



FOR A MORE THOUGHTFUL, INFORMED, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As the Executive Director of Missouri Humanities, my charge is to make the humanities a larger part of public life in communities across the state. The humanities preserve and share our stories, awaken us to the possibilities of new ideas, assist us in weighing the discourse we read, and allow us to understand those things we have not experienced ourselves.

Throughout 2023, the staff and Board of Missouri Humanities helped Missourians connect to their ancestral roots and consider the transportation routes that have shaped our state's culture and history. We had an incredible year! Our in-person events like the "Roots and Routes of the Ozarks" symposium and "Missouri Speakers Bureau" programs enjoyed record-breaking attendance. The launch of the inaugural Heartland Book Festival was a great success, attended by over two thousand individuals. Similarly, our digital programs like "Small Town Showcase" reached more Missourians than ever before. In 2023, we launched a new platform, "Humanities TV" and received two Mid-America Emmy nominations for short film documentaries produced by Missouri Humanities. Through these offerings and more, Missouri Humanities is realizing our mission to enrich lives. For over 53 years, Missouri Humanities has worked to transform communities by providing Missourians with public programs and grant funding that encourage critical thinking and dialogue.

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. Stay tuned in 2024 as we explore Missouri's marvels and continue to broaden our horizons through cultural heritage tourism across the state.



Ashley Beard-Fosnow

ASHLEY BEARD-FOSNOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



390,800+

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

\$581,802

Awarded in Mini & Major Grants to 80 cultural, community, and educational Missouri organizations.

8,085+

Individuals participated in Missouri Humanities in-person events statewide.

52,000+

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

Over 50

Cities and towns across Missouri hosted one or more Missouri Humanities programs.

2 Regional Emmy Nominations

For our short films "Si Otsedoha (We are Still Here): Remembering Cherokee Removal" and "Won't You Feed My Neighbor."



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2023

Income

NEH Multi-Year Grant	\$1,278,947*
Missouri Humanities Council Trust Fund Grant	\$2,038,617
Contributions	\$32,472
Other**	\$36,404
Investment	\$25,397

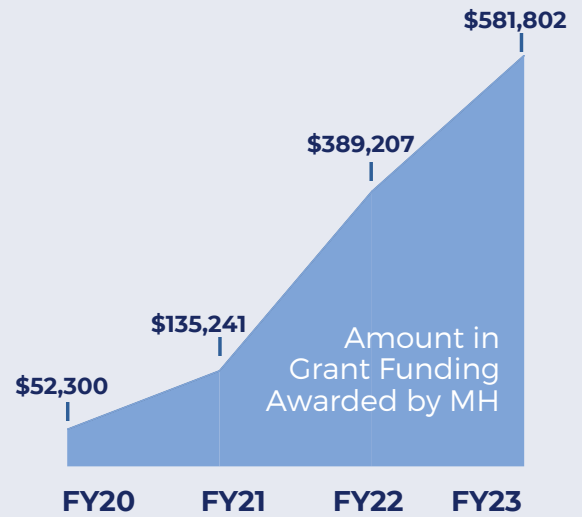


Expenses

MH Programs	\$1,051,538
Grants***	\$581,802
Administrative	\$236,260
Development	\$195,747

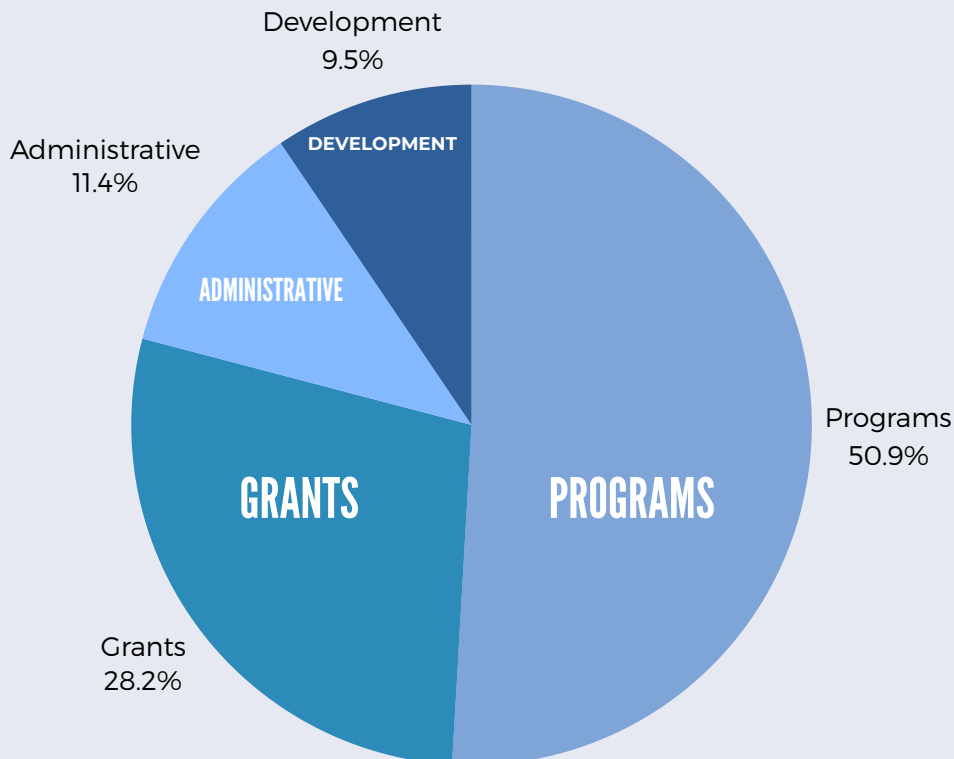
Total Expenses **\$2,065,381**

Ending Net Assets **\$4,277,871**



* 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





2023 Heartland Book Festival | Photo by Kenney Ellison



2023 Spring Symposium kickoff Think-N-Drink at Mother's Brewing Company

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

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

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 5,000 Missourians. We also honored the Bicentennial of Ulysses S. Grant's birth with a touring exhibit titled "Ulysses Grant's Missouri."

Veterans Workshops

In FY23, MH offered two Veterans Writing Workshops, co-supported a "Vet" Set Basics (a film-based workforce workshop), co-published Volume 11 of *Proud to Be: Writings by American Warriors* featuring 38 contributors, and presented a virtual *Proud to Be* 10 Reading & Roundtable. In total, we reached 160 veterans, civilians, and military-connected family members.

Literature Programs

More than 2,100 people joined us for our inaugural Heartland Book Festival, presented in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library. The festival included presentations by renowned authors, workshops, and other literary art activities. As the Missouri Center for the Book, MH represented Missouri literature by way of two book selections at the 23rd 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 52 expert historians, storytellers, and scholars to give in-person presentations about Missouri's culture, history, art, and people to audiences across the state. In FY23, a total of 143 presentations were held across the state.

Signature Series

Our 2023 Signature Series "Roots & Routes: The Movement and Settlement of Missourians" considered the influence of migration on the cultural heritage, natural environment, and modern makeup of Missouri. Programs included our 6th Annual Humanities Symposium, "Roots & Routes of the Ozarks: People & Pathways," examining this theme within the Ozarks, as well as a podcast and short video projects. (see *Digital Programs*)



Chef Nephi Craig at the 2023 Hunt, Fish, Gather.



MH Staff and Partners with NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Our Digital Programs connect Missourians with video series, short films, and podcasts featuring stories, people, and places rooted in the humanities. In total our digital programs were viewed or listened to over 52,800 times.

In 2023, MH developed and soft launched our new online platform, Humanities TV ("H-Tv"), a curated collection of films, docu-series, and other digital storytelling exploring the humanities in Missouri and beyond.

Short Films

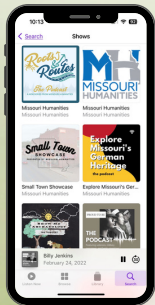
Two of our short films were nominated for 2023 Midwest Regional Emmys: *Si Otsedoha (We Are Still Here): Remembering Cherokee Removal*, following the endurance, emotions, and bonds of Cherokee riders biking over nearly 1,000 miles along the Trail of Tears; and *Won't You Feed My Neighbor*, highlighting organizations and individuals throughout the state dedicated to improving food access and providing resources in their communities.

Video Stories

Our popular Small Town Showcase program, highlighting the uniqueness of rural Missouri, continued to grow this year. Our 2023 featured five communities included Norborne, Seymour, Carl Junction, St. James, and Lamar. The videos showcasing these towns amassed 17,950 views and the podcast episodes were downloaded over 900 times.

Podcasts

As part of our 2023 Signature Series, *Roots & Routes: The Movement and Settlement of Missourians*, 7 podcast episodes were released around this theme with 1,000 podcast downloads. Additional podcasts included companion Small Town Showcase episodes and the "Show Me Archaeology" series. In total, MH podcasts had a total of 3,442 downloads in 2023.



Explore our podcasts, now accessible on your preferred platform! Click here to listen.



Click here to watch MH short films and video series.



Film still from *Si Otsedoha (We Are Still Here): Remembering Cherokee Removal*



GRANTS PROGRAMS

We awarded \$566,996 in Mini and Major Grants statewide, funding the projects of 80 individual Missouri organizations, reaching approximately 322,885 individuals in FY23.

Sharing Native American Culture One Step at a Time | American Indian Center of Springfield Missouri | Springfield

Big Break: A Podcast Series | American Jazz Museum, Inc. | Kansas City

Walk Back in Time | Audrain County Historical Society | Mexico

Bates County Spirit Stroll | Bates County Historical Society and Museum | Butler

Benton County Barn Quilt Trail | Benton County Tourism and Recreation | Warsaw

The Largest Book Party | Books for STL Kids | St. Louis

Show Me the Bootheel | Bootheel Youth Museum | Malden

1877: A Three-Act Play on St. Louis and the General Strike of 1877 | Bread and Roses Missouri | St. Louis

A Celebration of Cape Girardeau County Veterans | Cape Girardeau County Historical Society | Jackson

Kindness Libraries for Boone County Youth | Children's Grove | Columbia

Untold Stories of the Mullins-Taylor Farm, 1840-2022 | Christian County Museum & Historical Society | Ozark

Genealogy Society and Museum | City of Bowling Green Missouri | Bowling Green

Sikeston Honors Veterans Project | City of Sikeston | Sikeston

Second Annual Civil War Symposium Lecture Series | Crowder College | Neosho

Building Community Through the Shared History of Germans and African Americans | Deutschem Verein | Hermann

Through the Eyes of Alice M. Windom | The Griot Museum | St. Louis

Master of Words Reading Challenge | Doniphan Middle School | Doniphan

Asia in St. Louis: A Story Map Dedicated to the Greater St. Louis Community | East Asian Library | St. Louis

Language and Literature: Art and Arch | English Speaking Union | St. Louis

Northland Ethnic Festival | Ethnic Enrichment Cultural Council | Kansas City

Tactile Images, Audio Descriptions, & Sight-Impaired Accessibility | Eugene Field House Foundation | St. Louis

Community Outreach and Education | Fine Linen Theater | Rolla

Caroline or Change Musical Production | Fly North Theatricals | St. Louis

Preserving History Through Technology | Folly Theater | Kansas City

Pages of History II | Forest Grove Cemetary Project, Inc. | St. Louis

Stores of Augusta German Evolution (SAGE) Program | Friends of Historic Augusta | Augusta

Donald C. Pharis: First Farmer to Terrace in Clay County | Friends of Pharis Farm | Liberty

An Evening with Local Authors | Friends of the Seymour Library | Seymour

Gateway Korea Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration of Speaker Series | Gateway Korea Foundation | St. Louis

Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club's Literacy Program | Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club of St. Louis | St. Louis

So St. Louis, A Summer of Black History | Good Journey Development Foundation | St. Louis

Discovery Base at Beaumont | Greater St. Louis Area Council Boy Scouts | St. Louis

Get Out and Get Active: Parks of East Central Missouri | HealthWorks! Kids' Museum St. Louis | St. Louis

Read. Listen. Practice. | Heartland Regional Library | Vienna

Stories of Bethel | Historic Bethel German Colony, Inc. | Bethel

Time Travelers Education Trunk Program | History Museum on the Square | Springfield

Expanding Access to the HMS Meet Missouri Program | History Museum on the Square | Springfield

The Whole Story Program Series | Kansas City Museum | Kansas City

Washington University Pow Wow | Kathryn M Buder Center | St. Louis

Buder Center's Guide to Native Land, Native People, Native History | Kathryn M. Buder Center | St. Louis

Westside Stories | Mattie Rhodes Center | Kansas City

Developing St. Louis Children's Literature into New Plays for Young Audiences | Metro Theater Company | St. Louis

For the People Pow Wow | Missionary Society for the Preservation of Traditional Values | Lake Annette

Teaching Teachers to Build National History Day | Missouri Conference for the Social Studies | Ste. Genevieve

Best Practices in History Education Conference | Missouri Council for History Education | St. Louis

2023 Missouri's Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference | Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. | Branson

Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium | Missouri River Outfitters | Independence

MSU Poverty Reading Room | Missouri State University | Springfield

Military Trails of Missouri, Passport Program | Missouri's National Veterans Memorial | Perryville

Preservation Assessment | Museum of the American Indians of the Ozarks Plateau | Mansfield

Fish Fling Project | National Black Radio Hall of Fame | St. Louis

Queens of the Blues Exhibition | National Blues Museum | St. Louis

Rural Business Photo Stories | New Growth CDC | Appleton City

LatinX Verse: Creative Writing Program for Bilingual LatinX Youth in Missouri | NO Divide KC | Kansas City

Bilingual Poetry Project | No Divide KC | Kansas City

Raiders Read! | North Shelby Elementary | Shelbyville

Missouri Comfort: A Guided Food Tour of the Show Me State | Off The Page | St. Louis

Traillblazers in Opera | Opera Theater of St. Louis | St. Louis

Upper Current River Community Celebration | Ozark Riverways Foundation | Van Buren

Harrison School Living Memories Project | Ozark Vitality | Doniphan

Learning Historical Journeys Through Puppetry | Puppetry Arts Institute | Independence

18th Annual Ancestors Gourd Dance and Pow Wow | Red Star Intertribal Gourd Dance Society | Clinton

Missouri Lecture Series | Ste. Genevieve Museum Learning Center | Ste. Genevieve

Hearing the Difference: Museum Audio Guides | Ste. Genevieve Museum Learning Center | Ste. Genevieve

Saxon Lutheran Memorial Fall Festival | Saxon Lutheran Memorial, Inc. | Frohna

Sherwood-Rader Farm Traveling Trunks | Sherwood-Rader Farm Civil War Park, Inc. | Carl Junction

Spirit of Independence: Kent Bicentennial Portfolio | Springfield Art Museum | Springfield

Our Food: Our Stories | Springfield Community Gardens | Springfield

Cultural Heritage Program at Mullanphy Elementary School | St. Louis Public Schools | St. Louis

Family History Workshop: Doing your German Research | St. Charles County Historical Society | St. Charles

Cultural Heritage Program at Mullanphy Elementary School | St. Louis Public Schools | St. Louis

Family History Workshop: Doing your German Research | St. Charles County Historical Society | St. Charles

King Hill Exhibit "A Day in the Life" | St. Joseph Museum | St. Joseph

St. Louis Storytelling Festival | St. Louis County Library Foundation | St. Louis

Digitization of Historic KMOX Radio Audio | St. Louis Media History Foundation | St. Louis

PROM Magazine: Where did you go to Highschool? | St. Louis Public Library Foundation | St. Louis

2023 Screenwriting Research Network International Conference | Stephens College | Columbia

Night of the Museum | Sullivan Middle School | Sullivan

8th Annual Tennessee Williams Festival Scholars Conference | Tennessee Williams Festival | St. Louis

Laugh-O-Gram Movie | Thank You Walt Disney, Inc. | Kansas City

Canned Peaches | The Curators of the University of Missouri | Columbia

Big Stories in Small Towns: 75 Years of the Missouri Photo Workshop Exhibit | The Curators of the University of Missouri | Columbia

Everywhere or Nowhere: Frank Lloyd Wright's Broadacre City | The Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park | St. Louis

Local and Global Struggles for Black Freedom | The Griot Museum | St. Louis

Marvelous Museum Manipulatives: K-12 Teacher Kits | The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures | Kansas City

Day of the Dead Program | The Sheldon | St. Louis

Read with Wornall Majors | The Wornall Majors House Museum | Kansas City

Completion of the Trail of Tears Georeferenced, Interactive, Multi-layered, Online Map | Trail of Tears Association | Jackson

Fiesta Italiana | Unico National-Kansas City Men's Chapter | Kansas City

The Rise of Missouri Women in the Federal Reserve Bank | United WE | Kansas City

2023 Women's Hall of Fame Video Production | University of Missouri Kansas City | Kansas City

Weltmer Institute of Magnetic Healing Traveling Exhibit | Vernon County Historical Society | Nevada

Educating Outside the Traditional Classroom | Village of Bethel | Bethel

Latino Celebration at the Market | Webb City Farmers | Webb City

Young Writers Workshop | West Plains Council on the Arts, Inc. | West Plains

Essential Skills Camp | William Jewell College-Strategic Partnerships | Liberty



MH Members on the Souldard Haunted Civil War Walking Tour



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