



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024

200 Madison St. Jefferson City, MO 65101 Room 316

Missouri Humanities' mission is to enrich lives and strengthen communities by connecting Missourians with the people, places, and ideas that shape our society.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Trish Erzfeld (Chairperson), Jason Sides (Vice Chair) (Virtual), Juan Meraz, Betty Coleman (Virtual), Nicholas Inman (Secretary), Marci Bennett, Marilynn Bradford, George Pettigrew, Alicia Starr (Virtual)

**Board Members Absent:** Peter Hofherr, Sudarsan Kant, John Robinson III

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Ashley Beard-Fosnow (Executive Director), Ashley Vogel (Office Coordinator), Clarice Britton (Director Operations), Greg Wolk (Heritage Program Director), Chris Kempke (Cultural Community Development Director)

**Guests:** Brian Loose (Anders CPAs), Kyna Inman

- |      |  |                      |
|------|--|----------------------|
| I.   | <b>Welcome Guests, Board Members, and Staff</b>  | <b>Trish Erzfeld</b> |
| II.  | <b>Call to Order</b>   | <b>Trish Erzfeld</b> |
| III. | <b>Roll Call</b>   | <b>Ashley Vogel</b>  |
|      | <i>i. Ashley Vogel conducted roll call. A quorum was established.</i>  |                      |
| IV.  | <b>Approve Agenda</b>  | <b>Trish Erzfeld</b> |
| V.   | <b>Approve December 9, 2023, Minutes</b>   | <b>Trish Erzfeld</b> |
|      | <i>i. Juan Meraz motioned to approve the December 9, 2023 minutes as presented. George Pettigrew seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved with no corrections being made.</i>   |                      |
| VI.  | <b>Presentation of the 2023 Financial Statement Audit</b>  | <b>Brian Loose</b>   |
|      | <i>i. Brian Loose shared his screen and walked the full Board through the Independent Auditor's Report. They issued the highest-level opinion an independent auditor can give – an unmodified opinion. There was no departure from generally accepted accounting principles and there were no scope limitations. He covered the reminder that, ultimately, these financial statements are MH's responsibility to present fairly. Anders CPAs take a risk-based approach to the auditing process.</i> |                      |
|      | <i>ii. Brian went over the Statement of Financial Position, noting that our total assets increased by about \$1.5 million from last year. 80% of our total expenses are going to our programs. Anders CPA likes to keep this around 75%, so this is good to see. There is a new footnote due to having a new website and a new accounting standard listing leases.</i>   |                      |
|      | <i>iii. We have \$1.6 million in available assets available to use over the next year.</i>   |                      |
|      | <i>iv. Ashley Beard-Fosnow noted that if Anders CPAs found a problem or issue, they would reach out to the Board chair, and this annual presentation would not be the first time the Board would be hearing about it.</i>  |                      |



- v. *Marci Bennett motioned to accept the audit as presented. Marylinn Bradford seconded. All in favor. The audit was accepted as presented.*

**VII. Executive Director Report**

**Ashley Beard-Fosnow**

- Ashley BF shared a presentation displaying our mission and our vision. A banner was shown defining the humanities. The humanities are a process to pursue truths about the human condition. Last year we served over 380,000 Missouri participants. On a daily basis, we offer grant-making, cultural heritage programming, veterans' workshops, and digital programming. Ashley BF displayed staff photos and an organization chart.
- Objectives:
  1. Expanding Connections through marketing, magazines, advocacy, partnerships, and Missouri Speakers Bureau.
  2. Operational Effectiveness through fundraising, membership, operational effectiveness.
  3. Innovative Programming. We have umbrellaed all of our programs under one unified theme. This year, it is Missouri Marvels: Humanities, Discovery, and Innovation. She highlighted an upcoming program: Military Service / Literary Solace. Ashley BF highlighted in purple the grants Greg is managing and Clarice's grant deadlines in blue. Board meetings were listed in pink.
  4. Cultural Heritage Tourism through exhibits, Horizons, and AmeriCorps.
- We are scheduled to have an NEH site visit to Missouri. We need to consider the 2027 to 2032 Strategic Plan. We also need to plan the next iteration of our three-year budget (2027-2030). Ashley BF encouraged Board members to attend our upcoming events. She's reminded Board members of the August 6<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop.

**i. Operations Update**

**Clarice Britton**

- Clarice Britton is the Director of Operations and has been with MH for 28 years. She works closely with the Charity CFO to ensure that invoices that get sent are paid correctly. She also works with Ferguson to ensure IT. She works with insurance; she is the main point of contact with Anders CPAs throughout the auditing process. She administers all of the grants and is very pleased with the use of the new Grantmaking software, Foundant.
- Charity CFO is our fiscal agent who handles our accounting and bookkeeping. They provide us with our monthly financial report.
  1. *Clarice Britton finished her report and left the meeting.*

**ii. Heritage Programs Update**

**Greg Wolk**

- Greg Wolk is devoted to expanding his horizons beyond the Civil War. He is planning a Think N Drink June 26 highlighting women in STEM. They will have another Think N Drink in Rolla tying into the innovation theme. We will have 2



battlefield-related educational programs – one in Rocheport, Missouri (May 10) and one in Bloomfield.

**iii. AmeriCorps Update**

**Chris Kempke**

- Chris Kempke defined AmeriCorps. We are connected to AmeriCorps through this planning grant through the Missouri Planning Commission. Our goal is to put AmeriCorps members in rural historical societies and humanities institutions across the state. They want to understand our logic model, our need and relevant data, organizational capacity, budgeting, etc.
- The big areas we had to focus on are a needs assessment, internal operations, and member recruitment and support.
  1. We're doing a needs assessment with rural areas across the state.
  2. Reviewing existing quantitative data.
  3. Examination of existing humanities AmeriCorps programming and in-state AmeriCorps programs.
  4. Roundtable discussions with stakeholders.
  5. Examination of internal operations.
- This program will help support humanities operations across the state in a way we can't otherwise support them. It supports our humanities professional development group across the state. It also could increase regional cooperation with other humanities councils.
- The implementation grant application will be finished before November 1<sup>st</sup>. The planning grant goes until the end of the year. If awarded, this would be officially started in August.
- Last June, the Board approved applying for this planning grant. George Pettigrew asked if we had considered a pilot program. Chris noted that the planning grant is taking the place of what might otherwise be a pilot.

**VII. Committees**

**Trish Erzfeld**

**iv. Advocacy**

**Marci Bennett**

- Today is Advocacy Day! The Board should have received information from Chrissy Sommers on our messages, basic bullet points, etc.
- Marci Bennett encouraged Board members to provide their legislators with personal stories revolving around the importance of the humanities.

**v. Finance**

**John Robinson**

- **Financial Report**
  1. Ashley Beard-Fosnow presented the Management Report in John Robinson's absence. At the end of February, cash balance at the end of February was \$810,114. Grants payable balance was \$133,420. Our total current assets were \$3,759,653. Our ratio is 11.48, representing a healthy ability to cover our



expenses. YTD Operating expenses were \$603,903. We were at 81% for programmatic expenses.

**vi. Investment Policy**

**John Robinson**

- During the September 2023 Board meeting, a motion was passed to take a more balanced approach with our investments. This policy was presented to the Executive Committee last month. The document presented is beneficial because she can use it to aid our Broker in determining that our investments are meeting our expectations.
  1. *Nicholas Inman motioned to accept the Investment Policy as presented. Juan Meraz seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.*

**vii. Grants**

**Betty Coleman**

● **February Major Grants**

1. Clarice removed any grants that did not meet the basic requirement – for a total of 12 applications being removed. MH received 65 grant applications. \$807k was requested. One grant was received to support a conference, 15 applicants applied for the first time, and 13 had never received a grant from MH before. 25 applications were fully funded for \$291,268.85. 2 were partially funded for \$17,500. 38 applications were rejected. Grant applications that were funded this round totaled \$308,768.85. This year we have spent \$330,611.85. Our grant budget for the year is \$622k.

**viii. Soul of the State**

**Jason Sides**

- Some universities that we were planning on partnering with are having issues. So, we need to adjust our strategy. We are starting to look for other partners and potentially moving forward this summer.

**ix. Heartland Book Festival**

**Nicholas Inman**

- Voting has just ended for Great Reads from Great Places. We have been in conversation with KCPL for the second Heartland Book Festival. Missouri Humanities and Missouri Center for the Book have submitted a letter of support for David Harrison, the 7<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate of MO, who is applying for a Fellowship with the National Academy of Poets.

**II. Old Business**

**Trish Erzfeld**

**III. New Business**

**Trish Erzfeld**

**IV. Adjourn**

**Trish Erzfeld**

- i. Marci Bennett motioned to adjourn. Betty Coleman seconded. All in favor. Meeting ended at 11:31 AM.*

**Next Board Meeting:** June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Hannibal, MO

Missouri Humanities is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.



Topic: 3.26.24 Full Board of Directors Meeting

Time: Mar 26, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86598958766?pwd=OzVHbmdGRDZ1bW9HRE42Y1k0amx4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 865 9895 8766

Passcode: 069527