New Hampshire Humanities: Transforming lives with the power of the humanities

In every corner of the state, New Hampshire Humanities provides opportunities to cultivate curiosity, connect across cultures, examine beliefs, practice civility, strengthen community bonds, ignite ideas, inspire a passion for learning, and engage in civic life.

Humanities to Go brings neighbors together for learning and thoughtful conversation while connecting residents to our state’s rich historical and cultural resources. Humanities to Go offers 198 different high-quality lectures and living history presentations by 97 different NH scholars. Our most popular and far-reaching program, each year more than 400 Humanities to Go programs are booked by more than 287 local organizations in 153 cities and towns.

Community Project Grants enable New Hampshire Humanities to be responsive to the interests of NH residents and nonprofit organizations that serve them. They enable local organizations to design their own programs, create new partnerships, serve new constituencies, and strengthen their communities. In a state where many communities are fifty miles from a college or museum, we often introduce local organizers not only to humanities scholars but to the idea of working with one. From dynamic lectures and facilitated conversations to walking tours, oral history workshops, and teacher professional development seminars, these grants create opportunities for learning, exploration, and the lively exchange of ideas.

Connections Adult Literacy brings quality books and stimulating discussions to more than 500 adult learners each year, promoting English language skills, cultivate conversations about ideas, reinforce family literacy, support a culture of reading, and encourage civic engagement. Connections works in partnership with adult basic education and ESOL classes, refugee resettlement organizations, services for adults with developmental disabilities, and state and county prisons.

Special Initiatives bring innovative opportunities for the thoughtful, civil exchange of ideas on subjects of national or global significance to New Hampshire residents. Recent examples of special initiatives are From Troy to Baghdad: Dialogues on the Experience of War & Homecoming which uses Homer’s Odyssey and other literature to examine the experience of war and the timeless issues of homecoming with veterans around the state, and Democracy and the Informed Citizen that helped to heal individual veterans and advance our collective understanding of war and homecoming through writing and photography.

“I cannot begin to express the value of face-to-face communication in a world where so much is said from behind a screen.” ~ High school participant, Constitutionally Speaking
Financials & Resource Development

New Hampshire Humanities is a 501c3 organization with a $1.3M operating budget and staff of 10. Approximately half of our budget comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and half from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Our Annual Dinner is a major source of corporate sponsorship, a vehicle for the cultivation of individual donors and board members, and one of the “must attend” events in the state’s annual cultural calendar. We recently concluded a successful $2.1M capital campaign including a $350,000 NEH Challenge Grant matched 3-to-1 by private contributions in support of Humanities to Go.

Strategic Planning & Evaluation

The current three-year Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in September 2016 calls for continuing to emphasize high quality humanities experiences, communicating the value of the organization and the humanities, achieving greater fiscal autonomy, and implementing systematic evaluation across programs.

Board & Staff & Partners & Public

New Hampshire Humanities has a deeply committed and unusually collaborative board and staff. The board members are actively engaged civic, governmental, business, philanthropic, and academic leaders, conscientiously committed to advancing the role of the humanities in New Hampshire life and thought. New Hampshire Humanities also has the most extensive and varied statewide network of program partners, intellectuals, and humanists of any state cultural organization. “The collective efforts of all these participants is generating a broad cross-section of the New Hampshire public who equate the name New Hampshire Humanities with high quality, extraordinarily engaging and important programming.”

– NEH Five-Year Review, November 2016

“The new three-year strategic plan is an ambitious but well-planned effort to assure that NHH can continue to thrive in an uncertain and changing funding environment while providing the analysis, resources, and intellectual creativity necessary to continue meeting its core mission of connecting people with ideas.”

– NEH Five-Year Review

Board Structure

19-24 members, 3-year terms, 6 committees:

- Executive
- Finance
- Investment
- Nominations
- Program
- Resource Development

Communications

New Hampshire Humanities’ communications program reflects a distinctive identity that is reinforced throughout all of its programming using consistent, mission-centric messaging. A recent rebranding initiative is reflected in its website and social media sites (Facebook, 7,400+ followers; Twitter, 1,500+; YouTube, 4,100 views this year; Instagram, 250 followers) as well as a quarterly, full-color newsletter featuring engaging articles, news, and events (circulation: 3,500 for print, 15,000 for e-newsletter).

www.nhhumanities.org