



Home of the Harriet P. Henry
Center for the Book
674 Brighton Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102-1012
mainehumanities.org

Please notify us of duplicates
and/or errors, and if you wish to
be removed from this mailing list.
Contact us at (207) 773-5051
or info@mainehumanities.org.
Thank you.



SUMMER 2020

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Books, Poetry
BIG IDEAS

Experimenting

MHC

Throughout its 40+ year history, the Maine Humanities Council has been dedicated to the practice of bringing people together. Our commitment is grounded in years of witnessing the power of humanities-based discussions to create connections among people, foster their sense of their own agency, and inspire them to deeper engagement with others in their communities.

With the arrival of COVID-19, gathering together groups of people, the core of our work, was rendered impossible. We took a quick, deep, collective breath and began to recalibrate. We cancelled any program we couldn't migrate online; we talked to our partners; we listened and learned – and then we started to experiment.

We've learned a great deal during this time. We've learned that meeting online is a different way of meeting, not a worse way. We've seen how distance ceases to be a barrier when we meet online, and how fruitful it is for us to share information when convening from anywhere is so easy. We've seen how nimble, how responsive, we can be when we have to.

The MHC cannot go back to an "old normal." We wouldn't even if it were possible. Rather we are working to be as resilient and adaptable as we can, so that we can continue to support people in Maine now, during this "not normal" time, and can adjust and thrive and keep supporting meaningful discussions among the people of Maine in whatever "new normal" emerges. We aim to emerge from this tumultuous time better, stronger, and more focused than we've ever been before.

Hayden Anderson
Executive Director

STAFF

Hayden Anderson, PhD
Executive Director
hayden@mainehumanities.org

Meghan Reedy
Program Officer
meghan@mainehumanities.org

Jan Bindas-Tenney
Program Officer
jan@mainehumanities.org

Elizabeth Sinclair
Director of Programs
lizz@mainehumanities.org

Diane Magras
Director of Development
diane@mainehumanities.org

Kyle Volland
Program Assistant
kyle@mainehumanities.org

Karen Myrick
Office Manager
info@mainehumanities.org

Ian Watkins
Communications Coordinator
ian@mainehumanities.org

Nicole Rancourt
Program Officer
nicole@mainehumanities.org

Cover art: Lisa Pixley

HOW TO REACH US

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



@MaineHumanities
#MaineHumanities

EVERY GIFT MATTERS

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

Ways to give:

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 give stock.

DISCUSSION PROJECT

The Discussion Project is a new, flexible way for partners to work with us to host text-focused discussions in their communities. It is also the heart of what we do: bring people together to discuss things that really matter to them.

Partners across the state told us that during this time of amplified uncertainty they needed us to keep doing what we do. We had to offer our core programming as simply and flexibly as possible, and we wanted to meet the needs of both long-standing partners and people working with us for the first time. We knew that some would be short on time and energy, and that others would be keen to try ideas of their own.

Our pilot was the Summer Discussion Project, open to any individual or organization in Maine, and offering the chance to host a discussion using a MHC-developed reading list or a list of their own. It was a resounding success.

Applications for the Fall Discussion Project just closed, and already we can't wait for the next season.

SUMMER COHORT

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
Princeton 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

\$424,000 in operating support for nonprofit cultural organizations

94 grants awarded **16** Maine counties and both congressional districts represented

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.

Learn more at mainehumanities.org

CARES ACT Grants