



# MO Humanities

FALL/WINTER 2021

# 50 Years

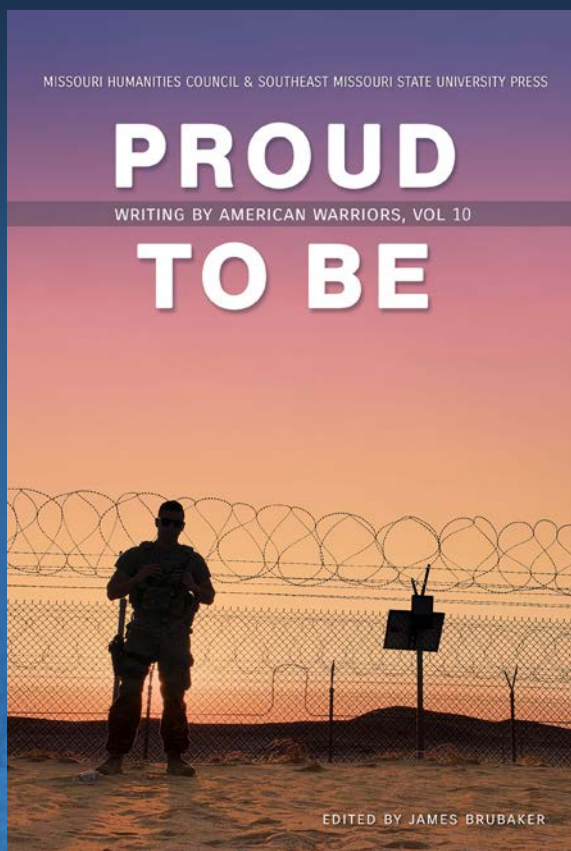
## INSIDE:

50 Years of Missouri Humanities:  
A Legacy of Leadership and  
Grantmaking

Missouri Humanities Commemorates  
Ten Years of *Proud to Be*  
With a New Podcast

*Hungry For MO:*  
A New Statewide Podcast That Explores  
Missouri's Culinary History

Missouri Humanities Presents:  
Small Town Showcase



# Volume 10

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## *Proud to Be:* Writing by American Warriors

*Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* is a creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography submissions by and about veterans from across the nation. It is an annual series first released in November 2012.

The anthology preserves and shares military service perspectives of our soldiers, veterans, and their families, spanning generations. Each submission is both a product of self-expression and a historical documentation of our nation's wartime experiences.

*Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* is published by Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with Missouri Humanities. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion in the anthology, with a \$250 prize in each of the five categories listed above.

**To submit your work to Volume 11  
and learn more about this program:**  
[mohumanities.org/programs/veterans](http://mohumanities.org/programs/veterans)

**Purchase your copy  
of *Proud to Be* online:**

[mohumanities.org/programs/proud-to-be-anthology-series](http://mohumanities.org/programs/proud-to-be-anthology-series)

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Ashley Beard-Fosnow  
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Hattie Bittle  
*Executive Assistant*

Clarice Britton  
*Director of Operations*

Marilyn Webster-Brown  
*Program Specialist*

Claire Bruntrager  
*Development Manager*

Lisa Carrico  
*Director of Family & Veterans Programs*

Eric Pinto  
*Native American Heritage Program Coordinator*

Sean Rost  
*Oral Historian*

Michael Saldivar  
*Cinematographer*

Chrissy Sommer  
*Director of Community Engagement*

Erin Whitson  
*Archaeologist*

Gregory Wolk  
*Heritage Programs Coordinator*

Caitlin Yager  
*Director of Heritage Programs*

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## MAGAZINE STAFF

Andrew Doty  
*Editor*

Stephanie Howe  
*Creative Director*

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## MH 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 (MH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the US Congress.

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## BOARD

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## A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As we take this year to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Missouri Humanities, I personally, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, want to thank the Missouri Humanities staff for bringing our members, subscribers, and event attendees such wonderful and thought-provoking programs.

All the staff put in long hours of dedication and bring their passion, intellect, and experience to every program and project that is offered, and for that, they should all be recognized.

They step up to serve all of us, and their work should truly be commended.

To the staff:

You are all greatly appreciated for your contributions to Missouri Humanities.

Thank you for your hard work and extra time during this celebratory year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Robinson, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "III" at the end being clearly legible.

JOHN M. ROBINSON, III

*Chairman, Board of Directors*

2019-2021

# 50 Years

## of Missouri Humanities: A Legacy of Leadership and Grantmaking

CLARICE BRITTON  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

The Missouri Committee for the Humanities was formed in 1971 and originally setup to serve as a grantmaker to humanist and cultural institutions in Missouri. Malcolm Van Deursen, Assistant Dean of the School of Continuing Education at Washington University, and Robert Walrond, Acting Dean of the Metropolitan College at Saint Louis University, were among the committee's founders and first executive directors. The impact made by Missouri Humanities' leadership and grants over the last five decades has been great.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Panel Gets \$100,000 For Humanities Program

A \$100,000 grant to foster the humanities in Missouri has been awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to the recently organized Missouri State Committee for the Humanities, it was announced today.

The committee will co-ordinate a state-wide program to increase appreciation of the humanities and their application to contemporary life.

There will be two major programs in the 16-month effort.

One will consist of partial reallocation of the grant funds to organizations and institutions throughout the state for public education in the humanities. The other will be a consortium of St. Louis University, the University of Missouri and Washington University for formal continuing education in the humanities.

Malcolm C. Van Deursen, assistant dean of the School of Continuing Education at Washington University, is executive director of the state committee.

"The objective of the state program is to make the content of the humanities an essential part of each citizen's approach to problem solving," said Robert G. Walrond, committee chairman and acting dean of the Metropolitan College at St. Louis University.

Up to \$5000 will be granted for each of several innovative public education programs tailored for local community needs and resources.

The consortium program will be an interdisciplinary project involving a state-wide forum of about 300 participants and six regional demonstration projects focusing on specific local issues. The forum will meet June 9 through 12.

An advisory council will be formed to advise the committee, review local groups' applications for funds and co-ordinate the several projects.

Theme of the over-all program will be "Mar. and the American Dream—1776-1976."



Malcolm Van Deursen  
On humanities committee

### Mrs. G. P. Lipscomb Funeral Tomorrow

Funeral services for Mrs. Gussie P. Lipscomb, a former

"Panel Gets \$100,000 For Humanities Program," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 15, 1971.

## Becoming the Council

The Missouri Committee for the Humanities was formally incorporated as a non-profit called the Missouri Humanities Council in 1975 and received IRS 501(c)(3) designation in May 1977. Under the new structure, Robert Walrond served as the organization's Executive Director from 1980 to 1986, followed by Christine Riley, who was the Executive Director from 1986 to 1997.

rm 1047C.01

House Resolution No. 755

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the lives and careers of Show-Me State residents who have proven down through the years to be exemplary citizens in local communities and neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, Barbara Gill has attained considerable distinction in her work with the Missouri Humanities Council, a vocational leadership endeavor which she will draw to a close on March 1, 2005, in retirement after twenty-five years of service; and

**Whereas**, Barbara Gill brings to her position a wealth of knowledge and information which she garnered while graduating with honors in political science from Maryville University, serving four terms on the Breanwood Board of Education, forming the Breanwood Historical Society and then serving as its president for sixteen years, and publishing the book *Breanwood MO* through Arcadia Publishing Company; and

**Whereas**, currently serving the Missouri Humanities Council, Barbara Gill coordinates arrangements for meetings and provides experienced help with a variety of program and development outreach tasks; and

**Whereas**, Barbara Gill also has served the Missouri Humanities Council as Deputy Director from 1997 through 2003 and twice as acting Executive Director; and

**Whereas**, Barbara Gill received the first "Leadership Award", which was given by the Missouri Humanities Council to her on February 16, 2000, in recognition of twenty years of dedicated service to the Council; and

**Whereas**, President Emerita of the Breanwood Historical Society, Barbara Gill was named Citizen of the Year in 1994 by the Breanwood Chamber of Commerce and voted one of the "Best of Breanwood" by the Breanwood School District in 2004; and

**Whereas**, Barbara Gill presently fulfills the duties and responsibilities of Secretary for the Arts Roundtable in Saint Louis:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the significant accomplishments, stellar leadership, and long tenure of Barbara Gill with the Missouri Humanities Council and to convey to her this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as she partakes of the special opportunities and pleasures traditionally associated with the golden years of retirement; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Barbara Gill.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Margaret Donnelly  
District No. 73

Representative Kathryn Fares  
District No. 91

Representative Robert J. Behnen  
District No. 2

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 755, adopted February 23, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker

2005 Missouri House Resolution No. 755.





Barbara Gill and Robert Walrond at the 2016 Missouri Humanities Awards gala.

Barbara Gill became a Missouri Humanities employee in March 1980. She served as Deputy Director from 1997 to 2003 with two stints as Acting Executive Director. Barbara Gill had a great relationship with everyone. She showed me so many wonderful things here at MH after I joined the team in 1996. Barbara was a hard worker who always put 100% into what she did. We would travel to communities across the state to set up for Chautauqua and conduct advocacy in Jefferson City, where everyone knew her by name! Barbara would always strive to cultivate a culture of skill development and learning. As the years went by, I became more than just a colleague of Barbara's; we became good friends.

Barbara often said, "We work for the people of Missouri." Barbara reinforced the idea that as employees, we needed to show the community our beliefs through our actions. At Missouri Humanities, we value collaboration and partnership. In my current role as Director of Operations, I manage the organization's grants program. In this area, our organization has developed relationships with cultural institutions and nonprofit organizations who have produced incredible outcomes through humanities projects over the last five decades.



Inside KOPN Studios in the 1970s.

The Missouri Committee for the Humanities funded a series of KOPN radio programs called "Columbia in the Year 2000—Structure and Effects" in 1975. The New Wave Corporation broadcast eight programs beginning with a taped segment of topic-related

music, prose, on-the-street interviews, and a longer interview with an expert in the field. The taped sessions were followed by live panel discussions between academic humanists, elected officials, local business leaders, and engaged community members.

Linda S. Day, Board President of KOPN Studios, says: "KOPN thanks Missouri Humanities for 50 years of enriching the lives of Missourians. Public policy conversations, as essential to strengthening communities today as in 1975, remain a fundamental part of our mission. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Missouri Humanities from KOPN Community Radio."

In 1982, Missouri Humanities funded a three-part project hosted by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis called Cultural Enrichment in Vaughn Cultural Center. The complete project was implemented the following year and consisted of a 30-minute film, two exhibitions, a history seminar, and a lecture series. *Reflections: The Way It Was* was a film with three oral histories from African Americans in the community: a descendent of an enslaved woman, a baseball player, and a jazz musician. The Vaughn Cultural Center hosted a traveling Smithsonian exhibit entitled *Images of Old Age in America*. At “Today’s Poet—Mirror and Messenger,” nationally acclaimed poet and St. Louis native Maya Angelou recited her own poetry, highlighted the cultural themes of African American poetry, and spoke about the need for love of all mankind. Over 2,000 people attended these events in total, making 1983 one of the most successful programming years for the Vaughn Cultural Center and Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

In 1991, Missouri Humanities granted funding to the Missouri Western State College Foundation for a family literacy program. This program set out to encourage a greater understanding of family literacy and humanities for low-income parents with limited education and preschool-aged children. For six weeks in 1992, these parents gathered with professionals to explore humanities-related topics in children’s books. The chosen books included the familiar following titles: *The Buck Stops Here*, *Frederick*, *The Snowy Day*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*.



2018 Read from the Start at the Daniel Boone Library.



## 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Humanities ■

**A**fter Barbara Gill's tenure, Michael Bouman, Jim Wiedam, and Geoff Gilerango each served as Executive Director or Interim Executive Director at Missouri Humanities during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Under their leadership we continued to award grants to support humanities programs across the state.

The Cass County Historical Society (CCHS) was granted funding for a portion of the annual Living History Festival in October of 2004. They invited Pearl Harbor survivors to the festival to meet and share their stories with the local community. CCHS 2004 Executive Director Carol Bohl said of the generous grant from Missouri Humanities, "These allow us to go after the best—the quality of the people we have coming is the best in the state. We're thrilled with this because this helps us bring quality to the students and to the community, and it shows that our vision and mission is supported at the state level." Missouri Humanities has continued to show its support to our vision and mission, and we are thrilled to help them celebrate this milestone," said Jennifer Reed, current CCHS Executive Director.

The Campbell House Museum, Eugene Field House Museum, and Griot Museum of Black History formed "the Urban Museum Collaborative" in 2009 to promote a cohesive narrative of 19<sup>th</sup>-century life in St. Louis through shared knowledge, interconnected outreach, and collaborative curriculum plans. Missouri Humanities provided over \$50,000 to support this new museum effort, making it one of the largest grant projects ever funded by our organization. Each museum was also able to complete one large-scale project specific to their site. The Campbell House reinterpreted many of its artifacts and updated its text panels, the Eugene Field House constructed a new historic garden, and the Griot Museum rebranded and launched a new marketing campaign.

The tradition of a Chautauqua dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is an educational event of lectures, concerts, or performances performed under a giant tent for the public. To support their 2010 Great Depression-themed "Big Read," the Springfield-Greene County Library hosted the Doing the Best They Could: National and Local Voices from the 1930s Chautauqua. The goal was to explore the history, music, religion, and industry of the Depression era and compare it to the audience's lived experiences during the economic recession of 2008. The Chautauqua featured four local scholars, who each portrayed

a different figure from the Depression era: Will Rogers, Henry Ford, Aimee Semple McPherson, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

“The Springfield Greene County Library is always proud to partner with Missouri Humanities as we work together to enable lifelong learning and enrichment. Happy golden anniversary to a great partner!” says Regina Greer Cooper, Executive Director of Springfield-Greene County Library District.

## ■ Missouri Humanities Today

**D**r. Steve Belko joined Missouri Humanities in 2015 and served as Executive Director until 2021. Under his leadership and that of our new Executive Director, Ashley Beard-Fosnow, our partnerships and community outreach have grown exponentially. We have also broadened our work in heritage programming, especially with Indigenous communities.

The annual *For the People Pow Wow* began in Jefferson City in 2007 and is dedicated to educating its participants and audience members about the history and traditions of Native culture. This event is open to Natives and non-Natives from across the state. The Pow Wow draws almost 3,000 people and offers a time for visiting, eating, singing, dancing, and honoring veterans. Missouri Humanities sponsored this event in 2017 in coordination with our Native American Heritage programs because it provides a forum for spectators to see how the arts are crucial to cultural identity and expression for Native American communities. These traditions continue to play a vital role in the lives of Indigenous people today.

Greg Olson, Chair of the For the People Pow Wow Committee, says: “As a small volunteer organization, we always scramble for funding to put on our annual pow wow. We are so grateful to Missouri Humanities for their multi-year partnership with



us. Over the years, the Council has proven their commitment to Missouri’s Indigenous culture and history. We are proud to work with them to keep these traditions alive and well in the state. Happy anniversary, Missouri Humanities!”

In closing, on behalf of all the staff at Missouri Humanities, we would like to extend special thanks to Elizabeth Rechten, who served an internship with us in 2019. Elizabeth devoted her time and talents to researching and highlighting 50 years of Missouri Humanities grantmaking, including the projects described above.

I am personally grateful for my current and past colleagues who have made this organization a great place to work for 25 years. Missouri Humanities has been fortunate to work with countless students, scholars, and nonprofit organizations over the decades. Our friends and partners are crucial to our success. We are proud to support and recognize the cultural institutions who work to connect Missourians to people, places, and ideas that shape our society. Our shared success has positively impacted the people of our great state. Since 1971, Missouri Humanities has awarded more than \$5.4 million dollars in funding through 2,472 grants. We welcome you to learn more about our current mini and major grant programs at [mohumanities.org/grants](http://mohumanities.org/grants). Together, we will enrich lives and strengthen communities for the next 50 years.

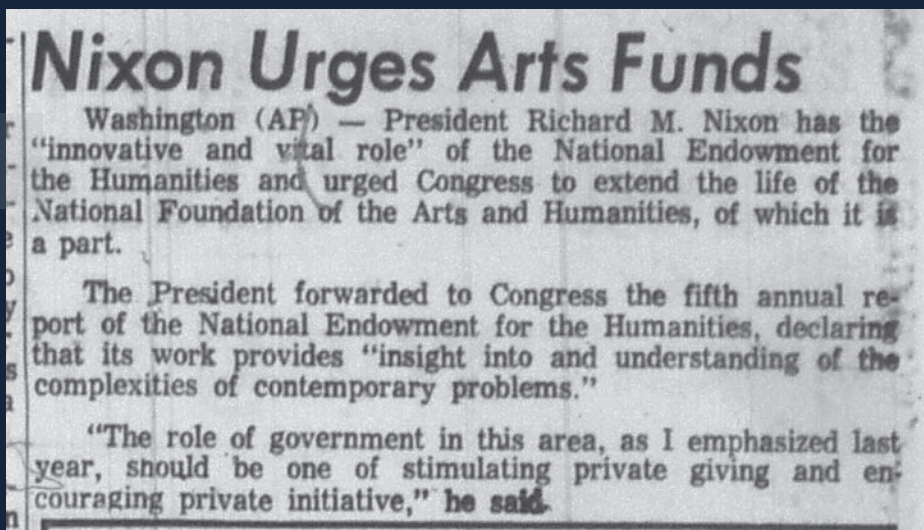


# #MHTurns50



# Missouri Humanities *Across The Decades*

We dedicated this year to the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the impact Missouri Humanities has made across the decades. Missouri Humanities is one of the fifty-six state and territorial humanities councils that receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). In 1971, under authorizing legislation from Congress, the NEH invited academic leaders in six states (Georgia, Maine, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming, and Missouri) to form committees to subaward funding for programs focused on public issues and centered in humanities scholarship.



As one of the first humanities councils, the Missouri Committee for the Humanities initially operated as a grantmaking organization. The Committee was formally incorporated and began using the name Missouri Humanities Council in 1975 before receiving IRS 501(c)(3) designation in May 1977.

# 1971

## 5-County Meeting on Humanities, April 22

John Henschke, MU Extension continuing education programmer, announces an important 5 county Northwest Area meeting on "Humanities" to be held Thursday, April 22, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Upper Lakeview room, student union building, Northwest Missouri State college, Maryville.

Persons from the King City area are being invited and the public is urged to attend.

The program will include:

(1) Information on the "Humanities" program and \$100,000 grant given to Missouri by the National Endowment for the Humanities;

(2) Choice of two persons who could serve on the Missouri State Humanities committee;

(3) Choice of two persons from Gentry county to attend a state wide meeting in Columbia, June 9-12.

Robert Walrond, formerly a specialist in continuing education at Saint Louis University, was among Missouri Humanities' founders and served as Executive Director from 1980 until 1986. One grant awarded during his tenure was dedicated to applications for "Truman-themed" projects in 1984 to celebrate the centennial of the birth of Harry S. Truman.

## Missouri humanities panel seeks Truman-theme grant requests

By The Star's staff

**I**f your non-profit organization has an idea for a humanities project but doesn't have the money to carry it out, the Missouri Committee for the Humanities may be able to help.

And in 1984, the centennial of Harry S. Truman's birth, the committee is particularly interested in projects honoring the former president.

The committee offers grants each year to help organizations with humanities-related research projects, lectures, films, presentations or exhibitions, said Donna Alley, regional representative for the committee and an instructor at Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City, North.

The committee, which is the state arm of the National En-

dowment for the Humanities, promotes study and research in the humanities—such fields as literature, history, music, foreign languages and philosophy.

In the coming year, the committee is encouraging proposals for special projects in honor of the Truman centennial, Ms. Alley said. Proposals for Truman grants should use the humanities to reflect the man, his presidency, his values and his impact on the world.

The committee is now accepting grant proposals for general humanities projects requiring \$1,500 or less, Ms. Alley said. Deadlines for Truman grants and projects requiring more than \$1,500 are set later.

For grant applications or more information, call Ms. Alley at Maple Woods, 436-6500, ext. 105.

In 1990, under the leadership of Executive Director Christine Riley, this aim was accomplished, in part, by financing the second annual African American Writers Festival at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City. Our present-day focus continues to be preserving and exploring Native American, African American, German, Civil War, and rural cultural heritage.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Associated Press, "Nixon Urges Arts Funds," *Kansas City Star*, February 7, 1971. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: "5-County Meeting on Humanities, April 22," *Tri County News*, April 16, 1971. *Star* staff, "Missouri humanities panel seeks Truman-theme grant requests," *Kansas City Star*, December 28, 1983.

## State grant to help finance conference on black culture

By GLENN E. RICE  
Staff Writer

A \$2,900 grant will allow area writers to study black literature and culture at a conference this fall at Penn Valley Community College.

School officials were notified last month that they had received the grant from the Missouri Humanities Council, said Eleanor S. Bowie, an instructor at the college and conference coordinator.

The money will help finance the second annual African-American Writers Festival, to be held Sept. 27-29 at the college, 3201 Southwest Trafficway.

"I think that it's great," Bowie said. "The grant will help pay for most of our activities."

The three-day conference will examine the oral tradition in African-American culture. The conference also will feature workshops, concerts, lecture discussions and storytelling sessions.

"Whether in Africa or the Americas, blacks have always celebrated and lamented life's experiences in speech," she said. "The conference will celebrate

**"Whether in Africa or the Americas, blacks have always celebrated and lamented life's experiences in speech. The conference will celebrate and explore this oral tradition."**

— Eleanor Bowie  
Penn Valley instructor

and explore this oral tradition."

Spirituals, the role of the minister in the black church and rap music also will be examined.

The humanities council has awarded more than \$4 million in federal money since it was established as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1971. Grants have been given to academic and community organizations to sponsor public programs on topics ranging from the history of Missouri to the writings of William Shakespeare, said Barbara Gill, the council's administrative officer.

For more information, call 932-7625.

Throughout the 1990s, Missouri Humanities' staff worked to connect Missourians to the people, places, and ideas that shape society. Missouri Humanities offered enriching experiences by exposing audiences to the "A Meeting of Minds" Chautauqua in 1996, which featured historical figures like Rabbi Isaac Wise, W. E. B. Du Bois, Andrew Carnegie, William Jennings Bryan, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Also during this decade, Missouri Humanities offered an "Extending the Reach" grant to student-involved projects based on a model developed by the Andrew County Museum to encourage long-term sustainability.

LEFT: Glenn Rice, "State grant to help finance conference on black culture," *Kansas City Star*, June 28, 1990.

BELOW: "Jews to mark 100 years in area," *Springfield News Leader*, September 2, 1993.

BELOW, LEFT: "Father DeSmet," *St. Joseph News-Press*, January 14, 1995.

### SPRINGFIELD

## Jews to mark 100 years in area

United Hebrew Congregations will present "Judaism in the Ozarks — An Oral History," from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday in the group's social hall, 1250 E. Belmont St. The public is invited.

The event commemorates 100 years of organized Judaism in Springfield.

The Missouri Humanities Council sponsored a project to take oral histories from members of the oldest Jewish families in the area. Julie Henigan, a folklorist and oral historian, interviewed members of the Jewish community, some of whose roots in Springfield date back 100 years.

Those interviewed include Fanny Arbeitman, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Federow, Mrs. Bernard Fetter, Isadore and Hyman Lotven, Dr. Harold Lurie, Ruth Rubenstein and Sarah Sass.

Sunday's program will feature a script by Sandy Asher using material from the 500 pages of oral history.

**Father DeSmet:** The Missouri Humanities Council has awarded a grant of \$2,500 to St. Joseph's Cathedral in support of the project "The Cross and the Compass: the Journey of Father DeSmet." As part of its 150th anniversary celebration, Cathedral will sponsor two programs on the influential missionary in June at Twin Spires Religious History Museum.

— News-Press reports

# 1991



# A meeting of minds



Heartland  
Chautauqua  
brings  
historical  
figures to life.

The Heartland  
Chautauqua Troupe  
will be in Springfield  
from Tuesday through  
Saturday. Historical  
figures portrayed are,  
clockwise from left:  
Rabbi Isaac Wise (Nora  
Pugach), W.E.B. Du  
Bois (William King),  
Andrew Carnegie  
(Jeffrey Smith), William  
Jennings Bryan (A.  
Theodore Kachel) and  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
(Sally Proulx Wagner).  
Musical: Humanities Council

ABOVE: "A meeting of  
minds," *Springfield News-  
Leader*, June 2, 1996.  
RIGHT: "Constitution  
conference slated,"  
*St. Louis Jewish Light*,  
September 4, 1991.

## Constitution conference slated



From privacy  
acts to gun con-  
trol, how will  
the Supreme  
Court interpret  
the Bill of Rights  
in the future?

"The Bill of  
Stone Rights — The  
Next 200 Years" will be subject  
of the 14th annual Constitu-  
tional Conference sponsored by  
the St. Louis Chapter, Ameri-  
can Jewish Congress and Wash-  
ington University School of  
Law, along with 10 other par-  
ticipating organizations, to be  
held from 1-4:30 p.m., Sunday,  
Sept. 15, at Washington Uni-  
versity, Mudd Building. The  
event is free and open to the  
public.

This year's topic com-  
memorates the 200th anniver-  
sary of the Bill of Rights. Geof-  
frey R. Stone, dean of the Uni-  
versity of Chicago Law School,  
will give the Jerome W. Sidel  
Memorial Lecture.

After the lecture, a panel ex-  
change and audience discussion  
will be held with speakers Judge

John C. Holstein of the Missouri  
Supreme Court; Joseph Losos,  
visiting lecturer in the history  
department, and Carl P. Well-  
man, Hortense and Tobias  
Lewin Distinguished Professor  
in the Humanities, both of  
Washington University; and  
Dorothy Walker, a teacher at  
Roosevelt High School. Ronald  
M. Levin, associate dean and  
professor of law at Washington  
University, will moderate this  
portion of the program.

Richard Teitelman chairs the  
conference, which is in partner-  
ship with the Missouri Human-  
ities Council, the state affiliate of  
the National Endowment for the  
Humanities.

Following the conference,  
from 5-6:30 p.m., the Ameri-  
can Jewish Congress will host a  
reception for conference speakers  
at the home of Lenore and Ed-  
win Pepper. Chairing this fund-  
raiser are Drs. Kim and Marcia  
Anderson.

For more information on the  
conference and the fund-raiser  
following, call the AJCongress  
office, 993-5505.

At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Missouri Humanities focused on engaging the minds and hearts of Missourians while promoting a sense of community. In this decade, Missouri Humanities recognized outstanding citizens for their achievements in and dedication to the humanities. Missourians have been recognized in some of the following categories over the years: legislator of the year, partnership in the humanities, excellence in education, exemplary community achievement, and distinguished literary achievement. In addition to celebrating individual humanists, Missouri Humanities commemorated notable anniversaries like the Lewis and Clark bicentennial in 2005.

RIGHT: "Women honored," *Kansas City Star*, September 24, 2004.

BELOW: Meredith Dochterman Hines, "Student exhibit model for grants," *St. Joseph News-Press*, July 5, 2000.

### Women honored

Juarenne Hester and Myra Unger of Liberty will receive the Missouri Governor's Public Involvement Humanities Award next month at the Missouri Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City.

The award, given annually by the Missouri Humanities Council, recognizes outstanding community volunteers statewide who serve their local communities.

Hester and Unger served as co-chairmen of the "Book/Special Events" project for the city of Liberty's 175th anniversary celebration.

The awardees spent two years planning and producing the book "Liberty for All: Celebrating 175 Years." They also organized a special two-day celebration held at Liberty's historic town square.

The book explores the city's history, including the African-American experience, city government, women of note, and early business/commerce. The publication features about 300 historic photographs and will be incorporated into history classes at Liberty schools.

The Missouri Humanities Council is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Missouri council has provided educational programs exploring the history, literature and cultural heritage of Missouri for more than 30 years.

## Student exhibit model for grants

By MEREDITH  
HINES DOCHTERMAN  
meredithd@npgco.com  
*St. Joseph News-Press*

SAVANNAH, Mo. — When Andrew County Museum Curator Patrick Clark enlisted the help of Savannah High school students to construct an exhibit, he had no idea that the project would become the model for a statewide humanities grant program.

"Our goal was to give the students a voice in the museum, while we expanded the museum's offerings," Mr. Clark said.

Mr. Clark and the students received a \$5,000 grant from the Missouri Humanities Council to help fund their Spanish-American War exhibit, which took 19 months to complete. They also raised an additional \$1,500 on



partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, offers the grants through the new Extending the Reach program.

Extending the Reach lends support in rural states that have not received a large amount of support from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the past. Fifteen states, including Missouri, have been selected to participate in the program.

The Missouri Humanities Council recently awarded the

their own. Today, a \$10,000 grant is available for similar projects.

The

Humanities Council, in

state's first two Extending the Reach grants: one to Friends of Arrow Rock in Saline County and the second to the Black World History Museum in St. Louis. All applicants had to propose projects that would involve students, using Andrew County Museum as an example.

"It all goes back to Andrew County," said Michael Bouman, executive director of the Missouri Humanities Council. "The Andrew County Museum was an institution that did not have much public interest. Patrick Clark was able to generate interest through his project with the students. The kids were required to talk to people about the project, which led to public's interest about the final exhibit."

Please see Student/Page B3



## Lewis and Clark Expedition lectures

The bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is getting a little attention in the area, with a four-part series that will take place in Fredericktown at the Black River Electric Cooperative, located at 2600 U.S. 67.

The four-part series is a presentation of the Missouri Humanities Council in partnership with Historic Madison County and Black River Electric Cooperative. It will begin at 6:30 p.m., starting with a show-and-tell lecture Thursday night called *Passages to the West*.

There is no charge for the event in which University of Missouri Columbia history professor Dr. Fred Fausz explains how the Lewis and Clark journey advanced Jefferson's plans for a settler empire and promoted the forced relocation of Indian nations.

The next lecture in the series, Sept. 29, will focus on the French Creole Nation. Dennis Stroughmatt was introduced to American French culture as a teenager near Old Mines. He has spent years recording, observing and learning many of the Creole French traditions alive in "upper Louisiana," such as fiddling, the language, and stories and songs handed down generation to generation in Missouri and Illinois of nearly 300 years. He offers a window into the French Creole culture that existed before and after the arrival of Lewis and Clark and the Louisiana Purchase.

He has toured the U.S., Canada and Europe as a French Creole musician and speaker. He is accompanied vocally by his wife, Jennifer, a French speaker and of French Acadian her-

itage, as well as Jim Willgoose on acoustic bass and Robert Russell on guitar.

On Oct. 6, the series takes a closer look at the Shawnee Nation. This particular Native American tribe followed, more often by choice than force, a nomadic lifestyle. Historians estimate they numbered anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 members, but their heritage is difficult to trace because of their wandering and reliance upon oral history.

In the late 1700s a series of "treaties" began stripping various groups of Shawnees of their native lands. Many were removed to Kansas, and later, territory in Oklahoma. Many Shawnees were scattered throughout Missouri and other more western states. Today, three federally recognized tribes live in Oklahoma: the Absentee Shawnees, the Shawnee Nation (formerly the Loyal Shawnees), and the Eastern Shawnee. The Absentee Shawnees are the most traditional and have retained much of their cultural heritage; the Eastern are the most assimilated and strive to regain their heritage. All the groups search for a oneness that eludes the greater Shawnee Nation.

The final event in the series is Oct. 13 and is called the Legacy of Private William Bratton. Esther Duncan assumes the persona of Mary (Polly) Maxwell Bratton. Mary recalls William's great westward adventure with Captain Lewis and William Clark as if the audience were right there on the journey. She also tells about raising a family of 10 children on the Indiana frontier.

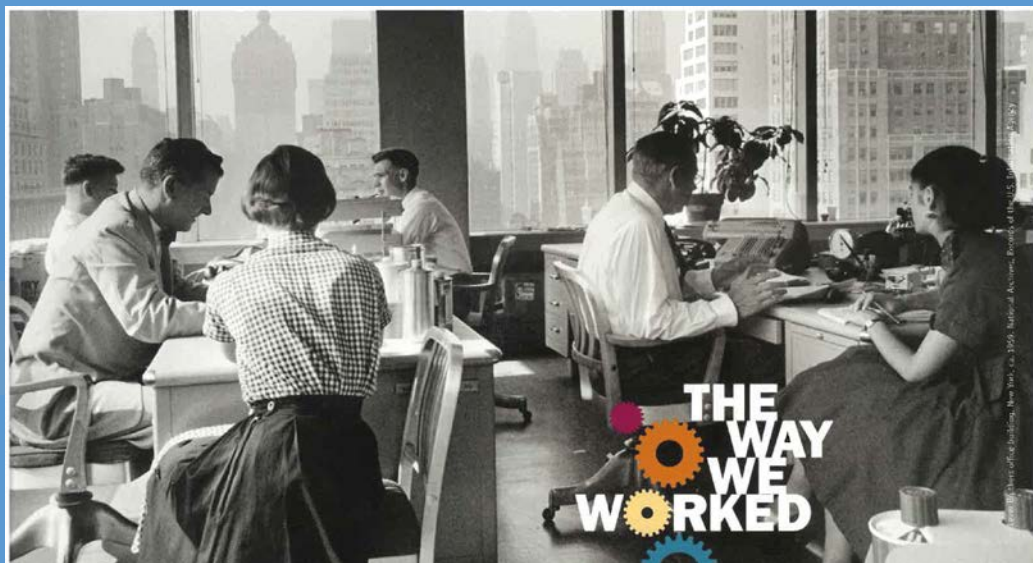
ABOVE: "Lewis and Clark Expedition lectures," *Flat River Daily Journal*, September 22, 2005.



JENNA ISAACSON/St. Joseph News Press

**A recently completed display of artifacts and photographs on the involvement of Andrew County in the Spanish-American War greets visitors at the front of the Andrew County Museum in Savannah, Mo. The display was researched, designed, constructed and installed by several high school students.**





In 2011, Missouri Humanities partnered with Museum on Main Street (MoMS) to bring the Smithsonian Institution travelling exhibit *The Way We Worked* to the Show Me State to explore how work became a central element in American culture. From October 8, 2011 to June 2, 2012, *The Way We Worked* toured the state with stops at the Bolduc House Museum in Ste. Geneviève, The Centre in Rolla, the Wheatley Historical Preservation Association in Poplar Bluff, the National Churchill Museum, Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site in Lawson, and the Andrew County Museum and Historical Society in Savannah.



Dr. Steve Belko joined the staff in 2015 as Executive Director. Steve's presence brought a renewed dedication to programs that explore Missouri's rich heritage, support creative writing by veterans, and assist local museums, libraries, and organizations throughout the state—especially in rural communities.

# 2011

TOP: Interior view of Lever Brothers office building, New York City. Lever House photograph, circa 1959. National Archives, Records of the U.S. Information Agency.  
ABOVE: Dr. Steve Belko giving a speech at the 2017 Awards Gala.



LEFT: Jazz Speaks, 2017.  
BELOW: *The Fashion Revolution in Jane Austen's Time* lecture at Webster University, 2019.

Missouri Humanities awarded a Mini Grant to Jazz St. Louis in 2017 for a lecture and performance series called Jazz Speaks Series: Duke Ellington. In 2019, the Webster University English Department was awarded a Major Grant to support the Jane Austen Festival. The award funded honorariums for scholars and educators, including one talk titled *The Fashion Revolution in Jane Austen's Time*.



***Taking stock of our evolution*** from 1971 to 2021, Missouri Humanities remains committed to growing and adapting to meet the changing and dynamic needs of the humanities community while also maintaining our rich historical integrity that endured across the decades. We offer thanks to Sean Rost for researching and gathering the newspaper articles featured in this edition to showcase our 50-year impact. As we pass this milestone and move into the next 50 years of our organizational existence, Missouri Humanities staff aspire to continue the tradition of excellence and provide offerings that, as President Nixon said in 1971, “bring insight into and understanding of the complexities of contemporary problems.”



# Hungry For MO

## A New Statewide Podcast That Explores Missouri's Culinary History

LISA CARRICO  
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

**When you hear the word “food,” what thoughts and feelings come up for you? The human relationship with food is truly unique, from our ancestors first cooking food to the gastronomic innovations of the modern day.**

Food is not only a basic need, it's the root of our human existence. Food provides nourishment for our bodies and enrichment for our minds. Humans have a unique emotional connection with food. It has the power to evoke strong memories and stories. Food is a connector. It connects us to each other, to our own pasts and identities, and to the larger world around us. Coming together and sharing a meal is the most communal and universal way to connect and celebrate.



In the words of the late and great Anthony Michael Bourdain, American celebrity chef, author, and documentarian: “Food is everything we are. It’s an extension of nationalist feeling, ethnic feeling, your personal history, your province, your region, your tribe, your grandma. It’s inseparable from those from the get-go.”

Bourdain’s quote nicely captures the connection between food and the human experience. Missouri Humanities wanted to examine this relationship between food and the humanities and, more specifically, examine the role of culinary heritage, history, and connection right here in Missouri. Out of this came a partnership with KCUR Studios in Kansas City to create *Hungry For MO*.

Co-hosted by Jenny Vergara, foodie and freelance writer, and Natasha Bailey, a chef, cheesemaker, and home gardener, the show explores Missouri’s culinary history and celebrates how local cuisine connects us as a community and shapes our region’s identity. Each episode dives deep—taking the listener on a food journey that highlights Missouri cuisine—including interviews with the food inventors and scholars, historical events, and unique circumstances or family recipes that went into some of our state’s most iconic dishes.



“ It can be overwhelming to think about the long history of a state—and even more so to decide on which story to tell. KCUR 89.3 was looking to create something historic for the state’s bicentennial, and when Missouri Humanities came to us with a passion and excitement for the culinary humanities, it led to the development of *Hungry For MO*. The show is an exploration of Missouri’s culinary history over the past 200 years, one where a listener can find universal excitement for the history of our state. In *Hungry For MO*, the story of food becomes much

more: it is a story of how a culture and area develops. *Hungry For MO* has been one of the most successful and most fun pieces of media we have released.

The collaboration with Missouri Humanities has been a valuable partnership that greatly enriched our offerings across the state. It’s been an achievement in audience curation and storytelling magic!”

MIKE RUSSO, DIRECTOR OF  
KCUR STUDIOS AT KCUR 89.3

## Since its launch, *H4MO* has had over 35,000 downloads.

To commemorate Missouri's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, the podcast premiered on August 10. For the inaugural episode, "Who Gets to Define Missouri Barbecue?," Jenny and Natasha discuss the differences and similarities in barbecue made on either side of the state, in Kansas City and St. Louis. In this episode, Jenny interviews Adrian Miller, soul food scholar and James Beard Award-winning author of *Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue*, to discuss the history of Missouri barbecue and unveil the influences—including enslaved Native Americans and Africans—and the cooking methods that have shaped each city's barbecue scene.

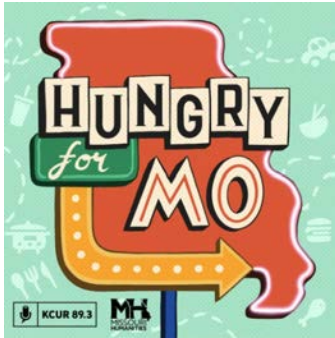
Over the course of six weeks, *Hungry For MO* also covers Missouri wine, George Washington Carver, Chinese-American dishes, the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, and the Crockpot. Each of the six episodes uncover incredible stories behind some of Missouri's most iconic foods, drinks, and products—and at the heart of each story is appreciation and acknowledgement of the people who put these staples on Missouri's food map.

The Missouri Humanities would like to thank KCUR Studios for partnering on the idea of producing and distributing a podcast based around Missouri's culinary history. *Hungry For MO* (*H4MO*) goes beyond just presenting the

historical aspect of a certain Missouri food commodity; each episode truly captures the human essence and experience behind these iconic foods. Each episode has an inspirational moment that we hope gives listeners a fuller and richer understanding of the intricacies behind Missouri's culinary history.

We would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to the following people who have made *Hungry For MO* so successful: Suzanne Hogan and Mackenzie Martin (producers), Jenny Vergara and Natasha Bailey (show hosts), Gabe Rosenberg (podcast editor), Mike Russo (Director of KCUR Studios and *H4MO*'s "head chef"), Crysta Henthorne (podcast art and logo designer), and all the special guests who shared their stories and knowledge. Thank you to the whole KCUR Studios team for your enthusiasm (and appetite) to take this on!

**To learn more visit:**  
[mohumanities.org/hungryformo](https://mohumanities.org/hungryformo)



*Hungry For MO* is available on all podcast apps. Since its launch, *H4MO* has had over 35,000 downloads, and that number is still growing. Don't forget to listen, rate, and subscribe. We feel confident if you listen to one episode, you will be "Hungry for MO!"



### Myth-Busting The St. Louis World's Fair

The St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 forever changed modern American cuisine—popularizing foods like the ice cream cone, hamburgers, and iced tea. But what aren't we remembering about this international affair?



### Crock-Pots For The People

No Midwestern cookout is complete without a delicious chili or dip simmering in a Crock-Pot. But when the device was first unveiled by a Kansas City company in 1971, it promised something more: freedom. Learn more about the Kansas City women who taught America how to use the Crock-Pot.



### George Washington Carver's Quiet Revolution

George Washington Carver is slotted in American history lessons as "the peanut guy." But this Missourian gave us biofuels, food trucks, plant-based meats, alternative medicines, and so much more.

Learn more about Carver's revolutionary contributions to the world, stretching from civil rights to agriculture.



### Chinese Food, Missouri-Style

Missouri claims the creation of two iconic, innovative Chinese dishes—but they're more than local curiosities. Each dish tells a story of immigrants who arrived in Missouri and "cooked to survive."



### How Missouri Saved Wine

If you love French wine and the Napa Valley region of California, then you should really thank Missouri—specifically, the work of a few Missouri winemakers and scientists who saved the industry at a pivotal moment.



### Who Gets To Define Missouri Barbecue?

Kansas City and St. Louis are both known as barbecue destinations, but recent efforts to redefine the cuisine have sidelined the Black barbequers, pitmasters and restaurateurs who made it an institution.

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*Hungry for Mo* podcast logo and episode artwork created by Crysta Hentrone.



# You Can, Too!

JEANIE RIDDLE (R)  
MISSOURI SENATOR, DISTRICT 10

JILL SCHUPP (D)  
MISSOURI SENATOR, DISTRICT 24



**Did you know that throughout Missouri's 200 years, only 36 women in total have served in our Senate? For comparison, 1,118 men have served as Missouri Senators. Though we celebrate Missouri's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, we haven't even been able to celebrate 50 years since Missouri's first woman Senator was elected.**

Of those 36 women, 11 are Missouri Senators right now—more than ever before at one time in Missouri's history. To celebrate this milestone in history, we 11 Senators were invited to a female department head's farm for a home-cooked meal and a chance to visit together in a bipartisan manner. It was truly an incredible evening of downtime with great food and interesting conversations. We talked and laughed, enjoying the informality and each other's company.

The topic of our heretofore unmatched number as Senate women led to a conversation about doing something positive *together* that would benefit the people of Missouri. Ideas and laughter began flying back and forth in rapid succession! Literacy became

the general consensus as our focus. After all, the need for our youth to read at or above grade level is a must in today's fast-paced world.

That evening, we decided on a program to improve Missourians' literacy. We want to help every child in Missouri to read at grade level by the end of third grade! This will change young lives for the better and open doors of opportunity throughout their lifetimes.

As part of this program, one of us suggested: "We should write a book!" What should the subject of this book be? The 36 brave women who have served as Senators and our journeys to the Senate. Our different lives and lifestyles are evidence that serving as Senators

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ABOVE: Senator Jeanie Riddle, left and Senator Jill Schupp, right.

OPPOSITE:  
Missouri's 11 women senators, photographed May 13, 2021.

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was not the result of some special demographic or magic formula. We want young people to know: *You Can, Too!*

Missouri's 36 women Senators have all come from different backgrounds, different political parties, different strengths, and different challenges. What has been the same? We've all had a desire to serve our communities and state in order to leave it better than we found it.

In order to encourage more women to take that leap of faith to represent their communities, Missouri Humanities is generously funding the development of *You Can, Too!*, which will be published by *Missouri Life*.

With the publication of *You Can, Too!*, we will take our message across the state. What if everyone in Missouri joins us in getting excited about reading, not just in the quiet of their living rooms or library, but publicly? What if we had communities coming together to talk about books? What if they all had books for their visitors, especially

the young ones, to enjoy? What if adults made a habit of bringing along a book when they were running errands or visiting others? What if our radio stations, newspapers, and television stations devoted a little time to talking about a book to draw in the young ones alongside the adults in the room? What a special way to spend some intergenerational time exploring books! So the eleven of us plan to travel the state, meeting with leaders and community members who want to cheer on reading.

And, of course, an additional benefit of this wonderful project is the new relationships we have developed. This has been an amazing experience for the 11 of us. Literacy—helping children learn to read so they can read to learn—got us here. Our project has helped us build new relationships, including with each other. We would like to share the outcome of our time together with all of you. Join us in this effort to give kids the tools they need for their tomorrow. In so many ways, it can open up new worlds!



**100**

The Missouri State Capitol is 100 years old.

**200**

Missouri has been a state for 200 years.

**1,118**

1,118 men have served as Missouri Senators.

**36**

36 women have served as Missouri Senators.

**11**

11 currently serving Missouri Senators are women.



# The Missouri Center for the Book

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.  
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

**We are extremely excited to announce our newest Education Program: The Missouri Center for the Book, a partnership with the Library of Congress, whereby Missouri Humanities will serve as our state's affiliate for this exceptional, longstanding, national program first established in 1977.**

As the newest Missouri Center for the Book affiliate, we will commemorate and promote appreciation for and greater awareness of Missouri's rich literary heritage, especially as we close out the bicentennial of our statehood; encourage and expand reading for all ages of our citizens, both as pure enjoyment and as a means for educational enrichment; augment and accelerate usage of local libraries and stimulate more local reading programs; and, ultimately, increase literacy rates statewide.

Our extensive literary-related heritage clearly rivals that of other states—

Mark Twain, T. S. Eliot, Langston Hughes, Eugene Field, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Tennessee Williams, William S. Burroughs, John Gneisenau Neihardt, Zoe Akins, Reinhold Niebuhr, and so many more, past and present, have called Missouri home—and when considering our state's population in comparison, we are even more proud of our literati and their contributions to our nation's literary culture. That wonderful and distinguished tradition continues unabated today, and Missouri Humanities seeks to continue this impressive legacy as our state's affiliate for the Center for the Book.

Missouri Humanities has already accomplished a great deal since 2015 in promoting the literary heritage of our state. Over the past six years, we have entered into partnerships with the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis, the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, and Belt Publishing's City Anthologies series, as well as with the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum to fund its internationally-recognized teacher education workshops.

We have also provided extensive funding through our community Grants Program to promote literary programs offered by organizations such as *River Styx*, the St. Louis Poetry Center, The Rabbit hOle, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home & Museum, Missouri Western State University's English & Modern Languages Department, St. Charles City-County Library, Lebanon-Laclede



OPPOSITE: Library of Congress in Washington, DC.  
THIS PAGE: T. S. Eliot and Laura Ingalls Wilder.





County Library, St. Louis Public Library Foundation, University of Central Missouri Creative Writing, the Columbia Book Festival, the St. Louis Storytelling Festival, St. Charles Community College's English Department, Eugene Field House Foundation, Turn the Page KC, University City Public Library, Marshall Public Library, Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri Folklore Society, and the St. Louis Literary Consortium.

Missouri Humanities provided a large subvention to the University of Missouri Press to publish Gary Scharnhorst's three-volume biography of Mark Twain, partnered with Missouri State Parks to fund and expand its Poets in the Park program, and designed our own Statewide Literary Initiative: a partnership with Truman State University Press, Tennessee Williams

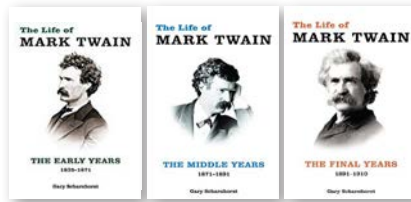
Festival St. Louis, Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum, Mid-Continent Public Library, Missouri Parks Association, and Belt Publishing to establish a statewide initiative geared to increase public knowledge and awareness about the life, legacy, and work of major literary figures who have made a lasting impact in the state of Missouri; support literary endeavors that support the development, visibility, and achievement of youth literary programs in Missouri; sustain teachers and educators through workshops that enhance classroom literary instruction throughout the state; and develop and advance programs that provide public opportunities for literary immersion fostering education and increased appreciation of literature.

As an affiliate of the Center for the Book, Missouri Humanities will take the lead in bringing together our state's various and numerous literary-related organizations in order to enhance and strengthen the

work of each individual organization by facilitating greater awareness of the efforts and activities of each partner organization. In addition to the organizations already mentioned herein, Missouri Humanities sustains ongoing, active partnerships with the Missouri Library Association, the Missouri State Library, university presses and literary journals / societies, public television and radio, the Missouri Storytelling Network, countless local libraries, and 29 statewide, regional, and urban literacy-centered organizations. As a Center for the Book affiliate, we will continue to work with current literary-related partners and add many more to our mission to

promote our state's literary heritage.

Over the next several years, Missouri Humanities will implement a six-pronged strategy to introduce and develop the Center



Gary Scharnhorst's three-volume biography of Mark Twain.

for the Book in Missouri: (1) establish an annual statewide book festival, (2) implement regional and local programs highlighting Missouri authors, both living and deceased, (3) create a travelling exhibit promoting Missouri's literary heritage, (4) develop a digital-humanities program involving a video docuseries and a podcast series highlighting current Missouri authors, and a full-length documentary on Missouri's rich literary heritage over the past 200 hundred years of our statehood, (4) create a pedagogical approach and curriculum for K-12 teachers, and (5) provide a separate grants program for partner organizations to continue and expand their respective programs.

If there is any one field that fully fits into the mold of the humanities, it is most certainly literature—and now Missouri Humanities is poised to add another stellar program to our already recognized cultural heritage landscape.



# Think-N-Drink



Each year, we host a series of Think-N-Drink events to engage Missourians in thoughtful discussion with scholars and one another over a glass of beer or cup of coffee.

LEARN MORE AND VIEW  
THE SCHEDULE OF  
UPCOMING EVENTS AT  
[mohumanities.org/  
think-n-drink](https://mohumanities.org/think-n-drink).

The 2021 Think-N-Drink Series is developed in conjunction with the podcast series Constitutional, hosted by Washington Post journalist Lillian Cunningham. We encourage all participants and civic-minded Missourians to listen to episodes that explore the U.S. Constitution, constitutional amendments, and the people behind it all in advance of Think-N-Drink discussions. The entire podcast is available on Apple Podcasts or for free at [washingtonpost.com/podcasts/constitutional](https://washingtonpost.com/podcasts/constitutional).



# Missouri Humanities Explores Missouri's Natural Environment:

LISA CARRICO  
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES



To coincide with the state's bicentennial, Missouri Humanities is presenting a series of programs to highlight and celebrate Missouri's natural heritage and landscape. In this series, Missouri's Natural Environment: 200 Years and Beyond, MH turns towards Missouri's diverse natural areas—the wetlands of the southeast, the wooded Ozarks hills and riverways of the southwest, the rich, rolling farmlands of the northeast, and the prairie lands of the northwest—to celebrate the richness of fauna, flora, and the people who occupy them.



# 200 Years and Beyond

Missouri has some of the largest springs in North America and the second greatest number of caves in the United States. Missouri is home to 1.5 million acres of national forest, six national parks, 92 state parks and historic sites, and the confluence of two of the nation's great rivers—the Missouri and the Mississippi. These sites make for a wildly varied, beautiful, and fascinating natural history that has helped shaped Missouri's cultural history. Missourians love to hunt, fish, float, and enjoy nature, so it came “naturally” to commemorate the state's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary by exploring its outdoor places.

We kicked the series off on Earth Day with Forest & Farms, a virtual program where guest experts Dan Burkhardt (Co-founder, Magnificent Missouri), Meridith McAvoy Perkins (Executive Director, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri),

and Ken McCarty (Natural Resource Management Program Director, Missouri State Parks), discussed the historical transformation of the Missouri River Valley—from lush bottomland forest to fertile farmland. Before being cleared for steamboat fuel, the Missouri River Valley was heavily forested and provided important economic and ecological services for early inhabitants. Since then, much of this forest has been converted to agricultural land.

In addition, our guests discussed the forest (of today and the past) and how knowledge of 1800s historic native vegetation informs us about tree planting in 2021. The program also highlighted Magnificent Missouri's Trees of Treloar conservation project and their efforts, in collaboration with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, to reforest areas along the Katy Trail and River Valley—including the overall benefit of

planting and stewarding trees as a way for people to take action to ensure that the legacy of our natural environment lives on for future generations.

As a continuation of the Forest & Farms program, MH hosted *The Man Who Planted Trees* Book Discussion: How a French Parable Inspires Ecological Restoration. Humanities scholar Dr. Robert S. Emmett provided historical context and thoughtful insight as he presented excerpts from *The Man Who Planted Trees*, an allegorical tale of one shepherd's arduous effort to reforest a desolate valley in the foothills of the Alps. Written by French author Jean Giono and published more than 65 years ago, the program considered how a timeless classic can be a parable to modern times and how the humanities can influence the way we think about the environment.

During the program, participants examined the themes in the book by way of a special Missouri-based edition. Accompanied by the original text and woodcut illustrations, Magnificent Missouri's edition includes a foreword and afterword written by local conservationists and highlights native tree-planting efforts along the Katy Trail. Dr. Emmett and Dan Burkhardt of Magnificent Missouri went on to discuss how a French fable can teach us about hope, humanity, and the transformative power of tree-planting—be it in France, Missouri, or elsewhere in the world!

Several more programs are in the works. Stay tuned for upcoming programs based on Missouri prairies and caves. Due in part to the positive response of these programs, Missouri Humanities has excitedly renamed its Environmental Humanities program to MO Humanities Outdoors! With each program, Missouri Humanities aims to explore Missouri's natural heritage—how it shapes our state's identity, how Missourians have shaped

and been shaped by its natural surroundings, and the role we have in utilizing and caring for our lands.

While some of the programs will be presented virtually, others will be presented in person at natural sites across the state for an immersive experience. In partnership with humanities scholars, historians, community-based organizations, environmental experts, state agencies, and/or storytellers, MO Humanities Outdoors provides an opportunity to showcase community-based stories and efforts to care for local lands and the natural environment. As each program digs into the natural and cultural heritage of a place (or topic), MO Humanities Outdoors sparks thoughtful dialogue around the intricate relationship between people and the environment and how the humanities can help us better understand and find common ground as we look at the environmental strengths and challenges facing a particular site—its local community, the state, and beyond.

Each program invites participants to not only think about the place presented, but to think about their surrounding landscapes and the changes they have seen during their lifetime. We hope MO Humanities Outdoors participants will feel an enhanced sense of appreciation and connection to Missouri's natural environment and will leave each program feeling inspired to take action in local efforts, like planting a tree.

**To learn more about MO Humanities Outdoors and to watch previously recorded virtual programs in the Missouri's Natural Environment: 200 Years and Beyond series, visit: [mohumanities.org/programs/environmental](https://mohumanities.org/programs/environmental).**



# Participants say...

“I have long liked the book but did not realize that it was being used to inspire planting along the Katy Trail. I greatly appreciate the connection between humanities and the environment which was emphasized during the discussion.”

“Loved the book recommendations. Very excited to volunteer to plant trees. I am already planting a lot of trees on our acreage but very excited to hear of Missouri’s goals.”

“What we do with our environment is so important to our health, the health of generations to come. I loved reading the book. I dislike seeing so many trees being cut down to make room for more buildings. The program was encouraging.”

– PARTICIPANTS WHO VIRTUALLY ATTENDED *THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES* BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW A FRENCH PARABLE INSPIRES ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.

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“I appreciated learning about the changes we’ve seen in Missouri forests over the past two centuries, and especially about programs that are working to reforest today. I was struck by the term ‘landscape-scale’ change and was inspired to think about how I can be part of this change in my own community.”

“I particularly liked the history and hearing how they are making decisions about planting trees based on what they know of the way the land looked in the past.”

“I wasn’t familiar with the various tree-planting projects and liked hearing about them, as well as the historical/ecological approach.”

– PARTICIPANTS WHO VIRTUALLY ATTENDED FOREST AND FARMS.

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# Small Town SHOWCASE

We are not a flyover state.  
We are the heart of America.

*Welcome to Missouri.*

Missouri  
Humanities  
Presents:  
**Small Town  
Showcase**

CAITLIN YAGER  
DIRECTOR OF  
HERITAGE PROGRAMS  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Missouri Humanities is thrilled to announce a new pilot program: Small Town Showcase.

We strive to highlight the uniqueness of Missouri's small towns and to showcase the bigger picture of what small-town America really is and why it should not be overlooked, overshadowed, or underappreciated. This pilot program will provide us the opportunity to connect with more of our smaller rural communities, form strategic partnerships, and expand our reach. In turn, the project provides communities with a platform to tell their stories and market what they have to offer to a larger audience.



Communities will be nominated and voted on by Missourians to become our annual “Featured Five” communities. Each of our Featured Five will work with Missouri Humanities on the following:

- A three- to five-minute video about their community, shot on site.
- An hour-long podcast, roundtable-style.
- A feature in our biannual publication, *MO Humanities*.
- A highlight reel featuring all five communities, to be shown during our annual gala.

For this pilot year, Missouri Humanities selected our first set of Featured Five communities. We are very excited to work with the communities of Marble Hill, Chillicothe, Lamar, Mountain Grove, and Sweet Springs in the upcoming year and are looking forward to helping spread the word about these unique Missouri gems!

**Does your community deserve to be showcased?**  
**Stay connected to Missouri Humanities by signing up for our e-newsletter on our website and following us on social media to be the first to hear when nominations open! Questions? Contact Caitlin Yager, Director of Heritage Programs, at [caitlin@mohumanities.org](mailto:caitlin@mohumanities.org).**

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Scenes from filming in Marble Hill, May 2021.

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# ON THE ROAD TO Fort Donelson

GREG WOLK  
HERITAGE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

ROB MELLON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUINCY & ADAMS COUNTY

Ulysses S. Grant answered President Lincoln's call and was present for the rally in Galena, Illinois, on April 16, 1861.

He was offered the command of the Galena company. Since he had dedicated himself not to reenter the Army at the rank he had when he left in 1854, however, he declined. He did assist the Galena recruitment efforts and left with the Jo Daviess County Guard en route to Springfield on April 25. He knew regiments were being formed for each of Illinois's congressional districts and coveted a regimental command. Upon arriving in Springfield, he found the situation rife with political maneuvering and patronage and that all of the regimental commands had already been determined. After meeting with Governor Yates, he agreed to help the recruitment campaign in southern Illinois, traveling to Mattoon, Belleville, and Anna to muster soldiers into service for most of the month of May.

The administrative duties Grant was performing for the state of Illinois were certainly not his first choice, but he conducted himself with professionalism and a strict sense of duty. After Grant's first written attempt to obtain a Regular Army commission went unanswered, he visited George McClellan's headquarters in Cincinnati to request a position on his staff. McClellan was not able to meet with him.

On his return trip to Illinois, Grant received news that he was offered command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Regiment, soon renamed the 21<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment. The regiment had been under the command of Colonel Simon Goode and had significant discipline issues. Grant quickly established good order and discipline. He was then ordered to march to Quincy, Illinois, to help secure northeast Missouri, which was experiencing fairly significant secessionist activities. Colonel Grant knew that many marches loomed in the future for his men, so he decided to forego rail transportation to Quincy. This would be Ulysses S. Grant's first march of the Civil War. He set off from Camp Yates on July 3, 1861.

The soldiers quickly learned that the movement times of Grant's regiment were firm. Many of them had to learn that lesson the hard way. The regiment came upon an Independence Day celebration on July 4 and, after a brief rest, was again on the march. It arrived in Jacksonville, Illinois, on July 5. The regiment filed into the Morgan County Fairgrounds with Colonel Grant at the gate checking all canteens for alcohol. On July 6, the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment passed through Exeter and arrived to encamp at Naples on the banks of the Illinois River.

After crossing the Illinois River, Grant was ordered back to Naples to await a steamboat that would take the regiment down the river to the ultimate



The former Exeter Hotel in Exeter, Illinois, a witness to Grant's march. Photo by author.

destination of Ironton, Missouri. The steamboat got stuck on a sandbar and, while the regiment was waiting for it to be dislodged, they received new orders to take the rail to Quincy. The 16<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment had met resistance in northeast Missouri, and the 21<sup>st</sup> was directed to support that regiment. Grant had his men loaded onto trains. They arrived in Quincy on July 11, 1861, and soon began crossing the Mississippi River into Missouri.

In mid-July, 1861, Grant's regiment received orders to proceed to Mexico, Missouri, a rail center in the interior of northeast Missouri. The order came from Union General John Pope, just appointed to lead an effort to suppress secessionist bands in that sector. Parts of this force of secessionists—"confederates" had not entered Missouri at this early stage—were organized into disciplined military units. More troublesome, though, were small, independent bands that were destroying bridges and other infrastructure. The 21<sup>st</sup> Illinois, set to join Pope in Alton, Illinois, was diverted to Mexico due to an outbreak of hostile activity near there. Two other regiments were diverted as well.

Colonel Grant arrived via the rails on July 20, and there he and his regiment faced a new level of violence. On July 17, a train from St. Charles carrying one of Pope's regiments to Mexico came under attack west of Wentzville; several Union soldiers who were clearing the way for the train were wounded, one mortally. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, a particularly vicious band operating out of Montgomery County wounded two Union officers who were headed to Mexico, then shot them dead near the Audrain County line. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Union soldiers retaliated by dragging two civilians from their homes near Danville, killing both in the street. This deadly exchange occurred days before the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in Virginia.

When Grant arrived on July 20, he was given command of all three regiments in Mexico. He brought the situation there under control, then came to rest for more than two weeks in a state of relative inactivity. On a hot Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, Grant's chaplain came to him with a

newspaper from St. Louis. The paper reported that President Lincoln had recommended to the Senate that Grant be promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers. Within several days, General Pope called Grant to St. Louis for consultations. Pope directed Grant to lead “the Ironton Force,” and to proceed forthwith to that Southeast Missouri county seat. It faced imminent invasion by regular Confederate troops coming up from Arkansas.

Grant returned from St. Louis on August 6. The country was still stunned by the Union loss at First Bull Run, as Grant put his regiment—1,000 men, give or take—on railroad cars in Mexico. Within 48 hours of receiving orders to move, the 21<sup>st</sup> Illinois arrived in Ironton. It was there that Ulysses Grant received his papers, making official his promotion to Brigadier.

On August 28, 1861, General Ulysses Grant received his first significant assignment: command of the military district of Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois. He arrived in Cape Girardeau, Missouri two days later, where he established temporary

headquarters for his District. It was from this place, which was then and is now the largest river port between St. Louis and Memphis, that Grant launched his ultimately successful campaign to free the Mississippi River from Confederate control. In four days after he arrived, Grant moved his headquarters to Cairo, Illinois. Astonishingly, eight days after he left Mexico, General Grant took 2,000 troops on river steamers to Paducah, Kentucky. By occupying Paducah, Grant blunted efforts of a Confederate invasion force that had left Tennessee in order to capture it.

Ulysses Grant operated from Cairo, Illinois, until he commenced his campaign to capture Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. In November 1861, from Cairo, he launched an unsuccessful attack on Belmont, Missouri. In January 1862, Grant entered the interior of Kentucky, the start of the campaign that culminated in the surrender of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862.

Grant's headquarters  
in Ironton, Missouri.  
Photo by author.







Ulysses Grant and staff crossing Mayfield Creek near Blandville, Kentucky. Image courtesy of Western Kentucky University.

The following is excerpted from “Ulysses Grant in Ballard County,” an article which appeared in the Fall 2019 edition of *Kentucky Humanities Magazine*:

*On January 15, 1862, a Wednesday, Grant arrived in person at Fort Jefferson, joining 2,000 Union soldiers that he had ordered there to relieve McClernand's troops. Grant's movements on the 15<sup>th</sup> are not entirely clear, but by the end of the day he appeared in Weston's Crossroads (now Bardwell) to review McClernand's troops, which had during the day moved from Blandville. Except for cavalry scouts, this is the closest that McClernand or Grant would approach the rear of the Confederate entrenchments at Columbus. General Grant proceeded to Blandville, and there established his headquarters “in the field,” at a place on the north bank of Mayfield Creek known as Coates Mill. Consistent with the plan sketched out by Halleck, McClernand moved in the direction of Mayfield, stopping first at Milburn. McClernand then returned north to the neighborhood of Blandville, arriving there with most of his command on January 18, 1862.*

*Ulysses Grant spent much of Thursday, January 16, in the saddle. Together with his staff and a company of cavalry, he reconnoitered east and upstream along Mayfield Creek, clocking in his judgment 35 miles that day. Mayfield Creek was swollen that mid-January, and virtually unfordable as far as Grant would follow it upstream. Even where it could be forded, in Grant's words the water “[was] up to the saddle-skirts.” Also during his brief stay at Cothes Mill, Grant (on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>) rode west to the mouth of Mayfield Creek, and may have obtained transportation by river steamer to Fort Jefferson at the end of that day. Grant arrived back at his permanent headquarters in Cairo on the evening of January 20, 1862.*

*When the intelligence gleaned from General Smith's expedition to Murray arrived in Grant's hands a few days after he reached Cairo, Grant moved quickly to obtain Halleck's permission to mount an attack on Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. The permission came on January 30; by the evening of February 3, 1862, Grant had 15,000 troops in Paducah, transport boats at the ready.*

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Rob Mellon and Greg Wolk are members of the Board of Directors of the National U. S. Grant Trail Association, which exists to promote public awareness of communities and sites across the nation in advance of Ulysses Grant's bicentennial year, 2022.



NOW SCHEDULING FOR 2022!

# CULTURAL HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

LEARN HOW HERITAGE AND CULTURE CAN  
BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY!

Could your town benefit from a Cultural Heritage Workshop from Missouri Humanities? These workshops are tailored to the individual needs of your area and are offered at no cost to host communities!

These one-day workshops, representing both local and statewide organizations, showcase a variety of topics and provide networking opportunities and applied activities.

**To request a workshop, visit:**

[mohumanities.org/request-workshop](https://mohumanities.org/request-workshop)

or contact Caitlin Yager at [caitlin@mohumanities.org](mailto:caitlin@mohumanities.org).



# Digital Humanities Program

MICHAEL SALDIVAR  
CINEMATOGRAPHER, MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Over the last year, Missouri Humanities has emphasized digital content, shifting our programming from in-person to virtual. Our 2020 Water Symposium served as a kick-off for what we are calling our “Digital Humanities” program. With most of us working from home, we wanted to ensure we remained connected to Missourians by continuing to provide resources and engaging our communities. Since the start of our digital content efforts, we have provided 126 individual programs reaching 34,000 Missourians.

Our success is credited to our program directors adapting quickly and creating new virtual programs. This approach allowed us to host programs like our virtual storytelling journey, *Growing Up with the River*; virtual Cultural Heritage Workshops on themes like heritage tourism and community engagement; our Total Town Makeover series; and our annual Summer Teachers Academy. We also hosted virtual book discussions with authors, such as our eight-part *Explore Missouri’s German Heritage* series with author Arthur Mehrhoff. Digital programming has also given us the opportunity to reach a wider audience to discuss bigger national issues with our discussion of *The Upswing* with authors Robert Putnam and Shaylyn Romney

Since the start of our digital content efforts, we have provided 126 individual programs reaching 34,000 Missourians.

Garrett. Better yet, hosting these programs on a digital platform allows the programs to be recorded so they can be viewed later or shared with others.

Our Digital Humanities initiatives have expanded our reach and allowed us to have big discussions more than we’ve been able to in the past. Going virtual has enabled us to maintain a strong platform to produce and show many wonderful films, including *Missouri Cares*, a documentary about the impact of Cares Act funding across Missouri. Additionally, we produced *A Nation Divided*, discussing polarization throughout our history. The Humanities have so much to teach us, with lessons from the past guiding our present and inspiring our future. While we look forward to meeting in person, we understand virtual programming is here to stay. We will continue using it to help fulfill our mission, complement our programs, and enhance the membership experience.

Missouri Humanities is dedicated to enriching lives and strengthening communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society.

Our vision for the future is to help curate content that touches your heart, entertains, and educates Missourians. We appreciate the feedback received, and we are excited to continue providing documentaries, online workshops, virtual programs, and to introduce new virtual ventures, like podcasts. We want to thank you all for the continued support and look forward to the future!

**View past virtual programs now at [mohumanities.org/video-archive](https://mohumanities.org/video-archive).**



# Missouri Humanities Commemorates

# Ten Years

## of *Proud to Be* with a New Podcast



LISA CARRICO  
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & VETERANS PROGRAMS  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Since Veterans Day 2012, Missouri Humanities and Southeast Missouri State University Press have honored the occasion by releasing *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*. In the form of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and photography, this annual creative writing anthology preserves and shares military stories by soldiers, veterans, and their families.



Episode One features Jay Harden, a Vietnam War veteran who writes poetry, prose, and songs about love, war, and personal growth. Jay has been published in all nine volumes of *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* and is known as the “Grandfather of *Proud to Be*.”

In this episode, we learn about Jay’s “Metal Mama,” his wartime experience while stationed in Guam, his thoughts on war, and how one struggles to find oneself after the fact. Jay openly shares about his healing journey and the role writing plays in helping with his PTSD.



Episode Two features Bill Glose, an American journalist, poet, and fiction writer. Bill has been published in eight of the nine volumes *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*. In this episode, we dive deep into Bill’s experience as a paratrooper assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and his service as a combat platoon leader in the Gulf War. We discuss when and why he started writing about his combat experiences, his post-Army years working in factories across the country, and his decision to walk away from a production career to become a full-time freelance writer.



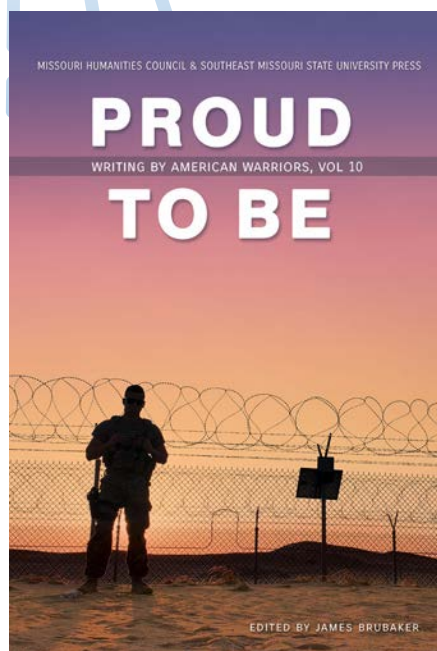
Episode Three features Charity Winters, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, freelance writer, and former Air Force Security Forces officer who completed three tours in Iraq.

We discuss Charity’s missions in Iraq, her grandfather and Guam, the veteran who encouraged her to pursue writing, the necessity of women’s voices in telling wartime stories, the importance of veterans in the arts, and the value of words as we explore the profound effect the phrase “bring me men” had on her and other female cadets.

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Now in its tenth installment, the *Proud to Be* series has provided hundreds of veterans and their family members from across the nation a platform for self-expression through writing. *Proud to Be* serves as both a memorialized representation of the unique aspects of military service in our nation’s history and an opportunity for connection. *Proud to Be (PTB)* invites those who have served to connect and share experiences. It also offers civilians the ability to bear witness and connect through a richer understanding of military life.

To celebrate ten years of *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, the Missouri Humanities is taking *Proud to Be* one step further—from print to podcast! The *Proud to Be Podcast* highlights veterans, military personnel, and family members published in the anthology series. The podcast amplifies the voices found within *Proud to Be* and offers an additional opportunity for connection. Each episode features a conversation with a *PTB* contributor to explore the real-life stories behind their *PTB* contributions.



“There are so many important stories to be shared about military life. Ten years in, we’ve read so much fantastic work, and somehow it still feels like we’ve barely scratched the surface. These stories, essays, and poems need to be written, these experiences shared.”

– DR. JAMES  
BRUBAKER

The first episode, released on Thursday, August 26, 2021, features long-time contributor Jay Harden, a Vietnam War veteran, who writes poetry, prose, and songs about love, war, and personal growth. Jay has been published in all nine volumes, and in this inaugural episode, he reads excerpts from several of his *PTB* pieces. Jay also discusses his wartime experience as a pilot stationed in Guam and the role of writing in his healing journey with PTSD. New episodes will be released on the last Thursday of every month and are available on all podcast platforms. The episodes are also available at [mohumanities.org](http://mohumanities.org).

Volume 10 is edited by Dr. James Brubaker, Assistant Professor and Director of Southeast Missouri State University Press, with copyediting support from Dr. Susan Swartwout, Professor Emerita of English, Founder, and retired Publisher of SEMO Press.

*Proud to Be* is a juried contest, and this year’s volume features 47 contributors with submissions and winners in four categories: essay, poetry, fiction, and photography. Special thanks to the four judges who volunteered their time to read submissions; to Bill Glose, an American journalist, poet, fiction writer, and *PTB* contributor, who wrote this year’s foreword, “Owning Your History,” and was the featured guest of Episode Two of the *Proud to Be* Podcast; and to the contributors who bravely shared their stories.

Thank you immensely to EVERYONE in the past decade who made *PTB* possible—from the contributors and judges to the editors and readers. Special thanks to Deborah Marshall, founder of the Warriors Arts Alliance, who laid the groundwork for this successful program.

**For more information about the Proud to Be anthology series, the Podcast, and to purchase Volumes 1–10, please visit [mohumanities.org/programs/veterans](http://mohumanities.org/programs/veterans).**



## The *Proud to Be*, Volume 10 winners and judges are as follows:

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### ESSAY

#### WINNER:

**“Incident at the Range”**  
by Rob Silverman



**Judge:** Jill Talbot is the author of *The Way We Weren't: A Memoir* and *Loaded: Women and Addiction*, and

the editor of *Metawritings: Toward a Theory of Nonfiction*. Her writing has been recognized four times in *Best American Essays* and has appeared in journals such as *AGNI*, *Brevity*, *Colorado Review*, *Diagram*, *Gulf Coast*, *Hotel Amerika*, *LitMag*, *Longreads*, *The Paris Review Daily*, and *The Rumpus*. She is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at University of North Texas.

### POETRY

#### WINNER:

**“The Wounded Cry Out for Their Mothers First”**  
by Harry Gordon



**Judge:** Aisha Sharif is a Cave Canem fellow who earned her MFA at Indiana University, Bloomington, and

BA in English at Rhodes College. Her poetry has appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Tidal Basin Review*, *Callaloo*, *Calyx*, *Rattle*, and other literary journals. Her poems have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes in 2019 and 2015. Her book, *To Keep From Undressing*, was published by SparkWheel Press in January 2019. She lives in Kansas with her husband and two daughters and teaches English at Metropolitan Community College in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

### FICTION

#### WINNER:

**“On a Mountain in Logar”**  
by Benjamin Inks



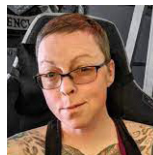
**Judge:** Ursula Villarreal-Moura is the author of *Math for the Self-Crippling* (2022). Her stories,

essays, interviews, and reviews have appeared in various publications including *Tin House*, *Catapult*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Story*, *Midnight Breakfast*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Bennington Review*. Her writing has been nominated for Best of the Net, the Pushcart Prize, Best Small Fictions, and one of her stories was listed as distinguished in *Best American Short Stories 2015*.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### WINNER:

**“Combat Boots”**  
by Christian Tillet



**Judge:** Bree Pye is a queer, disabled veteran and former U.S. Army photojournalist living in Trinidad, CO. She

holds an MFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and her fiction and nonfiction have been published in the *Barely South Review*, Southeast Missouri State University Press' *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, Volumes 7 and 8, *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*, the *Center of the American West*, and *Waxing & Waning: A Literary Journal*.

## 2021 Partnership in the Humanities Award Winner:

# Missouri Association for

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.  
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

**Success rarely occurs in a vacuum. Organizations—nonprofits above all—manifest this fact most often, and we at Missouri Humanities are definitely subject to this maxim.**

Missouri Humanities rarely (if ever) takes a single action without first thinking about the partners we intend to involve. None of our programs, projects, activities, or events would succeed without the active participation of our numerous partners. The humanities entail partnerships, and we are proud to have built quite a list of partners over our fifty years of existence, and especially since 2015.

In preparation for our recent, mandatory, five-year site visit conducted by a team from the National Endowment for the Humanities, I asked our staff to compile a list of partners they have worked with since our last site visit in late 2016. The list stunned and impressed me, then humbled me. Since 2015, we have created 103 active partnerships across the state, region, and nation. **103!** These partners run the whole gambit as well, from nonprofit organizations to governmental agencies, national, state, and local, from institutions of higher learning to civic organizations, community groups, and foundations.

So impressed with our need for partners to facilitate and secure our success in promoting the humanities across Missouri, we established our premier annual award, the Partnership in the Humanities Award. Each year, the staff and I select a partner we feel contributed so much time and effort to our programs that we are completely convinced that without them, we would not have succeeded at all. Past awardees include Magnificent Missouri, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy (University of Missouri–Columbia), the National Trail of Tears Association (Missouri Chapter), the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies (Washington University in St. Louis), and the Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion.

With great pride and appreciation, Missouri Humanities presents the 2021 Partnership in the Humanities Award to the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives.

But we would be quite remiss if we did not recognize *ALL* of our partners, each and every one who has made Missouri Humanities a success.

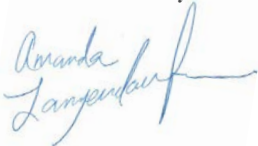
*Thank you, to all  
of our partners!!*

# Museums and Archives

It is such an honor to be recognized by Missouri Humanities with the 2021 Partnership in the Humanities Award. The Missouri Association for Museums and Archives (MAMA) exists to bring together Missouri organizations so they can share ideas, resources, and information. With the ability to connect cultural institutions through online programming, workshops, and an annual conference, the organization strives to advocate for financial viability, strategic growth, and development of educational opportunities which serve the citizens of Missouri. Missouri Humanities has, for many years, enabled the success of the organization through its continued funding and support of the MAMA mission.

Most recently, MAMA has been able to shift to a virtual format for many “Colleague Conversations,” monthly programs which provide connections for professionals as they strive to educate and enlighten their patrons. Diversity internships have offered educational partnerships for students, providing meaningful work for those interested in the museum or archives professions. An annual conference, open to the public, provides opportunities to explore new ideas, projects, and best practices. Grant projects, such as creating statewide surveys of historical collections, strengthen our partnerships and help us achieve our mutual goals of education and accessibility.

Collaborations and partnerships really do strengthen us all. As President of MAMA, I have enjoyed so many opportunities to collaborate with organizations across the state, each one committed to preserving our state’s history and to sharing those stories with the citizens of Missouri. Dedicated and talented professionals work hard every day to ensure cultural experiences abound for the people—libraries, local historical societies, museums of all types and sizes (art, historical, children’s, science centers), and zoos and aquariums all work together to celebrate our diverse and beautiful heritage. I extend a special thanks to Missouri Humanities for their continued dedication in making these partnerships possible, and for all they do to make the humanities accessible to everyone.



Amanda Langendoerfer  
President, Missouri Association for Museums and Archives



# The American Rescue Plan Act Funds 22 New Missouri Humanities Grants

STEVE BELKO, PH.D.  
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MISSOURI HUMANITIES

Earlier this year, the National Endowment for the Humanities, authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act, provided Missouri Humanities with \$975,000 to redistribute to organizations across the state. With this daunting task handed to us right on the heels of the CARES process (which we are still completing!), and complicated by a rather restricted timeframe in which to make the awards, we established a process of regranting that we feel best serves the needs of cultural heritage organizations in Missouri.

Our objective in implementing this unique statewide initiative was to develop and utilize our rich history and vibrant cultural heritage to stimulate economic revitalization in Missouri, with a special emphasis on rural economic development. Missouri Humanities strives to serve the smallest and most vulnerable communities and institutions across our state, consistently reaching

into areas that receive few other cultural resources. As such, Missouri Humanities focused on cultural organizations and entities that proposed projects that entailed a regional or statewide reach.

Missouri Humanities created a review committee experienced in grant-making opportunities. It was an extremely tedious process, and we received many wonderful proposals under a very competitive process, but, in the end, we are confident our selection of sub-awardees will fulfill the spirit and purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act. In total, Missouri Humanities received thirty-eight applications, requesting a total of over \$1.5 million—and we wish we could have funded them all!

Here is the list of organizations receiving ARPA funds, each with a brief description of their project:

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### **Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) | \$74,800**

#### ***Marketing Heritage and Cultural Tourism in Missouri***

This statewide project will assist small, rural Main Street communities usually ignored by the larger regional destination marketing organizations (DMO), funded by the Division of Tourism via that agency's grant program. MMSC will focus on small-town festivals and the promotion of heritage tourism, both of which serve as integral economic development tools for small communities. MMSC will conduct two regional workshops to help its network communities learn about cultural heritage tourism and methods to market their community as a tourist destination, especially as it concerns that community's unique heritage and history.

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### **Missouri's National Veterans Memorial (MNVM) | \$33,000**

#### ***Military Trails of Missouri***

This statewide project will create videos and lesson plans for the state's school districts and an accompanying incentive program to encourage K–12 students and their families to visit Missouri's military museums and battlefields. MNVM will produce a limited-edition commemorative coin to be available at thirteen participating sites across the state, one side of the coin representing the specific site and the other side representing the general program. Participating sites include Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis County), Fort Belle Fontaine (St. Louis County), Soldiers Memorial Military Museum (St. Louis), Missouri's National Veterans Memorial (Perryville), Veterans Memorial Museum (Branson), National World War I Museum and Memorial (Kansas City), Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Springfield), Battle of Lexington State Historic Site (Lexington), Battle of Athens State Historic Site (Revere), Museum of Missouri Military History (Jefferson City), Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (St. Louis County), General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site (Laclede), and the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum (Kansas City).

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### **Perry County Lutheran Historical Society | \$20,000**

#### ***Expansion of Museum Exhibits and Public Educational Programming***

Funding will be used to expand and enhance the museum's rich German heritage and demonstrate the impact German immigrants made to Perry County and to the state of Missouri overall. Funds will allow the museum to hire a coordinator to create numerous mobile exhibit displays, including signage to interpret each exhibit, AV equipment for the museum's conference/educational room in order to expand public programming opportunities, and its Biennial Immigration History Conference. Fulfilling these interpretive needs will strengthen the museum's ability to share our rich German heritage with the general public and thus increase cultural heritage tourism in the local community.

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### **Sainte Genevieve Museum Learning Center (SGMLC) | \$5,000**

#### ***Museum Mobile App***

In order to enhance museum exhibits when short-staffed, the SGMLC will create an app, which can be adopted by museums across the state, that will allow visitors to experience the museum on their mobile devices. The mobile experience will include additional audiovisual components that offer more insight into the exhibits beyond what is displayed on exhibit panels. Using social media platforms, visitors can share their experience with museum-lovers, family, and friends, which would be an indirect source of spreading awareness about the museum. For people who are still not venturing out due to COVID, this digital content can go beyond geographical barriers and can be used as a permanent extension to the museum's reach.

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### **University of Missouri–Kansas City | \$22,000**

#### ***Bringing Missouri's History and Cultural Heritage to Public Audiences Through Digital Media***

The Department of History program will create several public history programs that will offer new knowledge about Missouri's history and culture, highlight the cultural assets of the state, promote heritage tourism, and disseminate high-quality historical content to diverse educational and public audiences throughout the state. Two of the proposed projects are statewide in scope, while the other projects are focused on the history and cultural gems of Kansas City yet still entail broader connections to regional and international audiences.

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### **Friends of the Missouri Governor's Mansion | \$47,500**

#### ***Preserving 150 Years of Missouri History***

The Friends will hire a full-time consultant to assist the organization and Missouri's First Lady in extending activities hosted by the First Family at the Governor's Mansion, raise the necessary income to support more expansive educational opportunities, and commemorate and exhibit the historical architecture and furnishings.

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### **Friends of the Missouri State Archives | \$40,700**

#### ***Digitizing Missouri Civil War Era Records***

The Friends will hire a full-time archivist to arrange, describe, and index the St. Louis County Law Commissioner Court Records, a collection of about ninety cubic feet located at the Missouri State Archives in St. Louis. The Court operated from 1851 to 1865 and was one of the four subsidiary courts and various justices of the peace under the legal jurisdiction of the St. Louis County Circuit Court during the antebellum era. This collection provides a unique perspective of St. Louis area society during the Civil War era, and now these valuable records will be available to the public.

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**St. Joseph Museums/Black Archives Museum | \$5,000*****Interpreting the African American Heritage of St. Joseph***

The St. Joseph Museum will undertake extensive restructuring and overhauling of the resources and exhibits highlighting the Black history and culture of the St. Joseph area.

**Mareamec Spring Park (James Foundation) | \$50,000*****Reviving Osage Heritage in Missouri***

The land contained within Mareamec Spring Park has a long, rich Native American history. Excavations performed during the 1950s revealed settlement of the area dating back to the Late Woodland Period. Later, several Native American tribes laid claim to the land, including the Shawnee and Osage. Many tribes still consider the Mareamec Spring basin a spiritually significant site, yet little to nothing has been done at the Park to interpret and exhibit this long history. Multifaceted interpretive exhibits, both indoors at the museum on site and outdoors, will now be developed and implemented across various parts of the park. Exhibits, which range from the recreation of an Osage village from 1818 to annual on-site Osage cultural heritage events, will greatly expand awareness of Missouri's Native American Heritage and enhance cultural heritage tourism in the state.

**The State Historical Society of Missouri | \$95,276*****African American Heritage in the Ozarks***

While extensive scholarship has uncovered and publicized the history of African American life in several Missouri communities, including St. Louis, Kansas City, the Bootheel, and the central portion of the state known as "Little Dixie," few projects have grappled with this same subject matter in the Missouri Ozarks. This project will document ample collections of primary and secondary sources related to African American life in that region, as well as preserve the voices and memories related to traditions, genealogy, and firsthand accounts of the region's active, endangered, and dormant communities and the people who call, or have called, them home. The project consists of multiple components: (1) a small staff will be employed for the duration of the project to research, review, and compile a list of scholarship, records, and historic sites as well as conduct and preserve oral histories and other documents related to African American life in the Ozarks. This staff will consist of an oral historian/project manager, project assistant, research assistant, and transcriptionist. In an effort to connect academia to public history, the research assistant will be an emerging graduate student at one of the state's public or private universities who has an academic background in Missouri and African American history; (2) a new oral history collection, archived at the State Historical Society of Missouri, will be established to serve as a repository for the roughly thirty oral histories undertaken during the course of the project. These oral histories will center important topics related to African Americans in the Ozarks, including communities, genealogy, businesses, religion, education, politics, agriculture, and civil rights. The oral histories will also be available to the general public via an accessible collection at the Society's six research centers across the state, as well as a potential digital format on the Society's website; (3) a series of public programs will be organized throughout the Ozarks with the goal of bringing the project's research to a wider audience, as well as to solicit new information and sources, especially for oral histories. These programs will be free to the general public and will be offered in notable communities of the Ozarks, potentially including Neosho, Springfield, Hartville, and Lebanon. We intend to utilize some of the historic sites and cultural institutions documented in the project as locations for these public programs; (4) an exhibit consisting of photographs, documents, and oral histories collected during the project will be displayed at the Center for Missouri Studies in winter/spring 2023; (5) ultimately, historic preservation and economic revitalization are significant components of this overall project. Most importantly, by visiting locations throughout the Ozarks for research and oral histories, participants will be investing in local communities, particularly in rural southern Missouri, through their patronization of businesses for various accommodations; (6) additionally, the necessary research and field work undertaken as a result of the project will provide employment opportunities for multiple individuals through 2022, with the goal of keeping them on staff after the project concludes; (7) Finally, public programming connected with the project will offer patrons the opportunity to not only learn more about Missouri and the Ozarks, but also to visit these communities for education, commerce, and recreation.

**National Trail of Tears Association (Missouri Chapter) | \$56,086*****Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears in Missouri***

Through a partnership with Missouri Humanities, the National Trail of Tears Association will employ two humanities scholars from the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation to prepare an interpretive plan focusing on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in the state of Missouri. The employment of the two humanities scholars will address a longstanding need in Missouri. Since the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was designated in 1987, the state of Missouri has not had a comprehensive plan to interpret the Trail's numerous resources and history within the state. This plan will provide long-term interpretive guidance for the Northern, Hildebrand, Bengé, and Water routes of the Trail of Tears within the state. Tasks will include: (1) review of research on the Trail of Tears already compiled by MHC and its partners; (2) field documentation (including photography) of current and potential historic/interpretive sites along the Northern, Hildebrand, Bengé, and Water routes of the Trail of Tears in Missouri; (3) consultation with the Trail of Tears Association; and (4) submittal of a final interpretive plan. The interpretive plan will contain the following information: (1) historical context on the Cherokee Trail of Tears in



Missouri; (2) inventory and descriptions of current and potential interpretive/historical sites identified as high, medium, or low priority as determined by the Trail of Tears Association and the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation; (3) interpretive themes; (4) branding and signage guidance; and (5) recommendations for the future museum on Indigenous Removal in St. James. Immediate impact will be the employment of two consultants with a rich background in interpretation of Cherokee Trail of Tears history. The end result of their efforts will be an Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears across the landscape of the State of Missouri, which will be a catalyst for the enhancement of cultural heritage tourism from the Trail of Tears State Park outside of Cape Girardeau to rural communities throughout 27 counties of the Missouri Ozarks, where some of the most extant and significant resources associated with the Trail of Tears in Missouri can be identified, interpreted, and explored. Missouri has more miles of the Cherokee removal routes than are found in any other state but has lacked an adequate planning tool that allows communities and state officials to take advantage of the Trail for cultural heritage tourism.

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### **Missouri River Country (Boonslick Regional Planning Commission) | \$50,000**

#### ***German Heritage Tours in Missouri River Country***

Missouri River Country is the collaboration of the seven river towns along the last 100 miles of the scenic Missouri River whose mission is to promote the area's heritage and outdoor activities while preserving and protecting the cultural and natural assets. As a region within the Missouri German Heritage Corridor, Missouri River Country will create an immersive tourist experience to promote cultural heritage tourism in the region, with the objectives of increasing the area's profile as a tourist destination and attracting high-wealth individuals, as well as drive economic and job recovery from losses sustained in the 2020 global pandemic. Regional tours will include: an architectural walking tour of local communities, the Missouri Rhineland Wine Trail, a tour of the Katy Trail through the seven communities, an Amtrak tour from Hermann to Washington, seven-day package tours, three-day package tours, a Missouri River Country Passport Program, and paddleboat audio tours. Towns throughout Missouri River Country are the ideal destination for walking tours. These river city towns have proximal cultural assets that would compose an educational, scenic, fun adventure for all ages. Cultural assets include but are not limited to historic buildings, museums, cemeteries, churches, and wineries. Immersing tourists into the rich German culture of the area's settlers will help connect the visitor to the area and potentially create the need for a return trip. As the program grows, Missouri River Country could also tap into the other historic aspects of the region, including the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Daniel Boone landmarks. Missouri River Country communities are passionate about guiding visitors through the unique and significant German immigrant story by way of the historical attractions in the region. Creating these tours will provide awareness through the connection the region needs to increase economic opportunity for the businesses and residents in those communities.

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### **Magnificent Missouri | \$67,660**

#### ***Implementation of Missouri's German Heritage Corridor***

In order to spur cultural heritage tourism throughout the German Heritage Corridor, which consists of the sixteen counties bordering the Missouri River from the City of St. Louis to Lafayette County, this project entails five major components: (1) interpret and develop public programming surrounding the story of Hamburg, Missouri, by designing and erecting interpretive panels along the road to Lower Hamburg and where Lower Hamburg meets the Katy Trail, performing archeological surveys to help better understand life in Hamburg and the forced evacuation of its residents in the 1940s, digitizing artifacts and photos related to the history of Hamburg, and devising a guided "hiking tour" from Upper Hamburg to Lower Hamburg; (2) create a separate website for German Heritage Corridor programming and supporting materials, which will house oral history recordings, an e-exhibit for findings from "Digitizing Missouri's German Heritage" events, an interactive Corridor map noting hubs, virtual versions of hub guides, recordings of past programs, and Missouri Humanities' *Explore Missouri's German Heritage* podcast; (3) create information hubs along the German Heritage Corridor, one in each county (17 in total), with a panel exhibit at each hub that will be similarly designed and branded and will discuss the German Heritage Corridor as a whole and each hub's connection to it, as well as its own German heritage and unique story, combined with the creation of a virtual and printed guide that will include information on the county's German Heritage Corridor connection and a list of places to visit; (4) contract with a professional materials conservationist and/or archivist to complete the documentation and preservation/storage of the Landwehr Family Collection, which will be used as museum exhibits throughout the German Heritage Corridor; (5) create a traveling exhibit that will tour the German Heritage Corridor.

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### **Pony Express National Museum | \$20,000**

#### ***Goetz Museum Project***

In order to revitalize the region's tourism industry, it is critical to identify and implement strategies to reenergize the Museum's offerings to the public, specifically through the new Goetz Museum, which will expand the Museum's cultural heritage potential by creating exhibits that will tell the stories of German American immigration in Northwest Missouri. This museum exhibit will not only highlight the story of a successful German immigrant family settling in St. Joseph in the nineteenth century, but it will also explore the various neighborhoods in the area and their impact on the city of St. Joseph.

**Cape Girardeau County Historical Society | \$5,000**

***Red Clifton Military Collection Preservation, Conservation, and Cataloging***

This project will save and exhibit the extensive military collection of Jackson resident Red Clifton.

**Missouri Association for Museums and Archives (MAMA) | \$57,500**

***Bringing Us Together: Creating Collaborative and Educational Opportunities for Missouri's Museums and Archives***

This project includes numerous facets that will promote cultural heritage tourism opportunities throughout the state by harnessing the potential of Missouri's numerous museums and archives: (1) In order to effectively manage MAMA's operations, the organization would like to create a new "Program Manager" position to be housed within Missouri Humanities, which will allow MAMA to build capacity by increasing membership, creating a streamlined process for event management, and ensuring a good experience for Missouri museums and archives. (2) To continue and enhance the organization's Annual Conference, which provides members and interested members of the public an opportunity to explore new ideas, projects, and best practices related to the museum and archive profession, funding will expand the conference to reach a larger audience by providing several days of workshops, informational sessions, and professional networking opportunities. (3) In addition to the annual conference, MAMA offers professional development opportunities on various topics throughout the year. These opportunities include programs, workshops, and other events designed to give an in-depth look at concepts relevant to the museum and archive profession. Topics include interpretation, conservation/preservation, education and public programming, exhibition design, or strategic initiatives. (4) The Northeast Document Conservation Center, one of the nation's premier conservation agencies, offers a host of virtual programming which would allow their expertise to be shared with Missouri museums and archives. MAMA proposes creating a new, conservation-specific virtual workshop series, with sessions to be held throughout the year. (5) Sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council and coordinated through MAMA, the Diversity Internship program is designed to provide meaningful work experiences for students from diverse backgrounds interested in the museum or archives profession. The internships will match students with museum and archival sites that will direct, and benefit from, a sponsored internship. Internships can provide opportunities in interpretation, educational programming, exhibit design, marketing, collections management, and non-profit business management.

**Jesuit Archives & Research Center (JARC) | \$9,060**

***Expanding Internships and Student Work Opportunities***

The Jesuit Archives & Research Center (JARC) will expand part-time work opportunities for current college students and graduate students who are pursuing library science or history degrees and have an interest in archival work. Four additional positions will be available, for a total of six opportunities: three interns and three student workers—one of each in the fall 2021 semester, the spring 2022 semester, and the fall 2022 semester. Interns at JARC will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, including processing, reference, digitization, cataloging, and exhibit design. Projects will be selected that fit an intern's interests and/or fill skill gaps. Additionally, interns will experience day-to-day tasks of the archival profession, including attending meetings, assisting with planning events, and participating in professional development as opportunities arise.

**Mark Twain Home Foundation | \$5,000**

***Mark Twain Teachers Workshop***

The Mark Twain Workshop is designed to provide a solid background to Mark Twain's early life and writings, as well as provide useful tools and techniques for presenting his works to students in grades 4–12.

**Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies, Washington University | \$41,114**

***Community Cultural Knowledge, Histories, and Connections***

This project will create economic opportunity within the Buder Center, leadership opportunities for Buder Center scholars, and community-engaging projects that will ultimately lead to increased knowledge regarding Indigenous peoples, lands, cultures and history across the state of Missouri, as well as opportunities for Indigenous individuals to create impact within their communities. The project consists of three activities to be supervised by a Community Projects Coordinator housed within the Buder Center. This position will: (1) coordinate the Alliance for Native Programs and Initiatives (ANPI) meetings and objectives, which will strengthen collaboration among Native Americans and regional organizations in order to increase understanding among all populations about the history and culture of Native peoples, expand Native American Heritage activities and events, with a special focus on, but not limited to, rural areas in Missouri, and highlight Native American historic and cultural sites across the state; (2) oversee the Buder Center's community engagement and education/scholar professional leadership development program, which participates in over 35 community speaking engagements each year; (3) implement and coordinate a new WeRise community-engaged education and impact project to support regional Indigenous individuals, Buder scholars, and Buder alumni who seek to make impact in our community and/or create engagement and educational opportunities for all, which will increase the number of community projects in the St. Louis area and across the state.

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) | \$130,000**

***Planning Study for National Museum of Indian Removal***

Missouri Humanities, working with numerous local, regional, national, and tribal entities, seeks to build and operate a national museum, located in St. James, telling the story of Indian retreat and removal westward from contact to the Civil War. This comprehensive facility will attract national and international audiences and serve as the capstone of the ongoing interpretive activities currently underway by Missouri Humanities to locate, document, and interpret the extensive Trail of Tears through Missouri. The MRPC will work with various stakeholders to form the Technical Advisory Committee and hire the consultant to create the requisite planning document for the museum. The MRPC will also act as the fiscal agent for the grant funds and administer the contract with the consultant.

**Historical Society of Maries County (HSMC) | \$3,500**

***HSMC Research Room***

The HSMC will use the funds to revitalize the outdated research room, improve conservation of the materials housed in the research facility, and make the materials more accessible to researchers and to the general public in order to enhance the knowledge of the cultural heritage of Maries County and increase cultural heritage tourism throughout the region.

**Novinger Renewal | \$5,000**

***Capacity Building for Heritage Tourism in a Historic Mining Town***

Novinger Renewal will recruit and train a minimum of ten participants in the basics of cultural heritage tourism. Participants will include high school students and new members of Novinger Planned Progress. The curriculum will be developed in accordance with the National Association for Interpretation and other related resources. The project will focus on the former Methodist Church (circa 1904), the Novinger Log Homestead, and the Coal Miners Museum (all currently owned and operated by Novinger Renewal). At the conclusion of the project, participants will be prepared to deliver a ten-minute program of their choice, which will be offered to the community as a series of evening and weekend programs.

**Total: \$843,196**

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# Reflections on Change



ASHLEY BEARD-FOSNOW  
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As our nation approaches its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026 and

the National Endowment for the Humanities encourages programs that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture, many Missourians are listening to and discussing the *Washington Post's* podcast *Constitutional*. In the final episode, the conversation turns to the topic of “change” when Cunningham interviews Christine Blackerby, a historian and curator at the U.S. Capitol Building, about the amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Although thousands of amendments have been proposed but unsuccessful, Blackerby explains how 27 amendments have successfully changed the Constitution. Blackerby says, “So these efforts that we’ve made over the years to update the Constitution, I think the Founders would approve of that. They knew they didn’t have it 100 percent correct. They knew that they were moving towards a more perfect union, not that they had created a perfect union.” Through the amendment process in Article V, they created a country that would grow and update itself as needed.

Another way the Founders paved the way for growth was by building the peaceful transfer of power into the Constitution. The Framers recognized that new people bring new energy, ideas, and talents. In response to its own new phase of growth, the Missouri Humanities Board of Directors recently

asked me to use my energy and skills to position our organization for success. As the new Executive Director of Missouri Humanities, I will lead the charge toward a stronger, more effective, and more prosperous future. I am honored to work in close partnership with the new Chairman of the Board, Marilyn Bradford. Together, with our brilliant and talented staff, we will expand meaningful connections through innovative humanities programming.

I am passionate about process improvement. I have experienced its transformational effect on teams and movements and am excited to expand the services and exposure we offer to small nonprofits and cultural institutions and promote economic development, especially rural revitalization, by emphasizing the state’s numerous and various cultural heritage opportunities and venues.

While we move through this season of change, many familiar aspects of our work will remain the same: investing in communities as they learn about the history and culture of this state; engaging veterans with writing and storytelling; exposing children and adults to new ideas through literature; appreciating the cultural diversity embodied by our state’s distinctive Native American, African American, and German American histories; and learning again and again to see beyond the simple, binary divisions of our politics, economics, and demographics to appreciate our common humanity. I invite you to reach out to me directly with feedback and suggestions as we embrace change, remember the past, and focus on the future.

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- *Contesting the Constitution: Congress Debates the Missouri Crisis, 1819–1821*, by William S. Belko
- *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors*, Volume 9, edited by James Brubaker



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105 N Main Street, Ste 108  
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314.781.9660 | 1.800.357.0909



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## ST. CHARLES OFFICE

105 N Main Street, Ste 108  
St. Charles, MO 63301

## KANSAS CITY OFFICE

1800 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 1S  
Kansas City, MO 64108

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Missouri Humanities  
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