

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.

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The next Board Meeting
is April 22, 2022. It is
open to the public.

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Visit the West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org

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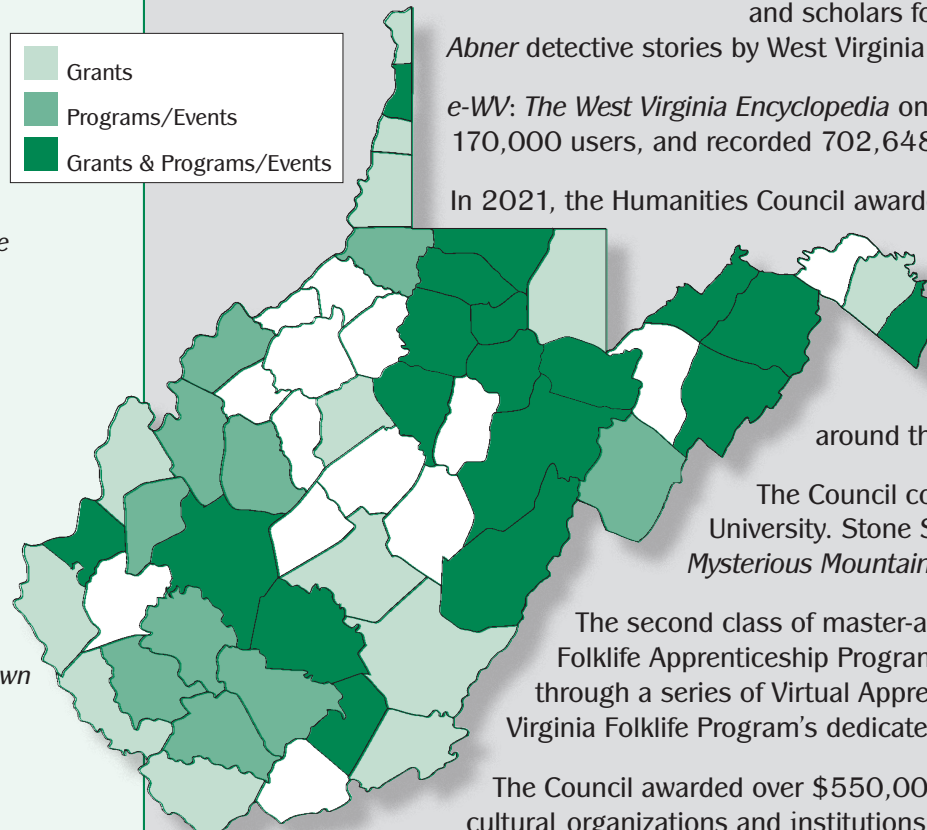
In 2021, the West Virginia Humanities Council delivered grants and programs directly in 41 counties and digital programming in all 55 counties. Our virtual Little Lecture series, West Virginia Folklife documentaries and showcases, and *Mysterious Mountains* podcast were enjoyed by over 3,600 viewers and listeners in and beyond West Virginia.

Sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Smithsonian exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* began its tour of the state in October and will continue through July 2022.

The Council expanded its 2020 audiobook series, "Mysterious Mondays," into the first season of *Mysterious Mountains*, a podcast that explores the "West Virginia of the imagination" through discussions of literature, folktales, and local legends. The podcast's first season features interviews with experts and scholars for a selection of annotated readings of the *Uncle Abner* detective stories by West Virginia author Melville Davisson Post.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia online added 21 new entries, was accessed by over 170,000 users, and recorded 702,648 million page views in FY2021.

In 2021, the Humanities Council awarded 44 grants throughout the state to support humanities programming.



The Council launched its new bi-monthly publication *The Broad Side*, which features personal stories, book and podcast recommendations, and short dispatches from around the state.

The Council completed its first "institutional intern" sponsorship through a collaboration with West Virginia University. Stone Schaldenbrand, our 2021 intern, developed content for our legacy programs including *Mysterious Mountains* and e-WV.

The second class of master-apprentice pairs from the NEA-funded West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program marked the completion of their program activities through a series of Virtual Apprenticeship Showcases, available to view on the West Virginia Folklife Program's dedicated YouTube channel.

The Council awarded over \$550,000 in ARP Act emergency relief funding to 34 cultural organizations and institutions in 22 counties.

Nine fellowships were awarded to scholars at West Virginia University and Glenville State College.

The Council's original direct programming series, Little Lectures, was presented virtually again this year. The 2021 season reached over 2,000 viewers across social media platforms.

With help from the Council's ARP Act emergency relief grants, organizations and institutions such as the Museum of American Glass, Fort Edwards, and the Taylor County Historical and Genealogical Society were able to continue operations despite revenue loss due to the pandemic.



Emily Hillard

Council grants supported humanities programming throughout the state celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Blair Mountain.

◀ In partnership with The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Council supported ongoing installation of new Legends & Lore Roadside Markers bringing the total number of markers in West Virginia to 14.

The Council awarded funding for new museum exhibits at the Greenbrier Historical Society, Huntington Museum of Art, Heritage Farm Museum, Richwood Heritage Center, and WVU Libraries.

The West Virginia Folklife Program's digital archives, The West Virginia Folklife Collection, is now accessible online through the West Virginia and Regional History Center at West Virginia University Libraries. The goal of

The West Virginia Folklife Collection is to create a publicly accessible archive of past, current, and future West Virginia folklife, folk and traditional arts, and cultural heritage.



Lewis County High School students perform Letters Home as part of Weston's Crossroads Smithsonian programming.



Sylvia Ridegway at the Word on the Block event in Huntington.

Report Card

and Annual Honor Roll



Michael Keller

Dear Friends:

As we look back on a second year of historic challenges, we're proud to say that the West Virginia Humanities Council again fulfilled its mission to deliver first-rate humanities programming to audiences everywhere in the Mountain State, and beyond.

As 2021 drew to a close, we saw some of our partners and grantees gradually (and carefully) returning to in-person events, exhibitions, and presentations. Still, the

focus over much of last year remained on virtual and digital programs; and in this, the Council excelled.

With a year of virtual programming under our belts, we were once more able to deliver legacy programs digitally, and even produce new virtual programs in-house at the Council's headquarters. The second virtual season of our annual Little Lecture series reached over 2,000 viewers across Council social media platforms. Our *Mysterious Mountains* podcast shared the adventures of Uncle Abner, the creation of early 20th-century West Virginia mystery writer Melville Davisson Post, with listeners as far away as Slovakia, as well as here at home. The West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program's "virtual showcase" series allowed audiences to learn about the work of West Virginia master artists and the apprentices who worked with them to preserve West Virginia's diverse cultural traditions.

Perhaps most significantly, 2021 was a second straight year of historic grantmaking for the Council. As the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, we work year-round to secure funding for humanities projects developed by institutions ranging from large research universities to small community and regional associations. As the CARES Act had in 2020, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act allowed us to greatly expand our reach and our ability to support West Virginia's cultural ecosystem. Over the past two years, the Council has delivered nearly two million dollars in grant funding to West Virginia's humanities and cultural institutions.

The State of West Virginia, through the Department of Arts, Culture and History, again supported our work, particularly as we developed original programming tailored to the interests and needs of West Virginia communities. We thank them for that steadfast support—and we thank you, our members, partners, and fellow travelers, who provided the assistance that allowed the Council to meet historic challenges, and to turn them into opportunities for creative enlargement of our work and our capacity.

Our Board of Directors includes members from diverse backgrounds. Some are humanities teachers and academics, but as many come from the fields of law, medicine, business, the arts, banking, and many other professions. No matter our backgrounds, we share a vision of the humanities as a necessary corrective to isolationism, division, and, to use a phrase of the moment, the "echo chamber." Acknowledging the complexity of the world we share is essential to solving its problems and improving its conditions. We are grateful to have you along in that work, and we look forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Billy Joe Peyton, Board President

Our work in 2021 was made possible by the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, and many other organizations and individuals. Our donor honor roll follows.

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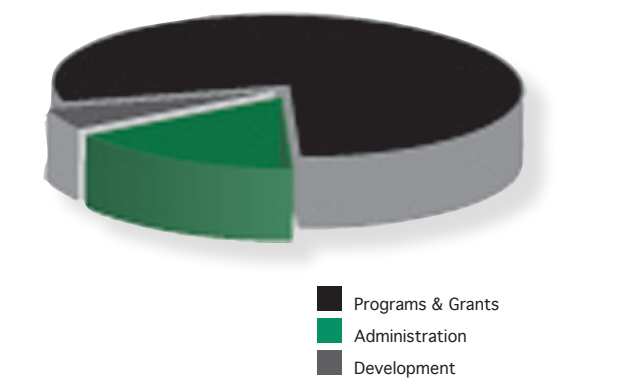
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Our finances

In 2021 the Council met its grantmaking and funding obligations on time and as scheduled. Continuing public health concerns caused the postponement or, more typically, the conversion to virtual delivery of many grant-related and programming events, resulting in a second year of reduction in annual expenses normally dedicated to in-person activities. The Council responded by redirecting some resources to virtual and online program development, and to a comprehensive one-time upgrade and expansion of our popular reference work e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia online.

REVENUE	
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$826,200
Congressional ARP Act funds	\$675,470
State of West Virginia	\$250,000
All other sources	\$344,656
Total revenues	\$2,096,326
EXPENSES	
Programs & Grants	
grants	\$442,710
direct programs	\$301,074
Congressional ARP Act grants	\$552,650
related expenses	\$133,289
total programs and grants	\$1,429,723
Administrative	\$295,815
Development	\$95,492
Total expenses	\$1,821,030
Net Income	\$275,296



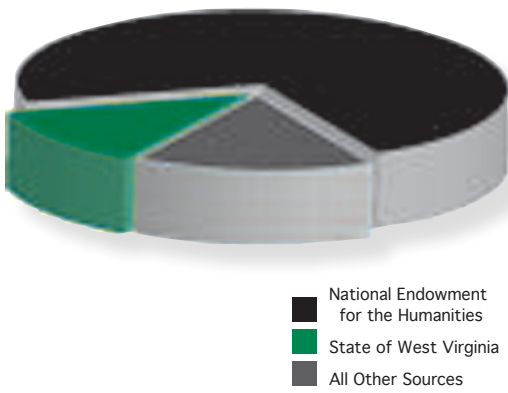
...and where the money went.

In 2021, 79 percent of Humanities Council expenses went to programs and grants, 16 percent to administration, and 5 percent to development.

Looking back, 2021 was a second year of fluctuation in ordinary Council revenue and expense patterns, though not as substantial a fluctuation as in 2020. We rerouted resources from in-person legacy programming to virtual programming and program conversion, and once more increased our grantmaking in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking forward, the Council will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic with significantly expanded programming and greatly increased audience reach. We anticipate a responsible return to in-person events, as well as more predictable revenue and expense patterns in 2022. Our Board has approved a budget of \$1,627,090 for 2022, representing an increase of \$179,910 over our 2021 budget (this increase includes one-time emergency relief funds from NEH that will carry over from 2021).

The figures and charts shown here are based on actual, unaudited financial information as reported internally to management and the Board of Directors. The West Virginia Humanities Council is audited annually by an independent auditor, with each year's audit available for public inspection by April of the following year. Fiscal year 2021 ended October 31.



Where the money came from...

The National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, remains our largest source of income. The NEH provided \$826,200 in regular Council operating funds in 2021, up from \$754,300 in the previous year. Through the American Rescue Plan Act the NEH provided the Council with \$675,470 in additional support and regrant funding to aid the Council in giving economic assistance to West Virginia cultural institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Including one-time ARP Act funds, the NEH provided the Council with \$1,501,670 in 2021 (72 percent of total revenue). The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History provided \$250,000 (12 percent), equal to the amount given in 2020. The remaining \$344,656 (16 percent) came largely from the private sector, including individual gifts and corporation and foundation support, plus investment income.

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West Virginia—its people, its history, its future—is worth investing in. Consider becoming a Council GEM by joining our Give Every Month program! Contact Victoria Paul at 304-346-8500 or v.paul@wvhumanities.org for more information.