



FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting Missourians to the
people, places, and ideas that
shape our society.





The humanities remain as vital to Americans today as they were in 1776

Dear Friends,

The humanities preserve our stories, awaken us to the possibilities of new ideas, and assist us in weighing the discourse we read, allowing us to understand those things we have not experienced ourselves. Thus, as we near the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the humanities remain as vital to Americans today as they were in 1776. For that reason, our small but mighty staff of twelve works tirelessly to expand connections across the state, bringing quality humanities content to Missourians in 114 counties. The Missouri Humanities staff approach this work with a high degree of professionalism, intellectual rigor, and creativity to strengthen communities by providing Missourians with public programs and grant funding that encourage critical thinking and dialogue. I am exceptionally proud to be a member of this team.

Throughout 2024, the staff and Board of Missouri Humanities helped Missourians explore the intersection of science and the humanities. In-person events, like the “Ozarks Marvels: Innovation for the Common Good” symposium, enjoyed record-breaking attendance. The “Missouri Speakers Bureau” continues to grow and provided 147 presentations last year in rural communities across the state. Similarly, our digital programs like “Small Town Showcase” reached more Missourians than ever before. Through these offerings and more, Missouri Humanities is realizing our mission to enrich lives. Last year, we served more than 500,000 participants.

I am grateful to every Missourian who attended our programs, consumed our digital content online, partnered with us on grant-funded projects, and supported our work through membership and monetary gifts. Our 2025 signature series is one that means a great deal to me personally as we consider the enormous blessing and responsibilities that come with American citizenship. “Missouri Voices” like Langston Hughes, Mark Twain, and Walt Disney made American culture what it is today. I invite you to lend your voice to the conversation by attending Missouri Humanities events like the Heartland Book Festival in October. Join us in preparing for the Semiquincentennial by viewing two new documentaries that tell American stories from the Show-Me perspective, “Not in Our Wildest Dreams” and “Crossroads of a Nation” streaming on H-Tv. Together, we will build a more thoughtful and informed civil society.

Ashley Beard-Fosnow
Executive Director



Stay Updated on Missouri Humanities

FY24 Statewide Impact

507,263

Individuals engaged in programs hosted and supported by Missouri Humanities across the state.

386,230

Individuals reached by Mini & Major Grants to 90 cultural, community, and educational Missouri organizations.

52,000+

Views and downloads of our digital programming, including podcasts and short video stories.

Humanities TV

("H-Tv") was launched, offering Missourians a streaming platform with a curated collection of films, docu-series, and other digital storytelling exploring the humanities in Missouri and beyond.



Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2024

Income

NEH Multi-Year Grant	\$1,227,625
Missouri Humanities Council Trust Fund Grant	\$4,571,958
Contributions	\$39,418
Other**	\$52,730
Investment	\$140,461

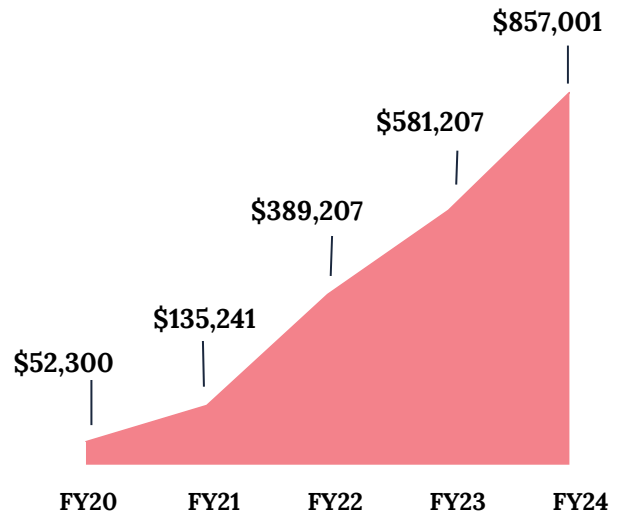


Expenses

MH Programs	\$1,790,352
Grants***	\$857,001
Administrative	\$250,209
Development	\$101,963

Total Expenses \$3,032,353

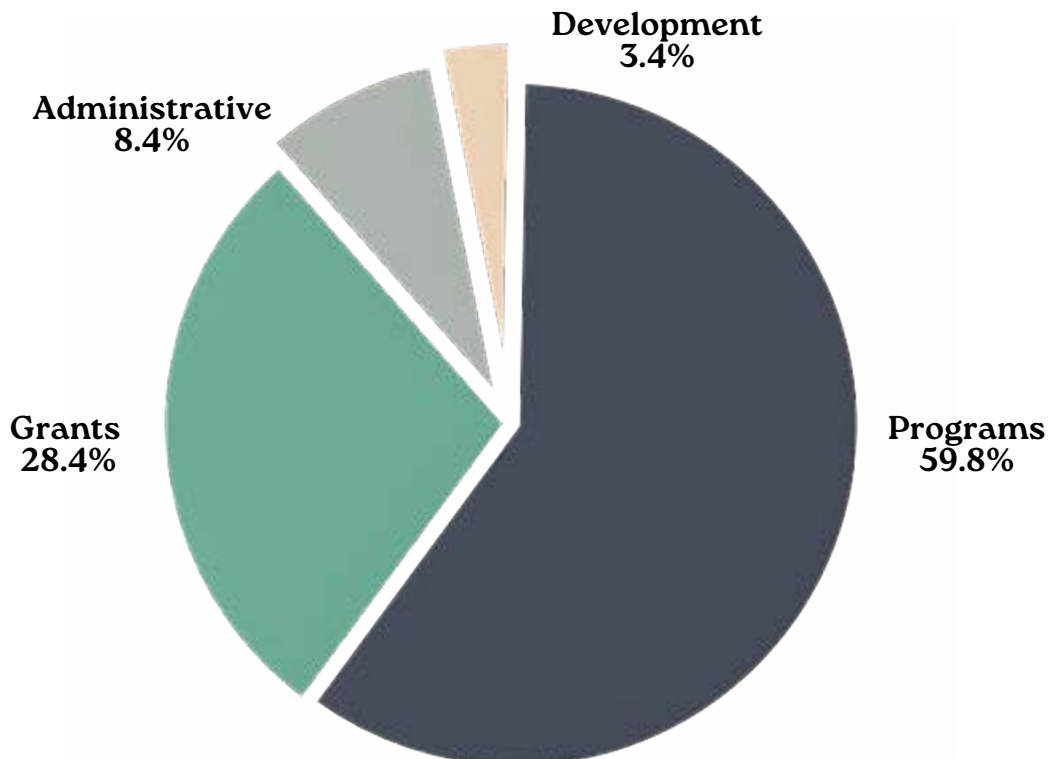
Ending Net Assets \$7,353,967



Amount in Grant Funding Awarded by MH

* Multi-year grant which carries forward through 2024.
 ** Includes income from the Annual Gala and other ticketed events.
 *** Includes funding for Mini and Major Grants, the Museum on Main Street program, and the Horizons initiative.

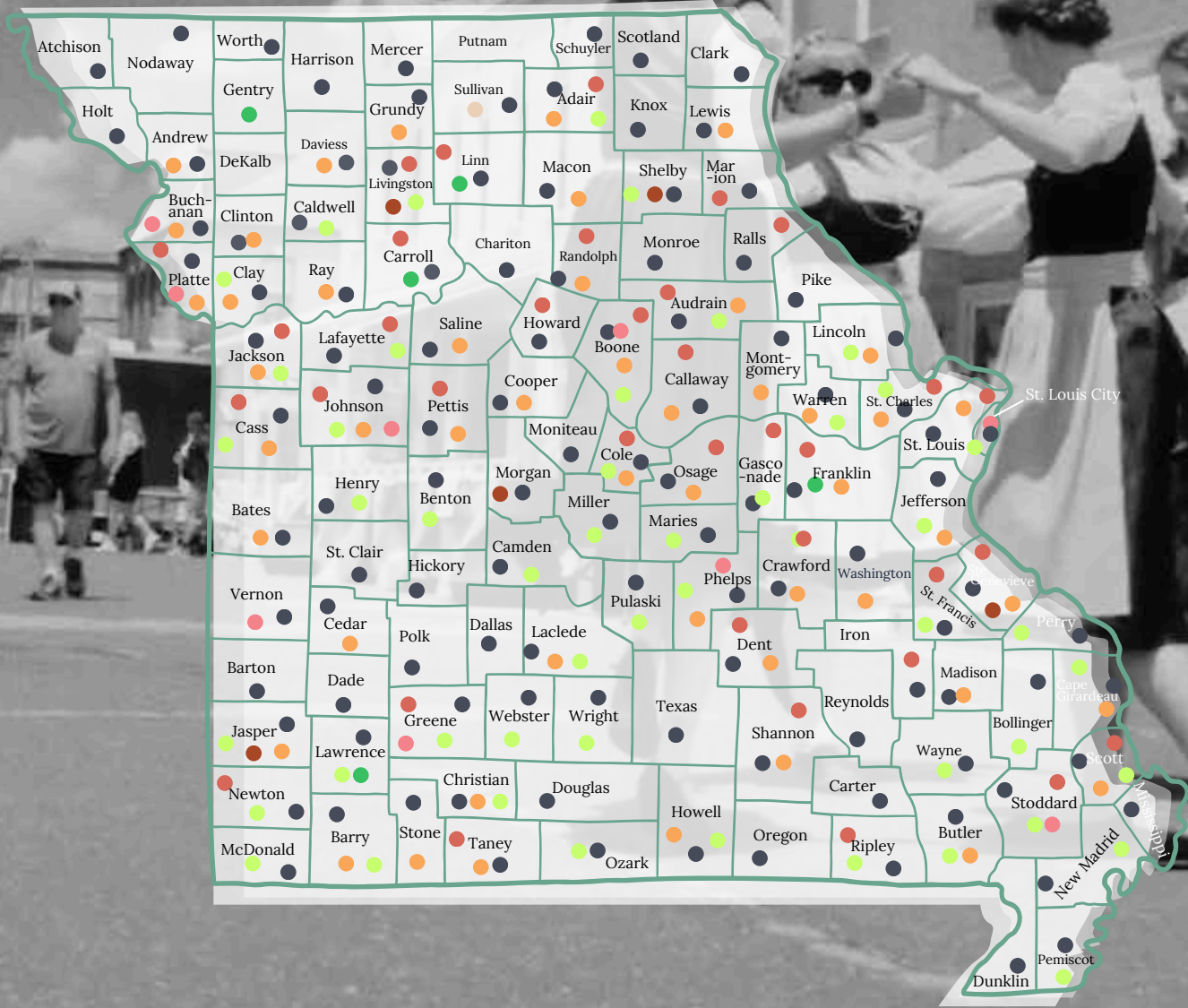
Allocation of Expenses



Areas of Impact

Fiscal Year 2024

- FY2024 Grants
- FY2024 Magazine Distribution
- FY2024 Small Town Showcase
- FY2024 Read from the Start Packets
- FY2024 Council Conducted Activities
- FY2024 Horizons
- FY2024 Speakers Bureau



In-Person Programs

We promote public dialogue through speakers' events, symposiums, interpretive traveling exhibits, community festivals, and interactive events. We partner with national and local institutions to host and promote in-person events throughout the state, engaging Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in the humanities. In total, 8,085 individuals attended MH's in-person events.

Veterans Programs

To amplify veteran voices and experiences, MH hosted three Veterans Writing Workshops, co-hosted Military Service/Literary Solace: A Conversation with Veteran Writers panel discussion, co-published *Proud to Be: Writings by American Warriors*, Volume 12, and presented a *Proud to Be 12* Reading and Roundtable. We engaged 264 veterans, military-connected family members, and civilians through these programs.

Literature Programs

More than 2,000 people participated in our second annual Heartland Book Festival, presented in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library. The festival featured local and national authors, publishers, and bookstores through author talks, panel discussions, book signings, workshops, and book-centric vendors. As the Missouri Center for the Book, MH represented Missouri literature with two book selections at the 24th annual Library of Congress's National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

Speakers Bureau

We partner with the State Historical Society of Missouri to provide a catalog of 45 expert historians, storytellers, and scholars to give in-person presentations about Missouri's culture, history, art, and people to audiences across the state. In FY24, a total of 147 presentations were held across the state.

Cultural Heritage

Our heritage programs promote Missouri's rich cultural heritage and historical significance. We offered 25 unique programs, including scholar panels, cultural heritage workshops, and traveling exhibits, reaching over 14,000 Missourians. We also hosted in-person and virtual capacity-building workshops for cultural institutions across the state, reaching an average of 52 attendees per workshop.



Digital Programs

Missouri Humanities proudly offers multiple ways to engage with humanities-based content from the comfort of your home or on the go. From films, video series, podcasts, and recorded programs, tune in to experience a variety of stories about people, places, and ideas rooted in the humanities. In FY24, we had 40,300 videos viewed, for a total of 2,400 hours watched, and we had 3,700 podcast downloads.

Small Town Showcase

We strive to highlight the uniqueness of rural Missouri and to showcase the bigger picture of what Small Town America really is and why it shouldn't be overlooked, overshadowed, or underappreciated. Each year, communities with populations under 10,000 are nominated and voted on by Missourians to become our annual "Featured Five" communities, who then work with us throughout the year to produce a podcast episode and short film about their town. In 2024, our Featured Five were Aurora, Albany, Carrollton, Marceline, and Pacific.

Humanities TV

2024 saw our first full year of launching Humanities TV (H-Tv). H-Tv is Missouri Humanities' very own streaming platform—a curated collection of films, docu-series, and other digital storytelling projects to connect viewers with stories, people, and places rooted in the humanities. Content on H-Tv includes projects produced by Missouri Humanities, like Small Town Showcase and short documentary films, as well as content from other creators who strive to share stories through film. We ended the year with 1,412 subscribers and 66 featured projects from 18 different creators.

Podcasts

Our podcasts help us reach more people by providing high-quality, engaging stories that listeners can enjoy anywhere, anytime. Each year, we produce new episodes of both our Missouri Humanities Signature Series podcast and the Small Town Showcase podcast. In 2024, we produced five more Small Town Showcase episodes and 5 signature series episodes. In total, our podcasts received over 3,700 downloads and maintained 119 subscribers.

GRANT PROGRAMS

We awarded \$857,001 in Mini and Major Grants statewide, funding the projects of 90 individual Missouri organizations, reaching approximately 387,636 Individuals in FY24.

2024 Missouri's Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference Missouri Main Street Connection	Cole County America 250th Celebration Cole County 250th Anniversary Committee	Dragons Love Tacos Cyclopedic Ensemble	Hermann Maifest Celebration City of Herman
9th Annual Tennessee Williams Festival St Louis Scholar's Conference Tennessee Williams Festival St Louis	Comes A Time: Cooperative Ventures, Shared Visions, Strong Democracy New Wave Corporation	Exhibit Case for Local Pioneer's Clothing Lee's Summit Historical Society Museum	History in our Parks Springfield Greene County Park Board-Outdoor Initiatives
298 Years: From Cherokee Contact with Hernando De Soto to the Trail of Tears Across Missouri Trail of Tears Association	Commemoration of Lafayette's Tour Visit to St. Louis, MO American Friends of Lafayette	Exploring Asian Identities in Missouri Webster University	Inclusive St. Louis: Leaders Shaping Our Future International Institute of St. Louis
45th St. Louis Storytelling Festival St. Louis County Library Foundation	Connecting with our Past Through Dance Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers	For the People Powwow Missionary Society For Preservation of Traditional Values, For the People Powwow Committee	Johnny Morris' Wonder of Wildlife Foundation Native American Heritage Celebration
67th Missouri Conference on History Missouri Conference on History	Creativity Along the Boulevard/ Art Along the Boulevard Delmar Main Street Initiative	Fort Mason Monument Project County of Ralls Missouri	Kansas City Theater and Art Book Club Turn the Page KC
A Century of Style: A Vintage Fashion Show & Tea BonneTerre Historical Society	Cultivating Community in Formerly Segregated Spaces in Springfield, MO Ozark Vitality	Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Map-Based Visitors' Guide Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area	Kehila Kedosha: Jewish Heritage in the Missouri Ozarks Missouri State University-Ozarks Public Broadcasting
A History Conference on the Raid Led by Confederate General Sterling Price Cole County Historical Society	December: A Literary Legacy Since 1958 STL LitFest	Frontier Technology Program Discovery Center of Springfield	Latin American Heritage Series The Sheldon
A Point in Time: Honing Our Native Cultural Evolution Through Artifact Grand River Historical Society & Museum	Dedicated Display Materials for 2024 Black Heritage Celebration Kirkwood Historical Society	FY25 Children's Literature Festival University of Central Missouri	Make the River Present Interpretive Exhibit and Symposium Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis
A Vision of the Wild, the Story of Conservation in Missouri Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation	Destined II SOAR Eagle Charitable Foundation	Gateway to Inclusive Storytelling: Developing a New Approach to Interpreting Challenging History Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, Great Rivers Greenway	Meet Me in St. Louis Ignite Theatre Company
"Back to Our Roots" Banner Display My Hometown Carrollton Calling Uncle Carter J. Fortitude	"Discover Bradley" Website Project General Omar Bradley Memorial, Library, And Museum, Inc	Youth Diplomats Institute Global Ties KC	Meet Us in St. Louis; Gateway to Success Missouri Professional Communicators
Chuseok Korean Harvest Festival - St. Louis Gateway Korea Foundation	Discovering Sites and Understanding Experiences Along the Trail of Tears in Steelville, Missouri Steelville Area Historical Society	Helping to Bring the Humanities to the Public Square Missouri State University - Research Administration	Missouri Book Festival 2024 Scenic Regional Library
	Disney 100: The Exhibition Union Station Kansas City, Inc.	Heritage in Hand: Exploring African American Quilting History Jacob's Ladder Ministries	Missouri Coalition for the Environment Greenwood Cemetery Film
			Murals of Newton County Audio Descriptions Newton County Tourism Council

I never considered myself a writer, but have been interested in writing, if only for myself. This workshop gave me some tools I can use to spark creativity. I actually wrote a completed poem and the feedback from the group made me realize I do have an ability to write something that others enjoy. I would do this workshop 100 times over.

Veterans Writing Workshop: Sparking Creative Writing Participant

GRANT PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

National History Day in Missouri | The State Historical Society of Missouri

Northeast Missouri African American Heritage Driving Trail | Jim's Journey: The Huck Finn Freedom Center, Families and Communities Together

O Say Can You Sing: Sharing the History of African American Music with our Youths | Youth Arts & Technology Center

Our Culinary Legacy | J. Fortitude

PageTurner 2024: Hearing Place in a Missouri Town | The New Territory Magazine

Paseo Stairs Engagement and Media Project | United Way of Greater Kansas City, Inc

Pennytown Community Historical Project | Friends of Pennytown Historic Site

Pioneer Kids Day Camps | Cass County Historical Society

Player Piano Restoration and Exhibit/Interpretive Program Development | Sedalia Heritage Foundation

Preserving Sikeston's Rodeo Heritage | Sikeston Rodeo Museum

Printing of the Adair Historian | Adair County Historical Society

Race, History, Change and Social Activism: Baseball's Impact on American | Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Foundation

Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society 19th Annual Ancestors Memorial Gourd Dance Pow Wow | Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society

Rendezvous on the Ridge-Upper Current River Community Celebration | Ozark Riverways Foundation

Rev. Harold Wilke: Disability Rights and the "Breaking of Chains" | Paraquad

Salute To Service | Mid America Veterans Museum

Searching for Lloyd Gaines | Inside Out Media, Inc.

Shannondale, an Experiment in Human Ecology | Shannondale United Church of Christ

Sharing Stories about MLK: Oral Histories of St. Louis's Dr. Martin Luther King | St. Louis Association of Community Organization

Show Me State Air Show | Show Me State Air Show

Show MO Voices to Screen: a Missouri Screenwriting Workshop | Presser Hall Restoration Society, Presser Arts Center

"Sippin" on the Square | Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Sisters as City Builders: Archiving Global Histories in Local Perspective | Saint Louis University Department of Theological Studies

St. Louis Jewish Book Festival | Jewish Community Center of St. Louis

Stars & Stripes Historical Byway: Bloomfield's Civil War Cultural Tour Project | The Stars and Stripes National Museum Library

Stitch Cast Studio Special Edition: People and Land Entwined in Southeast Missouri | Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective

Storytime Program: Expanding Access to New Books for Children | Ready Readers

Summer Reading Club: Adventure Begins at Your Library | Brentwood Public Library

Sundae Stories | A Red Circle Sweet Home St. Louis - History of the St. Louis Blues Scene | National Blues Museum

Tablets to Enhance the Discovery of Human Experience at the Jefferson Barracks Telephone Museum | Telecom Pioneers, Jefferson Barracks Telephone Museum

Teaching Teachers for National History Day | MO Council for Social Studies

The Creation of MADCO's Season 49 Books in Motion Programming | Mid America Dance Company, Modern American Dance Company (MADCO)

The Haunted Belldown School | Fat Daddys Farm Foundation

The Largest Book Party | Books for STL Kids

The May Book Project | The Very Asian Foundation

The Process Card Game | House of Pais

The Real Power of Low Power FM: The Long View | International Educational Resources for Rural Missouri

Third Annual Symposium Series | Crowder College, Social Science Department

Tillman House Museum - Open simultaneously with "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" | Brookfield Community Betterment Inc

Together Apart, The ParkDay Reunion Film Documentary | Unite of Southwest Missouri, Inc

Vision - Community Screening Series | LovetheLou

Westminster College Archives Student Curator Program | Westminster College-Reeves Library Weston Wassailing | Weston Development Company

Westside Stories Part II | Mattie Rhodes Center Who Built this Place? | Lexington Tourism Commission

Wild and Scenic Film Festival | Missouri Coalition for the Environment

Wornall/Majors Authors Series | Wornall/Majors House Museum

“ A grant is allowing more than 400 third-grade students in Springfield Public Schools to learn more about local and state history – and the individuals who shaped that history. The Missouri Humanities awarded \$10,000 to support the History Museum on the Square's Meet Missouri program. The funds will allow local students to participate in curated field trip experiences. ”

‘Spring Field Elementary Students Head to History Museum on Field Trip Thanks to Grant’



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Thank you to the following contributing members who supported the humanities in 2024.

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