

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**MAINE
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL**

Harriet P. Henry
Center for the Book

674 Brighton Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102-1012
(207) 773-5051
info@mainehumanities.org



2020
ANNUAL REPORT

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

*"I'm glad this program
continued even though we
can't get together physically.
This group helps me feel
more comfortable sharing
with others. It is important
to stay connected."*

- Participant



JOIN THE **MHC**

We connect...people with books,
communities with ideas, and
strangers with one another.

STAFF

Samaa Abdurraqib
Associate Director
samaa@mainehumanities.org

Hayden Anderson
Executive Director
hayden@mainehumanities.org

Jan Bindas-Tenney
Program Coordinator
Facilitation & Partnerships
jan@mainehumanities.org

Diane Magras
Director of Development
diane@mainehumanities.org

Karen Myrick
Office Manager
karen@mainehumanities.org

Nicole Rancourt
Program Manager
nicole@mainehumanities.org

Meghan Reedy
Program Coordinator
Content & Narrative Development
meghan@mainehumanities.org

Elizabeth Sinclair
Program Coordinator
Grants & Partnerships
lizz@mainehumanities.org

Kyle Volland
Program Coordinator
Implementation & Logistics
kyle@mainehumanities.org

Ian Watkins
Communications Coordinator
ian@mainehumanities.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mazie Hough, Chair, Orono

Gregory Fahy, Vice-Chair,
Hallowell

Edward J. Kelleher, Treasurer,
South Portland

Victoria Bornheimer, Secretary,
Cumberland

Lawrence Boyle, Biddeford

Reid Byers, Portland

Joseph Conforti, Portland

Jean Deighan, Bangor

Paul Doiron, Camden

Melody Fitch, Hallowell

Joseph Hall, Auburn

Margery Irvine, Brooklin

Meredith Jones, Belfast

Charles Miller, Portland

Luis Millones, Portland

Julie Rabinowitz, Falmouth

Ted Sharp, Cumberland Foreside

Julie Sheehan, South Portland

Heather Sirocki, Scarborough

Iva Sussman, Houlton

The **Maine Humanities Council** is a statewide non-profit organization that uses books, poetry, and big ideas to bring people together to discuss issues of importance. We're a program partner, grantmaker, and connector of people and communities. Our connections strengthen our society and help shape the future of Maine. As Maine's affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH), we offer humanities programs and grants for all Mainers.

HARRIET P. HENRY CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The Maine Humanities Council is home to the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book, Maine's affiliate for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress Center for the Book was established in 1977 to promote books, reading, libraries, and literacy. In 1997 the Maine Humanities Council established the Maine Center for the Book as a state affiliate of that program. It was renamed the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book in 2003, in honor of Maine's first female judge, a former Board chair of MHC and a longtime supporter of the humanities.

HOW TO REACH US:

Maine Humanities Council
674 Brighton Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102-1012
(207) 773-5051
Info@mainehumanities.org



@MaineHumanities
#MaineHumanities



Artwork: Eamon White

MEETING THE NEEDS OF MAINE COMMUNITIES

Our 2020 began on Friday, March 13, when the team left the office for what would turn out to be the last time. None of us anticipated what was to come: The global pandemic, the national racial reckoning set in motion by the murder of George Floyd, everything about the long presidential election and transfer of political power.

We had to examine closely what was essential. How could we meet Maine communities' real needs? We knew that connecting Mainers with one another, fostering individual and community agency, and inspiring increased civic engagement is vital work; we quickly learned that in-person interactions are just one of many ways to do it. 2020 became a year of hard-won clarity, experiment, and growth for the Maine Humanities Council.

Our 2021 began on Monday, March 8 – the first day on the job for our new Associate Director, Dr. Samaa Abdurraqib. Samaa brings a tremendous depth and breadth of knowledge and experience. As we keep moving through this time full of grief and possibility, we know that her galvanizing leadership will help us bring our vision closer to reality.

Emergency Relief Funding

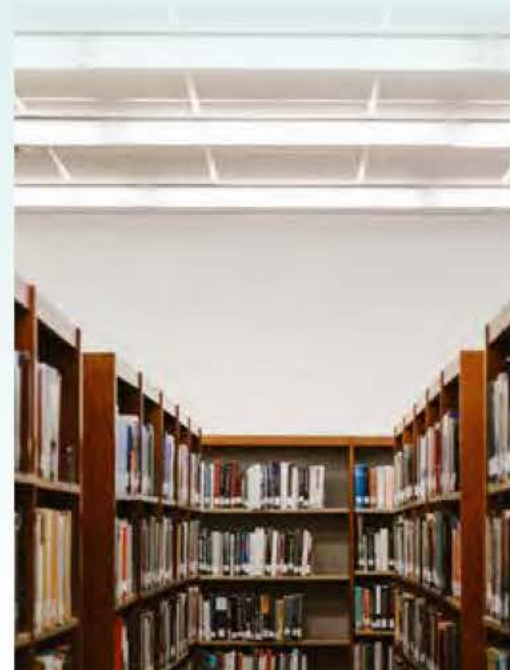
The MHC was honored to award rapid-response coronavirus relief funding to help ensure that vital cultural organizations across the state could continue finding creative ways to meet their communities' needs.

These grants were provided as part of the \$2.2 trillion **CARES Act** economic stabilization plan via the **National Endowment for the Humanities**.

over **\$432,000** in operating support for
nonprofit cultural organizations

98 grants
awarded

16 Maine counties and both
congressional districts represented



Essential DISCUSSIONS

In the summer of 2020, in the midst of pandemic, the Maine Humanities Council launched a substantial new program: the **Discussion Project**.

When we asked partners how we could help them through the unfolding emergency we were – are – all living in, they said ‘keep doing what you do.’ But in order to keep doing what we do, we had to change how we do it.

So we did. We developed a way to offer our facilitated discussion programming directly, openly, flexibly to anyone in Maine who wants to bring people together through books.

The fourth cohort Discussion Project partners are already preparing for summer 2021.



"We are invited to practice openness and curiosity, patience and persistence, and ability to tolerate complexity, ambiguity, tentativeness, and vulnerability. A willingness to pay attention – to see better and with fresh eyes." - Participant



"Bringing people together from different Maine communities, even communities that are geographically far apart, was helpful to my experience of being a Mainer." - Participant

Accessible Online EVENTS

The shift online was also an opportunity for us to clarify and then amplify key aspects of two public-facing programs, as well as extending their reach.

Read ME is our statewide summer reading experience highlighting two Maine authors. By holding author events online, we were really able to offer events that anyone in Maine could attend.

And we were able to work more expansively with partners on our collaborative poetry performance program, **Poetry Express**. At the same time, the online events kept the intimacy among performers and their friends and family that makes Poetry Express so extraordinary.



SHARING SKILLS

"I was at first very hesitant about online meetings but I found them to be lively and valuable. I think it is really important for people to have this for sharing ideas and reaching beyond our isolation." - Participant

When the pandemic began, the Maine Humanities Council had never hosted a program online. Within a month, we were offering skillshares across Maine demonstrating **how to host meaningful discussions on Zoom**.

How? First MHC staff immediately started learning from others about hosting rich online meetings. As soon as we could, we sought expert help to develop our skillshare on hosting text-based discussions online.

Then we practiced and practiced and practiced.

By acting quickly and sharing as we were learning **we brought over 130 people together** to gain crucial new skills during the stark opening months of the pandemic.

By the Numbers

IMPACT

139 community programs

95% of attendees feel more connected to their community

78%

of attendees feel inspired to consider their personal connection with Maine - its past, present, and future.

95%

of attendees feel inspired to learn more about a topic discussed in their program

2020 MAJOR GRANT Awards

Century Saturdays: The Story of Maine- Brick Store Museum
 Edible Landscape Project- University of Maine Art Education
 Freedom and Captivity- Creative Portland
 The History of Developmental Disabilities in Maine
 - Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
 Kittery's Tide History - Tide Mill Institute
 Maine Lit Fest Fellows Program- Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance
 Molly Spotted Elk: Theatrical Script Development- Penobscot Theatre Company
 Point of View: A Podcast of Maine Migrations,
 Immigrations, and Cultural Exchange- Portland Ovarions
 Screenings of Maine Documentary Jacinta- Ride or Die
 Under a Yellow Star- Oxford Hills School District

For all 2020 MHC
 Grant awards visit
mainehumanities.org

REMOTE FACILITATION Training

Nine trainings | Over 130 attendees

May

June

DISCUSSION PROJECT Inaugural Cohort

CARES ACT GRANT Awards

98 grants totaling
 Over \$432,000

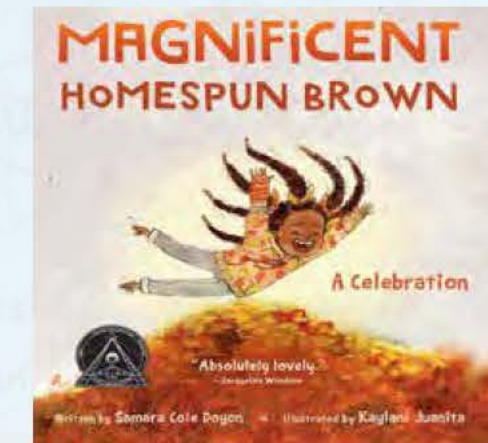
Virginie Akimana
 Alice Pendleton Library
 Bangor Public Library
 Susan Bowditch
 Cynthia Freeman-Cyr
 Indigo Arts Alliance
 Kennebunk Free Library
 Deborah Cummings Khadraoui
 Ladder to the Moon Network/
 Amjambo Africa
 Lewiston Public Library
 Liberty Library
 Maine Access Points
 Maine Family Planning
 Maine State Prison
 Maine Women's Lobby
 Education Fund

Cody Mower
 Naples Public Library
 and Casco Public Library
 Osher Map Library and Smith Center
 for Cartographic Education
 Pittsfield Public Library
 Rockland Public Library
 Shaw Public Library
 Southern Maine Agency on Aging
 Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
 Southern Maine Women's Re-entry Center
 Topsham Public Library
 Walker Memorial Library
 Walter T.A. Hansen Memorial Library
 West Paris Public Library
 Yarmouth Committee for Housing Choices



Jaed Coffin & Pat O'Donnell
 Over 830 views

Online
 Read ME
 Author Talks



MHC Featured
**Samara Cole
 Doyon's** *Magnificent
 Homespun Brown* at
 Library of Congress
 National Book
 Festival.

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Online **POETRY EXPRESS** Events

Two community poetry readings | Over 1,500 views

September

October

August

Fall MINI GRANT Awards

Eight projects
 Over \$7,500
 awarded

Fall DISCUSSION PROJECT

Over 30 communities
 Across 14 counties

For all 2020 MHC
 Discussion Project cohorts visit
mainehumanities.org

2020 Top READ

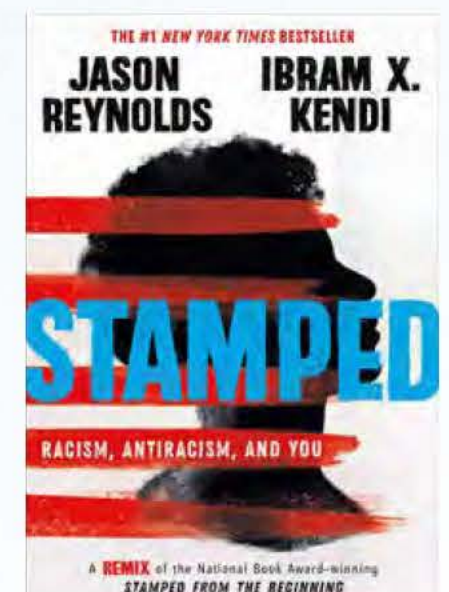
Featured in

19

Discussion Projects

Over
 350

copies in Maine
 communities



GRANTS

10 MAJOR GRANTS

10 ARTS & HUMANITIES GRANTS
in partnership w/Maine Arts Commission

36 MINI GRANTS

16 MAINE COUNTIES

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED **\$81,951**

FEATURED PROJECT:

MAINE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL is creating an exhibit and associated events that tell the history of people with developmental disabilities in Maine during the era of institutionalism. The exhibit will incorporate oral histories from people who lived at Pineland Center, an institution founded in 1908 in New Gloucester. Rampant abuses and neglect at Pineland and elsewhere were exposed in the middle of the 20th century, leading to a movement for disability rights. Self-advocates and their allies fought to close Pineland (which happened in 1996) and create a system of services that would serve people with developmental disabilities in their homes and communities. Within this tragic of history stigmatization, isolation, and abuse live stories of perseverance, joy, and progress towards something better.

Photo: Kyle Dubay

Readers RETREAT

Many Readers ONE BOOK



A year ago, our 2020 Winter Weekend on Toni Morrison's *Beloved* was our last big in-person event before the pandemic.

As we have so often this year, we looked closely at what was most vital to that program and sought ways to bring it to life in an online setting.

The result is our first big on-line event since the pandemic started – the 2021 Readers Retreat on **Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart***. Listen to four extraordinary speakers. Talk about it all with others. Find people you know and meet those you don't yet. All online.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
MAY 6-8, 2021

TICKETS at
mainehumanities.org

IT HAPPENS STATEWIDE THANKS TO YOU

Last year was a challenging one, but Maine Humanities Council supporters pulled through in a big way. You helped us weather a stormy sea, ensuring that we had the funds for the tools we needed to build the boat that would take our programming forward. Your gifts were crucial in supporting our 2020 work – online discussion groups, virtual speaker talks, facilitator mentorship initiatives – throughout the state. And you gave us room to make our vision real, despite the storm.
Thank you for your incredible generosity.

All gifts received by the Maine Humanities Council during Fiscal Year 2020 (11/1/2019 - 10/31/2020) are represented in these pages. If you donated after this time, you'll be thanked in our next Annual Report.

Ways to GIVE

Would you like to support the programming mentioned in this publication, and other MHC projects around the state?

Online: mainehumanities.org

A monthly gift: only \$15 each month results in a \$180 total gift; \$50 per month gives \$600 by the year's end; and \$85 ends up being a generous \$1,020.

A qualified charitable distribution through your IRA, or gift of stock.

ANNUAL GIVING – FISCAL YEAR 2020

Federal, State, Corporate, Organizational, and Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund
Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
Davis Family Foundation
Federation of State Humanities Councils/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Helen & George Ladd Charitable Corporation
Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust
Kettering Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
The Onion Foundation
Simmons Foundation
State of Maine
Welch Charitable Fund of the Maine Community Foundation

Gifts from Individuals

Donors to the MHC generously supported our statewide humanities programming through the following funds: the Annual Fund, Winter Weekend (the program is now called Readers Retreat), program-specific support, and the Dorothy Schwartz Opportunity Fund. This list includes gift made during our 2020 fiscal year: between November 1, 2019, and October 31, 2020. The asterisk recognizes sponsors of Winter Weekend (Readers Retreat).

MHC Circle (\$5,000+)

Victoria and Allen Bornheimer
Brooks Family Foundation
Josephine H. Detmer
William H. Laubenstein III*
Virginia Swain

MHC Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Richard E. Barnes
Carol M. Beaumier*
Kenneth Spier and Joan Leitzer
from a component fund of the
Maine Community Foundation
Suzanne Trazoff*

MHC Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Peter Aicher
Hayden and Meredith Anderson
Patti and Eric Bixel
Lawrence Boyle and Victoria Russell*
Helen Cafferty and Otto Emersleben
in memory of Dorothy Schwartz
Douglas Chamberlain
Joseph A. Conforti

Jean Deighan and Glen Porter
John and Beverly Emerson*
The Robert G. and Jane V. Engel
Foundation, Inc.
Gisela Gamber
Landis Green and Bruce Norelius
Joyce and Wesley Hedlund
Douglas M. and Laura A. Henry
in memory of Harriet P. Henry
Alison Hildreth*
The Helaine and Brock Hornby Fund
Meredith Jones & Dana Murch
Edward J. Kelleher, Esq.
Lincoln F. Ladd and Gloria Williams Ladd
Sally and Ted Oldham
John and Julianne Opperman
Alfred & Dorothy Suzi Osher Foundation
Steve Passerman
from the Haste Family Fund of the Maine
Community Foundation
Malcolm and Susan Rogers*
John and Maryanne Ward
Pip and Judy Wick*
Carol Wishcamper

\$750 - \$999

Brad and Anita Coupe
David R. Jones and
Angela J. Connelly
Robert Kellerman

\$500 - \$749

Anonymous*
Reid and Patty Byers
through the Fred C.
Rummel Foundation
William L. Case III
in memory of Betsey Brewster Case
Paul Doiron
David and Fay Hannon*
Mazie Hough
Thomas and Leslie Lizotte
Audrey Maynard and Kaighn Smith Jr
in memory of Pamela S. Lord
Alan McIlhenny
and Elizabeth Ackerson
Mary and Benjamin Pratt*
Anne Russell
Ted and Sharon Sharp
Julia and Robert Walking*
Peter and Margie Webster*
Alice Wellman
Douglas and Judith Woodbury
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Zilkha

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous (2)
Susan Adams
in honor of Rebecca and
the SMAA book group
Ruth Anderson
Ann Beattie
Jim and Sarah Bowie*
Marjorie A. Boyd, MD*
Paul Buck
Carol Moon Cardon*
Anthony Corrado
Marilyn Crowley
Peter Darvin

Ned and Barbey Dougherty*
Deborah Downs and Jon Gale*
Christopher Dumaine
Greg and Deborah Fahy
Melody Fitch
Ann A. Guild
Joseph Hall
Anne Helmholtz
Anne and Dick Jackson
Janet Kehl*
Ann Kibbie and Kevin Wertheim
James and Beth Kilbreth
Karen Stathoplos and Kim Krauss
Alice Larrea
Sarah S. Meacham*
Charles Miller
Luis Millones
Virginia Nees-Hatlen
David Richards
Rick Speer and Judy Frost
Jean Sanborn
Patricia Sanborn
John Ryan and Jenny Scheu
Holmes and Didi Stockly
Nan and Bill Stone*
Lucy Stroble
The Sussman Family
Bob and Judy Tredwell
Candace and Edward Walworth *

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous* (4)
Susan Abt
William W. Alcorn
Jonathan and Nancy Aldrich
Douglas Allen
Miles and Jennifer Archer
Sally and Ron Bancroft
Martha Barkley
Barbara Barrall*
Paul and Cathleen Bauschatz
Maureen Bien*
William Black and Jackie Potter
Constance Bloomfield
and William McFarlane*
Victoria and Erno Bonebakker
Emily and Norman Breitner
Richard and Anne Brown

\$100 - \$249
(continued)

Paul E. Brunelle
Midge and John Burns
Corley Anne Byras
Marcia Carter*
Jacqueline Cohen
Richard and Bonnie D'Abate
Judy and Chuck Danielson
Elizabeth L. Davis
 in memory of Harriet P. Henry
Joe and Sue Dreher
Harland Eastman
Tina and Caleb Elfenbein
Nalayini Fernando
John Fischer
Ardelle Foss
Donald and Elizabeth Fox
 in memory of Harriet P. Henry
Ed Friedman
Noel J. Genova
Emery Goff
Susan and Jerry Goldberg
Gerard G. Gosselin
Judy Hakola
Pauline Hannaford
Stephen Hayes and Carol McCarthy*
Janet Henry and Vernon Moore
Mr. Willard J. Hertz
Erica Hirshler
 in memory of Eric and Marilyn Hirshler
William and Mary Jean Holt*
Dr. Sally C. Hoople*
Margery Y. Irvine
Carolyn and Stephen Jenks
Erik C. Jorgensen and Tamara M. Risser
Neil and Cathy Lamb
Kristin Langellier
Dawn M. Leland
Dale and Rich Lewis
Kathryn Lunney
Nancy M. MacKnight
 in memory of James Hunt
Louis and Edythe Manza
Karen Massey and Jeff Thaler
Sarah F. McMahon
Jean McManamy

Patricia Messler
Mr. and Mrs. George Metcalf
Linda Michaels
Harriet Mill*
Roberta Morin
 Albion Public Library
Joanne and Earl Morse*
Stephen and Joyce Munier
Ann Nelson
Don Nicoll
Clifton and Susan Olds
Harold and Peggy Osher
 Norumbega Fund of the Maine
 Community Foundation
Ruby Parker
Dennis Grafflin and Jan Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Prinn III
Lenore and Norman Rapkin
Liam Riordan and Susan Thibedeau
Marjorie Rosenbaum
Mary Jane and Howard Rosenfield
Henry and Marjorie Saunders
Dr. Susan Schraft and Mr. Richard Berne*
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Schwartz
 in honor of Marjorie Rosenbaum
Elizabeth Scully
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Sheldon
Liv Rockefeller and Kenneth Shure
Ann Siekman
Douglas B. Sinclair
 in memory of Louis H. Sinclair Jr.
Ursula and William Slavick
Beth Snyder*
Stephen Sokol and Gerda Neu-Sokol
Judith Stein*
Donald Stover
Carol Strasburger*
Linden Thigpen
Thomas and Kathryn Tracy
Emily Vail*
Bill and Rosie White*

\$75 - \$99

Lisa Barstow
Elizabeth Davidson
 to the Dorothy Schwartz Opportunity Fund
Heidi Erspamer
Carolyn Gontoski
Jayne Gordon
Marcia Howell
Alexandra MacPhail and Amy Adams
Paul and Sue Newlin
Mac Passano and Beth Howe
Stephanie Ralph
Diane C. Vatne

\$50 - \$74

Stephen P. Beale
Libby Bischof
Peter Bowman
 in honor of Elizabeth (Libby) Mitchell
Dona Brophy
Michael D. Burke
Alexandra Caulfield
Professor Steven R. Cerf
Paulette Chernack
Janice W. Church
Claire Connor
Allan and Linda Currie
Sally J. Daggett
Jay Davis
Diana Dionne-Morang
Linda J. Docherty
John and Marie Dudley
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Bromage
Susan Emmet
Jean Flahive
Robert and Kathleen Flory
Benson and Patricia Ford
Al and Phyllis Fuchs
Charlie and Sue Grosjean
Catharine W. Guiles
Marilyn M. Hall
Melinda and Ralph Harder
Maxine and Ed Harrow
Michael and Bridget Healy
Paul and Dorthie Hillquist

Stanley R. Howe, Ph.D
Larry and Carol Kalajainen
Theodora J. Kalikow
Beth Kane
Elizabeth and Joel Kane
Susan A. Kaplan
Dana Kerstein
Richard and Sandra Lawrence
Linda Lord
Mary Sue and John Love
Elizabeth C. Mayberry
Daphne S. Meyer
The Honorable Rebecca Millett
Edward A. Barrett and Nancy H. Orr
Rosalie Tyler Paul
Jean Potuchek
 in memory of Anne D. Williams
Jane and Jim Pringle
Jo Radner
Rebecca C. Raines
Rick Rector
Timothy Richardson
James and Loretta Risner
Thomas Rumpf
Julie Sheehan
Lizz Sinclair
Benjamin Soule
Pamela Taylor
Alalia Thaler
Les and Patti Volland
Thomas Watt
Shannon Webster
Roberta and Gordon Weil
David C. Wiggin
Robert and Ann Williams
Nancy Ziegler and Kermit Lipez

Up to \$49

Rita Kay Bergeron
Frances Betz
Martha Binder
Deborah Bowman
Geraldine Bush
Joan Bussiere
Ann Carter
Roderick and Judy Collette

Margaret Cruikshank
Cynthia Freeman Cyr
Lisa Feldman
Phyllis and Bernard Givertz
Mark Grover
Ruth Hannan
Margaret Imber
Frederic R. Kellogg
Stephanie Kumble
 in honor of Rockport Library
Staff Past & Present
Suzanne Leibowitz
Dani Longley
Pamela Lowe*
Stephen and Martha Maines
 for the Let's Talk About It program
Blainor McGough and Brian Arlet
Abbott and Nancy Meader
Barbara Moore
Margaret R. Muir
Pauline Polstein
Marta Rieman
Winfield and Victoria Robinson
Sarah Sparks
 in memory of George Floyd
Seth and Laura Sprague
Michael Starr
Susan L. Tananbaum and
 Joe Frazer
Linda Tatelbaum
Yolanda Theunissen and
 Richard C. Veit
Rosie Wohl
Les Volland
K.S. Walker
Shannon Webster
Roxanne Wheeler
Rose Wohl

THE STATE OF OUR STORY 2020

During Fiscal Year 2020, the Maine Humanities Council had operating income of \$1,839,766 and operating expenses of \$1,819,952. Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, including highly competitive grants, made up an important component of the budget. This support was supplemented by a diverse range of other income streams: from the Library of Congress, the State of Maine, generous support from private foundations, the individual contributions highlighted in this report, and program income and investments. Both the income and the expense figures reported in this figure below and in the Maine Humanities Council's audited financial statements include in-kind contributions of time, mileage, and materials, valued at \$194,750.

REVENUES 2019 — 2020

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$1,144,431.00
State of Maine Funding	\$68,504.00
Contributions and Grants	\$184,784.00
In-kind Contributions	\$194,750.00
Program, Investment, and Other Income	\$247,307.00

TOTAL \$1,839,776.00

EXPENSES 2019 — 2020

Programs, Re grants, and Technical Assistance	\$1,433,861.00
Administration	\$195,781.00
Fundraising & Marketing	\$190,310.00

TOTAL \$1,819,952.00