In Search of Understanding

Cutting the NEH would undermine attempts to improve our democracy

As most of our readers are aware by now, the Trump Administration has released a budget proposal that would eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. While both agencies enjoy broad bipartisan support in Congress, there are key members in both the House and the Senate who agree that promoting the arts and humanities is not an appropriate function of the federal government.

To the contrary, I would argue that support for the arts and humanities is not only an appropriate, it is an absolutely essential responsibility of a self-governing nation. What's more, we need the arts and humanities now more than ever. Here's why:

American society is beset by two fundamental anxieties. One is economic and has many sources, including the accelerating pace of technological change, the globalization of both labor and capital, and troubling demographic trends.

Our other anxiety is moral. Its cause is increasing social fragmentation resulting in a loss of trust in one another and the lack of any sense of a common good. Economic considerations tend to push aside all others in our political system, but in the long run the lack of agreement about what ultimately matters is a far more serious threat to the vitality of our democracy.

The roots of our anxieties are related. They feed off and exacerbate each other. Because we lack a vision of a common good above and beyond the sum total of our individual interests, we accept the idea that the best society is one that satisfies the economic interests or desires of the greatest number of citizens. Thus, the defining characteristic of a healthy nation becomes an ever expanding economy and rising standards of living. We come to expect, individually and collectively, continuous economic progress as a birthright.

When these expectations are not met, when people begin to feel economically insecure, they look for someone to blame and this blaming sets us against each other, worsening the social fragmentation that already obstructs our vision of a common good.

The search for a common good is the domain of the humanities. History, literature, philosophy, and cultural studies provide us with the ideas and insights, the analytical and interpretive tools, and the empathy and language we need to understand each other and, just as importantly, to understand ourselves. Without such understanding, there is little hope that we will discover the shared aspirations and ideals out of which a durable sense of a common good can emerge.

Without shared aspirations, civic life is impoverished. We see this in the rampant cynicism and disdain for virtually all things "public" and the much-bemoaned decline of civility and decorum in public discourse in general, and in politics in particular.

Here, too, the humanities — and particularly public issue-oriented humanities programs like those organized and sponsored by Mass Humanities — can provide some remedy. Whether it's a Community Read program in Fitchburg on Robert Putnam's *The American Dream in Crisis*, or a screening and discussion of Bestor Cram and Susan Gray's *The Birth of a Movement* documentary in Somerville, or the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's W.E.B. DuBois Educational Series in Great Barrington, Mass Humanities-funded programs bridge differences and help build community.

When the perspectives of history, literature, philosophy and the other humanities disciplines are brought to bear on a controversial social issue, a broader context is created within which a dispassionate and reasoned exchange of views can occur. Unrecognized connections between the issue at hand and other important issues are revealed; ways the controversy has been resolved (or not) in other times or in other places are presented for comparison; the underlying values at stake in the controversy are exposed, and alternative means for preserving those values can be imagined.

None of this leads automatically to agreement, of course, but agreement, or at least a modicum of mutual understanding, is far more likely to occur in this context than in a partisan debate between opposing interests.

Clearly at this time in the life of our deeply divided nation we need more humanities, not less; more art, not less; more attempts to understand ourselves and each other, and to try to reach some agreement about what ultimately matters.

David Tebbetts

Program Updates

Family Adventures in Reading (FAIR)

Five public libraries participated in FAIR in 2016 before the program transitioned to a new format. FAIR was redesigned for a broader audience and became part of our grant program. As in the past, storytellers still deliver world-class children's literature to audiences of children and their caretakers, but FAIR is no longer limited to libraries and now offers improved curriculum options. Under this new format, attendees get to keep the books they read, which means they continue to build literacy skills even after FAIR ends.

The Clemente Course

Socioeconomic circumstances should not stand in the way of an education in the humanities. Our Clemente Course helps ensure that disadvantaged students can receive tuition-free, college-accredited instruction. Eighty such students graduated from our five Clemente Course sites this year, including our first graduates from the newest location, Springfield.

Literature & Medicine

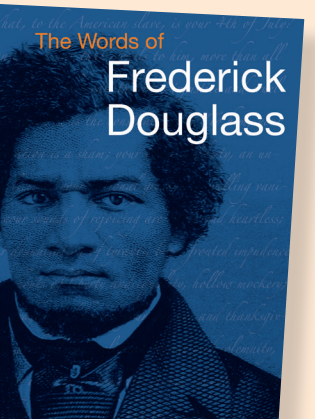
Like FAIR, Literature & Medicine is also in transition. This reading and discussion program served only workers in hospitals. Now, to encourage wider discussions of health and healthcare, all organizations that meet our grant program eligibility requirements can apply. Even amidst major changes, Literature & Medicine gave 62 professionals the opportunity to reflect on their medical work at the four sites where the program was offered.

Massachusetts History

The Mass History Conference continues to serve an important constituency, showcases Mass Humanities funded local history projects, and serves as a breeding ground for new projects and collaborative efforts. Well over 200 people from more than 110 local history organizations attended the 2016 gathering. The Mass Humanities-run daily history almanac Mass Moments grew tremendously and set a new audience record past the 2,000 readers milestone.

The Public Humanist

Each quarter, Massachusetts writers, filmmakers, and educators respond to a new prompt. Their submissions make up the pages of the Mass Humanities blog *The Public Humanist*. Nearly 30 articles were published in 2016 on subjects as varied as the Founding Fathers' use of rhetoric, the neglected history of African trading empires, and the political capacities of transgendered children.



Reading Frederick Douglass

A record number of events in thirteen communities across the state attracted more than 1,300 local residents to Reading Frederick Douglass readings. The famous abolitionist's words echo across centuries with a message of equality and racial justice. As usual, some readings were complemented by parades, facilitated discussions, Douglass re-enactors, songs from church choirs, and musical and dance performances.

2016 Grants

Mass Humanities awarded $424,208 in grants to 84 organizations in 2016, which provide for public humanities programming in 51 communities around the Commonwealth.

Critical Connections hosted vibrant conversations about misperceptions of Muslim Americans.

Southeast

$500 to the Frederick Douglass Neighborhood Association, Brockton, for a public reading of Frederick Douglass' "What is the Fourth of July to the Slave" in the three major languages of Brockton ▶ RFD

$5,000 to the Somerset Berkley Regional High School for a program for 36 students in the school's Advanced Digital Photography program to create a town-wide large-scale photo installation of the historic places, people, and culture of the town

$4,047 to the Foxborough Regional Charter School for a reading and discussion program for pre-teens and their caregivers, particularly focused on participation by male caregivers ▲ ENA

$9,998 to the Center For Independent Documentary, Walpole, for the creation of discussion materials and a series of conversations in Boston Public High Schools using clips from the film *The Circle: A Story of Murder and Reconciliation in Boston* ▲ ENA

$6,000 to the Brockton Historical Society for the creation of a "pop-up" historic Campello Village neighborhood in George E Keith Park in Brockton ▲ ENA

Several of the grants fall under special categories:

- ENA: Engaging New Audiences
- RIG: Research Inventory Grant
- SMOG: Social Media Outreach Grant
- MED: Media Pre-Production
- SIR: Scholarship-in-Residence Grant
- NSC: Negotiating the Social Contract
- RFD: Reading Frederick Douglass
- FAIR: Family Adventures in Reading
- CGR: Common Good Reads
- L&M: Literature & Medicine
- DISC: Discussion

$2,150 to the Whitman Public Library for a four-session series using the Family Adventures in Reading syllabus on Community FAIR

$2,288 to the New Bedford Public Schools Adult Basic Education for a family Literacy Day based on the Family Adventures in Reading curriculum CGR

Northeast

$1,500 to the Annisquam Historical Society, Gloucester, to inventory, photograph, and index 39 family albums and scrapbooks to be featured in an upcoming exhibit RIG

$1,500 to the Nahant Historical Society to inventory six folders of ephemera and other materials about the community effort to build and launch the last fishing vessel built by a local famly RIG

$1,500 to the Annisquam Historical Society, Gloucester, to inventory up to three boxes of ephemera that document life in Annisquam between 1850 and 1950 RIG

$500 to the Haitian Action Orphans Mission, Lynn, for a communal reading of Frederick Douglass' July 4 speech as part of an Independence Day themed festival co-sponsored by the City of Lynn RFD

$5,000 to the Filmmakers Collaborative, Melrose, for distribution of a curriculum to accompany the film *Touching Home in China*, including videos, trainings, and presentations about Chinese history and culture

$3,360 to the Newburyport Clean Tech Center, Amesbury, for a three-lecture series about the relationship between photographic processes and the "truth" in photography

$5,000 to the Westford Museum, for planning a new core exhibit for the museum on the subject of local history

$5,000 to the Lawrence History Center/Immigrant City Archives, for planning and implementation of a one-day symposium on the effects of federal and state urban renewal programs on Lawrence and other industrial cities NSC

$10,000 to Critical Connections, Longmeadow, for a series of six dialogues entitled "Muslims in America: Dialogue Across Divides" on the issues shaping misperceptions of Muslims in the US and in the greater Pioneer Valley NSC

$3,300 to Lawrence Community Works for a public film series focused on issues relevant to the local Lawrence community ENA

$10,000 to The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association, Salem, for a series of lectures and community conversations marking the 150th birthday of founder Caroline Emmerton ENA

$3,000 to North Andover Public Schools for a reading and discussion series for children and adults on the works of Jacqueline Woodson DISC

$3,000 to the Parthum Elementary School, Lawrence, for a six-session Family Adventures in Reading series meeting on Tuesday evenings FAIR

$1,500 to the Peabody Institute Library for a Common Good Reads discussion series that will cover texts that ask participants to consider the relationship between diversity, culture, migration, and the social contract CGR

$1,000 to the MG Parker Memorial Library, Dracut, for a Common Good Reads discussion series that will cover texts that ask participants to consider contemporary anti-Islam rhetoric in larger historical contexts CGR

Metrowest Boston

$3,500 to the Stonehurst, Robert Treat Paine Estate, Waltham, for research that will form the foundation for future programs at the summer estate of activist and reformer Robert Treat Paine SIR

$1,500 to the Norwood Historical Society to inventory, evaluate, photograph, re-house, their collection of 750 garments dating from the 19th and 20th centuries for display in exhibitions and online RIG

$495 to Historic Newton for a public reading of the July 4 address by Frederick Douglass on the Newton Centre Green, an event co-sponsored by the City of Newton RFD

$500 to The Robbins House, Concord, for a three-part event in Concord including readings of the Declaration of Independence, shared readings of Frederick Douglass' July 4 speech, and a facilitated discussion by Professor Kendra Fields of Tufts University RFD

$5,000 to the Belmont World Film, Sudbury, for the Family Festival & 15th Annual International Film Series, featuring international film and documentary premiers and focusing on international cultural understanding

$5,000 to the Lexington Historical Society for an interactive exhibit that features Revolutionary War era communications systems in comparison and contrast with today's social and communications media in Buckman Tavern, one of the gathering and planning places for the Lexington militia

$10,000 to Brandeis University, Waltham, for the creation and presentation of five performances using the unversity's Lenny Bruce archives NSC

$3,500 to the African Cultural Services, Inc, Waltham, to revise and improve the academic portions of the Kyeza African Dance Project, a dance and discussion series that serves over 100 children each year in the Boston area DISC

Greater Boston

$1,500 to The History Project, Boston, to inventory and process the papers of Charles Shively, a gay activist and poet in the Boston area during the 1970s and early 1980s RIG

$5,000 to The Boston Live Theater Project for a program to introduce 36 high school juniors and seniors from nine public charter schools to live theater through six live shows and post-performance discussions

$5,000 to New Repertory Theatre, Watertown, for a symposium series in conjunction with theatrical productions that explore the connections between religion, science, and identity

$5,000 to the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences, Boston, for a year of professional development activities for area humanities high school teachers

Cambridge Historical Society led a three-part symposium Housing for All? *on the past, present, and future of the city's affordable housing.*

The Actors' Shakespeare Project production of Hamlet *coupled with post-show discussions and other events to help the audience delve further into the play and its meaning.*

$5,000 to the Chinese Historical Society of New England, Boston, for various online and in-person presentations and publications on to the social history of the written word in Chinatown

$10,000 to the George Lewis Ruffin Society, Somerville, to expand and update the exhibit *Long Road to Justice: The African American Experience in the Massachusetts Courts* NSC

$7,000 to the Congregational Library and Archives, Boston, for development of a walking tour mobile application that explores Boston's early religious history NSC

$10,000 to the Bostonian Society, Boston, for educational programming in conjunction with the production of *History Theater at the Old State House: Blood on the Snow* NSC

$7,550 to the Nichols House Museum, Boston, for a slate of programming around the theme of women in politics, especially the life and work of the progressive Nichols sisters NSC

$7,000 to the Cambridge Historical Society for a series of community conversations about affordable housing in Cambridge based on citizen-conducted research and talks with experts and stakeholders NSC

$10,000 to the New Democracy Coalition, Boston, for a project examining race and civic engagement within Boston's black community through film, discussion, performance, and a bike tour NSC

$10,000 to Emerson College, Boston, for initial filming, research, and the creation of a project website and plan for a documentary that follows prisoners as they work with programs intended to help them establish a foothold in society after being released from incarceration MED

$10,000 to Documentary Educational Resources, Watertown, to conduct and film interviews and to perform archival research for the documentary film, *The Philadelphia Eleven*, about the women who were ordained as priests in 1974 as an act of civil disobedience within the Episcopal Church MED

$10,000 to Interlock Media Inc, Cambridge, for preproduction activities for a film about the life and work of Margaret Fuller MED

$8,000 to the Friends of the Public Garden, Boston, to support the annual history day on Boston Common, in which more than 1,000 Boston third-to-fifth-grade school kids usually participate ENA

New Repertory Theatre's Spotlight Symposium Series put the ethical issues addressed in their plays front and center.

$10,000 to the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, Boston, for a new storytelling program about the history of Boston Harbor ENA

$10,000 to the Actors' Shakespeare Project, Somerville, for a series of humanities events built around the production of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* ENA

$3,000 to New Repertory Theatre, Watertown, for two symposia related to the themes of two of New Repertory's productions, performances of which accompany the discussions DISC

$3,500 to the United South End Settlements, Boston, for a public moderated discussion of the organization's history and an exhibit at the Harriet Tubman House, both of which commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Settlement House DISC

$3,500 to Primary Source, Watertown, for a professional development discussion series for K-12 educators and librarians on the subject of migration DISC

$2,000 to the Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation at MGH, Boston, for a six-month facilitated inter-departmental reading and discussion seminars for health professionals at Mass General Hospital L&M

Connecticut Valley

$3,000 to the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, Greenfield, for research and an overview of local factory labor based on materials in the museum's collection and other sources SIR

$1,500 to the Leverett Historical Commission to inventory the Leverett Town Meeting Record and Municipal Archives in order to assess town collections for their research potential RIG

$1,500 to the Hatfield Historical Society to process and evaluate the papers of the Porter McLeod Machine Shop, an industrial company in a town that knows most about its agrarian past RIG

$1,500 to the David Ruggles Center, Florence, to inventory research materials collected by various scholars and members of the organization during its formative years RIG

$5,000 to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, for distribution of the film *Food For Change* and the development of discussion materials

$5,000 to the Pioneer Valley History Network, Deerfield, to develop a research-based plan designed to support small historical organizations in participating in a new statewide Commonwealth Historical Collaborative online archive

$5,000 to the Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc., Shelburne Falls, for a day-long community event on the subject of im/migration and a sense of place in Western Massachusetts

$5,000 to the Northampton Historical Commission for the creation and installation of historical markers for a walking tour at the location of the former Northampton State Hospital

$5,000 to the Hilltown CDC, Chesterfield, for humanities speakers and facilitators for a day-long festival and symposium at the Bryant Homestead in Cummington

$7,500 to the Springfield Public Forum for Bryan Stevenson's keynote address in Holyoke on incarceration and mass criminalization in the US NSC

$5,000 to the Chester Theatre Company for 11 performances of Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* accompanied by seven audience talkbacks on the subjects of civil rights and African American studies NSC

$10,000 to Arise for Social Justice, Springfield, for a two-part literature-based workshop series for women incarcerated at the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee ENA

$10,000 to Hilltown Families, West Chesterfield, for a year-long project to produce six digital compilations of regional events to expand the popular Hilltown Families website ENA

$2,565 to the University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, for a panel discussion engaging the audience about the local relevance of historical preservation and mark the fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act DISC

$1,500 to Baystate Health Systems, Springfield, for facilitated inter-departmental reading and discussion sessions for health professionals L&M

$3,000 to the Meekins Public Library, Williamsburg, for a four-session series using the Family Adventures in Reading syllabus on Community FAIR

$2,500 to the Franklin County Sherrif's Office, Greenfield, for Common Good Reads discussion series that uses discussion, theatre, storytelling, reading, and writing to engage residents in conversations about Douglass Blackmon's Pulitzer-Prize-winning book "Slavery by Another Name" and Loftin's play "When the System Swallows You" CGR

Central

$500 to Women in Action, Worcester, for a parade and public discussion during the Reading Frederick Douglass event in Fitchburg, co-sponsored by many local organizations RFD

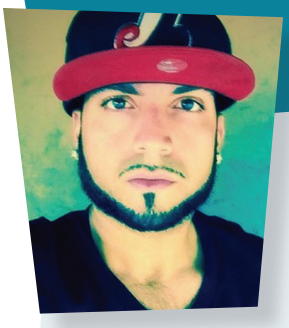
$500 to Future Focus Media, Worcester, for a Reading Frederick Douglass event on Worcester Commons RFD

$6,000 to the Fitchburg Historical Society for an internship program that will inventory new acquisitions and engage local and immigrant audiences in Fitchburg ENA

$10,000 to the Worcester Historical Museum to research and create a traveling exhibit focused on the history of Latino immigration in the city ENA

Civil Rights Era struggles were presented in Chester Theatre's The Mountaintop, *an historical fiction about Martin Luther King, Jr. on the night before his assassination.*

"I am the first in my family to go to college, and I want to keep learning. Clemente opened up my mind, and now I'm hungry for more knowledge."



THE CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES

The Mass Humanities Clemente Course powerfully demonstrates the humanities' capacity to change lives. Clemente graduates participate in their communities with a newly-realized sense of their own potential. One of our graduates, Waldo Aguavivas, is now a student at Suffolk University. He told his story, below, to the national Clemente Course alumni newsletter.

In my family, other things were always more important than education. My mother had to work three jobs to put food on the table. She couldn't come home and help me with homework or urge me to go to school. School was uncomfortable for me because I'm a gay Dominican male. I dropped out in 2005 when I was in 11th grade.

When I signed up for Clemente in 2011, I didn't know what a syllabus was. My writing needed improvement. I struggled, but I worked hard to improve, meeting regularly with the writing coach. Clemente made me realize that no question is a dumb question. I saw that others have the same questions I do, so I'm no longer scared to ask. The professors encouraged me to express myself. Through Clemente, I learned self-discipline and gained an understanding of what college is all about.

I went on to get my associates degree from Roxbury Community College, where I graduated Phi Beta Kappa. This semester, I started at Suffolk University. I plan to get my BA and then go on to law school.

I am the first in my family to go to college, and I want to keep learning. Clemente opened up my mind, and now I'm hungry for more knowledge.

Cape & Islands

$5,000 to the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival to support their 2016 festival events

$5,000 to the Cape Cod Repertory Theater, Brewster, to create a theatre piece that will also produce an oral history of the fishing and environmental communities on Cape Cod

$3,000 to the Martha's Vineyard Film Society, Vineyard Haven, for six history curriculum-related film screenings with discussions led by invited guests for local students

$3,000 to Falmouth Museums on the Green for a program of lectures and discussions to mark Women's History Month, 2017 ▼ DISC

Berkshire

$1,500 to the West Stockbridge Historical Society to inventory, catalogue, and preserve four boxes of records, invoices, and papers from Baldwin's Extracts Company ■ RIG

$275 to the Susan B Anthony Birthplace Museum, Adams, for a three-part event on the history of the alliance between Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony ▶ RFD

$4,680 to the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, for a five-month exhibition that explores and dramatizes the cultural heritage of various Native peoples of the Pacific Northwest

The celebrated weekend-long Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival was given rave reviews.

The Maysles Institute's film about James Baldwin, The Price of the Ticket, *screened at many locations, including the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum.*

$5,000 to the City of Pittsfield Office of Cultural Development for a series of five community conversations about writers of the American renaissance in Pittsfield in conjunction with the city's new writers' residency program

$10,000 to the Barrington Stage Company, Pittsfield, for a weekend symposium on race, bias, and culture in present-day America held in conjunction with their production of *American Son* ▲ ENA

$8,000 to Berkshire County Head Start, Pittsfield, for two series (in 2016 and 2017) of the Enhancing Families Through Literature program with families involved with Berkshire Family and Probate Court ▲ ENA

$5,000 to the WAM Theatre, Lee, for audience enrichment sessions and talkbacks for the company's production of *The Bakelite Masterpiece* ▲ ENA

Out of State

$10,000 to CityLore, New York, NY, for design of an interactive educational website in order to publicize and foster discussion around the documentary film *GI JEWS: Jewish Americans in WWII* ■ SMOG

$4,500 to the Fractured Atlas, New York, NY, for performer Jonathan Mirin's expansion and development of a new version of *Mill, Mountain, River: A Child's Eye View of Older Colraine*

$10,000 to the Maysles Institute, New York, NY, for classroom-ready multimedia study guides and lesson plans, including optional events programming, about the life and work of James Baldwin ■ NSC

2016 Massachusetts Governor's Awards in the Humanities

In November, following the very successful Mass Humanities forum on the Obama legacy, we recognized three humanist leaders with the 2016 Massachusetts Governor's Awards in the Humanities. The annual ceremony celebrates those whose public actions, grounded in an appreciation of the humanities, have enhanced civic life in the Commonwealth. The 2016 awardees included:

FRIEDA GARCIA, is a former MH board member who has led more than 70 nonprofit boards as a staff or board member over her long career as a social activist and community leader in Boston.

ATUL GAWANDE, a champion of humanism in healthcare, is a surgeon, writer, professor, and innovator. His latest book is Being Mortal.

LIA POORVU, is an advocate for libraries, cultural institutions, universities, and at-risk children who connects people and organizations that have rarely worked with one another strengthening the fabric of cultural and social life in the state.

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR
Nancy Netzer
BOSTON COLLEGE

VICE CHAIR
James R. Burke
HINCKLEY, ALLEN & SNYDER LLP

TREASURER
Jeffrey Musman
SEYFARTH SHAW, LLP

CLERK
Ellen Berkman
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Glynda Benham
STERLING

Lauren Cohen
PURE COMMUNICATIONS

Elliot Bostwick Davis
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Alice DeLana
CAMBRIDGE

Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello
SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

William M. Fowler, Jr.
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Alfred L. Griggs
NORTHAMPTON

Andrew Helene
RBS CITIZENS, N.A.

Ronald Hertel
WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC

Frederick Hurst
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW

Lindsey Kiang
BROOKLINE

Michael Pappone
GOODWIN PROCTER LLP

Marisa Parham
AMHERST COLLEGE

Thomas Putnam
JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Hilda Ramirez
WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

Margaret Shepherd
BOSTON

Ronald Slate
POET AND LITERARY CRITIC

Kathleen Stone
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Kenneth Vacovec
VACOVEC, MAYOTTE & SINGER LLP

Bianca Sigh Ward
NYSTROM BECKMAN & PARIS, LLP

G. Perry Wu
STAPLES, INC.

2016 Contributors

Italics indicate contributors who permanently restricted all or some of the dollars they gave in 2016 as endowment.

Contributors who gave in honor of recipients of the 2016 Governor's Awards in the Humanities are noted as follows:
AG – In honor of Atul Gawande
FG – In honor of Frieda Garcia
LP – In honor of Lia Poorvu

National Endowment for the Humanities: $842,570

Massachusetts Cultural Council: $528,420

$20,000+
Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund

$10,000+
Amy and David Abrams LP
Anonymous (2)
The Beveridge Family Foundation
Goizueta Family Charitable Gift Fund
Alfred and Sally Griggs
Lindsay Kiang and Anne-Marie Soulliere through the Mauna Kea Fund of Fidelity Charitable LP
John Stauffer
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Vila B. Webber 1985 Charitable Trust
Hertel & Konish Wealth Management Group

$5,000+
Lisa Baskin
James R. Burke
Boston Strasbourg Sister City Association LP
Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Anonymous, in honor of David Tebaldi
Boston Symphony Orchestra LP
Jeffrey Musman and Lynne Spencer
Michael J. Pappone and Diane Savitzky
Staples Foundation for Learning
Howard and Fredericka Stevenson LP
Vacovec, Mayotte and Singer, LLP

$2,500+
Anonymous
Nancy Adams and John Burgess
Sanford and Elizabeth Belden
Ellen Berkman and David Bryant
Ben Birnbaum
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
William Buffett
John and Marie Dacey
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum AG FG LP
Goodwin Procter LLP
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health AG
Harvard University Division of Continuing Education in honor of the Lowell Institute
Andrew Helene
Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate
Barbara F. Lee AG FG LP
Jean MacCormack
Susan Mikula and Rachel Maddow
Peabody Essex Museum
Tony and Kitty Pell LP
Beth Pfeiffer and John Foster LP
John and Joan Regan
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Wendy Shattuck and Samuel Plimpton LP
Ron and Nancy Slate
Jill and Scott Sullivan
James and Margaret Wade FG
David Weinstein, in honor of Thomas Putnam
Wells Fargo Foundation in cooperation with Wells Fargo Advisors
Western New England University
WGBH Educational Foundation
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

$1,000+
Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth Bacon Trust
The Barrington Foundation, Inc.
The Boston Foundation
Boston Public Library Foundation
Anne C. Bromer, in honor of Jeffrey Musman
Combined Jewish Philanthropies LP
Elliot B. Davis and John S. Paolella
DePrisco Jewelers
Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
Dr. Tim Johnson LP
Seth A. and Beth S. Klarman LP AG
Charles W. Lidz
Polly and Charles Longsworth
Thomas P. and Michelle A. McCarthy
Mrs. Jacqueline McMullen
McMullen Family Foundation
Richard P. and Claire W. Morse Foundation LP
Marisa Parham and John Drabinski
Gail T. and Joseph Reimer, in honor of David Tebaldi
Allen and Barbara Rome, through the United Way of North Central MA, Inc.
Joanne Z. Sattley
William Shea
Margaret Shepherd and David Friend LP
Peggy & David Starr Fund at Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Lisbeth Tarlow and Stephen B. Kay LP
David Tebaldi
Wellesley College LP

$250+
Joan Nissman and Morton Abromson
Beatrice D. Adams FG
Charles Alesi and Rita Kappers Alesi
Mehmed Ali
Robert and Helen Alkon FG
Anonymous (2)
Julie Arrison-Bishop
Sylvia Bacon
Glynda Benham
Susan J. Bennett
Lisa Bevilaqua FG LP
Linda C. Black
Johanna Branson
Ruth Butler LP
Anne Butterfield
Edward Carhart
Pete Caron LP
Rhonda Cobham-Sander
John F. Cogan and Mary Cornille LP
Lauren E. and Ian Cohen
Wendy K. and Richard Cohen, in honor of Lauren Cohen
Andrew Cohn
Javier Corrales
Paul and Denise Coughlan, in honor of Ronald B. Hertel
Susan and Robert Darnton
Mary-Catherine Deibel LP
Alice DeLana
Robert S. Donaldson, in honor of Barbara Donaldson
Elizabeth and Chase Duclos-Orsello
Ms. Ellen Dunlap and Mr. Frank Armstrong
Julie Faber and John Goldberg LP
Lynn Fairbank
Robert & Iris Fanger Family Foundation LP
Robert Feldstein
Robert Forrant
William M. Fowler
Terry and Mary Fuller, in honor of Ronald B. Hertel
Ara Gershengorn
Barbara and Robert Glauber LP
Alice Goldsmith, in honor of John H. Goldsmith
Claudia and Peter Grose LP
Barbara and Steve Grossman LP
John E. Hill
Carol Hillman LP
Julian Houston, in honor of Elisabeth Houston
Isaiah and Helen T. Jackson
Katharine and Cecyl Jackson Hobbs
Rachel Jacoff LP
Alison Poorvu Jaffe LP
Tom Johnson
Alan Karass
Rudolph Kass LP
Katherine Kaufmann LP
Lucia Knoles
Jonathan Kutchins Charitable Fund LP
Lawrence History Center
Karen S. Levy, in honor of Gail T. Reimer
James J. Lopes
Priscilla Lowell FG
Roseanne MacDonald
Dwight H. MacKerron
Michael and Judith Manzo, in honor of John M. Dacey
Layli Maparyan
Alexander Marconi
McLaughlin Gift Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Robert Meagher
Daphne Meredith FG
Murray Metcalfe
Lindsay M. Miller
Bob and Dale Mnookin LP
Robert S. Molloy in honor of G. Perry Wu
Cecily and Alan Morse LP
Lisa Mulman, in honor of Jill Sullivan
Linda P. and Andrew D. Myers LP
David Nash
Nancy Netzer and Robert Silberman
Martin Newhouse and Nancy Scott
Sonia and Angel Nieto, in honor of David Tebaldi
Peter S. and Trudy O'Connell
Old Bridgewater Historical Society
Partnership of Historic Bostons, Inc.
Thomas R. Perrotta and Mary Granfield AG
Stuart Peterfreund
Patricia Pratt
Florence Preisler, in honor of Murray Preisler
Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives
Thomas Putnam
Robert Radloff
Miguel A. Rodriguez
John B. and Margaret M. Roll
David and Deirdre Rosenberg LP
Larry Rosenberg
Steven Rothstein, in honor of Tom Putnam
Grannum and Kathleen Sant
Robert Seaver
Renata and Edward Selig LP
Robert N. Shapiro LP
James and Cynthia Shorris, in memory of Earl Shorris
John Sieracki
Lewis H. Spence
Kathie Stevens
Dr. William Stone and Ms. Jeane Ungerleider, in honor of Gail T. Reimer
Kathleen C. Stone and Andrew Grainger
Margot S. Strom
Susan R. Suleiman
Emma Teng, in honor of Janet Teng
University of Massachusetts Boston
University Products
Rosamond Vaule LP
Peter J. Whalen and Janna V. Ugone
Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association
Margaret A. Wiseman
Mark and Lynne Wolf LP

At its June 2016 meeting, the board of directors elected four new members: Mehmed Ali of UMass Lowell; Isaiah Jackson of the Berklee College of Music; Gail Reimer of Brookline; and Emma Teng of MIT. In addition, Governor James Baker appointed to the Mass Humanities board Donna DePrisco of DePrisco Jewelers and Jill Sullivan of Salem State University. At its June 2016 meeting the board also elected new officers: James Burke, Chair; Ellen Berkman, Vice Chair; Ronald Hertel, Treasurer; Bianca Sigh Ward, Clerk. Departing from the board in 2016 were Governor's appointees Nancy Netzer and Perry Wu, as well as Lindsey Kiang, Jeffrey Musman, Margaret Shepherd, and Kenneth Vacovec.

$100+

Jonathan and Shari Abbott LP
Virginia Alexander
La Alianza Hispana, Inc. LP
Albert Anderson
Paula K. Andrews
Anonymous (3)
Yalem Ayalew and W. Al Desta FG
Clara and Jim Batchelor
Barbara A. Beall
Sharon Bernard
Leonard and Jane Bernstein
The Blandford Historical Society
Mary Louise Burke LP
Ivelisse Caraballo
Carl Carlsen
Congregational Library & Archives
Wendy Covell
Timothy Crellin FG
Margaret Dale
Sheila Damkoehler
Carolyn Davies
Doherty Family Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Dana and Jean-Pierre Dubreuil LP
David L. Entin
Newell Flather FG LP
Allen W. Fletcher
Walter Fraze
Stephen and Linda Greyser Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Charles Harak
David J. Harris
Ann H. Himmelberger
Sharon Jackson
Marisa Jaffe LP
Wendy Johnson LP
Alexa and Ranch Kimball Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Marie T. and William L. King
Gail L. Kitch
Barbara C. Kohin
Brian J. Konish
Kenneth E. Kruckemeyer FG
Susan and Raymond Kwasnick
Richard Lappin
Kate and Spencer Larson FG
Brian C. LeMay
Avi Lev
Yu-Lan Lin
Ann Lisi
Janice Litwin
Suzanne Maas
Edward W. Mack
Frank Mandosa
Roberto and Madelaine Marquez
William D. Mathews
Anne Mattina
Martha and Jeffrey McLaughlin
Medtronic
Abbye Meyer
Ronald Milauskas
Sandra Moose LP
Bill Nigreen/Kathleen McDermott Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Anne Orlando
Livingston Parsons
Pam Peterson
Hilda Ramirez
Peter and Suzanne Read LP
Dolores Root Charitable Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Ellen Rothman
Dea Savitzky
Warren Shaw
Alfred and Carmen Siegrist FG
Grace E. Simmons
Ellen M. Smith
Snoell Fund at Fidelity Charitable
Mary Steele
Patricia Suhrcke
Elizabeth D. Swinton LP
William and Caroline Toner
Bonnie and Peter Ulin LP
Alden T. Vaughan
Katheryn P. Viens, in memory of Robert H. Laporte
Stow Walker
William D. Wallace
Anne and Russell Warner
John D. Warner
Maicharia and Cary Weir Lytle FG
Faith D. White
Roy and Nancy Wilsker
Allan B. Wing

Up to $99

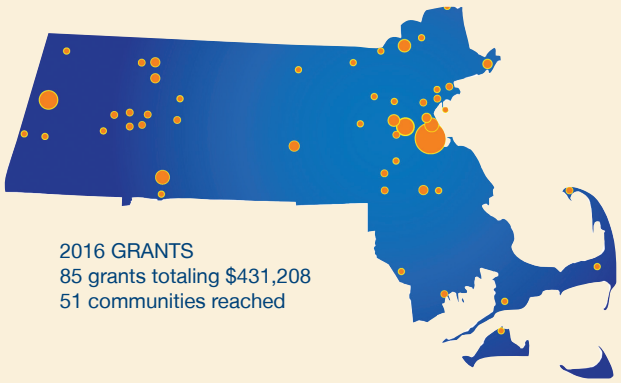
Maureen Ambrosino
Anonymous (10)
Ellen Anstey
Barbara Armistead
Reginald Bacon
Gary Bailey
Beth M. Bandy
Deb Banerjee
Ann-Elizabeth Barnes
Georgia and James Barnhill
David Barry
Hosea Baskin
Alison Bassett
Jeannette Bastian
Mary S. Bell
Corinne Bermon
Robert Binstock
Sari Bitticks
Lee Blake
Dan Bolognani
Pleun Bouricius
Lucy R. Boyle Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Linda and Peter Braun LP
Robert Briere
Cindy Brockway
Jacqueline Brovender LP
Anne S. Brown
Eric Buehrens
Taylor Bye
Justyna M. Carlson
Patricia Caron
Deb Carroll
Elizabeth Carroll-Horrocks
Eunice Charles
Paul Chizek
Citizens Bank Foundation
Bruce S. Cohen
Michael Collins
Barbara and David Crellin FG
David W. Crossman
Carolyn Cushing
Kathy O. Czerny
Janet Davis
Louise D. Deutsch
Carol Domblewski
Katherine Domoto
Laurence Doucette
Gloria Dove
Abaigeal Duda
Sally Ebeling
Marvin Eichner
Charles Ellis
Stephen Engler
Fall River Historical Society
Judy Farrar
Martha Ferry
Virginia Fettig
Anne M. Forbes
Mary Ann Ford, in honor of Jack Cheng
Susan Forgit
Murray Frank
David Freitas
Christopher Fruean
Karen Gavel, in memory of Carolyn D. Chace
Anne Gibson
David Glassberg
Penina Glazer
Cynthia Glynn
Allison and Matthew Godoff, in honor of Lauren E. Cohen
Jayne Gordon
Carol H. Green, in memory of Angela Dorenkamp
Gloria Greis
Susan Haff
Lois Haggerty
Ruth F. Hamlen
Annie C. Harris
James B. Healy
Karen Herbaugh
Honee Hess
Kathleen Hickey
Janet Hively
Nan Hockenbury
Alan Hoffman
Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc.
Susan Hunt
Leo Hwang-Carlos
Rebecca Ikehara
Susan Inz
Asher Jackson
Colleen E. Janz
Mary Ann Johnson
Laurie Kahn
Nancy Karis
Tegan Kehoe
Noreen Kiff
Thomas A. King
Sheila Kirschbaum
Laura Kitchings
Natalie Klavans
Penny Lacroix
Steve L. Lapeyrouse
Richard Larkin
Leslie Lawrence, in memory of Sandra Kanter
Ymelda R. Laxton
Heather Lennon
Carol Levine
Kristen L. Liberman
Vincent Licenziato
Thornton Lockwood
Diane M. Long
Elaine Lucas
Catherine Lugar
Ned Lund
Lynne M. Lydick
Suzanne Maas
Douglas Maitland
Albert Malo
Meredith Marcinkewicz
David Martin
Mary Martin FG
Thomas McClintock
Diana L. McClure
Theresa Ann McDermott
Alfred McKee Jr.
Roger C. and Carol B. McNeill
Giordana Mecagni
Teri Melo, in memory of Sue Ann Vancho
Gary Messinger
Allen Metzger
James D. Moran
Michaela Moran and Eugene Beresin
Daniel J. Morast
Ira B. Morgenstern
M-A and John Morrison
Therese Mosorjak
Onawumi J. Moss
Annie Murphy
Francis Murphy
Alice Nash
Susan L. Navarre
Marybelle Nelson
New Bedford Historical Society
Amy Newmark
Gale Nigrosh
Nicolette Nordin Heavey
Lawrence O Brien
Kristin and Barry O'Connell, in honor of Ingrid S. MacGillis
James O'Hare
Christopher O'Keeffe
John O'Reilly
David Ostrander
Sonia Pacheco
Marie Panik
Stephen Parker
John Pearlman
Monica Pelayo
Joyce S. Pendery
Phyllis Perkins
Andrea Perrault
Photographic Preservation Center
Richard Pickering
Michael Potaski
Lauren Prescott
Colleen Previte
Nicholas T. Pruitt
Suzanne Pucker
Susan S. Purdy
Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti
Michael Quinlin
Jonathan Ralton
Anna E. Ramstead
Christine Reynolds
Joanne Riley
Irving E. Rockwood
Anne Rogers
Janice Rogovin
Nancy P. Rubackin
Barbara Rutkowski
Robert Salerno
Evelyn L. Sandberg
Maud Marie Santucci
Ruth Schmidt
Nancy C. Schrock
Michele Sedor
Senior Family Fund
Frances Shedd-Fisher
Gracelaw Simmons
Wendy Sinton
Stacy Spies
Blake Spitz
Joan Steiger
Theresa Tangney
Danielle Tawa
Emily Thomas
Janice Thompson
Sheila Tomaino
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall
Will Twombly
United Way of Rhode Island, Inc.
Miren Uriarte FG
Mary C. Valentine
Anthony Vaver
Donald Vo
Judith and Jim Walsh
Laura Walters
Tinky Weisblat
Westminster Historical Commission
Melissa Wheaton
William Whiting
Erin Williams
Meg Winikates
Susan Zeiger
Ellen Zellner
Linda Ziemba
Ms. Brita Zitin and Ms. Carolyn Gibney

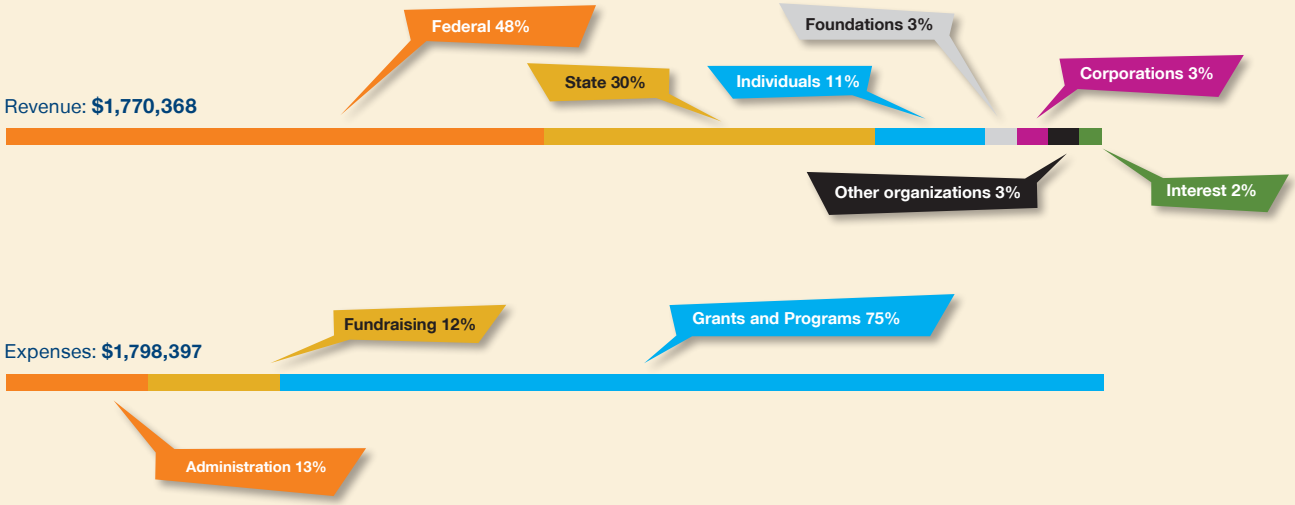
2016 Financials

MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OCTOBER 31, 2016

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	1,000,368
Certificates of deposit	500,000
Grants receivable	346,639
Other accounts receivable	16,831
Prepaid expenses	64,886
Pledges receivable - within one year	19,500
Total Current Assets	$1,948,224
Capital Assets–At Cost	
Leasehold improvements	32,032
Equipment	11,430
Computer software	7,910
Vehicle	12,498
	63,870
Less – accumulated depreciation	(60,832)
Total Capital Assets	$3,038
Other Assets	
Investments	9,594
Investments – endowment	1,783,232
Cash – donor designated	96,191
Cash – board designated	4,221
Total Other Assets	$1,893,237
TOTAL ASSETS	$3,844,499

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Regrants payable	202,904
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	72,536
Deferred revenue	95,926
Total Current Liabilities and Total Liabilities	$371,366
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	766,282
Unrestricted–board designated	104,705
Temporarily restricted	833,463
Permanently restricted	1,768,683
Total Net Assets	$3,473,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$3,844,499



2016 GRANTS
85 grants totaling $431,208
51 communities reached

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (INCLUDING NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS)