**Program Committee Meeting Agenda - January 2023**

Board Members: Jeanette Fregulia, Glory Blue Earth, Beth Sullivan, Arian Randall, Ramey Growing Thunder

Humanities Montana Staff: Interim Director Kim Anderson, Programs Manager John Knight

1. **Call meeting to order**

i. Welcome new committee members.

1. **The Democracy Project**

i. October 2022 Democracy Project Outreach trip:

1. Tribal College Libraries: Aaniiih Nakoda College Library; Fort Peck Community College Library.
2. High School Libraries: Gallatin High School, and Columbia Falls High School.
3. Public and Community Libraries: Billings Public Library; Choteau Community Library; George McCone County Library; Lewis and Clark Library, East Helena; Lewis and Clark and Whitehall Community Library.

ii. Outreach with possible future Democracy Project sites at:

1. Bozeman Public Library.
2. Harlem Public Library.
3. Stone Child Community College Library on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

iii. Democracy Project Site, Seeley Lake Public Library received criticism in November of 2022 for their participation with the program. Community members interpreted The Democracy Project as a democratic party-partisan project being funded by Humanities Montana.

iv. Mae Nan Ellingson Interview recorded for all Democracy Project sites.

vi. Susan O’Conner meeting on November 30, 2022.

1. Randi Tanglen, John Knight and Kim Anderson met with Susan O’Conner of the Charles Engelhard Foundation to update her on The Democracy Project. At the end of the meeting, Susan committed to funding two more years of The Democracy Project with Humanities Montana.

**B. Montana Conversations, Speakers in the Schools, an Informed Citizen**

i. New Speakers added to the Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools catalogs.

1. Aspen and Cameron Decker: A̓stqʷ: Salish Cedar Bark Baskets (MC and SiS).
2. Aspen and Cameron Decker: Sqelixʷ ‘Salish’ Storytelling (MC and SiS).
3. Sabre Moore: Dark Skies: Light Pollution and the Story of Montana’s Night Skies (MC).
4. Buck Hitswithastick: Bridging the Worlds (MC and SiS).
5. Janiana Viera-Marques: Imagining More Diverse and Inclusive Montana Communities (SiS).

ii. Informed Citizen Grant extension update.

1. A total of 5 Informed Citizen programs were booked between September 30 - December 31, 2022 with Informed Citizen.

iii. Continued outreach to least served communities and counties in Montana.

1. John has continued outreach efforts throughout the state to promote Montana Conversations and Speaker’s in the Schools.
2. 2022-2023 goal for Humanities Montana programs is to bring presentations to: Judith Basin County, Golden Valley County, Petroleum County, Garfield County, and Powder River County.
* Contact was established with the Petroleum County Community Center in October 2022, with a meeting occurring over Zoom that introduced Humanities Montana programs available to the community.
* Montana Conversations and Speaker’s in the Schools presenter Mary Jane Bradbury and John Knight scheduled a series of programs at Stanford High School and Stanford Public Library in Stanford Montana. Students from Judith Basin, Petroleum County and Garfield County attended Mary Jane’s presentations, thanks to the efforts of the Stanford School District Superintendent working with neighboring school districts and students.

iii. At the Start of the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year, all Montana Conversation, Speaker in the Schools and Informed Citizen speakers were sent a Memo regarding areas of concern in their contracts. These areas of concern include honoraria pay structure and expectations, and travel reimbursement.

**C. Hometown Humanities**

i. John has continued to stay in contact with the Lewistown Public Library to bolster Hometown Humanities programming. Lewistown Public Library is developing a number of programs for 2022-2023 including:

1. A Montana Writers Institute conference for April 2023, using Humanities Montana speakers.

ii. The Lewistown Public Library and the Lewistown Public School District have continued to book Humanities Montana programs.

**D. Montana Center for the Book**

i. The Center for the Book Prize is still on hold as John Knight onboards with Humanities Montana. Ongoing strategic planning and program evaluation efforts will help guide both the prize and on-going Center for the Book efforts.

1. Humanities Montana has sent out 180 Gather Round Kits with 20 kits remaining. Special outreach with librarians occurred during the October 2022 Democracy Project trip.

**E. National Humanities Conference, Los Angeles, November 8-12, 2022**

i. John Knight traveled with Grants Manager Megan Sundy to attend the National Humanities Conference in Los Angeles.

**F. Strategic Plan Update**