

## Humanities Montana Grants Committee Meeting

May 7, 2024

Zoom, 11:00 AM

### In Attendance

Board: Carla Homstad (chair), Glory Blue Earth, Karen Reiff, Tim Wilson

Staff: Jill Baker (executive director), and Megan Hill Sundy (grants and evaluation director)

A quorum was present.

Committee Chair Carla Homstad called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m., welcomed the committee, and thanked everyone for reviewing proposals.

Grants and Evaluation Director Megan Hill Sundy provided the committee with year-to-date updates regarding grant application volume, award amounts, observed trends, and projections for the remainder of FY24. For complete details, see the June 2024 Grantmaking Report included in the board packet.

### April Application & Review Summary

- Total number of applications reviewed by board members = 10
- Average number of evaluations (scores and comments) completed by board members for each application = 7
- Sum of funds requested from all applications = \$73,270
- Estimated remaining funds in HM's FY24 grantmaking budget available for distribution = \$97,581.20

The committee considered the following **Community Project Grant applications**:

- *Cree Language Revitalization Initiative*, Mahchiwminahnantik Chippewa Cree Language Revitalization (MCCLR)  
\$10,000 - *Weighted Score: 95.2%*
- *Secrets of the Vault*, Holter Museum of Art  
\$10,000 - *Weighted Score: 89.1%*
- *The Montana Antiques Appraisal Fair*, The Foundation for Montana History  
\$8,345 - *Weighted Score: 88.8%*
- *UM Summer Journalism Camp*, University of Montana  
\$10,000 - *Weighted Score: 88.0%*
- *Butterflies & Railroad Ties: Update & Printing*, North Missoula Community Development Corporation  
\$6,000 - *Weighted Score: 86.7%*
- *The 1918 Influenza: Film and Conversation*, University of Montana  
\$7,800 - *Weighted Score: 85.9%*
- *Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society Conference 2024*, University of

Montana

\$5,417 - *Weighted Score: 85.9%*

- *Water in the Bitterroot: What We Talk about When We Talk about Water*, Bitterroot Water Partnership  
\$3,534 - *Weighted Score: 80.7%*
- *Screening of Snqweytmistn and Return to the Blanket with panel discussions with Tribal elders*, Accelerate MT  
\$10,000 - *Weighted Score: 78.5%*
- *Free Press Fest*, Montana Free Press  
\$2,174 - *Weighted Score: 70.9%*

### Grants Committee Discussion

Committee Chair Carla Homstad facilitated discussion of grant applications by overall ratings and reviewer comments.

Carla proposed the two lowest scoring applications (below 80%) be omitted from the discussion. Committee members agreed to move forward only discussing those applications with merit scores over 80%.

The committee considered the challenges and opportunities of making partial funding recommendations as a way to manage the current regrants budget of \$97,581.20, the funds requested from the current pool of applications of \$73,270, while also preserving funds to award after the August Film + Video and Community Project Grant application deadline. Staff encouraged committee members to 1) review project budgets and budget narratives closely when reviewing grants as a way to determine and justify reductions to award amounts, and 2) carefully consider specific components/criteria of projects with similar scores. Committee members also contemplated creating parameters for partial funding starting at 80% and then working with staff to formalize exact amounts prior to the full board meeting. Jill also mentioned the possibility of using carryover funds to supplement the grantmaking budget going into the August cycle. She will be able to provide insight into this option at the June board meeting in Butte.

Committee members then discussed each proposal scoring over 80%.

The Cree Language Revitalization Initiative was a favorite among all committee members, noting that language preservation projects are critical to preserving the history and culture of Montana.

The committee questioned budget justifications for *Secrets of the Vault*, *The Montana Antiques Appraisal Fair*, and the *UM Summer Journalism Camp* and reduced the recommended funding amounts accordingly.

Committee members appreciated the inclusion of Salish culture in the proposed updates to the *Butterflies & Railroad Ties* publication and plans to promote and share the 1918 Influenza film with communities and stories represented in the film.

All members were in favor of funding *Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia* and the *Water in the Bitterroot* projects.

Noting agreement of fundable projects and award amounts, Carla asked for a motion to approve the grant proposals and recommend full or partial funding as determined during the committee's discussion.

**Karen Reiff moved to recommend the following award decisions to the full board:**

#### **PARTIAL FUNDING**

- *Secrets of the Vault*, Holter Museum of Art, \$6,352
- *The Montana Antiques Appraisal Fair*, The Foundation for Montana History, \$7,020
- *UM Summer Journalism Camp*, University of Montana, \$8,000

#### **FULL FUNDING**

- *Cree Language Revitalization Initiative*, Mahchiwminahnahtik Chippewa Cree Language Revitalization (MCCLR), \$10,000
- *Butterflies & Railroad Ties: Update & Printing*, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, \$6,000
- *The 1918 Influenza: Film and Conversation*, University of Montana, \$7,800
- *Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society Conference 2024*, University of Montana, \$5,417
- *Water in the Bitterroot: What We Talk about When We Talk about Water*, Bitterroot Water Partnership, \$3,534

#### **DECLINE FUNDING**

- *Screening of Snqweytmistn and Return to the Blanket with panel discussions with Tribal elders*, Accelerate MT, \$10,000
- *Free Press Fest*, Montana Free Press, \$2,174

**Staff will work to revise and finalize project budgets with award recipients prior to processing final award payments.**

**Glory Blue Earth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**TOTAL RECOMMENDED AWARD: \$54,123.00**

Carla, Megan, and Jill thanked everyone for their time and reminded committee members to plan ample time to review applications in August.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

MJHS & JB