



## **Key Message Concepts**

### **Integrated Key Message**

The Maine Humanities Council uses books, poetry, and big ideas to bring people together to discuss issues of importance. Through the programs we run and the grants we provide, we encourage a deeper understanding of ourselves and one another, building lasting connections and reaching diverse, multigenerational, and rural audiences with programs that are engaging, and collaborative. Our ultimate goal is to help shape the future of Maine.

### **Fostering Honest and Open Discussion**

In partnership with libraries, hospitals, school districts and communities, the Maine Humanities Council works to foster honest and open discussion about books, ideas and issues of importance to Mainers. Our programs are designed for all Maine people –veterans, immigrants new to the state, young Mainers, people working in healthcare and for those who just love a good book and enjoy talking about it with others. We value every voice and encourage critical thinking, discussion, and honesty.

### **Empowering. Listening.**

Whether you come to Maine Humanities Council for your first book, for your first book group, or to attend a signature event, our goal is to support and encourage all Mainers as they engage with ideas and with the written word to build critical thinking. Active listening is an important part of critical thinking, and our programs and partners encourage this practice. To be at a session or program and to engage in a discussion and be truly heard can be very empowering.

### **Personal/Community Investment**

Participating in a Maine Humanities Council event or program is an investment that will yield tremendous benefits. For individuals, every book you read, every author you follow, and every group you engage in helps you grow. For communities, a relationship with the Maine Humanities Council offers the opportunity to invest in sharing and discussing ideas as a means to cross social and cultural barriers, forging bonds that endure.

### **Tackling Complex Issues**

The Maine Humanities Council is well-suited to help communities seek an understanding of complex issues. The organization is built on the power and pleasure of ideas, rooted in a deep understanding of philosophy, literature, history and culture to bring people together in a neutral place for honest and engaging conversation.

## **Belonging**

At our programs everyone has a voice and can feel a sense of belonging and value. Whether at a Maine Humanities Council book group in your hometown library, or at a weekend event celebrating one of literature's finest, you can express your voice and share your views.

## **Connections**

The Maine Humanities Council is a connector; we work across the state of Maine to connect people with books, communities with ideas, and strangers with one another as they seek to answer the same questions. We work with other organizations through grant-making and the implementation of programs. We are a connector of people; we plug into communities and offer a way to experience meaningful interpersonal communication. Our connections strengthen our society and help shape the future of Maine.