

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 public.

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Visit the West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org

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In 2022, the West Virginia Humanities Council delivered grants and programs directly to 41 counties and digital programming in all 55 counties. Our Little Lectures, West Virginia Folklife documentaries and showcases, and *Mysterious Mountains* podcast were enjoyed by more than 2,100 viewers and listeners in and beyond West Virginia.

A \$137,385 grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs allowed the Council to extend the West Virginia National Cemeteries Project with funding for Grafton High School students to write biographies of veterans interred at our state's two National Cemeteries. A newly developed curriculum will be available for classrooms statewide.

The Council awarded 42 grants and seven fellowships throughout the state to support humanities programming.

Through the NEH initiative "A More Perfect Union," the Council curated a special civics-themed Little Lectures series, developed a "Civics Toolkit" resource for K-12 teachers and students, updated its popular "Born of Rebellion: West Virginia Statehood" traveling exhibit, and provided nearly \$25,000 in grants for projects in civics education.

The Folklife Program documented a six-decade-long Memorial Day reunion of the Mollett family in Edwight, Raleigh County.

The West Virginia Shakespeare Festival, based at Shepherd University, expanded into schools and community centers with funding from a Council major grant.

In-person Little Lectures returned to the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. The presentations were also filmed for online audiences.

The Council hosted an event with Monongalia County native William Brewer at Taylor Books in Charleston for the release of his novel *The Red Arrow*.

The West Virginia Folklife Collection, housed at West Virginia University Libraries, received the Brenda McCallum Prize, sponsored by the Archives and Libraries Section of the American Folklore Society to recognize innovative works that further the preservation and use of folklife archival collections.

Making Our Future: Visionary Folklore and Everyday Culture, written by former State Folklorist Emily Hilliard, was published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Council grants funded new museum exhibits in Moundsville, Matewan, and Elkins; programming at the Brooke County Public Library, Glenville State University, the Tucker County Courthouse, and the West Virginia Folklife Center in Fairmont; and oral histories documenting stories from Central City in Huntington, Weston Colored School, and the 2018 West Virginia teachers' strike.

Sponsored by the Council, the Smithsonian exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* concluded its tour of the state, reaching more than 15,000 visitors at seven sites in rural areas.

◀ The Council's 2022 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities brought award-winning journalists and best-selling authors James and Deborah Fallows to the University of Charleston.

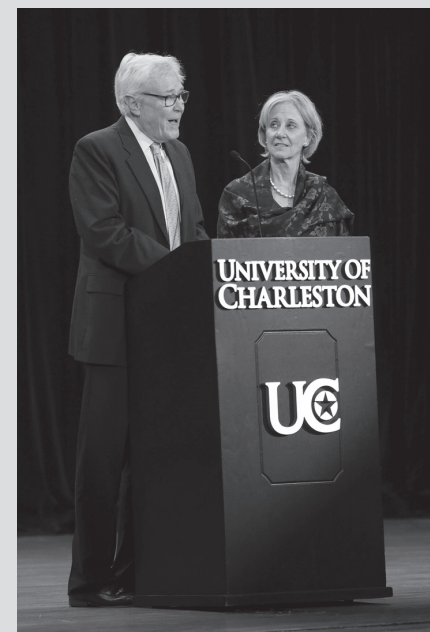


Grafton High School students document veterans' graves.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia online added 11 new entries, was accessed by 262,436 users, and recorded 588,085 page views.



Historian Joe Geiger presents a Little Lecture at the MacFarland-Hubbard House.



James and Deborah Fallows

Report Card

and Annual Honor Roll



Dear Friends:

The past few years have been trailblazing ones for the West Virginia Humanities Council. Our grantmaking increased to unprecedented levels, including two rounds of emergency relief funding to West Virginia's cultural institutions. Our approach to direct programming adapted and expanded to ensure mission continuity while observing public health recommendations. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the

State of West Virginia, and our faithful donors, we emerge from a third exceptional year well positioned to meet future challenges.

We continued to respond to public conditions and concerns with focused direct programming. Through the NEH's special nationwide civics education initiative "A More Perfect Union," we curated a Little Lectures series on election integrity and civic engagement; developed a digital "Civics Toolkit" written by and for K-12 teachers; and funded a full redesign of our traveling exhibit "Born of Rebellion: West Virginia Statehood." We also delivered \$25,000 in grants to civics education projects and supported a number of civics-related projects across the state through regular grants.

In keeping with our strategic plan (2020-2024), we maintained and expanded our network of regional and national partners. The West Virginia National Cemeteries Project, funded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration, supported high school students in researching and writing biographies of veterans interred in our state's two National Cemeteries. That project's success secured us a formal VA grant for a second year—the first ever awarded in West Virginia.

The Council's West Virginia Folklife Program completed the first full year of its partnership with the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's Central Appalachia Living Traditions program. Lastly, we secured the Council's first AmeriCorps workers to help digitize and catalog our own historical program archives and the ever-growing Folklife collection.

Happily, grant-supported events and direct programs increasingly returned to in-person formats. Following a two-year postponement, the Council's signature annual event, the McCreight Lecture in the Humanities, resumed with internationally renowned journalists James and Deborah Fallows, who discussed their book and HBO documentary series *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*. We once again opened our headquarters to full houses for our West Virginia Day and Holiday Open House events.

In short, we worked to document our state's history and continued our progress toward a more mobile and accessible future. As we prepare for our golden anniversary in 2024, we are glad to be joined by our advocates on Capitol Hill and in the State Legislature—and most of all by you, our community of friends and supporters who share our belief in the power of the humanities to preserve and improve our civic health.

Sincerely,

Megan Tarbett

Megan Tarbett, Board President

Our work in 2022 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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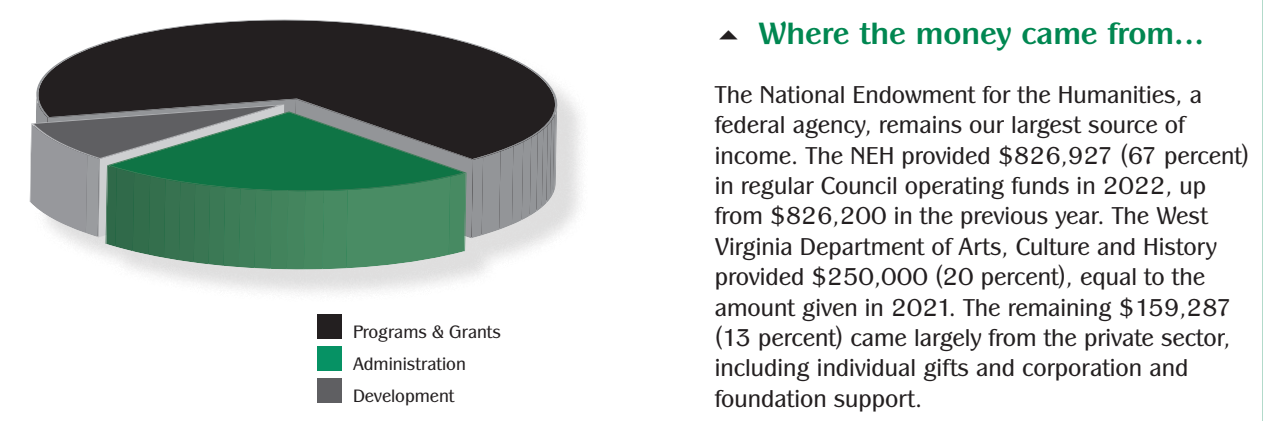
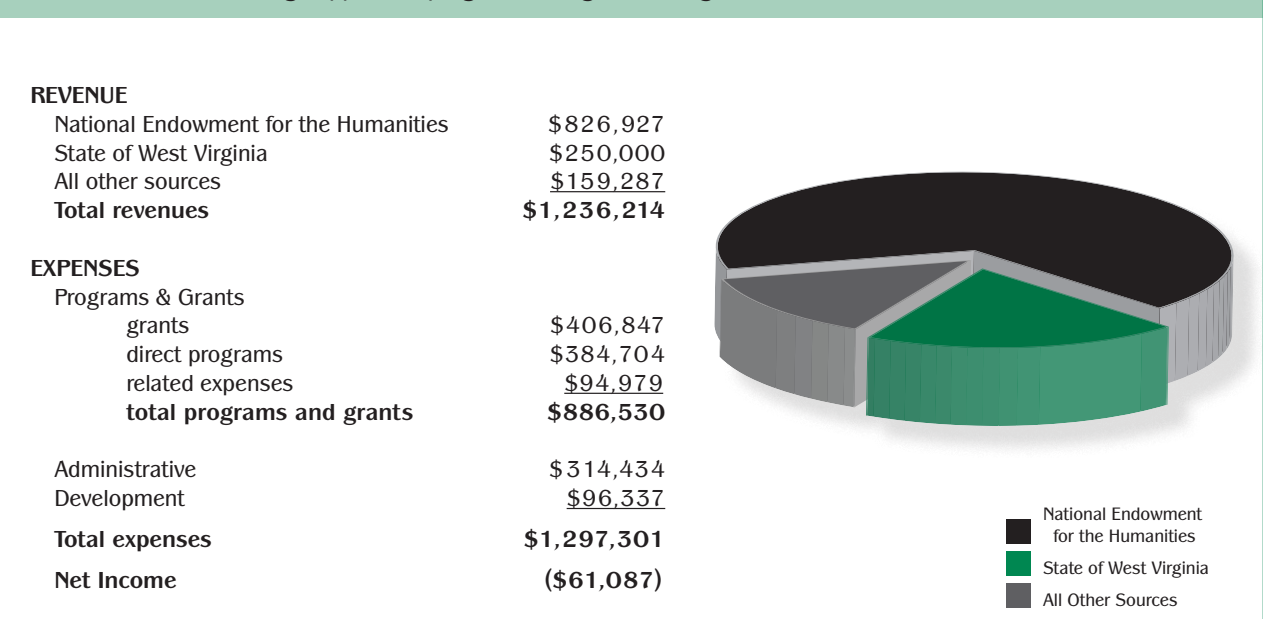
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Our finances

In 2022 the Council met its programming and grantmaking obligations without interruption, and recorded increased revenue from institutional and private giving. As we gradually returned to in-person events and activities we continued our expansion of direct programs into digital platforms, growing our audience reach without increasing overhead. As was true of most organizations with investment holdings, our revenue and thus our total net income were impacted by global portfolio losses in FY2022. Even so, we weathered the market's fluctuations while increasing support for programs and grantmaking.



...and where the money went. ▲

In 2022, 68 percent of Humanities Council expenses went to programs and grants, 24 percent to administration, and eight percent to development.

Looking back, 2022 represented a partial return to more traditional revenue and expense patterns, following two years of abnormal public conditions and emergency relief grantmaking to West Virginia cultural institutions. A volatile bear market negatively impacted our investment portfolio, but the Council secured increases in direct funding from the NEH, as well as from individual and institutional support.

Looking forward, the Council emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic with significantly expanded programming and greatly increased audience reach. Our Board has approved a budget of \$1,747,385 for FY2023, representing an increase of \$120,295 over our 2022 budget.

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 2022 ended October 31.

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