



Overview

What is the Maine Humanities Council?

We're a statewide nonprofit 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.

The Maine Humanities Council is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and home of the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

What does the Maine Humanities Council do?

We partner with libraries, hospitals, school districts, and communities to foster critical thinking and conversations across social, economic, and cultural boundaries.

Our programs are designed for all Maine people—veterans, immigrants new to the state, young Mainers, people working in healthcare, and those who just love a good book and enjoy talking about it with others.

Our grants support and encourage a deeper understanding of ourselves and one another, building lasting connections and reaching diverse, multigenerational, and rural audiences.

Our events connect people with books, communities with ideas, and strangers with one another. We bring people together for honest and engaging conversations rooted in literature, history, philosophy, and culture.

Mission statement

The Maine Humanities Council, a statewide non-profit organization, uses the humanities— literature, history, philosophy, and culture — as a tool for positive change in Maine communities. Our programs and grants encourage critical thinking and conversations across social, economic, and cultural boundaries.

How our work is funded

Foundations, corporations, and individuals are essential supporters of the MHC. Less than one-third of our funding is provided by a base grant from the NEH. We also receive annual funding from the state of Maine, 100% of which is given out as grants to Maine nonprofits.