabilities and Net Assets . . $1,090,519

Statement of Activities

For the 12 Months Ended
October 31, 2009

Revenue

Grants	$1,139,982
Events	$27,495
Annual Giving	$43,789
Endowment	$2,725
Adjudication Fees	$17,475
Interest Income	$3,655
Total Revenue	**$1,235,121**

Expenses

Compensation	$393,481
Grants	$415,691
Professional Fees, Honoraria, Contracted Services	$191,327
Operating Expenses	$175,498
Other	$3,649
Total Expenses	**$1,179,646**

Change in Net Assets $55,475

The Michigan Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, and institutions that partnered with us in FY 2009 to make our work possible.

STAFF

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The Michigan Humanities Council deeply appreciates last year's in-kind supporters of the Great Michigan Read and Poetry Out Loud:

The Alden B. Dow Home & Studio
The City Opera House
The Detroit Free Press
Fusion 1
The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
Grand Valley State University
Lansing Community College
The Library of Michigan
Penn Theatre
Plymouth District Library

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Margaret Weiner
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Antonia Wilson
Sandra Wilson
Jennifer & John Wise
Mary & Gary Wolfram
Laura Yelsik

Thank you!

"We're all going through time together.
We're on the same boat – we've got to start rowing together."

In essence, this captures what the humanities are, and how the Michigan Humanities Council aims to engage Michigan's citizens with an understanding of our sense of place – yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

You can envision being on that boat with educators, auto workers, farmers, lawyers, children, seniors, homeless, rich, married, divorced, Caucasians, African Americans, Arab Americans, Native Americans, conservatives, liberals, Detroiters, Yoopers, politicians, social workers, college students, and all of the people of Michigan. We grab an oar, and we row together to explore who we are. Because it is who we are that gives us our strength, and our unique identity as Michiganians and as Americans.

This is the humanities, as so eloquently expressed in the quote above from a homeless artist participating in a Michigan Humanities Council project last year.

You're on that boat. Grab an oar.
Discover the Michigan in you.

MichiganHumanitiesCouncil

Michigan People, Michigan Places
Our Stories… Our Lives

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