

A state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Humanities Council serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

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Next Board Meeting: April 20, 2018, in Lewisburg.
Humanities Council board meetings are open to the public.

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wvhuman@wvhumanities.org

Visit the West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org

In 2017, Humanities Council grants and programs served tens of thousands of West Virginians through lectures, programs and events, the West Virginia Book Festival, scholarly research and travel, documentaries, publications and *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

◀ Our video of broom maker James Shaffer went viral on the Internet, was featured by West Virginia Public Broadcasting, and shown at the Library of Congress.

Humanities Council grants funded exhibits by the West Virginia Railroad Museum and the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area at Darden Mill in Elkins.

We funded the symposium "Humanities in the 21st Century," a collaborative project between Shepherd University and the National Conservation Training Center.

WVU public history students furthered their education at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House, Humanities Council headquarters.

The Humanities Council funded a Marshall University summer institute, with field trips to train educators to teach black history. ▶

We partnered with McArts to host a concert with songwriter Elaine Purkey at Ya'sou Greek Restaurant in McDowell County.

We supported a Jefferson County project to transcribe letters from former slaves who immigrated to Liberia in the 19th century.

We partnered with the National Archives to present a special Bill of Rights exhibit at 41 sites across West Virginia.

The documentary, *Vietnam: West Virginians Remember*, was made possible by a Humanities Council grant.

We launched the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2017 the Humanities Council awarded 48 grants in 18 counties throughout the state.

We recorded interviews in 15 counties as part of our folklife fieldwork.

Nine fellowships were awarded to researchers in Morgantown, Huntington and elsewhere.

Our folklorist met with interested citizens in Sandyville, Ripley, Berkeley Springs, Glenville and elsewhere.

The Humanities Council supported an archaeological dig in Green Bank to analyze 18th-century frontier defense.

A Humanities Council grant supported an oral history project documenting 1950's public schools integration in Mount Hope.

A major grant supported an exhibit and weeklong program at Pricketts Fort on the African American experience on the Virginia frontier.

We partnered with the Southern Foodways Alliance to document the traditional foodways of the Swiss community of Helvetia.

Humanities Council funds supported the History and Folklore Festival at Marshall County's Grand Vue Park.

"This Week in West Virginia History," originating from *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, airs twice daily on West Virginia Public Radio and appears as a weekly column in many newspapers.



We presented 141 *History Alive* living history programs in 44 counties with portrayals of historical figures such as reporter Nellie Bly (JoAnn Peterson of Kingwood). ▶

Council staff took part in dedicating the John Henry Park at the Great Bend Tunnel in Talcott.

West Virginia Humanities Council grants funded 120 events statewide in West Virginia.

◀ We supported the return of director John Sayles for the 30th anniversary of *Matewan*, his movie about the West Virginia Mine Wars.

We hosted a free concert at the MacFarland-Hubbard House with Summers County old-time musician Jim Costa and University of North Carolina folklorist Zoe van Buren.

Our popular Little Lectures included talks on World War I, Shakespeare, West Virginians in country music, and Wood County's historic Henderson Hall.



Report Card

and Annual Honor Roll



Dear Friends:

It might be a stretch to call 2017 an outstanding year, but I'm pleased to report that things worked out better than expected under challenging circumstances. Considerably better, in fact.

This was the year we took a \$200,000 cut in state funding, fully believing we'd have to cover a six-figure deficit out of our modest reserves — that, or slash programming or fire people.

Facing such choices, our board decided to risk the deficit. Humanities Council bylaws wisely stipulate a balanced budget, so we pledged reserves up to the full amount needed to make ends meet.

The risk played out, fortunately, as through a combination of market growth of invested reserves, increased fundraising and old-fashioned belt tightening we trimmed the shortfall by more than three-fourths. We also benefitted by an unanticipated and very welcome increase in federal funding for the humanities. The upshot was to whittle the deficit to manageable size.

Most importantly, we were able to maintain a full humanities effort statewide while keeping our financial affairs in order. You'll find further details in the following pages, but here's our year's work in a nutshell:

We awarded 48 grants and nine fellowships, and supported more than 300 programs and events in 49 counties. We were pleased that the National Endowment for the Arts expanded its support for our recently begun folklore program, and our folklorist was active in 19 counties. *e-WV*, our online encyclopedia, continued to carry the West Virginia story across the country and worldwide. And we closed the year with an outstanding McCreight Lecture in the Humanities before a big crowd in Charleston.

Saying all this, I hasten to add that that "manageable" deficit still exceeded \$40,000, a significant amount for an organization the size of ours. We got it down to that level largely through the generosity of donors, and we urge you to continue your financial support in this new year. You'll find a contributions envelope tucked into this report!

And in speaking of reduced state funding, let me make it clear that the State of West Virginia continues to provide a much-appreciated \$250,000 to the Humanities Council. We're mindful of state budget woes and grateful that scarce resources are entrusted to our stewardship. Like others we're encouraged by the recent uptick in state revenues and improvements to the economy, and we look forward to working with decision makers to continue — and ideally improve — funding for the humanities.

Sincerely,

Dan Foster

Dan Foster, President

Our work in 2017 was made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts, and many other organizations and individuals. Our donor honor roll follows.

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Where the money came from...

The National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, remains our largest source of income. The NEH provided \$684,700, or 52 percent of total income in 2017, up from \$658,630 (47 percent) the previous year. The West Virginia Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts provided \$250,000, down \$200,000 from 2016 and 19 percent of total income. The remaining \$368,177 or 29 percent came largely from the private sector, including individual gifts and corporation and foundation support, plus \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

National Endowment for the Humanities

State of West Virginia

All Other Sources

...and where the money went.

In 2017, 61 percent of Humanities Council expenses went to programs and grants, 26 percent to administration, and six percent to development. We were pleased to see decreases in the portion going to administration and development, and note that one-time expenditures on real estate increase the value of Council property.

Programs & Grants

Administration

Development

Improvements to Real Estate

Our finances

Council finances exceeded expectations in trying circumstances in 2017. We absorbed a \$200,000 cut in state funding but trimmed our final year-end deficit to \$44,905 through expense cuts and improved fundraising.

Coming clean: Fiscal officer Kim Duff (right) works with auditors Chris Lambert and Sarah Crouse.

REVENUE

National Endowment for the Humanities

State of West Virginia

All other sources

Total revenues

EXPENSES

Programs & grants

grants

direct programs

related expenses

total programs and grants

Administrative

Development

Improvements to real estate

Total expenses

Deficit

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