

Humanities Montana Grants Committee Meeting

January 30, 2024

Zoom, 11:00 AM

Present: Carla Homstad (chair), Glory Blue Earth, Ray Ekness, Karen Reiff, Tim Wilson,
Staff: Jill Baker (executive director), and Megan Sundy (grants and evaluation director).

A quorum was present.

Committee Chair Carla Homstad called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m., welcomed the committee, and thanked everyone for reviewing proposals.

Grants Committee Discussion

Grants and Evaluation Director Megan Sundy provided a brief synopsis of the updates to the grant categories, amounts, and application deadlines implemented in November 2023 and offered rationale for the lower-than average volume of applications received for the December deadline. She also reviewed the YTD grantmaking budget and funds available for award decisions through October 31, 2024.

Committee Chair Carla Homstad facilitated discussions of grant applications based on overall ratings and reviewer comments.

Total number of applications reviewed by board members = 4

Sum of funds requested from all applications = \$28,966

Estimated remaining funds in HM's FY24 grantmaking budget available = \$142,400

The committee considered the following community project grant applications:

Community Project grant applications (4 received, \$28,966 requested)

- The Centering Indigenous Knowledge Webinar Series, University of Montana's MT Campus Compact
\$7,666 - *Weighted Score: 91.0%*
- The Montana Anthology, Working Quiet
\$9,000 - *Weighted Score: 90.2%*
- Bringing the World to Eastern Montana and Eastern Montana to the World
\$5,000 - *Weighted Score: 89.8%*
- 2024 Dillon Community Story Stroll, Dillon Public Library
\$7,300 - *Weighted Score: 89.3%*

Tim asked how Humanities Montana assesses the differences between censorship and supporting free ideas and speech related to specific grant projects. Carla and Jill provided insight and referenced the "On Advocacy" language developed by previous board members and included in the Grantmaking Toolkit.

Committee members then discussed each application.

They felt The Centering Indigenous Knowledge Webinar Series fit well with Humanities Montana's mission and asked that they 1) provide more information regarding their confirmed speakers, 2) share plans to measure reach through recorded sessions, and 3) revise the project budget to reallocate funds earmarked to commission a logo to an allowable expense category.

Committee members thought The Montana Anthology proposal did a good job of presenting the need for the publication and demonstrated strong support for the project's completion through other fundraising success and a confirmed publishing contract. Committee members requested that staff request an updated list of contributing authors in preparation for the February board meeting.

The committee was impressed by the Montana World Affairs Council's efforts to collaborate with MSUB and expand their distinguished speaker program to Eastern Montana communities. The Dillon Community Stroll was a committee favorite because of the unique collaborations across grade-levels and community organizations. Committee members see the project as benefitting students at multiple grade levels and the community at large.

Noting that there was full support of the funding requests, Carla asked for a motion to approve the grant proposals and recommend full funding. Ray made the motion. Tim seconded. The motion carried unanimously. **TOTAL RECOMMENDED AWARD: \$28,966.00**

The committee confirmed the following meeting dates in 2024:

Tuesday, May 7th @ 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 5th @ 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Humanities Montana staff will schedule a Zoom and send the link to committee members via a calendar invite.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 PM. MJHS & JB