District 10 Reporting
District 10 Grants and Programs FY2020
Honorable Lisa McClain

$30,031 Support
$24,625 Community Match
3,917 Participants
32 Events

Action Grants = 1
Arts & Humanities Touring Grants = 12
Great Michigan Read = 15 Partners
H.O.P.E. Grants = 2 / $12,500
Poetry Out Loud = 1 School

Michigan Humanities
2364 Woodlake Drive, Suite 100
Okemos, MI 48864
p: 517-372-7770
michiganhumanities.org | #MIHumanities
Stewardship Report District 10
The Honorable Lisa McClain

$30,031 Michigan Humanities Support
$24,625 Community Match

32 Events
3,917 Participants

Action Grants are awarded to Michigan nonprofits to support public humanities-based programming that inspires action and strengthens our communities and our democracy.

1 Event 50 Participants

St. Clair County    City of St. Clair Recreation $750.00
                  Ship Building Boardwalk Project

Arts and Humanities Touring Program gives grants to Michigan nonprofits to help them showcase Michigan based touring performers, artists, exhibitors, and humanities professionals at their schools, events, or festivals. This program is a partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. *Some grants awarded may have been delayed due to COVID

12 Events 168 Participants

Lapeer County    Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer $540.00
                  Code to the Moon
Lapeer County    Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer $920.00
                  Frog and Toad
Lapeer County    Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer $360.00
                  Strega Nona and the Magic Pasta Pot
Lapeer County    Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer $240.00
                  Paleo Joe Show
Lapeer County    Chesterfield Public Library $179.60
                  Claymation Workshop
Lapeer County    Chesterfield Public Library $159.60
                  Interactive Puppet Show
Lapeer County    Chesterfield Public Library $176.80
                  Theater Class For Teens
Lapeer County    MacDonald Public Library $180.00
                  Imagine Your Story Magic Show with Baffling Bill
Lapeer County    MacDonald Public Library $120.00
                  Preschool Circus Workshop
Lapeer County    RWB Parks & Recreation $170.80
                  Toddler Puppet Show
The Great Michigan Read creates a statewide discussion around the humanities themes of a selected book. Through partnerships with libraries, high schools, colleges and universities, book clubs, and a wide range of other non-profit organizations, the Great Michigan Read facilitates statewide reading and programs to bridge communities around a common conversation.

15 Partner Organizations 15 Events 2,168 Participants
**Michigan H.O.P.E Grants** were created in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic utilizing CARES Act Funding. Grants of up to $10,000 were available to museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and other humanities-focused nonprofits impacted by the pandemic in Michigan.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Library/Museum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huron County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanilac County</td>
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**Poetry Out Loud** encourages Michigan's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. High school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history. It was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation and is implemented in Michigan through a partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

1 School Partners 1,725 Participants

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clair</td>
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2020 Nov. 1, 2019 - Oct. 31, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<td>660</td>
<td>183,798</td>
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Program and Grant Outreach

H.O.P.E. Grants
116 grants
$661,085 in support

Humanities Grants
29 grants
$376,207 in support

Great Michigan Read (FY 2019/2020)
298 non-profits participated
$216,050 in support

Poetry Out Loud
5,077 students participated
44 schools
$88,000 in support

Arts/Touring Grants
79 grants/communities
$40,564 in support

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The National Endowment for the Humanities accounted for 86% of the council’s income in Fiscal Year 2020. The remaining revenue comes from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and generous donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. In Fiscal Year 2020, 183,798 participants attended 799 humanities events around the state. These events include MH programs such as Great Michigan Read, Prime Time Family Reading Time, Poetry Out Loud, MI Humanities at Home, the Smithsonian Partnership Museums on Main Street, as well as grant-funded projects such as Arts and Humanities Touring Grants, Humanities Grants, Action Grants and other funded partnerships.
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan Humanities provided emergency CARES Act funding to museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and other humanities-focused nonprofits impacted by the pandemic throughout Michigan. Michigan H.O.P.E. Grants of up to $10,000 were available to provide general operating support with an emphasis on maintaining personnel.

Funding for Michigan H.O.P.E. Grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.
The humanities help us understand what makes us human.

The Michigan Humanities is the leading advocate and supporter for the humanities in our state. We help people listen to, connect and understand each other better. Michigan Humanities affirms that we're all in this together. We focus on what unites us, including literature, art, music, history, language, philosophy, and civil conversation. Humanities change lives and transforms communities.

Our core values are discovery, understanding, authentic conversation, respectful collaboration, inclusion, diversity and meaningful experiences. We passionately believe in investing in the people of Michigan through sustainable humanities action that provides a deeper understanding of the past, tools for more powerful analysis of the present and the support we need reach to glean a more-informed vision for the future.

We have a strategic plan and passionate commitment to our core values. Now we invite your support because what we do matters more now than ever before. Your gift will help our communities and its employers bring talent to your hometown jobs, as businesses increasingly seek workers with humanities-based skills: critical thinking, excellent verbal and written skills, and the ability to understand and nurture diverse & equitable cultures. Corporations are increasingly global. Work teams depend on communication and understanding as engineers, marketers, accountants, and administrators from disparate cultures innovate together. To attract the world’s best thinkers and their families, Michigan must open our hearts to newcomers and their differences. A vibrant arts & cultural community retains the leaders of the future.

A vibrant democracy demands the kind of engagement the humanities stimulates; our liberties depend on it. Understanding historical context, having vibrant and civil discussion, great literature and arts make life worthwhile.

Each year, the staff of the council and its volunteer board puts into action money from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, corporate donors and individual citizens to support hundreds of cultural projects, historical displays, literature for veterans and family reading projects for libraries that help more than 1.5 million people — including more than 50,000 students — better understand themselves, their neighbors and the world around them.

Here are several of our highlights from around the state in 2020:

- MI Humanities at Home was developed in March 2020, to engage Michigan’s residents with enriching tours, exhibits, book reading and poetry, to help people cope during lockdown.
- Michigan Humanities Awards was moved to a virtual event, honoring the achievements of our outstanding partners from across the state.
- Great Michigan Read continued through 2020 and hosted virtual author events, and engaged nearly every county in the state, including reading packages to all 298 partners.
- Funds for the H.O.P.E. Grants were awarded and distributed to 116 Michigan cultural institutions in under 60 days, providing much needed emergency funding through the CARES Act.

The quality of life for Michigan residents depends on our ability to appreciate and understand where we came from, who we are now and where we hope to be. Your part in helping us broaden our support and reducing our dependence on federal funding is critical. Please help the Michigan Humanities remain the leader in cultural connections. Please help us put to work the energy of the humanities in Michigan.
# Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Board Member</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rena Richtig, Escanaba Catholic Faith Formations, Director</td>
<td>Bark River</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Bill Alsover, Alsover Business Consulting, President</td>
<td>Newaygo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Celeste Diehm, Retired Principal</td>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Paul Chaffee, Retired Journalist, Jenell Leonard, Marketing Resource Group, Inc., Vice President Public Affairs</td>
<td>Freeland, Dewitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Julie Dorsey, Delta College Institutional Advancement, Kathryn Curtiss Spence, Dow Corning Foundation, Retired, Shannon Polk, Polk Leadership Solutions</td>
<td>Saginaw, Saginaw, Grand Blanc</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Margaret Stephanak, Southwest Michigan First, Vice President, Deanne Gavalis, Senior Advisor, PNC Wealth Management</td>
<td>Portage, Kalamazoo</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>April Clobes, MSU Federal Credit Union, President, Colleen Graber, Public Policy Associates, COO, Jade Sims, MSU Eli Broad College of Business, International Trade Specialist, Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Professor of Law, Michigan State University, College of Law, Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center</td>
<td>Bath, East Lansing, Okemos, East Lansing</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Glenn Stevens, Detroit Regional Chamber, Executive Director MICHauto</td>
<td>Beverly Hills</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Jim Napolitano, Marketing Consultant, Firefighter/First Responder</td>
<td>Dryden</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Versell Smith, Jr., The Corner Health Center, Executive Director, Matt Stiffler, PhD., Arab American National Museum, Research Manager, Ethriam Cash Brammer, Assistant Dean, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, Joseph Stanhope Cialdella, Academic Program Manager for Public Scholarship, University of Michigan</td>
<td>Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Amisha S. Harijan, Librarian, Detroit Public Library</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
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# Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Staff Member / Title</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jennifer Rupp, Director of Federal and State Grants</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Phyllis Rathbun, Executive Assistant</td>
<td>Lansing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Shelly Hendrick Kaspryzcki, President and CEO</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Michelle Chrome, Chief Financial Officer</td>
<td>Mason</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>James Nelson, Director of Grants</td>
<td>Haslett</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Carol Taggart, Director of Advancement</td>
<td>Howell</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Katie Wittenauer, Director of Programs</td>
<td>Okemos</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jennifer Sierra, DEI Action Council Staff Member</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
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Federal/State Partnership
Our nation's state and jurisdictional humanities councils are nonpartisan 501c3 nonprofit organizations founded in the 1970s by Congress to make outstanding public humanities programming accessible to all in their states and local communities. Councils are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and connected by their national membership association, the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Serve Millions
- Educators/Students
- Families
- Veterans
- Rural Residents
- Communities of Color
- Indigenous/Native Groups
- Cultural Organizations
- Incarcerated Populations

Through programs like “Speakers in the Schools,” “Literature & Medicine,” statewide reads, and community conversations, councils use the humanities disciplines such as literature, philosophy, history, anthropology, and jurisprudence, to serve millions across the US.

Support Democracy
What does it mean to be an informed citizen in today's America? Why are civic and electoral participation important in a democracy? These are just some of the many questions councils address through programs, resources, events, and grants.

86% of Americans feel the humanities make democracy stronger per a 2020 American Academy of the Arts & Sciences Humanities Indicator report.

Support During COVID-19
Humanities councils have continued to serve their communities during the pandemic by adapting programs to virtual space or creating new initiatives, like Humanities Washington's online discussion prompts, "Cabin Fever Questions." And other councils are helping those without online access to stay connected, like Idaho Humanities Council's "Dear Pen Friend," and Oregon Humanities' and Humanities Nebraska's "Dear Stranger" letter-writing programs.

4,500+ Local Partners
Council programs are designed in partnership with those they serve. Together, they gather histories and bridge divides through conversation, context, and connection. For example, in Montana, the humanities council's award-winning "Hometown Humanities" program works with local partners to build capacity and make long-term investments in a communities statewide.

Councils partner with local organizations across their states:
- Libraries
- Museums
- Historical Societies
- Social Service Organizations
- Hospitals
- Faith-based Organizations
- Correctional Facilities
- Community Centers

4,500+ grants totaling nearly $30 million were awarded by the humanities councils to local cultural organizations struggling amidst the pandemic. The funding was provided to the councils through NEH as part of the 2020 CARES ACT Emergency Relief.

Strengthen Communities
Councils work with and in communities to support them through important grant-making efforts to libraries, museums, and other humanities and cultural nonprofits.

Councils know that the humanities can help local, state, and national communities understand, contextualize, and empathize when facing complex issues. They use literacy and reading programs and community conversations to bring people together.
SERVE EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Through programs like "Great Michigan Read" Michigan Humanities supports teachers and students through reader and teacher guides to facilitate reading and discussion. In 2019, 170+ Michigan libraries, high schools, colleges, and universities registered to receive copies of the 2019 book. Humanities Texas responded to the coronavirus pandemic by adapting its award-winning teacher professional development workshops online, and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities continues to impact students, teachers, and families with its nationally recognized literacy program, “PRIME TIME, Inc.”

“Farmers... agreed that everyone needs to communicate and... that often those who are trying to help do not understand the 'mind of a farmer' and wish that they had a mentor or group that had farming background knowledge.” - Project Director, Kansas Panel Discussion, Farm Stress

EXPLORE, UNDERSTAND, AND SUSTAIN OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environmental humanities programs use literature and history during nature hikes and sustainability projects to better understand nature's impact on our sense of place and our shared responsibility for the future of our planet. Examples include Indiana Humanities’ “Next Indiana Campfires” (pictured), Humanities Guahan’s “Taking Root: Empowering Youth for Island Sustainability,” Delaware Humanities’ “Trek and (Virtual) Talk” initiative, and Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street's (MoMS) “Water/Ways,” an exhibit that has reached 30 states and 180 small towns.

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SUPPORT & FUNDING:

On average, the nation's humanities councils leverage $4 for every $1 received in federal funding. Councils receive funding through an annual appropriation from Congress through NEH. Councils supplement this support through partnerships, local and state funding, and private grants and donations.

"The opportunity to meet and speak with authors, especially when you live in an area which doesn't offer many opportunities to connect with writers, is eye opening, and for some, life changing." - Teacher, Great Michigan Read

For more than 20 years, councils have served healthcare workers with "Literature & Medicine." Originally developed by the Maine Humanities Council, this program uses literature to help participants to better understand their work and their relationships with patients and each other. It is now in more than 90 hospitals in 19 states.

"As a dental provider for veterans, I deal with patients from all races, cultures, socioeconomic levels, religions, and opinions... Many of my patients are dealing with PTSD, war inflicted physical injuries, and societal prejudices. By reading literature of "people," I aspire to be more empathetic to my patients and hope they feel comfortable to continue their care." - Lori Williams, BA RDH, Fresno, CA Veterans Affairs Medical Center (California Humanities, Literature & Medicine)

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For more than 25 years, the councils and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street have partnered to bring quality exhibitions to small towns across America, reaching 1,600+ communities across all 50 states. Oklahoma Humanities and Humanities Kansas (pictured) are among 27 councils touring the most recent exhibition, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America."

In Alaska, the council runs "Sister School Exchange" to build connections between Alaskan rural and urban teachers and students.

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"This exhibit truly did spur conversations between people of different ages, generations, and backgrounds. We had members of the Tohono O'odham community, Sonora, Mexico, Tucson, and local representatives and schools all talking about our incredibly important water source and the ways in which it ties us all together." - AZ Humanities Water/Ways Participant

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Why is Increased Federal Funding for the State Humanities Councils Important?

**Councils stimulate local economies.** Councils invigorate local economies by investing in communities’ cultural and educational infrastructure. By supporting museums, libraries, festivals, and public programming, councils enrich communities’ quality of life, making them more attractive to businesses and advancing a skilled, educated workforce. This support has been a lifeline for cultural organizations throughout the pandemic. The councils sent nearly $30 million dollars of CARES ACT funding back into communities across the nation.

**Councils leverage more than $4 at the local level for every federal dollar they regrant.** Each year, councils leverage their NEH funding to raise millions of dollars to invest in local communities. NEH support is the vital seed money that enables councils to raise additional funds from corporations, foundations, individuals, and state government.

**Councils support innovative programs on veterans’ issues.** Writing workshops and reading and discussion programs help veterans reintegrate into their communities. Literature & Medicine programs allow VA hospital staff to better understand and empathize with their patients, which improves the quality of their care. Community dialogues, speakers series, and films enable the general public to more fully appreciate the challenges veterans and their families face. Council veterans’ oral history projects have captured voices that were lost to COVID-19.

**Councils promote K-12 education.** Councils provide resources for students and, in many states, the only summer institutes, weekend workshops, or other professional development programs for humanities teachers. Councils adeptly shifted these vitally important programs to virtual platforms in 2020. By better preparing teachers in their subjects, these programs improve the quality of students’ education and reduce costly teacher turnover.

**Councils partner with over 8,800 organizations nationwide.** Councils partnered with museums, libraries, K-12 schools and universities, senior centers, correctional facilities, veterans hospitals, churches and social service agencies, corporations, local businesses, chambers of commerce and state tourism offices, radio and television stations, and many others.

**Councils promote appreciation of local and national history and heritage.** Councils support public discussion forums, exhibits, documentary films, online encyclopedias, and oral history projects.

**Councils provide a cultural lifeline to isolated rural communities.** Councils serve rural residents through humanities speakers series, reading and discussion sessions, and other programs in local libraries, museums, and community centers. A number of councils grew their pen pal programs during the pandemic to connect those in rural areas without broadband.

**Councils reach diverse populations in tens of thousands of rural, suburban, and urban communities.** Council programs across the nation benefit a wide range of people, including veterans, seniors, rural residents, parents, young children, students and teachers, LGBTQ populations, Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and people with disabilities.

**Councils foster early childhood education.** Council family literacy programs support children’s future educational and economic success, strengthen family ties, and increase parents’ job prospects by improving their reading skills.

**Councils help us have difficult conversations.** Councils work with and in communities to bring together neighbors and strangers across differences to listen respectfully and learn from one another, creating spaces to talk about histories of inequity, issues we face today, and the future we can collaboratively create.

**Councils support lifelong learning and civic education.** Council programs encourage curiosity, civic engagement, critical reasoning, and understanding of diverse cultures – traits essential to building a more competitive workforce and stronger democracy in a rapidly changing, knowledge-based global economy.
The State Humanities Councils
An Investment in America's Communities

The humanities are vital to a thriving democracy.

We urge Congress to provide $225 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities including $70 million for the state and jurisdictional humanities councils in FY 2022.

Funding History for the NEH and the State and Jurisdictional Humanities Councils (in millions of dollars)

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<td>152.848</td>
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The significant increase requested for NEH and the councils in FY 2022 will provide resources to bring communities together during and after the pandemic, strengthen civic education about our democracy, and connect tens of thousands of new program participants virtually. Councils will also continue planning for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The humanities councils, with programs in nearly every congressional district, are uniquely positioned to lead inclusive explorations of the past, present, and future of our country.

How Humanities Councils Foster Vibrant Communities and Strengthen the Nation

**Invest in Communities**
Make long-term investments in more than 5,300 communities nationwide through:

- CARES funding grants to more than 4,500 local cultural organizations
- 1000s of additional grants to small, local museums, libraries, & other organizations
- Community conversations that address local issues like the environment, racial equity, and political polarization
- Capacity-building
- Cultural tourism tools, such as online tours & folklife & book festivals

**Promote Literacy & K-12 Education**
Support access, development, and resources for students, families, and teachers through:

- Creating and funding family literacy programs to help children succeed in school & parents thrive in the workforce
- Providing professional support for teachers to improve student learning
- Developing and supplying online resources for students

**Reach Rural Residents**
Provide cultural resources to rural residents through:

- Traveling exhibits
- Speaker series
- Chautauquas
- Reading & discussion programs
- Television & radio programs on cultural & historical topics
- Resources to small cultural institutions

**Serve Diverse Groups**
Conduct programs in nearly every congressional district that benefit a wide range of people, including:

- Asian and Arab Americans
- Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- Immigrants
- Latinx
- LGBTQ populations
- Native populations
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- Young adults, teens, & children

**Protect & Preserve Local Heritage**
With more than 8,800 local partners, councils use their networks to:

- Present speakers & exhibitions on local history
- Fund oral history projects & documentaries
- Digitize cultural artifacts to ensure long-term stability
- Distribute emergency funds quickly after natural disasters
Grants & Programs
Current and Upcoming
Summary of Grants and Programs FY 2020

The **Action Grants Program** are awarded to Michigan nonprofits to support programs such as Great Michigan Read and can help cover costs for public humanities based programs including honoraria, travel expenses, printing, promotion, video/audio taping and exhibit rental.

The **Arts and Humanities Touring Program** gives grants to Michigan nonprofits to help them showcase Michigan based touring performers, artists, exhibitors, and humanities professionals at their schools, events, or festivals. This program is a partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The **Bridging Michigan** is an event series that will spark in-depth conversation and action around the persistent social, economic, and cultural issues of systemic inequities that divide our communities. As part of Michigan Humanities’ commitment to dialogue around critical issues and their connection to the humanities, we are coordinating an online conversation series with a focus on the history of systemic inequities, their current impacts on health, education, and Indigenous rights, and the ways that the arts and humanities are active parts of creating real change. Bridging Michigan 2020 was a virtual program.

The **Great Michigan Read** creates a statewide discussion around the humanities themes of a selected book. Through partnerships with libraries, high schools, colleges and universities, book clubs, and a wide range of other non-profit organizations, the Great Michigan Read facilitates statewide reading and programs to bridge communities around a common conversation.

The **Humanities Grants Program** emphasize collaboration among cultural, educational and community-based organizations and institutions in order to serve Michigan’s people with public humanities programming. These grants play a vital role in defining our culture, our state, our community and ourselves, and are intended to connect us to Michigan’s rich cultural heritage and historical resources through initiatives that help the people of our state reason together and learn from one another.

The **Michigan Humanities Organizations Pandemic Emergency Grants (H.O.P.E.)** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan Humanities is providing emergency CARES Act funding to museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and other humanities-focused nonprofits impacted by the pandemic throughout Michigan. Michigan H.O.P.E. Grants of up to $10,000 are available to provide general operating support with an emphasis on maintaining personnel.

The **Museum on Main Street** is a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution and Michigan Humanities, providing traveling national exhibitions to rural areas of Michigan. Museum on Main Street brings the Smithsonian to small-town America with a focus on storytelling and celebration of each community’s local heritage. Voices and Votes will tour Michigan in 2020.

The **Poetry Out Loud** encourages Michigan’s youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. High school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history. It was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and is implemented in Michigan through a partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The **Prime Time Family Reading Time** is a free six-week program of reading, discussion and storytelling that targets families of non-active library users. The program features award-winning children’s literature to stimulate discussion about humanities themes and issues encountered in everyday life.

The **Why It Matters: Conversations on civic and electoral engagement** Michigan Humanities will present a series of virtual state-wide conversations that will examine the electoral process by exploring Michigan’s urban rural divide and the influence of social media. These conversations will bring together humanities professionals and Michiganders and provide a place for open dialogue and learning. This program is funded by a $1.96 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Federation of State Humanities Councils.
Michigan Humanities

Coming to Michigan in 2021!

2021 National Humanities Conference will take place in Detroit, Michigan!

Michigan Humanities will host the National Humanities Conference in November 2021 in Detroit. 56 Humanities Councils from around the county, and members of the National Humanities Alliance hope to attend in person. We have plans to involve our universities, museums, partners and Michigan students, and approach corporate sponsorships for support. We will also feature the many Michigan treasures, such as The Detroit Institute of Arts, The Henry Ford, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, and many of the local dining establishments, such as Eastern Market, Greektown and the Arena and Museum districts.

The 2021-22 Great Michigan Read

As the current Great Michigan Read’s events are concluding in the months ahead, the new statewide read title will be announced in a virtual event in late March, 2021. The upcoming selection was chosen by regional selection committees and is set in the Upper Peninsula in the early 20th century. It explores labor union and mining history, immigration, women’s roles in the labor movement, former Governor Woodbridge Ferris, and more conversation-prompting topics. Partners across Michigan will be able to register for the 2021-22 Great Michigan Read immediately following the title announcement, and the program will launch in fall, 2021, with the distribution of complimentary books, educational materials, and regional author tour events. Programming will continue through fall, 2022.

Museum on Main Street Exhibit: Voices and Votes: Democracy in America

Michigan Humanities is partnering with the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program to bring the traveling exhibit Voices and Votes: Democracy in America to six Michigan host communities in 2021-2022. Hosting a Museum on Main Street exhibition is an excellent way to bring in visitors, forge new community partnerships, and have fun hosting a world class museum exhibition.

Voices and Votes is based on a major exhibition currently on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and this Museum on Main Street adaptation will have many of the same dynamic features: historical and contemporary photos; educational and archival video; engaging multimedia interactives with short games and additional footage, photos, and information; and historical objects like campaign souvenirs, voter memorabilia, and protest material.

The Michigan Tour Schedule for Voices and Votes is as follows:
- Artworks, Big Rapids: March 27-May 9, 2021
- Michigan Military Heritage Museum, Grass Lake: May 15-June 27, 2021
- Dennos Museum Center, Traverse City: July 3-August 15, 2021
- The Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer, Lapeer: August 21-October 3, 2021
- Chippewa River District Library, Mt. Pleasant: October 9-November 21, 2021
- The War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Farms: November 27, 2021-January 9, 2022
Why It Matters:

Michigan Humanities will present a series of virtual state-wide conversations that will examine the electoral process by exploring Michigan’s urban-rural divide and the influence of social media. These conversations will bring together humanities professionals and Michiganders and provide a place for open dialogue and learning.

This program is funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The grant supports a new national initiative, “Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation,” which will explore civic participation as it relates to electoral engagement in a multivocal democracy. Programs will be conducted in 43 US states and territories throughout the course of the initiative.

Emerging Leaders Program

The Emerging Leaders Program will begin with five pilot projects that will award grant funds to five community foundation partners with identified diverse, inclusive, and equitable youth willing to participate in humanities-based training for leadership and conversations. Each community will receive professional community conversation training from Michigan Humanities staff and will lead community conversation on topics such as:

- Civility
- Community engagement with diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Reflecting on U.S. founding documents and democracy
- Community history

Upon completion of community conversations and projects, representatives from each community will convene to form an Emerging Leaders Council.

Bridging Michigan

Bridging Michigan is an event series and grant opportunity that sparks in-depth conversation and action around the persistent social, economic, and cultural issues of systemic inequities that divide our communities. As part of Michigan Humanities’ commitment to dialogue around critical issues and their connection to the humanities, Bridging Michigan was launched in summer, 2020, with a focus on the history of systemic inequities, their current impacts on health, education, and Indigenous rights, and the ways that the humanities are active parts of creating real change. Upcoming conversations in 2021 will include dialogue about the history and evolution of women’s rights, and the accessibility of cultural institutions for people with disabilities.