



2021 ANNUAL REPORT





“THE HUMANITIES INVITE US TO CONSIDER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN AND, IN THIS CRITICAL ERA FOR DEMOCRACY, WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN.”

HEATHER COX RICHARDSON, 2021 GOVERNOR’S AWARD IN THE HUMANITIES HONOREE

The Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRIAN BOYLES



CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELIZABETH DUCLOS-ORSELLO

Friends—

In 2021, Mass Humanities established a new mission statement: We create opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable Commonwealth through the humanities.

These words call on us to meet this historic moment with courage and integrity. Over the last year, we saw communities confront the past as they fought to transform a world wracked by tragedy. We listened to new voices elevate the humanities as tools for advancing justice. We watched people come together for conversations that crossed borders and generations.

The compounding challenges we face require critical thinking and imagination. At Mass Humanities, we believe this is only possible when the humanities are accessible to all residents. In 2021, our work resounded with the ideas of people from diverse backgrounds and skills. We applaud the partners across Massachusetts who responded to the needs of their audiences as the pandemic persisted.

By any measure, this was a transformative year for Mass Humanities. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mass Cultural Council and private donors, the foundation responded to a rapidly changing environment through initiatives that sought to address the crises faced by the people of Massachusetts. Our incredible staff delivered more than \$1.7 million in direct support to humanities organizations, a record amount. In a dire time for the cultural sector, these funds helped preserve jobs, built the digital capacity of local libraries and museums, and sponsored free online programs hosted by history institutions.

We offer our heartfelt praise to the twenty-three communities that hosted Reading Frederick Douglass Together events this summer. These public readings reflect the courage of Massachusetts residents to face the legacy of slavery as neighbors and allies. On town commons, outside historical societies, and on the footsteps of churches, thousands gathered to hear Douglass’s words and recommit to his vision for equality.

As Americans grappled with threats to our democracy, Mass Humanities placed a special emphasis on exploring the meaning of civic engagement. New classes for students from the Clemente Course in the Humanities launched just days after the January attack on the U.S. Capitol. Students read the words of John Lewis and studied movements for racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and disability rights. Along with earning credits from Bard College, the participants made themselves heard in print and online. In the collection *This is Your Democracy*, they wrote about their own experiences as participants in a democracy, their memories of voting, and their understanding of service. As Congressman Lewis right stated, “Democracy is not a state—it’s an act.” In Brockton, Dorchester, New Bedford, Springfield, and Worcester, the people of Clemente embody this statement as members of their communities.

Our board and staff incorporated these experiences and the feedback of hundreds of stakeholders into our new three-year strategic plan, completed in fall 2021 along with our new mission. The plan calls on Mass Humanities to elevate new understandings of Massachusetts as we transform our programs and grow our audiences. We invite you to read more at MassHumanities.org.

Thank you for all that you do to support Mass Humanities. In 2022, let us come together to learn from each other so that we can forge better solutions and build a more equitable Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Brian Boyles
Executive Director

Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello, PhD
Board Chair

FRONT COVER: Reading Frederick Douglass Together event in South Amherst, July 4, 2021. Photo: Sabato Visconti





Nueva Esperanza of Holyoke received a 2021 Expand Mass. Stories grant.

“THANKS FOR ADDING NEW GRANTS AND TRYING TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SMALL ORGANIZATIONS, WHO ARE TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED. GRANTS HELP US GROW AND BECOME MORE SOLVENT.”

2021 MASS HUMANITIES GRANTEE SURVEY RESPONSE

BERKSHIRES

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Clinton Church Restoration
Norman Rockwell Museum
Hancock Shaker Village
Chesterwood
Berkshire County Historical Society
Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute
Bushnell-Sage Library
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Ventfort Hall Association Inc
Berkshire Museum
WAM Theatre
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center
The Mount/Edith Wharton House
The Bidwell House Museum
The Friends of the Adams Free Library Inc
Sheffield Historical Society
Ventfort Hall Association Inc

CAPE & ISLANDS

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Falmouth Historical Society
Martha's Vineyard Museum
Cape Cod Maritime Museum
Wellfleet Historical Society & Museum
Osterville Historical Society
Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute
Bushnell-Sage Library
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Historical Society of Old Yarmouth
Hyannis Public Library
Twenty Summers
Cape Arts & Entertainment
Cuttyhunk Historical Society
Payomet, Inc.
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center, Inc
The Helene Johnson and Dorothy West Foundation For Artists In Need
Ventfort Hall Association Inc

CENTRAL

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Worcester Historical Museum
Worcester Art Museum
Fort Devens Museum
Old Sturbridge Inc.
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
Preservation Worcester
Athol Public Library
Town of Rutland 300th Anniversary Committee
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Willard House & Clock Museum, Inc.
Groton History Center
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester
Worcester Youth Center, Inc.
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Fitchburg Historical Society
Black Heritage Festival Committee
Worcester Roots
The Barton Center for Diabetes Education
Museum of Russian Icons
Sandy Pond School Association

CT VALLEY

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation
The Jones Library, Inc.
Ohketeau Cultural Center
Collaborative for Educational Services
RiverCulture/ Town of Montague
The Performance Project
Amherst Historical Society
Holyoke Public Library
Springfield Museums
The Wistariahurst Foundation
Westfield Athenaeum
Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services, Inc.
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.
Pioneer Valley History Network
Amelia Park Children's Museum
Nueva Esperanza
Emily Dickinson Museum
Local Access d/b/a Local Access to Valley Arts
Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association
The David Ruggles Center
The Literacy Project
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Forbes Library
Hatfield Historical Society
Plainfield Historical Society
Valley Arts Mentors
Plainfield Reads
South Congregational Church
Belchertown State School Friends Association
Longmeadow Historical Society

WE BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS CAN THRIVE ONLY WHEN THE HUMANITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL RESIDENTS.

In 2021, Mass Humanities awarded grants to 198 organizations across the Commonwealth, providing more than \$1.7 million in direct funding for museums, historic sites, libraries, education providers, and community centers. This historic investment helped people stay connected during this difficult year.

GREATER BOSTON

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Cambridge Historical Society
The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston
American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society
Boston Book Festival
Chinese Economic Development Council
Somerville Museum
Paul Revere Memorial Association/Paul Revere House
826 Boston
Cambridge Center for Adult Education
Center for Arabic Culture
Museum of African American History
Primary Source
Weiyong Olivia Huang - Filmmaker
Center for Independent Documentary
The West End Museum
Mass Poetry
The Jar
USS Constitution Museum, Inc.
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center, Inc.
Revolutionary Spaces, Inc.
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
The Greek Institute, Inc.
ANIKAYA/Akhra, Inc.
Boston Center for the Arts
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Boston Women's Heritage Trail
DEAFinitely, Inc.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Theatre Espresso
Union of Minority Neighborhoods
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Convergence Ensemble
Old North Foundation of Boston, Inc.
Photographic Preservation Center
The Jamaica Plain Tuesday Club, Inc. DBA The Loring Greenough House
Guerrilla Opera
Development+ Art
Egleston Square Main Street
Freedom House, Inc.
New Democracy Coalition of MA Inc
East Boston Museum and Historical Society
Historic New England
Jamaica Plain Historical Society

METRO WEST BOSTON

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Royall House and Slave Quarters
ActiveVista Media
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
Dedham Historical Society
The Thoreau Society
Needham History Center & Museum
Arlington Historical Society
Fairbanks Family in America
MASS CENTER FOR THE BOOK
New England Museum Association
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Norwood Historical Society
Governor Bellingham-Cary House Association
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Natick Historical Society
Regis College
Sharon Historical Society
Somerville Museum
Concord Museum
Framingham History Center
Gore Place Society
Newton Historical Society d/b/a Historic Newton
Old Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust
Winchester Historical Society
Womens Suffrage Celebration
Old Parish Preservation Volunteers
Community Action Agency of Somerville

NORTHEAST

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park
Lawrence History Center
Proprietors of the Salem Athenaeum
Andover Center for History & Culture
The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association
Danvers Historical Society
Maritime Gloucester
Peabody Historical Society and Museum
Historical Society of Old Newbury
Wenham Historical Association & Museum
Amesbury Carriage Museum
Essex Historical Society & Shipbuilding Museum
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Stoneham Historical Society & Museum
Danvers Alarm List Inc.
Hammond Castle Museum
Westford Museum
Beyond Walls
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Cape Ann Museum
Public Health Museum in Massachusetts
Marblehead Museum
Essex National Heritage Commission
City of Newton Cultural Development Department
Swampscott Public Library
Newburyport Maritime Society
Newburyport Preservation Trust

SOUTHEAST

- ▶ **\$10,000+**
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center
UMass Dartmouth, Archives and Special Collections
Plymouth Patuxet Museums
Old Colony Historical Society
Hull Lifesaving Museum
Massachusetts Archaeological Society
New Bedford Historical Society
Pilgrim hall Museum
Spinner Historical Society, Inc.
New Bedford Preservation Society
United States Naval Shipbuilding Museum
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts
- ▶ **\$5,000+**
Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum
Stonehill College
Norton Historical Society
PACE, Inc.
National Black Doll Museum
Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford
Handshouse Studio
Massachusetts Design Art Technology Institute
- ▶ **UP TO \$4,999**
Duxbury Rural & Historical Society
Historical Society of Old Yarmouth
Plymouth Antiquarian Society
Marion Art Center, Inc.
Forbes House Museum

GRANT RECIPIENTS
1988





Kyera Singleton, Executive Director of Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, a 2021 SHARP Grant recipient and Expand Mass. Stories grantee.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the people and institutions that power the cultural sector. Through support made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mass Humanities delivered more than \$930,000 in Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) grants to 90 non-profits.

“Mass Humanities staff was responsive, thorough and patient during the SHARP grant process. Terrific organization!”

2021 MASS HUMANITIES GRANTEE SURVEY RESPONSE

MASS HUMANITIES SUPPORTS LOCAL, GRASSROOTS HUMANITIES EFFORTS.

In 2021, we streamlined our grants processes and diversified the ways we support communities. The results:

- ▶ 50% of our COVID relief funds were awarded to small organizations with operating budgets under \$300,000.
- ▶ 42% of our non-COVID relief grants were awarded to organizations that had never received funding from the foundation.
- ▶ 45% of Expand Massachusetts Stories grantees have BIPOC project leadership and 50% had BIPOC advisors on their project teams.
- ▶ Through the Bridge Street Fund, in 2021 Mass Humanities funded 135 different online programs by Massachusetts history centers, museums, historical societies and historic sites.

GRANT LINE	TOTAL # AWARDED	TOTAL \$ AWARDED
Expand Mass Stories	22	\$364,365
Digital Capacity	59	\$251,499
Bridge Street	50	\$66,000
Reading Frederick Douglass Together	22	\$34,440
Museum on Main Street	6	\$60,000
SHARP 2021	90	\$987,679
TOTAL	249	\$1,737,983



Chelsea: An Essential City is a documentary film project by Sabrina Aviles and Jenny Alexander of ActiveVista Media. Sitting on a tiny peninsula in the Boston Harbor, Chelsea was on the frontlines of the first wave of the pandemic. Eight out of 10 residents are essential workers. Two-thirds are Latinx immigrants. Supported by an Expand Mass. Stories grant, the film will explore the paradox of being essential yet overlooked, through the voices of Chelsea residents drawing upon family and community relationships to overcome longstanding inequities laid bare by the pandemic.

READING FREDERICK DOUGLASS TOGETHER



Boston reading event

“The discussion that followed the reading was passionate and engaging, even though there were so many people in attendance. To see the adult readers connecting with the two student readers and making connections over the generational divide about race, equity and inclusion, was powerful.”

GRANTEE REPORT ON 2021 EVENT IN NEWTON

24 EVENTS

A record number of communities received support from Mass Humanities this year to host readings and discussions of Frederick Douglass’s speech “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” As the nation confronts the legacy of slavery and new threats to our democracy, the events offered neighbors new opportunities to gather and learn together.

EVENTS FUNDED IN 2021

Marion Art Center, Inc.
Marion

Swampscott Public Library
Swampscott

The Helene Johnson and Dorothy West Foundation For Artists In Need
Oak Bluffs

South Congregational Church
Amherst

Historical Society of Old Newbury
Newburyport

Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center, Inc.
East Falmouth

New Democracy Coalition of MA, Inc.
Boston

Old Parish Preservation Volunteers, Inc.
Norwood

Worcester Roots
Worcester

The Jamaica Plain Tuesday Club, Inc. DBA The Loring Greenough House
Jamaica Plain

Plainfield Reads
Plainfield

Community Action Agency of Somerville
Somerville

Somerville Museum
Somerville

City of Newton Cultural Development Department
Newton Centre

Forbes House Museum
Milton

Sharon Historical Society
Sharon

New Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
New Bedford

Freedom House, Inc.
Dorchester

Egleston Square Main Street
Roxbury

Regis College
Weston

Development+ Art
Boston

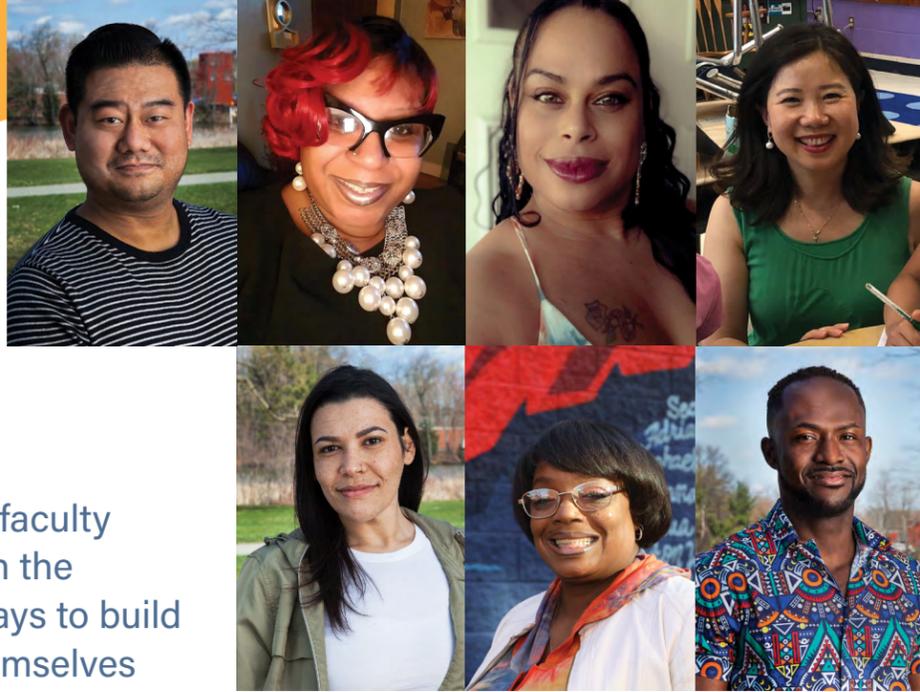
Proprietors of the Salem Athenaeum
Salem

Mass Humanities, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Museum of African American History, Community Change
Boston

Historic Northampton, Rep. Lindsey Sabadosa
Northampton



CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES



In 2021, the students and faculty of the Clemente Course in the Humanities found new ways to build community and make themselves heard. Despite the persistent challenges of the pandemic, the course continued to create new pathways for residents in Brockton, Dorchester, New Bedford, Springfield, and Worcester.

"I came to Clemente thinking I could say nothing right. I now feel I have something worth saying, and that we all need to be compassionate agents of change, a change that respects the dignity of all and at the same time affirms the values and morals many of us have been taught since youth."

CHARLIE KNIGHT, SPRINGFIELD CLASS OF 2021



Clemente Worcester students visit Massachusetts Historical Society.

For the second year, Mass Humanities supported special classes for graduates of the Clemente Course.

Three classes in spring 2021 offered students the opportunity to study the history and meaning of civic engagement. Launched just days after the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, these classes included readings from Civil Rights icon John Lewis and histories of social justice movements. The course produced *This is Your Democracy*, the second collection of essays published by Mass Humanities through support from the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Mellon Foundation. For summer 2021, faculty developed special classes in Massachusetts history, connecting students with local archives and institutions to learn more about their neighborhoods and the Commonwealth.

209

STUDENTS ENROLLED

54

STUDENTS EARNING CREDIT FROM THE FIVE FULL-YEAR COURSES

53

STUDENTS EARNING CREDITS IN GRADUATE COURSES

68

LAPTOPS PROVIDED THROUGH CLEMENTE ONLINE FUND



GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

The 2021 Governor's Awards honored four individuals whose careers demonstrate the power of the humanities to improve the lives of people here and abroad. The event raised more than \$190,000 to support humanities programs in Massachusetts.

HONOREES



JOHN BURGESS



ANNETTE GORDON-REED



SONIA NIETO



HEATHER COX RICHARDSON

SPONSORS

Laureate: Anonymous

Luminary: Lia and William Poorvu

Champions: Amy and David Abrams · The Beveridge Family Foundation · Eastern Bank · Elizabeth and Roberto Goizueta · Ronald and Colleen Hertel · The Fletcher School at Tufts University · Al and Sally Griggs · K|B Private Wealth Management · New England Public Media · Stephen Rosenfeld and Margot Botsford · Seyfarth Shaw, LLP · Howard and Fredericka Stevenson · Lisbeth Tarlow · WilmerHale

Benefactors: Lisa Unger Baskin · Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts · John and Marie Dacey · Paul and Patty Gannon · Perrin and Bruns Grayson · Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Darcy Immerman · William A. Lowell · Michael Pappone and Diane Savitzky · Raymond James Financial Advisors Michael Serafino and Geoffrey Moore · Wendy Shattuck and Samuel Plimpton · Smith College

Host Committee: Co-chairs Denise Kaigler and Amy Macdonald; Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello, Al Griggs, Jeff Musman, Nancy Netzer, Lia Poorvu, Marita Rivero.

ONLINE EVENTS

Mass Humanities hosted thirteen online events in 2021, attracting more than 2,000 people for interactive programs that offered compelling conversations, local stories, and new insights into contemporary issues.

A collaboration with the Mississippi Humanities Council produced "MS+MA", a six-part online event series that brought together audiences from both states to discuss themes that bridged perceived differences in a time of political polarization. Clemente Course students joined National Book Award winner Clint Smith (pictured) for a conversation on civic engagement. Visit Mass Humanities' YouTube channel to watch videos of these online events.



2021 CONTRIBUTORS



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

\$2,038,086

\$1,002,299 General Operating
\$1,035,787 SHARP Covid Relief



\$678,191

\$50,000+

John Burgess and Nancy Adams
Federation of State Humanities Councils
The Goizueta Foundation

\$25,000+

Nancy Donahue
The William and Lia G. Poorvu Family Foundation

\$10,000+

The George I. Alden Trust
Al and Sally Griggs
Ronald B. Hertel, in honor of John A. Burgess
Nancy Netzer
F. Roscoe and Vila B. Webber 1985 Charitable Trust

\$5,000+

Amy Abrams
The Beveridge Family Foundation, in honor of Sonia Nieto
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Bruce and Judy Grinnell
Amos and Barbara Hostetter
KB Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
Kevin O'Connell, in honor of Fredericka Stevenson
Stephen Rosenfeld and Margot Botsford
State Street Corporation

Cathleen and James Stone
Lisbeth Tarlow
The Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University, in honor of John A. Burgess
WilmerHale, in honor of John A. Burgess

\$2,500+

Paul and Edith Babson Foundation
Lisa Unger Baskin
Marcia Butzel
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
John and Marie Dacey, in honor of John A. Burgess
Doherty Family Charitable Fund
Paul Gannon, in honor of John A. Burgess
Perrin and Bruns Grayson
Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Darcy Immerman
William A. Lowell
Jeffrey Musman
Michael J. Pappone and Diane Savitzky
Raymond James
Smith College, in honor of Sonia Nieto
Katherine and Phillippe Villers

\$1,000+

Anonymous
Ellen Berkman and David Bryant
Paul Bosco

The Boston Foundation
Brian Boyles
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, in honor of Sonia Nieto
Clearbrook Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation, in honor of Sonia Nieto
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\$250+

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Gage McWeeny
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Katharine M. Pell
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Harvard Radcliffe Institute, in honor of Annette Gordon-Reed

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Peter Torkildsen
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Janet Walton
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Alan Wichlei
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UP TO \$99
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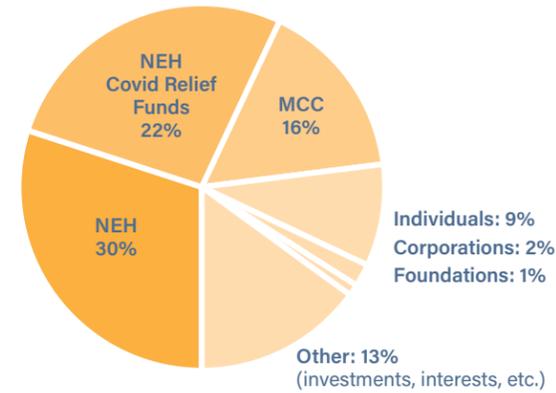
2021 FINANCIALS

Massachusetts Foundation For The Humanities, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
October 31, 2021

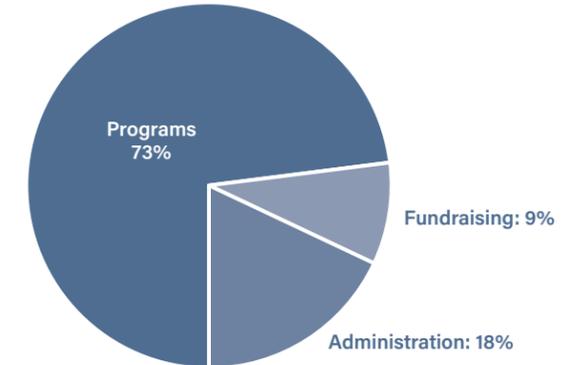
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

(including net assets released from restrictions)

REVENUE: \$3,322,930



EXPENSES: \$2,944,579



ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$1,712,557
Certificates of deposit	\$536,462
Grants receivables	\$424,216
Prepaid expenses	\$25,338
Pledges receivable	\$80,500

Total Current Assets **\$2,779,073**

Capital Assets—At Cost

Leasehold improvements	\$32,032
Equipment	\$11,430
Computer equipment and software	\$15,210
	58,672
Less – accumulated depreciation	(57,455)

Total Capital Assets **\$1,217**

Other Assets

Investments	\$2,678,950
-------------	-------------

Total Other Assets **\$2,678,950**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$5,459,240**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Regrants payable	\$406,377
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$229,854

Total Current Liabilities & Total Liabilities **\$636,231**

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$1,704,512
Board designated endowment funds	\$215,082

Total Without Donor Restrictions **\$1,919,594**

Purpose or time restricted	\$1,138,632
In perpetuity	\$1,764,783

Total With Donor Restrictions **\$2,903,415**

Total Net Assets **\$4,823,009**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$5,459,240**





The Performance Project, Springfield



Worcester Historical Museum



River Culture of Turners Falls

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