

Missouri Humanities Council  
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

# MISSOURI *Humanities* COUNCIL

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## PROUDLY SERVING

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**VETERANS**



**FAMILIES**



**STUDENTS &  
TEACHERS**



**LOCAL MUSEUMS  
& LIBRARIES**



**COMMUNITIES**



**LIFELONG  
LEARNERS**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society.

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the U.S. Congress to serve as one of 56 state and territorial humanities councils that are affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Dr. Steve Belko*

Now that my first year as the Executive Director has closed, I can confidently assert that the Missouri Humanities Council has experienced remarkable growth—I credit an incredibly dynamic and dedicated staff and an expanding Board for this achievement. I mentioned a year ago that our partnerships and collaborations were flourishing, and I could not have been more accurate, as we have seen our public outreach programming skyrocket tremendously. We have finalized our five general program categories—Heritage, Family, Veterans, Education, and Grants—as well as the numerous projects and initiatives composing these overarching programs.

Our more established program categories—Family, Veterans, and Grants—expanded steadily in 2015, reaching larger audiences in new communities for the Council. Our community grants increased to provide funding for a myriad of phenomenal public humanities programs in every region of Missouri. We were successful in receiving every major public programming grant for which we applied, and we earned national recognition for these projects. In fact, the Pulitzer Centennial Campfires Initiative and the Humanities in the Public Square grants we received were among the highest funded projects in the nation. (These grants were awarded in FY2015, for programming beginning in FY2016.)

Our new program categories—Heritage and Education—quickly involved our most extensive and active projects. As just one example, we launched an extensive heritage program commemorating Missouri's German history. Missouri's *German Heritage Corridor* will explore, interpret, and exhibit every aspect of the state's rich German heritage within sixteen contiguous counties bordering the Missouri River. On the public education front, we established a new civics education initiative, with our annual *Missouri Summer Teachers Academy* as the focal point. FY2015 was indeed characterized with dramatic change and growth.

The next year will be as dynamic, I assure you, as we encounter our five-year review by the National Endowment for the Humanities, along with the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan. We have already adopted new vision and mission statements. I look forward to the implementation of the many programs, grants, and partnerships we worked so hard to develop in FY2015. I thank each and every one of you for your continued support of our efforts to expand humanities programming throughout the State of Missouri.

## GRANTS PROGRAM

MHC is pleased to announce that its FY2015 grant expenditures increased \$25,000 over the prior year. More organizations and Missouri citizens are producing and experiencing worthwhile humanities projects than ever before.

### Grants Awarded *November 1, 2014 – October 31, 2015*

Grant Description	Organization	County	Attendance
11th Annual Ancestors Gourd Dance and Pow Wow	Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society	Cass	350
2015 Intercultural Festival at Northwest Missouri State University	Northwest Missouri State University	Nodaway	500
5th Annual Harvest Moon American Indian	TYCOR Community Development Corporation	Jackson	3,500
A Preservation Perspective on Missouri's Slave Dwellings	Missouri's Little Dixie Heritage Foundation	Saline	59
America's Music & Sedalia in the 1890's – 2016 Feature Exhibits	Sedalia Heritage Foundation	Pettis	300
Beyond the Buildings: Stories of the Community	Pierre Laclède Honors College – UMSL	Saint Louis	200
Big Book Challenge: Our Anna Karenina Summer	University City Public Library	Saint Louis	443
Bonniebrook Festival of Painted Leaves: A Celebration of the Preservation of the Heritage, Customs, Folklore, and Traditions of the Ozarks	Bonniebrook Historical Society & Museum	Taney	120
Carrollton Public Library Summer 2015 Literacy Program – Heroes	Carrollton Public Library	Carroll	300
Challenging Taboos – The OAH 2015 Annual Meeting in St. Louis	Organization of American Historians	Monroe	650

Grant Description	Organization	County	Attendance
Civil War Archives Alive!	Friends of the Missouri State Archives	Cole	5,000
December Presents... Poetry & Jazz Perfect Combo	December Publishing	Boone	100
Fall Festival of the Arts & Crafts and Strassenfest	Historic Washington Foundation	Franklin	15,000
Family Fun Days: Being History Explores	Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum	Jackson	507
GradNation Community Summit: The State of Mobility in Kansas City	Turn the Page KC	Jackson	150
Guadalupe Center Westside Research Project	Guadalupe Center, Inc.	Gasconade	200
Historic Black Columbia Bus Tour	Curators of University of Missouri, Columbia	Boone	58
Humanities and Arts Film Series	Downtown Springfield Community Cinema	Greene	264
Humanities and the Power of Technology	Drury University Humanities and Ethics Center	Greene	150
Identifying and Developing Heritage Tourism Resources	Missouri Highway 36 Heritage Alliance	Buchanan	115
In Sync With Thomas Hart Benton	We Always Swing, Inc.	Boone	715
Interpreting Slavery Workshop	Curators of the University of Missouri, Kansas City	Boone	100
Intersections: Of Time and Buildings, St. Joseph	St. Joseph Museums, Inc.	Buchanan	281
KMOX Radio: Audio Tape Digitization	St. Louis Media History Foundation	Saint Louis City	300

Grant Description	Organization	County	Attendance
Legendary Lexington in the Digital Age	Lexington Auditorium Association	Lafayette	75
Mural Interpretation Boards	Old Town Cape, Inc.	Cape Girardeau	150
Native American Month	Sikeston Cultural Development Corporation	Scott	100
Ozark Mountain Festival	Eminence Area Chamber of Commerce	Shannon	2,200
Ozarks Studies Symposium	Missouri State University – West Plains	Howell	110
Passport to the Past: Missouri Arts and History Exploration	Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion	Cole	125
Pathways to Hope for Moral Injury and Other Invisible Wounds	Mid-America Center for Ministry	Cole	200
Primary Sources & Local History in the Digital Classroom	Southeast Missouri State University	Cape Girardeau	200
Prison Performing Arts	Prison Performing Arts	Saint Louis City	85
Remembering the Legacy of Warren & Betty Hearnese	Kellerman Foundation for Historic Preservation	Cape Girardeau	35
Retracing Schoolcraft's Steps	Curators of University of Missouri, Columbia	Boone	75
Saint Louis University Prison Arts and Education Program	Saint Louis University	Saint Louis City	95
School-wide Teacher Home Visit Program	HOME WORKS! The Teacher Home Visit Program	Saint Louis	2,500
Shakespeare in the Streets Artist Training	Shakespeare Festival St. Louis	Saint Louis City	1,500

Grant Description	Organization	County	Attendance
South Grand Lecture Series	South Grand Community Improvement District	Saint Louis City	100
St. Louis Map Room and Website	COCA	Saint Louis	5,000
Storytelling to Engage and Develop Community and Tourism Potential	Curators of University of Missouri, Columbia	Boone	100
Swingin for the Fences: A Jazz and Baseball Retrospective	Jazz St. Louis	Saint Louis City	75
The Mochila Review Presents: In the Shadow of Poet Taylor Mali	Missouri Western State University	Buchanan	350
Trading Moon Pow Wow and Native Arts Celebration	University of Central Missouri - Religious Studies	Johnson	1,500
Urban Museum Collaborative - Walking in Another's Shoes	Campbell House Museum	Saint Louis City	5,425
What Democracy Looks Like	The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis	Saint Louis	2,000
Why Study American Culture Now?	Lindenwood University	Saint Charles	100
William H. Pommer Symposium	Deutschheim State Historic Site	Gasconade	160
Women's Screenwriting Workshop	Super Heroines, Etc	Saint Louis	9
Writing My Way Back Home: Writing Workshops for Veterans & Their Families	Midwest Center for the Literary	Jackson	50



*Parents at an RFTS workshop*

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

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MHC's family reading program *Read from the Start* (RFTS), encourages parents/caregivers to read to their young children daily so as to form early habits that foster a lifelong love of reading. Through the guidance of certified RFTS Discussion Leaders, these hands-on workshops utilize high-quality children's books, which are given to participants for home use free of charge to their children. In partnership with organizations who share a commitment to family reading and literacy, MHC presented 108 RFTS programs, reaching 1,647 parents/caregivers in 35 counties across the state of Missouri in FY2015.

## HERITAGE PROGRAMS

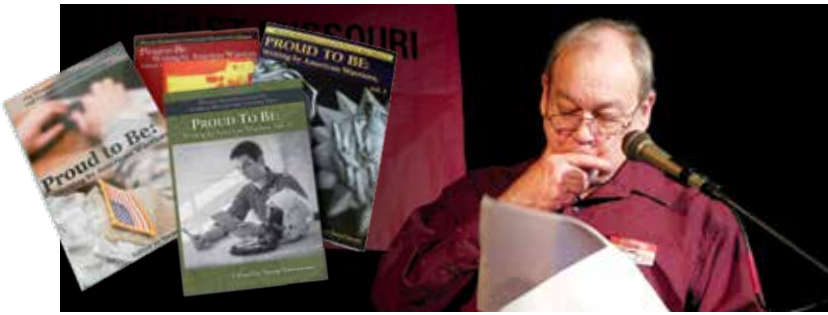
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MHC created and commenced development of the German Heritage Corridor, an extensive heritage area comprising the sixteen counties along the Missouri River from St. Charles and St. Louis counties westward to Chariton and Lafayette counties.

This ongoing project will implement various public programming projects and partnerships that will explore, revive, and commemorate Missouri's German-American heritage. Partnerships have expanded with the Highway 36 Heritage Alliance, Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation, and the River [Mississippi] Heritage Association to develop and expand heritage tourism venues throughout the state.





*Tim Leach, Veterans Writing Workshops participant*

## VETERANS PROGRAMS

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Through the Veterans Writing Workshops and the *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* anthology series, MHC is partnering with many great organizations to provide veterans with the guidance and encouragement to tell their stories and provide an outlet for self-expression as they build and enhance their support systems, reconnect with their families, and reintegrate into the workplace.

In collaboration with the VA St. Louis Medical System at Jefferson Barracks-Occupational Therapy, the St. Louis Public Library, and the Springfield-Greene County Library, 230 veterans participated in MHC's statewide Veterans Writing Workshops in FY2015. The workshops are free and taught by professional writers. They provide the same high level of instruction as a college/university writing course.

In honor of our veterans, Veterans Day 2014 marked the release of the 3rd Volume of the *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* anthology series. MHC, in partnership with Southeast Missouri State University Press, publishes this creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography submitted by and about veterans from across the nation.



*Ron Capps, Veterans Writing Workshop at the St. Louis Public Library*

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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### Civics Education Initiative

MHC partnered with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, at the University of Missouri, to create an annual summer teachers academy focusing on various themes related to the Founding Era, American Democracy, and American constitutional development. This teacher education workshop will serve as the foundation for additional programs for Missouri's K-12 social studies teachers highlighting facets relating to civics education in our state.



### National History Day

In 2015, MHC continued its partnership with the State Historical Society for National History Day in Missouri. Nearly 3,000 Missouri students in grades six through twelve participated in National History Day during the 2014-2015 school year. Five of the entries advanced to the final round national contest, where one student received a gold medal for his junior individual performance.



### Traveling Exhibitions

MHC partnered with the Missouri Bar to produce a commemorative exhibit marking the 75th Anniversary of the adoption of the Missouri Plan—a national standard bearer in judicial selection. This initiative consists of two exhibits: a large Traveling Exhibit and the smaller Courthouse Exhibit. The Traveling Exhibit has been rotating throughout the state and is currently on display at the Supreme Court in Jefferson City. Featuring three panels and an interactive digital display component, it is sure to grab the attention of passersby. The Courthouse Exhibit is a single panel display that consolidates the historical and empirical information about the Missouri Plan into one engaging, but space-saving feature. There are forty of these Courthouse exhibits viewable across the state.



### Show Me Missouri—Speakers Bureau

*Show Me Missouri: Conversations about Missouri's Past, Present, and Future* is a program jointly organized and managed by MHC and the State Historical Society of Missouri. A continually updated roster of 33-35 scholars and experts give presentations on topics related to the history, culture, geography, and people of Missouri for local historical societies, civic groups, libraries, and other community-based organizations around the state. During FY2015, the Speakers Bureau presented 53 programs in 54 counties.

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES *(Grant-Awarded)*

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### Missouri Latinos

In July 2015, MHC was one of fifty-five entities nationwide to receive the highest grant award under the *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*, a public program initiative produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). Rooted in Latino heritage, the grant seeks to showcase the six-part landmark PBS documentary *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* and encourage community engagement and scholarly discussion surrounding issues facing Latinos past and present.

MHC convened a range of partners that includes: the Kansas City Public Library, Daniel Boone Regional Library, Springfield-Greene County Library District, St. Louis Public Library, and the Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates.

## FISCAL YEAR 2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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### INCOME

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NEH Multi-year Award	\$778,590*
Missouri Cultural Trust Spending Authority	\$1,050,000**
Contributions	\$64,237
Other Income	\$19,279
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,912,106</b>

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\* Multi-year grant which carries forward through 2018

\*\* FY2015 draw down of \$525,000—remainder not available until FY 2016

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### EXPENSES

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MHC Programs	\$684,821
Program and Project Re-Grants	\$194,273
Subtotal Programs and Project Re-Grants	\$879,094
Administrative	\$132,552
Development and Community Relations	\$443,081
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,454,727</b>

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Ending Net Assets	\$2,275,755
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## 2015 MISSOURI HUMANITIES AWARDS

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On May 2, 2015, MHC honored six Missourians for their contributions to the humanities. Each year MHC celebrates the accomplishments of individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the understanding of Missouri—its people, and its stories. Awardees are recognized in three categories: Excellence in Education, Exemplary Community Achievement, and Distinguished Literary Achievement.

The 2015 Missouri Humanities Awards were held at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri and featured a keynote speech by Thomas M. Bloch, former CEO of H&R Block and co-founder of University Academy—a public charter school where he continues to teach mathematics.

### 2015 awardees included:

#### Thad Beeler

Lost Photos of Joplin – Joplin  
*Exemplary Community Achievement*

#### John McClure Robinson III

Bellevue Valley Historical Society – Caledonia  
*Exemplary Community Achievement*

#### H. Dwight Weaver

Camden County Museum and Historical Society – Eldon  
*Exemplary Community Achievement*

#### Diane Mutti Burke

University of Missouri, Kansas City – Kansas City  
*Distinguished Literary Achievement*

#### William Least Heat-Moon

Author and Historian – Columbia  
*Distinguished Literary Achievement*

#### Thomas M. Bloch

University Academy – Kansas City  
*Excellence in Education*

## MHC BOARD AND STAFF

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*Hannibal*

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*Communications  
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Anna Marie Wingron  
*Community Programs  
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### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

National Endowment  
for the Humanities  
State of Missouri Humanities  
Trust Fund

### \$10,000 TO \$99,999

American Library Association

### \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Dr. Debbie A. Depew  
Saigh Foundation  
Target Corporation  
The State Historical  
Society of Missouri

### \$2,500 TO \$4,999

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