



# **BOARD MEETING NOTEBOOK**

**June 14-15, 2024– Butte, MT**

# Humanities MONTANA

## Table of Contents:

Agenda .....	1
Board Minutes Feb 22-23, 2024 Helena .....	4
Executive Committee Minutes April 30, 2024 .....	9
Finance and Audit Minutes May 8, 2024 .....	11
Finance and Audit Minutes May 22, 2024 .....	13
FY23 Budget to Actual thru April 30, 2024 .....	18
Profit and Loss thru April 30, 2024 .....	16
Balance Sheet thru April 30, 2024 .....	15
State Humanities Councils 990 Comparision.....	19
Governance Minutes May 15, 2024 .....	20
Grants Minutes May 8, 2024 .....	22
Big Sky Reads Grants Minutes Feb-Apr 2024 .....	25
Mini Grants Minutes March- May 2024 .....	27
Community Engagement Minutes April 10, 2024 .....	37
Executive Director Report .....	39
Development Report .....	41
Grants Report .....	43
Programs Report .....	49

# Humanities MONTANA

## AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting  
Butte, MT  
June 14-15, 2024

**OUR MISSION:** Humanities Montana serves multicultural communities through stories and conversation. We offer experiences that nurture imagination and ideas by speaking to Montanans' diverse history, literature, and philosophy.

- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE [SP1]: RE-ENERGIZE GRANTMAKING**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO [SP2]: REALIGN PROGRAMS**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE [SP3]: REFINE OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOUR [SP4]: ENRICH ORGANIZATIONAL AND BOARD CULTURE**

**Board of Directors:** Glory Blue Earth, Carol Bradley, Jeremy Carl, David Cates, David Dietrich, Jeanette Fregulia, Lynda Grande, Mary Hernandez, Carla Homstad, Lathie Poole, Arian Randall, Esther Beth Sullivan, Clark Whitehorn, Tim Wilson

**Excused:** Jennifer Corning, Ray Ekness, Karen Reiff

**Staff:** Jill Baker, Executive Director, Megan Hill Sundy, Grants and Evaluation Director

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

**Hotel: Copper King Hotel, 4655 Harrison Ave, Butte, MT**

3 PM The World Museum of Mining, 155 Museum Way **[SP4]**  
Underground Tour (1.5 hours, optional)

6 PM Dinner Reservation at La Casa Toscana Italian Restaurant, 53 E Park **[SP4]**

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024**

*(Complimentary Hot Breakfast Provided at Copper King Hotel.)*

### **HM BUSINESS MEETING**

- 9:00 Welcome and Call to Order: David Dietrich **[SP4]**
- Invitation for Public Comment – David Dietrich
  - Indigenous Peoples and Land Acknowledgement- Carol Bradley
  - Reading of the Mission Statement- Beth Sullivan
  - Approval of Agenda— David Dietrich
- 9:15 Board Chair Opening Remarks: David Dietrich
- Briefing and Q&A
- 9:25 Consent Agenda: **[SP1/2/3/4]**
- Board Minutes, February 23-24, 2024
  - Executive Committee Minutes, April 30, 2024
  - Finance Committee Minutes, May 8 and 22, 2024
  - Governance Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2024
  - Grants Committee Minutes, May 8, 2024
  - Community Engagement Committee Minutes, April 10, 2024
  - Executive Director Report
  - Development Report
  - Grants Report
  - Programs Report
- Action item: Approve Consent Agenda**
- 9:30 Board Member Spotlights with Carla Holmstad:  
Clark Whitehorn & Mary Hernandez **[SP4]**
- 9:40 Mission Moment: Jeanette Fregulia **[SP4]**
- 9:45 Finance and Audit Committee — Lynda Grande **[SP1/2/3/4]**
- **Action Items:**
    - Review and Approve FY2023 Audit and 990
    - Review and Approve April 30, 2024 Financial Reports
    - Motion to add \$25,000 to FY24 Re grants Budget
- 10:00 Governance Committee — Mary Hernandez **[SP4]**
- **Discussion Items:**
    - By-laws Review Timeline
    - Nominations for FY25
    - Complete Board Travel Reimbursements
- 10:15 Community Engagement Committee- Jeanette Fregulia **[SP3]**
- **Action Items: Proposed Dissolution of Committee**
  - **Assign CEC Members to other committees through FY24**
    - Jen and Jeanette- Governance
    - Carol- Finance
    - Arian and Lathie- Grants
- 10:30 Board Committee Discussions (20 mins): Strategic Plan Review **[SP3] & [SP4]**
- 10:50 Break



- 11:00 Grants Committee — Carla Homstad **[SP1]**  
Community Project Grant Presentation—Megan Hill Sundry
- **Action Item: Approve Community Project Grants**
  - **Discussion Items:**
    - Preparation for August Grant Cycle
- 11:30 Executive Director Q & A – Jill Baker **[SP1/2/3/4]**  
11:45 Closing Comments – David Dietrich  
12:00 Final thoughts and upcoming meetings — David Dietrich
- Fall Meeting: September 27-28, 2024 Grand Union in Fort Benton
  - Winter Meeting: February 21-22, 2025 (weekend after President's Day)
  - Spring Meeting: May 30-31, 2025 (weekend after Memorial Day)
  - Fall Meeting: September 26-27, 2025 (last weekend in September)
- 12:30 Adjournment (Lunch on your own)

***Please report your volunteer hours: [Board Cost Share](#)***

# Humanities MONTANA

## MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting  
Helena, MT  
February 23-24, 2024

**OUR MISSION:** Humanities Montana serves multicultural communities through stories and conversation. We offer experiences that nurture imagination and ideas by speaking to Montanans' diverse history, literature, and philosophy.

- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY ONE [SP1]: RE-ENERGIZE GRANTMAKING**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY TWO [SP2]: REALIGN PROGRAMS**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE [SP3]: REFINE OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOUR [SP4]: ENRICH ORGANIZATIONAL AND BOARD CULTURE**

### **Attendance:**

**Board of Directors:** Glory Blue Earth, Carol Bradley, Jeremy Carl, David Cates, Jennifer Corning, David Dietrich, Ray Ekness, Jeanette Fregulia, Linda Grande, Mary Hernandez, Carla Homstad, Lathie Poole, Karen Reiff, Esther Beth Sullivan, Clark Whitehorn, Tim Wilson. Arian Randall was absent on Friday, but attended Saturday's board meeting.

**Staff:** Jill Baker, Executive Director

**Guest:** Susan Howlett, Consultant

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**[SP4]** A New Board Member Orientation took place from 10 am to 12 pm in the meeting room at Residence Inn Helena, 2500 East Custer Avenue. The Orientation was led by David Dietrich, Esther Beth Sullivan and Jill Baker. Topics covered included Board Responsibilities: duties, structure and processes as well as an Organizational Overview including a fiduciary, legal aspects as well as accessing guiding documents.

**[SP3]** A strategic board retreat was held with Susan Howlett beginning at 1 pm. During this highly interactive and engaging session the board learned more about HM's Development Plan including how to be strategic governors, compelling ambassadors and effective donor stewards. This session ended at 5:30 PM.

**[SP4]** A group dinner was hosted at Benny's Bistro following the retreat.

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

LOCATION: The Foundation for Montana History, 1750 North Washington Street

A tour of The Foundation for Montana History was provided by Charlene Porsild, President/CEO, before the business meeting started.

**[SP4]** Board Chair David Dietrich called the meeting to order at 9 am. He welcomed everyone and noted 100% attendance of the board signifying a quorum.

He then asked for public comment. There was no response, so he asked Esther Beth Sullivan to provide the Indigenous Peoples and Land Acknowledgement. Jeremy Carl asked that the minutes reflect his opinion that a land acknowledgement is a leftist activity. David responded by stating that the purpose of a land acknowledgment is to recognize and give respect to the Indigenous peoples who have long lived where we are meeting as well as the significant Native population who live and work in our state. He also reminded the board that he included the history of miners and settlers in Helena for his land acknowledgment during Friday's orientation. Beth provided the land acknowledgment and Mary Hernandez read HM's mission statement.

David provided his opening remarks and expressed his gratitude for the previous day's strategic retreat with Susan Howlett. He thanked Jill, Beth and Mary for their work in putting together the new format for the board meeting agenda.

**[SP4]** Carla shared board member spotlights for Tim Wilson and Glory Blue Earth. Both Tim and Karen Reiff were recognized and welcomed as new board members.

David asked for approval of the agenda and consent agenda as presented. Carol Bradley so moved. David Cates seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **[SP1/2/3/4] Consent Agenda:**

- Board Minutes—Sept 22-23, 2023 and Jan 3, 2024
- Finance Committee Minutes—Jan 24, 2024, with correction
- Governance Meeting Minutes—Jan 31, 2024
- Grants Committee Minutes—Jan 30, 2024
- Community Engagement Committee Minutes—Jan 31, 2024
- Executive Director Report
- Development Plan FY24
- Organizational Strategic Action Plan FY24
- Grants Report
- Programs Report

- Approve the following updates to HM Personnel Policy Manual
  - Employees may use sick leave after 30 days of employment.
  - Employees may use vacation time after 90 days of employment.

**[SP1/2/3/4] Finance and Audit Committee Action Items**— Finance Chair Lynda Grande and Executive Director Jill Baker presented the October 31, 2023 and December 31, 2023 financial reports as recommended, with correction, from the finance committee for approval. Mary Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jill noted that HM has significant NEH Carry-Over Funds- \$293,620. This is a result of the suspension of live programming during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as staffing transitions. Jill recommended that HM continue to spend down funds through qualified re-grants and programming over the next two years to put money into Montana communities and cultural organizations as much as possible. Jill is also considering additional one-time organizational investments in HM will serve the nonprofit in the long-term as well as building up the Montana Center for the Book program. It is best practice to spend federal funds in the year that they are awarded and to avoid having significant carry over funds with NEH as these dollars may only be used as expensed; they cannot be saved or invested. She will build additional spending recommendations that align with HM's strategic goals into the FY25 budget.

**[SP4] Governance Committee Action Items**— Committee Chair Mary Hernandez facilitated the annual signing of the Conflict of Interest, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct Forms. She reviewed the importance of completing the board travel reimbursement forms and recording board cost match for volunteer hours on a regular basis.

She then asked each committee to meet for 30 minutes to review and update their committee charter/job description, determine if any bylaws changes are necessary, discuss their strategic priorities for FY24, and report back to the Governance Committee by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**[SP3] Community Engagement Committee Discussion Items**— Committee Chair Jeanette Fregulia reported that HM is rethinking the Governor's Humanities Awards, including how to best move forward with recognizing outstanding public humanities work in Montana. There was a passionate discussion about the meaningfulness of the awards for the honorees and concerns that HM has not yet replaced the event in terms of legacy. Jill reported that galas are no longer the best practice for nonprofit fundraisers, as was stated by Susan Howlett during Fridays' strategic session.

Therefore, she and the new Development Director will be researching other types of recognition events that will continue to honor awardees and their legacy.

Jeanette also reported that the Montana Center for the Book, a program of HM, is in the process of choosing an adult and youth book for the 2024 Great Reads from Great Places event during the National Book Festival hosted by the Library of Congress. In the past, staff has chosen this book based on recommendations from independent book stores in Montana. However, the Community Engagement Committee is researching other processes for choosing books in FY25.

**[SP4] Mission Moment**—Carol Bradley provided a Program Observation Report. She attended a Speakers in the Schools program in Belt on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She reported that Ednor Theriault’s program, “Finding Montana” was well received by high school students during their Career Day event. She noted that the students hooted and hollered when he was done.

**[SP1] Grants Committee Action Items**— Committee Chair Carla Homstad gave an overview of the four Community Project Grant applications (4 received, \$28,966 requested) that were approved and recommended from the committee for full funding which included:

- 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%

During the discussion, board members voiced concerns about The Montana Anthology application from Working Quiet, including Clark Whitehorn who raised questions about readiness and feasibility of the project for funding. As an executive editor for a nonprofit publishing business, he expressed that the applicants should have provided more information to justify funding. He felt the applicant needed to provide greater clarity about essay content, evidence of each author's commitment to the publication, and a letter of commitment from the publisher (including a target publication date and project timeline). He recommended that the board remove this grant from consideration for this round of funding and amend the motion to fully fund the other three projects. There were no objections from the other members of the board. The amended motion was seconded by Lynda Grande and passed unanimously.

**[SP1/2/3/4]** Executive Director Q & A– Jill Baker provided an update about the hiring process for the Development Director and answered questions from the board about best practices for programs and administrative costs as well as the staffing needs of the organization. With the pending hiring of the new Development Director, it was recommended that HM have a plan to receive an exceptional gift when the occasion presents itself.

David Dietrich offered his closing comments and thanked everyone for a productive meeting. He asked everyone to complete the board meeting evaluation form before they left and reminded them of the dates for the next two board meetings:

- Spring Meeting: June 14-15, 2024, Copper King hotel in Butte
- Fall Meeting: September 27-28, 2024, Grand Union in Fort Benton

David adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, JB

Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 10 AM via Zoom

Attendees: David Dietrich, Beth Sullivan, Carla Homstad, Jeanette Fregulia, Lynda Grande, Mary Hernandez

Vice Chair Beth Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. A quorum was present.

Discussions:

**Executive Director Report:** Jill updated the executive committee on her plans to restructure the staffing of the organization. She has been in conversation with Dave Dietrich and Jean Faure, both attorneys, to assist her with this reduction in force. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, HM will eliminate the position of Office Manager. Those administrative duties will be assigned to existing staff. Additionally, Jodi Todd, part-time staff accountant, has given her notice. She will work with the organization through mid-June. Jill will hire a full time Fiscal Operations Manager to fill this role moving forward. The executive committee offered their support of this decision.

**Planning for Spring Board Meeting in Butte June 14-15:** The executive committee reviewed the evaluation results from the February meeting. Overall, the results were quite positive about the changes to the meeting structure. Ideas for cultural tours in Butte were discussed. Jill will investigate options. Discussion about board development topics and/or generative conversations for Friday's session were considered. Feedback from the February board meeting included more education regarding the board's fiduciary role. Jill reported that the finance committee has signed up to attend the Montana Nonprofit Association's two-part web-based training, The Board's Guide to Money. She will extend the invitation to all board member to attend. Additionally, the structure of the committee time at the previous board meeting was reconsidered. All agreed that time together as committees was worthwhile, but more structure and preparation would be helpful. Dave, Beth and Jill will take this feedback into consideration as they finalize the agenda.

**Community Engagement Committee Update:** Jeanette reported that she met with Jill in April to discuss this committee's charter and further define its purpose, yet struggled with clarifying the governance role of the committee separate from operations. Through this discussion, Jeanette came to the conclusion that perhaps we were trying too hard to create a committee and that with a development director now hired as well as an executive director, it is time for the board to reconsider its governance role.

The committee concluded that board oversight of programs and development is provided through the approval of the strategic plan, and the executive director supervises staff to ensure that the strategic goals are met. Additionally, it is the role of each board member to support fundraising and outreach for HM. Ad-hoc operational committees that include board involvement may be recruited throughout the year to help with planning events.

Concerns were raised about providing board support to program and development staff through the committee. Jill thanked the committee for stepping up to support staff during the recent leadership transitions, and assured them that staff were well supported and would be available to provide reports to the board as requested.

The committee then discussed next steps for dissolution the Community Engagement Committee. Mary recommended that the Governance Committee be informed. The dissolution will require a change to the by-laws; therefore, the board should be informed of the recommendation from the community engagement committee at the June 15th board meeting with a vote to be added to the agenda at the September 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Beth Sullivan made the motion in support of the community engagement committee's recommendation to dissolve and add the dissolution of the committee to June board meeting agenda, David Dietrich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Director 1 year Review Process:** Jill and Dave will review the current process and suggest changes based on best practices. The review will commence after Jill's first year of work anniversary (June 30), and results of the review will be shared at the fall board meeting.

**DRAFT Board Governance Calendar:** Jill and Mary presented the draft board governance calendar to the executive committee. Mary suggested adding dates as much as possible. Jill reported that a calendar for each committee would also be drafted. The executive committee was pleased with the calendar and found it quite helpful.

**Dates for 2025 board meetings—locations TBD:**

- February 21-22, 2025 (weekend after President's Day)
- May 30-31, 2025 (weekend after Memorial Day)
- September 26-27, 2025 (last weekend in September)

Lynda offered her cousin's dude ranch as a potential venue in 2025. She and Jill will follow up with her to gather more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am. JB



## **Finance Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Lynda Grande, Committee Chair; Esther Beth Sullivan, David Cates, David Dietrich

Staff: Jill Baker, Executive Director, Jodi Todd, Accountant

Invited Guest: Nathan Saravalli (outside auditor, JCCS)

Committee Chair Lynda Grande called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. A quorum was present.

### **Review of FY2023 Audit and 990:**

Lynda invited Nathan to present the audit report to the committee. Nathan provided an overview of the audited financial statements, noting that it was a clean audit with no findings. He noted that HM had included the lease policy adoption that JCCS recommended during the FY2022 audit. He then reviewed the 990 with the committee and answered questions. He reported that the organization has made great strides with accounting best practices since Jodi Todd was hired in 2019. And, that a clean audit during a time of leadership transition puts the organization in a strong position.

Dave Dietrich requested information about the percentage of public support that Humanities Montana receives noting the high percentage of federal funding that HM receives. Nathan informed that committee that such a high percentage of public funds is common for nonprofits. However, to have the majority of the funding come from one source (NEH) is concerned. It would be in the best interest of HM to diversify its funding sources for long term sustainability.

The committee thanked Nathan for his presentation and asked if he would share his PowerPoint presentation to share in the consent agenda for the entire board to review. Nathan agreed and offered to include his notes and include public support information from 990s of other state humanities councils for comparison. The committee asked him what he thought the most important messages were to share with the full board during the audit report in order to best meet their

fiduciary responsibilities. He recommended that the board understand why their organization received a clean audit, and what the difference is between a clean audit and an audit with substantial findings. The board may want to review the FY19 audit report in order to understand the progress that the organization has made over the past five years. He congratulated the committee and staff on their excellent progress.

Nathan left the meeting at 12:40 pm.

Jodi informed the committee that she has given her notice due to personal reasons, but will continue to provide support during hiring and onboarding as much as possible as well as the FY24 audit. Jill and the committee thanked Jodi for her nearly 5 years of service to HM. Jill informed the committee that she is in the process updating the job description and will be hiring a full time Fiscal Operations Manager as soon as possible.

The finance committee will meet again on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon via Zoom to review the April 30<sup>th</sup> financial statements.

Lynda adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm. JB

## **Finance Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Lynda Grande, Committee Chair; Esther Beth Sullivan, David Cates, David Dietrich

Staff: Jill Baker, Executive Director, Jodi Todd, Accountant

Committee Chair Lynda Grande called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. A quorum was present.

### **Discussions:**

#### **April 30, 2024 Financial Reports**

The committee reviewed the April 30 2024 Budget to Actual, April 30 2024 HM Balance Sheet, and April 30 2024 HM P & L reports. Jill and Jodi answered questions about revenue and expenses. There were no concerns. Lynda called the question. Beth moved, and David seconded the motion to approve the April 30 2024 financial reports and it passed unanimously.

Jill stated that the total grant award from the Englehard Foundation, \$160,000 was recognized in FY2023 despite only receiving \$80,000 in that year due to a nonprofit accounting rule that requires that the full amount be recognized when a grant is awarded without specified terms and conditions. It will appear that the Democracy Project program is in a deficit, as the revenue has already been recognized in the previous fiscal year.

Overall, HM is in a good position financially however due to the lack of program activities during the pandemic as well as the staff transitions in the past year there is a significant carry over amount with the NEH Award SO-289884-23 grant.

Jill recommended that HM spend down the carry-over funds through increasing support for Montana Conversations, Speakers in the Schools, Montana Center for the Book, and Re-grants in FY24. As a result, the committee voted to add \$25,000 to the re-grants budget line item going into the fall grant cycle. David

Cates made the motion, Beth seconded and the motion carried unanimously and will be presented to the full board for approval at the June board meeting.

Jodi left the meeting at 12:45 pm. Jill and the committee members thanked her for her service to Humanities Montana over the past five years.

#### MNA Board Training Report

Beth reported that she reviewed both of the Montana Nonprofit Association's webinars, "A Board's Guide to Money." She recommended that the recorded training be available to all board members, especially to new board members as they onboard to the organization

The committee discussed diversifying funding sources and the importance of private fundraising. Dave Dietrich asked Jill to research how HM compares to other state humanities councils in the western region. Jill agreed to compile a report to share with the board. *See attachment: Regional State Councils 2022 990 Reports.*

#### Hiring Update

Jill reported that she posted the full time Fiscal Operations Manager position on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. As a backup plan she is considering outsourcing accounting to a firm, and/or working with another state humanities council for coverage until a successful candidate is found.

Lynda adjourned the meeting at 12:58 pm. JB

# Humanities Montana

## Balance Sheet

As of April 30, 2024

	Apr 30, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
1020 · Checking-FIB	88,296.61
1021 · FIB Savings	104,528.85
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	192,825.46
Other Current Assets	
1310 · Grants Receivable	33,455.58
1650 · Endowment Funds-MCF	90,956.39
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	124,411.97
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	317,237.43
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
1620 · Accumulated Amortization	-12,634.00
1625 · Website	36,477.00
1600 · Furniture and Equipment	7,863.88
1610 · Accumulated Depreciation	-5,168.88
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	26,538.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>343,775.43</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
2100 · Accounts Payable	9,643.18
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	9,643.18
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
2375 · MC - Jennifer Bevill - 2410	1,188.21
2370 · MC - Jillian Baker - 3687	1,758.97
2365 · MC - John Knight - 5910	4,293.39
2360 · MC - Megan Hill - 4122	1,876.68
2355 · MC - Julie Ramone - 1814	808.26
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	9,925.51
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2120 · Payroll Liabilities	4,776.35
2142 · Health Insurance Payable	-5,031.85
2155 · Vacation/Sick Payable	11,524.80
2400 · Deferred Revenue	-76,423.18
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	-65,153.88
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-45,585.19
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-45,585.19
<b>Equity</b>	
3010 · Unrestricted Net Assets	386,533.27
3020 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets	48,940.00
3040 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	17,882.74
Net Income	-63,995.39
<b>Total Equity</b>	389,360.62
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>343,775.43</b>

# Humanities Montana

## Profit & Loss

### November 2023 through April 2024

	Nov '23 - Apr 24
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
4603 · Unrealized Gain/Loss	10,147.65
4015 · Co-Pay Income	5,175.00
4600 · Interest and Dividends-Non Fed	1,018.08
4602 · Realized Gain/Loss	49.35
4700 · Misc Income	
4740 · Royalties	76.49
<b>Total 4700 · Misc Income</b>	76.49
4701 · Federal Grant Income	439,360.10
4703 · Misc Grant Funding	5,500.00
4730 · Donations-Unrestricted	
4733 · Expense Donation-other	540.00
4732 · Exp Reim Donation-Board MBR	2,153.80
4731 · Expense Reimb Donations-Speaker	584.53
4730 · Donations-Unrestricted - Other	15,387.82
<b>Total 4730 · Donations-Unrestricted</b>	18,666.15
<b>Total Income</b>	479,992.82
<b>Gross Profit</b>	479,992.82
<b>Expense</b>	
50000 · Salary and Benefits	
5010 · Payroll Expenses	209,090.71
5020 · Payroll Taxes	18,316.27
5021 · Work Comp Premiums	1,744.80
5022 · Health Insurance Premiums	19,310.22
5025 · Retirement Plan Expense	17,140.03
50000 · Salary and Benefits - Other	1,207.40
<b>Total 50000 · Salary and Benefits</b>	266,809.43
60000 · General and Administrative Exp	
5208 · Facility/Room Rental	100.00
5055 · Employee Insurance Admin Fees	30.00
5027 · Parking	2.00
5033 · Travel-Other	
5031 · Travel-Staff	21,273.14
5032 · Travel-Board	5,878.33
5033 · Travel-Other - Other	22,504.29
<b>Total 5033 · Travel-Other</b>	49,655.76
5034 · Meals/Food	3,148.42
5225 · Website Expense	7,335.00
5112 · Copies/Printing Expense	3,038.11
5217 · Endowment Expense	540.75
5190 · Federation Dues	11,145.00
5090 · Books and Materials	191.21
5180 · Dues and Subscriptions	2,804.88
5170 · Insurance	1,849.77
5151 · Professional Development	848.06
5152 · Professional Meetings Staff	750.00
5150 · Professional Services	12,089.97
5144 · Database Expense	1,740.80
5143 · Network Expense	5,242.00
5026 · Campus Parking Decal	3,690.00
5096 · Bank and Credit Card Fees	633.14
5080 · Postage	602.44
5060 · Supplies	9,173.04
5050 · Rent and Administration	699.03
<b>Total 60000 · General and Administrative Exp</b>	115,309.38
5155 · Award Expense	34,000.00
5160 · Honoraria Expense	60,950.00

Humanities Montana  
**Profit & Loss**  
November 2023 through April 2024

---

	Nov '23 - Apr 24
5209 · Professional Meetings Board	75.00
6010 · Regrants Awarded	66,844.40
Total Expense	543,988.21
Net Ordinary Income	-63,995.39
Net Income	<b>-63,995.39</b>

Humanities MONTANA				FY24 Actual	Budget Remaining	Percentage of Budget Spent
		2023 Actual	2024 Budget	4/30/2024	4/30/2024	4/30/2024
<b>Revenue</b>						
	<b>NEH State Operating Grant</b>	\$ 603,037.00	\$889,474.00	\$ 107,815	\$ 781,659	12%
	Carry over from FY 23 to FY 24	207,183	318,050	293,620	24,430	92%
	NEH SHARP	2,122			-	
	National History Day Grant Carry Over		2,192	19,710	(17,518)	899%
	United We Stand Grant Carry Over		39,000	18,215	20,785	
	<b>Total NEH Revenue</b>	\$ 812,342	\$ 1,248,716	\$ 439,360	\$ 809,356	
<b>Other Grant Support</b>						
	Engelhard Foundation Carry Over 2022	\$ 56,165.00	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,113	\$ 887	
	Engelhard Foundation 23-25 Grant	160,000	80,000	54,900	25,100	
	Montana Cultural Trust	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	
	Informed Citizen Carry Over	3,765			-	
	Academy of American Poets Carry Over	31		4,300	(4,300)	
	Other Grant Revenue	2,000	0	500	(500)	
	<b>Total Other Grant Support</b>	\$ 226,961	\$ 115,000	\$ 93,813	21,187	
<b>Other Revenue</b>						
	Board meeting expense donation	\$ 1,378	\$5,000	\$ 2,154	\$ 2,846	43%
	Montana Conversations Copay	5,775	4,000	5,175	(1,175)	129%
	Montana Conversations Expense Donations	1,841	1,000	585	415	59%
	Unrestricted Donations	20,188	36,000	15,928	20,072	44%
	Restricted Donations	1,521	16,000		16,000	0%
	Interest & Misc. Earnings	7,922	6,000	11,292	(5,292)	188%
	<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	\$ 38,625	\$ 68,000	\$ 35,134	\$ 32,866	
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,077,928</b>	<b>\$ 1,431,716</b>	<b>\$ 568,307</b>	<b>\$ 863,409</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>						
	Salary, Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$ 417,694	\$ 590,092	\$ 266,809	\$ 323,283	45%
	General and Administration	116,749	172,244	49,458	122,786	29%
	Board Expense	25,253	30,000	11,932	18,068	40%
	Outreach	832	4,000	1,195	2,805	30%
	Fundraising	11,290	12,800	8,925	3,875	70%
	50th anniversary	3,000	-	-	-	
	Lobbying/Humanities on the Hill	2,699	6,000	2,695	3,305	45%
	Governor's Humanities Awards	-	16,000	-	16,000	0%
	Regrants	163,654	150,000	49,036	100,964	33%
	Regrants travel/outreach		5,000	1,168		
	Regrants professional development		500	-		
	Montana Conversations	60,281	60,000	20,718	39,282	35%
	Montana Conversations travel/program outreach		5,000	875		
	Montana Conversations professional development		1,000	529		
	Speakers in the Schools	59,339	65,000	44,135	20,865	68%
	United We Stand		23,000	10,565	12,435	46%
	National History Day		-	18,591	(18,591)	
	Hometown Humanities	2,354	-	-		
	Journalism/Informed Citizen	3,765	-	-		
	American Academy of Poets	31	-	4,300		
	Civic Engagement Programming		10,000	-		
	Center for the Book (LAL, NatBkFest)	48		153		
	Gather Round	10		-	-	
	Big Sky Reads	5,500	10,000	4,500	5,500	45%
	National Book Festival	3,314	3,000	-	3,000	0%
	SHARP	(1,003)		-		
	Democracy Project	\$ 27,907	\$ 68,500	\$ 48,404	\$ 20,096	71%
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 902,717</b>	<b>\$ 1,232,136</b>	<b>\$ 543,988</b>	<b>\$ 673,673</b>	
	<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 175,211</b>	<b>\$ 199,580</b>	<b>\$ 24,319</b>	<b>\$ 189,736</b>	
	Engelhard Foundation carryover revenue listed above was recorded in FY 19 and FY 23 financial statements					
	Academy of American Poets carry over revenue listed above was recorded in FY 22 financial statements					
		18				



990 Year- 2022	Montana	Alaska	Idaho	North Dakota	South Dakota	Wyoming	Kansas	Colorado
Total Revenue	\$ 912,929.00	\$ 3,374,906.00	\$ 1,026,273.00	\$ 1,234,062.00	\$ 1,742,201.00	\$ 1,555,899.00	\$ 1,022,614.00	\$ 1,954,801.00
Govt Grant Revenue*	\$ 853,723.00	\$ 1,592,022.00	\$ 771,731.00	\$ 1,112,010.00	\$ 1,486,539.00	\$ 1,464,267.00	\$ 914,616.00	\$ 1,736,566.00
	94%	47%	75%	90%	85%	94%	89%	89%
Program	\$ 564,048.00	\$ 2,646,505.00	\$ 950,211.00	\$ 802,721.00	\$ 1,093,895.00	\$ 1,119,833.00	\$ 637,541.00	\$ 1,445,503.00
General Management	\$ 286,596.00	\$ 503,546.00	\$ 188,113.00	\$ 304,778.00	\$ 567,699.00	\$ 519,100.00	\$ 252,036.00	\$ 402,240.00
Fundraising	\$ 107,795.00	\$ 65,685.00	\$ 36,664.00	\$ 53,601.00	\$ 18,090.00	\$ 55,159.00	\$ 117,049.00	\$ 151,669.00
Overhead %	43%	17%	22%	29%	34%	37%	36%	28%
Grantmaking Budget	\$ 196,824.00	\$ 83,500.00	\$ 166,654.00	\$ 186,425.00	\$ 816,208.00	\$ 642,799.00	\$ 296,096.00	\$ 760,114.00
Staffing May 2024**	6	13	4	6	7	6	6	14

\*Govt Grant Funding includes NEH and other sources

\*\* As listed on website

990 Year	Montana (2022)	Montana (2023)
Total Revenue	\$ 912,929.00	\$ 1,011,229.00
Govt Grant Revenue*	\$ 853,723.00	\$ 812,342.00
	94%	80%
Program	\$ 564,048.00	\$ 555,676.00
General Management	\$ 286,596.00	\$ 299,892.00
Fundraising	\$ 107,795.00	\$ 47,039.00
Overhead %	43%	34%
Grantmaking Budget	\$ 196,824.00	\$ 184,631.00

\* \$160,000 from Engelhard Foundation in 2023

## Governance Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 via Zoom

Attendees: Chairperson Mary Hernandez, Jen Corning, David Dietrich, Clark Whitehorn;

Excused: Jeremy Carl

Mary called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. A quorum was present.

### Schedule Review and Update of Committee Charters

During the February board meeting each committee was tasked with reviewing their charter to ensure that it is in alignment with the strategic plan and determine if any by-law changes are necessary. Mary suggested that this committee determine a timeline to complete the process so that any by-law changes may be presented for a final vote at the September board meeting. After some discussion, the committee determined that they would ask for by-law updates from each committee be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mary will reach out to other committee chairs to follow up.

### Schedule Nomination Duties for Fall 2024 Board Officer Candidates

Nominations will be presented at the September board meeting. The committee discussed next steps to address the Board skills assessment, Board matrix, and a self-evaluation tool. Mary and Jill will draft tools to be presented to this committee at its July meeting. Additionally, the members of this committee will individually contact all Board members by early August 2024 to ask them if they plan to continue to serve on the board in 2025.

### Discussion: Community Engagement Committee

Board Chair Dave Dietrich reported that the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) had requested to dissolve. During the Executive Committee (EC) meeting, Chair Jeanette Fregulia reported that she met with Jill in April to discuss this committee's charter and further define its purpose yet struggled with clarifying the governance role of the committee separate from operations. Through this discussion, Jeanette concluded that perhaps we were trying too hard to create a committee and that with a development director now hired as well as an executive director, it is time for the board to reconsider its governance role.

The committee concluded that board oversight of programs and development is provided through the approval of the strategic plan, and the executive director supervises staff to ensure that the strategic goals are met. Additionally, it is the role of each board member to support fundraising and outreach for HM. Ad-hoc operational committees that include board involvement may be recruited whenever volunteer assistance is needed.

Concerns were raised about the ability of the board to support the program and development staff without having a community engagement committee. Jill reassured the committee that staff will still call upon board members for support as needed for specific projects and would keep the board informed of

programs, fundraising and special events. There will continue to be opportunities for board members to volunteer on staff-led committees as well.

The EC then discussed the next steps for dissolution of the Community Engagement Committee. The dissolution will require a change to the by-laws; therefore, the board should be informed of the recommendation from the CEC at the June 15th board meeting with a vote to be added to the agenda at the September 28th board meeting. Additionally, the board should consider the reassignment of the current committee members to serve on other committees between June and September.

#### Next Steps

With the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for committee changes to the by-laws, Mary requested a meeting in early July to review the recommended revisions as well as follow up on nominations work. The committee suggested either July 10<sup>th</sup> or July 17<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Since Jeremy Carl was unable to attend due to a last-minute work conflict, Mary will confirm the best July GC meeting time during a follow up call this afternoon.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm. JB

## 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 Snq̓wey̓tmistn 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 regranting 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

## Big Sky Reads Grant Minutes – February 2024 through April 2024

**Decision Date: 02/14/2024**

**LPL Book Clubs, Lewistown Public Library, Lewistown, MT, \$500.** The LPL Book Clubs, hosted by the Lewistown Public Library, meet monthly at the library. The Mystery Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month and reads true crime, mysteries, and paranormal fiction and nonfiction. The Science Fiction & Fantasy Club meets the second Tuesday of each month and alternates between genres. The A-Z Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month and reads across a range of genres but is specifically marketed toward "newcomers to town and old souls" to encourage new residents to engage with their library and community. To learn more, contact Lewistown Public Library staff at (406) 538-5212 and visit the library's website at [lewistownlibrary.org](http://lewistownlibrary.org).

Megan Hill Sundy

*This would be the second Big Sky Reads stipend awarded to LPL. As a former Hometown Humanities site and major partner, it is exciting to see the library continue to engage with our programs and funding opportunities. The library is doing great work and supporting their book clubs in 2024 is a good investment for HM.*

**Decision Date: 02/15/2024**

**24B006 Wedsworth Memorial Library Book Club, Wedsworth Memorial Library, Cascade, MT, \$500.**

The Wedsworth Memorial Library Book Club, hosted by Wedsworth Memorial Library, meets once a month August through May. The group meets once a month in August, September, October, November, February, March, April, and May on the 2nd Monday at 5:00 p.m. To learn more, contact Nancy Royan at (406) 468-2848 or visit <https://cascademtWedsworthlibrary.org/programs/>.

Megan Hill Sundy

*This will be the 7th BSR award granted to Wedsworth Memorial Library Book Club. The group continues to meet our BSR criteria and demonstrate that their program is both popular and ongoing.*

**Decision Date: 03/20/2024**

**24B007 Book Talk Book Club, Stillwater County Library, Columbus, MT, \$500.** The Book Talk Book Club, hosted by the Stillwater County Library in Columbus, MT meets on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information about Book Talk Book Club, contact Kayli at [slibrary@stillwatercountylibrary.org](mailto:slibrary@stillwatercountylibrary.org) or at (406) 322-5009. To learn more about the Book Talk Book Club, visit their [website](#).

Megan Hill Sundy

*HM has supported this book club in the past but they have not received an award stipend since 2021. No major concerns and I am happy to move forward with the award.*

**Decision Date: 04/04/2024**

**24B008 Book Discussion at the Havre-Hill County Library, Havre, MT, \$500.** The summer reading program at the Havre-Hill County Library will take place on May 30, June 27, July 25, and August 29 this year. The group meets at the Havre-Hill County Library Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m and all are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Megan or Rachel at 406-265-2123 and visit their [Facebook page](#).

Megan Hill Sundy

*This will be the third BSR stipend awarded to Havre-Hill County library since 2020. This is one of our only supported book clubs on the Hi-Line. They have submitted reports on time and remain in good standing with HM. I recommend awarding this stipend to the library.*

**24B009 Thompson Falls Book Club 2024, Thompson Falls Public Library, Thompson Falls, MT, \$500.**

The Thompson Falls Public Library Book Club meets at 4:00 p.m., on the third Friday of each month (except December). For more information contact Crystal Buchanan at (406) 827-3547. To learn more visit [thompsonfallspubliclibrary.org](http://thompsonfallspubliclibrary.org).

Megan Hill Sundy

*This will be the third BSR stipend awarded to the Thompson Falls Library since 2022. They have submitted reports on time and remain in good standing with HM. I recommend awarding this stipend to the library.*



## Mini-Grant Minutes: March-May 2024

**Decision Date: 03/04/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R006 The Man in the Arena, Mission Valley Live, Polson, MT, \$2,000.** Mission Valley Live, a community performing arts organization in Polson, will host *The Man in the Arena, A Celebration of Theodore Roosevelt* at North Lake County Public Library, the Ronan Library District, and high school and middle school history classes in Ronan and Polson in March 2024.

Derek Evans, a member of the Chicago History Museum and board member of the Theodore Roosevelt Association's Chicago chapter, will portray President Theodore Roosevelt to educate local students and adults about the character of 26th President of the United States and share his profound and lasting vision for America and what it means to be both an American and a citizen of the world.

Jill Baker

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This living history project is easy to support. Teddy Roosevelt's legacy in the West is an important part of our history. I am excited to learn what the students and teachers have to say about the performance!*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*A living history presentation of Theodore Roosevelt will be fascinating and even possibly inspiring. This project brings history alive to students and residents of the Mission Valley and the organization reaches out to both rural and Native American audiences. I would have liked a stronger explanation of Theodore Roosevelt's specific connections to Montana but I still support funding this project.*

**APPROVED - 24R007 Montana Writers Rodeo, Montana Playwrights Network, Helena, MT, \$2,000.** The Montana Writers Rodeo, hosted by the Montana Playwrights Network, is a civic-engagement-minded conference for writers: fiction/non-fiction writers, playwrights, and screenwriters from across the state. The conference focuses on the education and development of writers, by professionals, in a relaxed communal space. This year's theme is "Montana Inspires Story." The Writers Rodeo will be held at the Helena Avenue Theatre on April 19–20, 2024.

Jill Baker

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project is in alignment with our public humanities goals and has a well-thought-out timeline and work plan. It is an easy project for HM to support. Wishing them a successful conference and workshops!*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project strikes me as well-organized and well-conceived. The networking and educational aspects for Montana writers will contribute to the continuing high quality of Montana storytelling. Full support seems like an easy call here.*

**APPROVED - 24R008 In Conversation: Translation and Identity, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT, \$2,000.** This translation project and free public lecture will feature thoughtful, engaging dialogue surrounding Crow language and culture. Grant funds will be used to support Tim McCleary, the lead project translator, and an instructor at Little Big Horn College, on the nearby Crow Reservation, along with Vance Crooked Arm and Levi Yellowmule with their translations of the text for Will Wilson exhibition's object and tombstone labels into Crow. Providing additional labels for the exhibit in Crow will allow for deeper outreach and increased accessibility to the artwork for museum visitors. A public discussion at the Yellowstone Art Museum on May 16, 2024, will engage audiences with Crow culture as well. The Will Wilson exhibition in particular explores traditional representations of Native peoples and then addresses misconceptions in his modern photographs.

Jill Baker

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project is well aligned with the mission and goals of HM. I fully support funding this project.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project aligns well with HM's mission and strategic priorities. Translations into the Crow language could increase accessibility as the project proposes to do. It will be interesting and significant to see how representation between Curtis and Wilson compares. The public discussion later in May expands the humanities content and impact.*

**Decision Date: 03/21/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R012 The Journey of York: Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Jefferson River Chapter Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Pony, MT, \$2,000.** The Jefferson River Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is bringing Hasan Davis, a York subject matter expert, to Montana this summer as part of the annual speaker's series at the Missouri Headwaters and Madison Buffalo Jump State Park. Mr. Davis will offer a theatrical presentation titled "The Journey of York: Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" plus a discussion including a question-and-answer session. The program will bring awareness and appreciation of the story of York (William Clark's slave) and his contributions to the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Jill Baker

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This is a clearly written, well-supported project for HM to support. It aligns quite well with HM's mission of telling multicultural, untold stories. I recommend full support of this project.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project seems eminently worthy of our support. Mr. Davis has a great deal of subject matter expertise and experience as a speaker. The appeal of Lewis & Clark never seems to fade and this performance will highlight one of the complexities of the expedition. Thumbs up from me.*

**Decision Date: 04/01/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R013 Cultural Resurgence: Reviving Traditions, Restoring Lands Presentation, The Roxy Theater – International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, MT, \$2,000.** This project will feature two short films, *Rebirth of the Range* and *The Return of Nóouhàh-Toka'na* (Swift Fox), and a panel discussion

during the 2024 International Wildlife Film Festival hosted by The Roxy Theater in Missoula. The films highlight restoring two specific animals to indigenous lands in Montana and the return of federal land to tribal jurisdiction. The primary goals of this project are to raise awareness, educate, and facilitate positive discussion and include indigenous perspectives in local wildlife management.

Jill Baker

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*The panel discussion of this film during the International Wildlife Film Festival is a worthy conversation to support. The project provides an Indigenous point of view on issues related to Montana's ecological landscape. I support funding for this project.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 84%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (4), Feasibility (4), Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*The humanities content of this proposal seems a little thin. The applicant does not make a strong case for how the project involves humanities topics. That said, the panel discussion could be quite fruitful in shedding light on indigenous culture (especially with respect to the swift fox and the bison range). I am in favor of supporting this project, albeit with reservations as to its humanities focus.*

**Decision Date: 04/02/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R014 BAM presents a Lee Silliman lecture at the MOR on the History of Montana's Glacier National Park, Bozeman Art Museum, Bozeman, MT, \$1,932.** The Bozeman Art Museum project consists of a free public lecture on June 5, 2024 at the Hagar Auditorium of the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana by Lee Silliman entitled "The History of Glacier National Park". The lecture expands the depth of the "Glacier Revisited" exhibit (opening April 19) exploring the history from the Native American beginnings to the founding of the park by Congress in 1910. The talk begins by discussing how Blackfeet, Kootenai, and other tribes utilized the natural resources of the park for millennia and then introduces important individuals in the establishment of the park, such as George Bird Grinnell, James Wilard Schultz, and Louis Warren Hill.

Jill Baker

Rating: 80%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (4), Significance (4), Quality (4), Feasibility (4), Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*The overall concept for this project is in line with our mission at HM. However, Megan has flagged some important questions for the applicant to answer before we can move forward to award support of this project. **Update:** It is good to have more information about their humanities scholar, Lee Silliman. He certainly seems qualified. I appreciate your follow up, Megan. As I re-read the program outline, I view his acknowledgement of Indigenous people living in areas that have been colonized as national parks to be more along the lines of a land acknowledgement than an attempt to provide a Native American perspective of the park. As such, I recommend that we approve the mini-grant.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 92%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (4), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project proposal needs a few improvements before I'd recommend supporting it. We need to know more about how Lee Silliman fits into this project and more discussion to describe Silliman as a humanities scholar. We also need to know if there is a tribal history scholar to explain (or support explanations of) Indigenous people's use of the area that became Glacier National Park. The creation of the park was not without controversy from a native perspective.*

**APPROVED & CANCELLED - 24R015 Kopee, A High School Literary Publication, Missoula County Public Schools, Missoula, MT, \$1,000.** *Kopee*, a Sentinel High School student literary publication, showcases the best work of students in creative writing, English, art, and photography classes. The final product debuts at a public reading on the Sentinel lawn in May, after which the journal is distributed to local libraries, bookstores. This project gives student writers a place to publish their work. Knowing their words will reach a real audience inspires students to revise and refine their writing at a completely new level.

*The grantee declined to accept the award due to challenges recruiting students to develop content for the publication. Grant number reassigned to a different project. -MJHS*

Jill Baker

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*I fully support funding this creative writing workshop project for high school youth.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*I am strongly in favor of helping with the printing costs for this publication of student poetry, creative writing, art, and photography.*

**APPROVED - 24R016 The University of Montana Western (UMW) Polynesian Club Spring 2024 spring programs, The University of Montana Western, Dillon, MT, \$2,000.** The UMW Polynesian Culture Club is a student organization which develops educational presentations of story, song, and dance heritage. With funding support from Humanities Montana, the club will reach audiences beyond Dillon, bringing the Spring 2024 program to a cultural festival in Missoula and to Plains, Montana Schools. This project will share Polynesian culture and heritage by promoting respect, understanding accurate information, and instilling participants' and audiences' desire to learn about one's own heritages.

Jill Baker

Rating: 92%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (4), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*Sharing multicultural stories is part of the mission of HM. The Polynesian Club will expose students in Montana to another culture and point of view and that is worthy of our support.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 92%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (4), Significance (4), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This is something of a curious topic but telling the accurate stories of Polynesian culture throughout western Montana is a worthy project. I'm in favor of supporting it.*

**Decision Date: 04/04/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R0117 Plains Indian Camp, The Montana Living History Program, Helena, MT, \$1,950.**

The Montana Living History Program promotes the preservation of frontier history. Plains Indian Camp, as part of Helena's Living History Day in September 2024, will re-create a historically accurate Plains Indian Camp that the public may tour, investigate and experience, and include an informative lecture about primitive Native life. The project will depict 1800's Native American life through hands-on display and expert narration. This project seeks to increase awareness, interest, and appreciation of Montana history through educational experiences that foster understanding about our multi-cultural past and future.

Jill Baker

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*I support full funding for this living history project. It aligns well with our mission and strategic priorities.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 96%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project is in alignment with Humanities Montana's mission and strategic plan and is well worth supporting.*

**Decision Date: 04/12/2024**

**APPROVED - 24R019 Montana Archaeological Society Meeting Keynote Address, Montana**

**Archaeological Society, Missoula, MT, \$1,665.** The Montana Archaeological Society, a state-wide voluntary organization of professionals and the general public who have an interest in Montana's past, will host Dean Nikolai as the keynote speaker at their annual meeting to provide a Native American perspective on the archaeology of Montana. The keynote address will elevate Native American perspectives about how Montana's past is being interpreted. The annual meeting will be held in Helena May 3-5, 2024 and the keynote address will be recorded and available to view on the organization's website after the event.

Jill Baker

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project is well-aligned with HM's mission of telling multicultural stories and*

*with a specific focus on lifting up Indigenous voices. I support full folding of this project.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This keynote address fits well with HM's mission and strategic goals, especially since it will be recorded and made available on MAS's website. I'm not sure if the pending UEI status will be an impediment to providing this support. When that issue is resolved, this is a way-thumbs-up project for me. **Update – UEI submitted to HM on 4/12/2024.***

#### Mini-Grant Minutes 04/16/2024

**APPROVED – 24R020 Magic Beans: Songs for Sprouting Children & Other Human Beans, North Valley Music School, Whitefish, MT, \$2,000.** "Magic Beans" is a youth music program in Northwest Montana, featuring contemplation, conversation, and connection. The project invites Montana author and musician Chris Sand to host three, one-hour programs in Evergreen, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls to help kids understand themselves and others through fun and thoughtful songs inspired by Sands' own Magic Beans Songbook.

Jill Baker

Rating: 88%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*Music appreciation and education has many benefits for youth. While the applicant makes mention of humanities content, the details are not specific. However, the letter of commitment from Chris Sand outlining the conversation with students best demonstrates this aspect of the proposal. As a result, I support funding this project.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 92%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*Music is an amazing way to tell stories and for that reason alone I think we should support this project. However, the application does not do a very good job of explaining the humanities content of the project. The discussion element*



*with the students is probably the most accessible way into an argument for this as a humanities (as opposed to an arts performance) project.*

**Decision Date: 04/18/2024**

**APPROVED – 24R018 The Gathering at Tmsmł, Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, Lolo, MT, \$2,000.** Travelers' Rest Connection, the non-profit partner of Travelers' Rest State Park, hosted a new Indigenous arts & culture event - The Gathering at Tmsmł. The event invited the Bitterroot Séliš back to their ancestral territory to practice their traditions, highlight the Indigenous history of the park, and to provide a unique opportunity for community members and tourists to experience high-quality Indigenous-led interpretation at the park.

Jill Baker

Rating: 100%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (5), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This is an event that aligns well with our mission and strategic plan. I recommend full funding.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 88%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (5), Quality (4), Feasibility (5), Funding Recommendation (5)

Comment:

*This project is eminently worthy of our support--I think it's okay that humanities experts aren't named in all cases (more the organizations from which the experts will be selected).*

**APPROVED - 24R015 Big Sky Paranormal Conference, Bozeman Paranormal Society, Bozeman, MT, \$2,000.** The Bozeman Paranormal Society is hosting its 3rd Annual Big Sky Paranormal Conference in Butte, MT, September 27-29, 2024. The conference will raise awareness of local Montana history through presentations and tours led by historians.

Jill Baker

Rating: 84%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (4), Feasibility (4), Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*This is a fun and unique history project for HM to support. I appreciate that this is the first time that this applicant has applied. Once the budget issues are addressed, I support full funding.*

Carla Homstad

Rating: 88%

Scores: Strategic Alignment (5), Significance (4), Quality (4), Feasibility (5),  
Funding Recommendation (4)

Comment:

*This unusual project stresses the history of Butte and its unique (for Montana) architecture. Once the budget issues are addressed (travel expenses information; total amount requested updated). And, cost-share doesn't need to be a part of this, right? The emphasis on history makes this a humanities project, even though the application itself is a little raw.*

Community Engagement Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Jeanette Fregulia, Chair, Carol Bradley, Lathie Poole

Staff: Jill Baker, Executive Director

Committee Chair Jeanette Fregulia called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Agenda:

Jeanette reviewed the current purpose of the Community Engagement Committee with the group from the revised bylaws: **Community Engagement Committee**. There shall be a Community Engagement Committee. The chair shall recommend directors to serve on the Community Engagement Committee and recommend its chair. The board shall appoint the committee members and its chair by resolution. Specific duties of the Community Engagement Committee include:

- A. Provide oversight of Humanities Montana programming;
- B. Serve in an advisory capacity for any new programming;
- C. Provide support with special events, including the Governor's Humanities Awards;
- D. Provide support with donor outreach and communications with stakeholders

Jeanette then led a discussion:

- How do we further define the purpose of this committee? What is our "Why"?

Jeanette opened the conversation by sharing that she met with Jill the previous week to discuss this committee's charter and further define its purpose, yet struggled with clarifying the governance role of the committee separate from operations. Through this discussion, Jeanette came to the conclusion that perhaps we were trying too hard to create a committee and that with a development director now hired as well as an executive director, it is time for the board to reconsider its governance role.

- What is the board's role in Community Engagement?

The committee concluded that board oversight of programs and development is provided through the approval of the strategic plan, and the executive director supervises staff to ensure that the strategic goals are met. Additionally, it is the role of each board member to support fundraising and outreach for HM. Ad-hoc

operational committees that include board involvement may be recruited throughout the year to help with planning events.

Concerns were raised about providing board support to program and development staff through the committee. Jill thanked the committee for stepping up to support staff during the recent leadership transitions, and assured them that staff were well supported and would be available to provide reports to the board as requested.

The committee then discussed next steps for dissolution the Community Engagement Committee. Jeanette will present the recommendation from the committee to dissolve at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM. JB

## Executive Director Report

June 2024

Spring has been a time of change and growth at Humanities Montana. In March, the team hired and welcomed Liz Harrison as our next Development and Communications Director. She is a seasoned fundraiser and public relations professional who has generously offered her expertise to Humanities Montana. Liz also has a background in humanities and publishing which makes it a wonderful match. She and I are working closely together to plan, rebuild and recreate HM's fundraising efforts after this position remained vacant during the recent leadership transition. The spring appeal letter went out in late May, and the Annual Report will be available in early July. Liz and I are also working on HM's case statement to prepare for future grant applications to private foundations, and researching our options for moving forward with Montana's humanities awards and other public recognition opportunities.

In April, I made the decision to eliminate the Office Manager position. In my first 9 months at HM, it was clear that there wasn't enough administrative work to support a full time Office Manager position and therefore the administrative duties have been absorbed by current staff.

After nearly 5 years at HM, Jodi Todd has given her notice and will be wrapping up her work with us by the end of June. She is leaving the organization to spend more time with her family and is expecting her second grandchild in July. Jodi has been an incredible asset to HM throughout her tenure here and will be greatly missed. Fortunately, she has agreed to be a resource throughout the transition and help train new staff. As a result, HM is currently seeking a full time Fiscal Operations Manager position. Many state humanities councils, including North Dakota, Kansas and Utah have similar positions. The job opening was recently posted, and I will have a hiring update for you when we meet in Butte.

Last, but certainly not least, Jenny Bevill was promoted to Program Manager in May 2024. In addition to her duties coordinating the Democracy Project, she has taken on additional tasks to expand and grow the Montana Center for the Book. We are thrilled to have her working full time for HM!

These organizational changes put Humanities Montana in an excellent position to diversify our funding and grow our investment in Montana's public humanities. As I approach my first-year anniversary with HM, I am very optimistic about the future. John and Megan have been steady and loyal and continue to flourish in their roles as you will see from their respective reports. We are doing good work at Humanities Montana.

Thank you for trusting me to lead our beloved organization through this transition and into the future.

Respectfully, Jill



**To: HM Board of Directors**

**From: Liz Harrison, Director of Development & Communications**

**Date: May 24, 2024**

Since I joined Humanities Montana two months ago, I've enjoyed learning more about the re-grants and programs work. I'm looking forward to working on increasing the amount of support – financial and other – to take HM to a new level of influence and financial success.

I've been working on a fundraising and communications calendar for the time period through the end of the fiscal year. Here are the highlights:

**Overall Calendar:**

Current:	<b>Spring appeal</b> Drops in June Mailed to all current donors plus a rented list of potential donors Total mailing: 2,500 pieces
Early July	<b>Annual Report</b> Will be posted our web and an e-blast will alert our list that the AR is available Will also do a print version to mail to people for whom we have no email address Will also post the website link on all our venues (FB, Instagram and LinkedIn)
Summer	<b>House Parties—Listening Sessions</b> I'm in conversation with some Board members who are willing to host a small gathering at their homes to re-engage with past board members. We're targeting Helena and Missoula for now
Fall	<b>Debut of Printed Newsletter</b> In addition to a monthly e-newsletter, HM will add a printed newsletter twice a year to make sure that all of our constituents have the opportunity to engage with us. If we have their mailing address, supporters will get the print newsletter. Those who have subscribed to our email lists will also receive a link to a copy of the newsletter on our website.
November	<b>Year End Appeal Drops (November 30<sup>th</sup>)</b> We again use the rented list as well as sending to our "house" list

December      **Giving Tuesday** (December 3)  
Mini newsletter to drop mid-month to push more donations by year end.

**Communications:**

The main way to increase donations is through quality and consistent communications with current and future donors. We are developing messaging that will target several “publics” such as donors, potential and current grantees, potential and current program hosts and potential donors. This plan will be based on some market research and work on creating solid messaging that quickly and succinctly summarizes what Humanities Montana is and what we do and why it matters. More to come on this effort.

We’ve also contracted with a new social media expert, Kellie Adams of Social Butterfly, who will be working alongside us to further refine our message and its delivery.

**Metrics:**

As Jill has mentioned to you, HM is in a building phase in terms of its development and communications work. We will be watching the following metrics to measure progress:

- Number of retained donors (industry average is 43%)
- Number of new donors
- Average gift size
- Average increase in gift size
- Number of foundations applied to
- Number of foundations who fund our proposals

I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.



# Grantmaking Report June 2024

## Grantmaking Insights

Humanities Montana is well-positioned to expend the full 2024 re-grant budget of \$150,000 by year end. The increased request and award amount for mini-grants has been well-received and we have experienced an uptick in the number of organizations applying for these rapid-response grants. In 2023, we approved a total of 18 opportunity grants and awarded a total of \$16,814 in this grant category. By May 31, 2024, we approved a total of 20 mini-grants and awarded a total of \$38,412.00 in the revised category.

Our applicant pool for the Community Project Grants in April was larger than both the spring cycle of 2023 and 2022 and the average amount requested increased by \$700 from April 2023. Table 1 below summarizes grants approved/awarded by category through May 31, 2024.

**Table 1**

**Fiscal Year 2024 Subaward/Re-grant Budget and YTD Funds Awarded\***

TOTAL FY24 MAJOR SUBAWARD BUDGET		\$150,000.00
Grant Category	Total # of Approved Projects	Total Amount Awarded
Mini-Grants	20	\$38,412.80
Community Project Grants	3	\$19,966.00
Film + Video Grants	n/a	\$0.00
Total YTD Funds Awarded		<b>\$58,378.80</b>
REMAINING SUBAWARD BUDGET		<b>\$91,621.20</b>

\* Table 1 does not include Community Project Grant applications from April currently awaiting board approval.

To learn more about recently funded projects and view our grant distribution map, please visit our [Grants Awarded webpage](#).

April marked the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the amount of funds requested to date is slightly less than 50% of the total amount requested in 2024, which is appropriate as we move into the final major grant cycle in August. If all recommended awards from the April cycle are approved (\$54,123), our total award amount would increase to \$112,501. This would bring the remaining re-grant budget to \$37,499 which seems low knowing that we will continue to receive mini-grant applications and August typically produces our largest pool of applicants and funding requests. In August 2023, we

received 21 applications and a total request for over \$161,000. We approved 12 projects and awarded \$70,000 from the August cycle in 2023.

**Table 2**

**Year Over Year (YoY) summary of applications received, amounts requested, projects funded, award amounts, and annual funding rates by strategic planning year.**

<b>General YoY Grantmaking Summary</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24 (YTD)</b>
# Applications received	68	35
# Projects funded	45	23
Total amount requested	\$ 313,497.22	\$142,343.00
Total amount awarded	\$ 163,944.12	\$ 58,378.00
Annual funding rate ( <i>funds awarded/funds requested</i> )	52%	41%

\* Table 2 includes funds requested from the April Community Project Grant applications currently awaiting board approval, but does not include pending award amounts.

## Grantmaking Updates

The United We Stand initiative has provided opportunity for HM to expand grants outreach and explore new ways for our grantmaking to support projects in Tribal and rural communities. As part of this project HM staff had the opportunity to share information about programs and grants with the State Tribal Economic Development (STED) Commissioners in March and to librarians and library staff at the Montana Library Association's annual Conference in April. Both presentations included a listening portion during which attendees shared challenges and successes in facilitating programming to promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding. Listening sessions were also integrated into three grant writing workshops and feedback from each has been documented and will be analyzed in the coming months.

United We Stand has also allowed HM to support three research projects focused on raising awareness of communities who have experienced historical inequities in Montana. Below is a brief summary of these three projects and five scholars.

**Anthony Wood, PhD**, author of *Black Montana: Settler Colonialism and the Erosion of the Racial Frontier, 1877-1930* (University of Nebraska Press 2021), will develop three public programs by drawing on individual chapter themes from his book that speak directly to issues in contemporary life in Montana. His three topics will be: 1) Montana and the West's early outdoors and wilderness cultures and how that history intimately relates to the history of Black relationship to Nature in labor and leisure; 2) Montana's history of race and legislation, specifically around early twentieth century "anti-miscegenation"

laws and their long-term, harmful effects on communities of color around the state; 3) A history of Montana's poorly remembered August Fourth Emancipation Day which commemorated a curious and distinctly western Black/Native freedom narrative that shaped the collective memory of Black Montanans in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He will collaborate with the Montana Historical Society and the Extreme History Project to schedule public programs in Helena and Bozeman in August and September.

**Micah Chang, PhD**, as part of his scholar project, will conduct research for the first two chapters of his new book project, "American Crops for American People: Statist Agriculture, Race, and Environment on the Northern Great Plains," and present public programs in Billings and Sidney later this summer. His research will explore wheat agronomy and the creation of an "American" crop and uncover the marginalized histories of Japanese and Mexican peoples in Montana and their contributions and impact on agriculture.

**Mark Ratledge, Carol Murray, and Lea Whitford** will identify and interview Blackfeet descendants of survivors of the 1870 Baker (Marias) Massacre of the Blackfeet in North Central Montana. Their research involves gathering histories from the Montana Blackfeet, as well as individuals from Blackfoot Confederacy tribes in Canada and the collection of stories and histories will provide a unique Blackfeet perspective of the event. They will share their research during a presentation at the Blackfeet Community College Medicine Spring Library in late August or early September.

All public presentations will be posted on HM's events calendar and promoted through our newsletter and social media channels.

Along with United We Stand activities, we continue to conduct ongoing outreach to promote our grantmaking. Between March and May, Megan has consulted with 27 interested applicants via Zoom, phone, or in person meetings. Since the start of the fiscal year, she has met with over 90 interested applicants, 29 of whom have submitted applications. She continues to host informational webinars prior to each application deadline and virtual awardee cohort sessions after each granting cycle. As of May 31, the recorded spring grant informational webinar has been viewed 65 times on YouTube and interested applicants report finding the recordings very helpful.

## Strategic Action Updates

The following summarizes work completed between 2/1/2023 and 5/31/2024 as it relates to [SP1] Re-Energizing Grantmaking.

### **ACTION STEP: Re-structure final reporting process to increase organizational learning.**

In response to feedback from past applicants, all final report forms for grants have been updated in Foundant and new options to better engage our staff and

grantees in learning have been added to the reporting process. The final report forms have been shortened and only require grantees to provide quantitative data relevant for NEH's annual Activities & Outcomes report. The qualitative reporting questions have been streamlined and beginning in July 2024, grantees will have the option to participate in a pre-scheduled virtual meeting with HM staff to present the outcomes of their project. This live reporting option will not replace the required written report, but will supplement the report and allow HM staff and grantees to learn more from one another and engage with project outcomes in a meaningful way.

Additionally, grantees now receive an award packet (approved application with final budget and a list of final report questions) email from HM after award contracts are signed. This email serves as a reminder of the final report due date and encourages grantees to begin collecting needed data at the onset of their project. The email also includes a link to a post-application feedback survey. Responses to this survey are read in real-time and, when appropriate, staff make adjustments to the application process. Finally, in working with grant officers at other humanities councils, HM has started building an alternative oral application and reporting process for applicants with an increased need for accessibility. This option is on track to be offered in 2025.

## **ACTION STEP: Re-design Research Fellowships to attract new fellows from rural and diverse communities and increase benefits of humanities research for HM.**

We have decided to re-open research fellowship grants in December 2024. Based on our experience with the recent United We Stand Scholar Projects and our continued research and exploratory conversations around re-designing our fellowship programs, the framework continues to develop.

Preliminary proposed revisions to research fellowships include the following:

- Application deadline December 1
- Research Fellowship annual award budget somewhere between \$15,000-\$20,000
- 3-4 fellowships awarded annually up to \$5,000 each
- Funds awarded as installments for (1) research time and activities and (2) facilitation of public program, potentially as reimbursement for approved expenses.
- 5-month grant term: May 1 through September 30
- Aim to recruit both student researchers and professional researchers.

Considerations include:

- Students and faculty at Tribal Colleges are exempt from several restrictions NEH places on non-tribal research fellows and HM would benefit from promoting research fellowships throughout Tribal College networks in Montana.

- Professional researchers will include both academics and aspiring community scholars (e.g., local historians, knowledge keepers, aspiring non-fiction writers, etc.)
  - Conduct targeted outreach to universities, colleges, historical societies and local cultural organizations, professional associations, statewide partner organizations.
- Develop cohort program for research fellows that includes monthly check-in meetings, mentoring opportunities for student fellows, and professional development opportunities as needed and dependent on HM staff capacity.
- Develop plan to promote public programs throughout all HM communication channels.
- Create space for HM to recruit fellows to research and develop programs relevant to current events and humanities themes in Montana. Although the research fellowship application process must be open and competitive, fellowships have potential to serve as a tool for recruiting speakers and developing programs for our speaker's bureau.

Once the proposed revisions are finalized and approved, we will rewrite the grant guidelines and award procedures, create new application and reporting forms, update all website resources, and begin targeted outreach efforts in September 2024.

**ACTION STEP: Network and build relationships with strategic statewide partners to increase awareness of HM's grantmaking and reach new and priority audiences.**

Through the United We Stand initiative we were able to nurture our partnership with The Foundation for Montana History and conduct new outreach in Tribal communities this spring. In April, staff of both organizations co-facilitated a free grant writing workshop for faculty members at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, MT. The workshop was held in the college theater and welcomed 21 participants who shared their project ideas and community needs. In May, we visited the High-Line to co-facilitate another successful grant writing workshop in Poplar at Fort Peck Community College. Ciara Ryan, The Foundation's Programs Director, led a second gathering in Wolf Point through the Great Northern Development Council as part of a separate grant initiative. During that meeting HM staff had opportunity to converse with leadership from the McCone County Museum, the Wolf Point Museum, the Culbertson Museum, and a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Additional outreach included a visit with staff and volunteers of the Fort Peck Theatre and the Rundle Building in Glasgow.

We have also been talking with MT Campus Compact, a recent grantee, about gathering leadership from within their network of Tribal Colleges to participate in a listening session about humanities projects and funding needs in each community. Finally, we will be working to coordinate a third grant writing workshop in Lame Deer in August or September as the last activity of the United We Stand initiative. The workshops

and listening sessions have revealed opportunities for HM to adapt certain features of our grantmaking to better serve interested applicants in Tribal communities.

**ACTION STEP: Launch integration of logic models for existing and future programs.**

Slowly but surely, Megan is working with John and Jenny to develop a logic model, evaluation plan, and data collection tools for the Democracy Project. Staff met in March to review and discuss the logic model framework. John and Jenny provided additional information to Megan about program activities in April and Megan continued to develop the logic model in May. The logic model will be sent to John and Jenny in June for final revisions and the evaluation plan and data collection tools will be drafted in July.

**ACTION STEP: Engage in networking activities with other grantmakers and evaluators.**

In other news, Megan has been co-leading the Federation's Grant Officer Meet-Ups with grant directors from Oregon and Virginia Humanities Councils, participated in the Federation's Spring 2024 Evaluation Cohort, facilitated a Logic Model training for California Humanities staff, mentored a new grant staff at Connecticut Humanities, and continues to work closely with Theresa Worden, Senior Manager, Data & Evaluation at the Federation on ad hoc evaluation and research committees.

*Report Date: 5/30/2024*

*Author: Megan Hill Sundy, Grants and Evaluation Director*



The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, there is a field of tall grass and a small, dark barn. The mountains in the background are covered in snow and have a jagged, rocky appearance. The sky is a deep blue with some lighter clouds.

# Programs Report

June 2024 Board Meeting

Humanities  
**MONTANA**



General Speakers Bureau Updates

Montana Conversations

Speakers in the Schools

The Democracy Project

Montana Center for the Book

Poet Laureate Program



## Agenda

---

Humanities  
**MONTANA**

HUMANITIESMONTANA.ORG | 311 Brantly, Missoula, MT 59812 | (406) 243-6022





## Speaker's Bureau Updates

- New contracts go out to speakers at the end of May 2024.
- Starting July 1, 2024, speakers will be paid honoraria after their dates of service.
- Five new speakers will join the speaker's bureau on July 1:
  - Craig Lancaster, **Memory + Imagination = Fiction** (Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools)
  - Sally Thompson, **Montana Stories and How They Shape Our Lives** (Montana Conversations), and **The Ground Right Under Our Feet** (Speakers in the Schools)
  - Sophia Etier, **Carnal Enterprises: Western Montana Restricted Districts 1870-1940** (Montana Conversations)
  - Dr. Lanny Real Bird, **Crow Language Program**, (Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools)
  - David Charpentier, **The Maurice Effect** (Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools)



## Montana Conversations

- As of May 1, 2024, 133 Montana Conversation programs have been booked this fiscal year.
- 67% of Montana Conversations have occurred in Rural communities and 31% in Urban communities, and 2% virtually as statewide presentations.

### **What's being said:**

"Thanks so much for having these programs. They are of Montana and they benefit Montana. People enjoy and appreciate what is local and relevant to their lives rather than impersonal programming distributed from population centers far away and out of touch with our daily lives."



## Speakers in the Schools

- As of May 1, 2024, 108 Speakers in the Schools programs have been booked this fiscal year.
- 64% of Speakers in the Schools presentations have occurred in Rural communities, 31% in Urban communities and 5% virtually as statewide presentations.

### What's being said:

"Speakers in the School is a fantastic program that allows smaller schools with smaller budgets to bring speakers with topics to students who would normally not be able to access them. This program is an excellent opportunity to access experts from a specific area to visit with students and allow further discussion."





The Democracy  
Project

- The Democracy Project is making a film to share our mission and vision. Our videographer visited all 8 sites to interview librarians and teens.
- Humanities Montana program staff visited all Democracy Project site this spring from Wibaux to Columbia Falls to connect with librarians and see the projects in process.
- Democracy Project teens from Columbia Falls and DP librarian from Miles City presented at the Montana Library Association's annual statewide conference in Butte.



## The Democracy Project Site Updates

- Gallatin High School Teens in Bozeman are fundraising for their outdoor classroom and native plants garden. They recently received a \$5,000 donation from Ace Hardware.
- Wibaux High School Democracy project teens have installed a vending machine with affordable, healthy snacks and are refilling it every two weeks.
- Democracy Project teens in Helena are relaunching their website: MT4MH, Montana Teens for Mental Health.
- In Circle, teens are revitalizing their disused high school library, surveying the student body so they can buy new books, and creating a self check out system.



## Montana Center for the Book

- On May 1, 2024, Democracy Project coordinator Jenny Bevill became Programs Manager, to help manage the Montana Center for the Book.
- The Montana Center for the Book will participate at the National Book Festival on August 25, as part of the Great Reads from Great Places with the Roadmap to Reading program with the Library of Congress.
- 29 Montana Writes / Montana Reads programs were booked through Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools
- 10 Big Sky Reads Grants have been awarded to libraries across Montana, this Fiscal Year





## Poet Laureate

- 11 Poet Laureate Programs by Chris La Tray have been booked this Fiscal Year through Speakers in the Schools and Montana Conversations.

### What's being said:

"This was a special way for students to be engaged with poetry--by meeting a real life poet. In a fifth grade class, students immediately identified with poetry and this poet because one of their classmates loves to write poetry. All of his fellow students immediately connected with this student during and after he came into the classroom. They see what is possible to be a poet, and that they may have one in their midst. At the middle school, one student remembered that Chris said "We are all poets."



More Programs are being booked in rural Montana, including in eastern, central, northern, and tribal nation communities.

New speakers are being introduced to Humanities Montana through rural outreach.

Libraries and schools, along with community museums and service groups are continuing drive programs Humanities Montana programs across Montana.



# Final Thoughts

---

Humanities  
**MONTANA**

HUMANITIESMONTANA.ORG | 311 Brantly, Missoula, MT 59812 | (406) 243-6022





# Thank you!

John Knight  
Programs Director  
[john.knight@humanitiesmontana.org](mailto:john.knight@humanitiesmontana.org)

[WWW.HUMANITIESMONTANA.ORG](http://WWW.HUMANITIESMONTANA.ORG)

311 Brantly, Missoula, MT 59812

(406) 243-4649

Humanities  
**MONTANA**