District 2

HUMANITIES KANSAS

Humanities Kansas connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life.

FY 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

The Federation of State Humanities Councils and Humanities Kansas request **$225 million** for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) of which **$70 million** is to be designated for the Federal/State partnership account that directly funds the state humanities councils. This means an estimated increase of approximately **$300,000** for Humanities Kansas to distribute across Kansas.

STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP

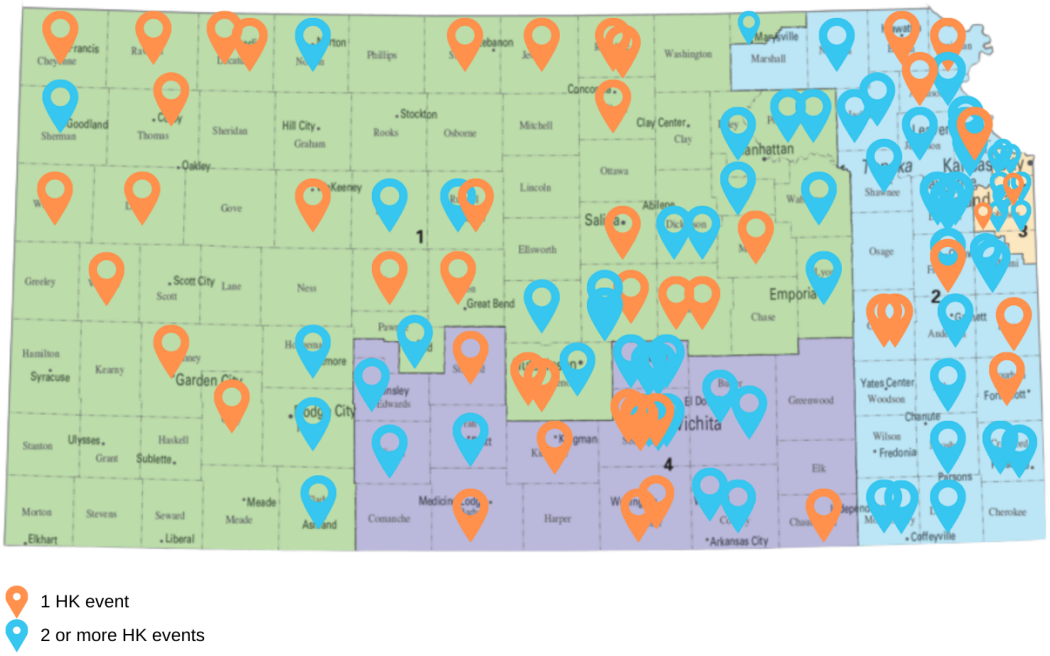
HK leads the nonprofit cultural sector. As an established Kansas nonprofit organization, HK brings grassroots leadership, cultural networks, and our state's rich history into ongoing dialogue, promoting civic engagement, innovation, and entrepreneurship. No other Kansas organization has the networks, goodwill, and experience to lead the state's cultural community.

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, HK:

- Utilized $2.27 million in NEH dollars to leverage an additional $2.27 million for Kansas (2018-2020). *This amount does not include CARES Act funds.*
- Reached 1.38 million Kansans or nearly 41% of population.

In 2020, HK:

Supported towns of all sizes. 114 communities used HK resources
Diversified statewide resources. 218 partnerships with local organizations statewide
Customized resources to respond to Kansas needs. 396 local humanities events & grants supported by HK
Leveraged local dollars. Local contributions doubled every $1 provided



1 HK event
2 or more HK events

DID YOU KNOW? 56% of the communities using HK resources used **2 or more** last year.

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2020 Humanities Highlights in District 2

- For every $1 in funding, $1 was generated in local matching funds
- 309,826 Kansans participated in 179 HK supported events and presentations in 35 communities

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: NEH funds stabilize Kansas cultural nonprofit sector in an uncertain year

HK pivots resources to meet new needs during the pandemic.
History presentations and book discussions were offered online, by telephone, or in person with local safety protocols required. New Quick Grants to cultural nonprofits offered immediate support for the creation of virtual programs, including podcasts and special tours. Daily *Movement of Ideas* kits offered online activities and the *Humanities Hotline* provided recorded mini presentations on history and literature that did not require the Internet. ***6 organizations in District 2 received Quick Grant assistance from Humanities Kansas.***

HK partners with Congress to distribute CARES Act funds for cultural organizations in Kansas.
HK received $463,000 in special CARES Act funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and distributed it to 83 cultural nonprofit organizations for general operating support. Awards ranged from $389 to $10,000. All recipients expended funds and submitted final reports by 9/30/20. HK received a total of 98 applications with requests reaching $1,082,577. ***28 organizations in District 2 received CARES Act funding.***

HK works with Kansans to explore rural innovation and adaptation in *Crossroads.*
HK is engaging Kansans in conversations about rural life with *"Crossroads: Change in Rural America,"* a statewide initiative featuring a Smithsonian traveling exhibition, hands-on learning, local exhibits, and public events in **Independence and Iola**. A special *Crossroads* website features online versions of local exhibits and activity kits. HK leveraged NEH dollars to raise an additional $88,000 in private funds for this project.

2021 BRINGS NEW NEEDS AND GOALS: Why an Increase in NEH funds is critical and how it will be used

HK will boost the Kansas cultural nonprofit sector and the economy that depends on it.
After a destructive 2020-2021, HK will boost the nonprofit cultural sector with needed resources to re-launch in new and exciting ways. Knowing that museums, libraries, and others will be expected to do *twice as much* public outreach (online *and* in person) with diminished budgets, HK will utilize NEH funding to **increase access** to grants, ensure ready-to-use resources are available to communities and organizations of all sizes, and support cultural entrepreneurship to **jumpstart local economies**. A January survey to cultural organizations indicates losses in revenue and staff, while emerging new partnerships and skills are areas for critical development. The expansion of **rural broadband** will mean increased demands from rural constituents for additional online opportunities while expanded non-virtual opportunities are necessary to counteract cognitive decline suffered by some older Kansans during social distancing and who may not have easy access to healthcare.

HK will listen to veterans and partner with public libraries and museums to document their important stories.
Building on the success of HK's powerful *Kansas Stories of the Vietnam War* oral history initiative in 12 communities, HK will expand the project to include 10 more communities. As the pandemic continues, America is losing this age cohort at higher rates than others and these unique veterans stories must be collected and preserved in the national Veterans Oral History project at the Library of Congress before it's too late. Robust collaborations with community colleges, VA hospitals, libraries, museums, and others will be critical. An infusion of federal dollars will leverage additional support from the private sector and will strengthen **public-private partnerships**.

HK will develop free *Civics School* resources on American democracy for use by museums, libraries, and others.
A catalog of free speaker presentations and other resources will provide opportunities to launch local conversations about **American democracy**, prepare for the upcoming national recognition of **the 250th** anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and consider the nation's stories from both before and after 1776. Studying American democracy is critical for citizen engagement. Collaborations with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, the Dole Institute of Politics, the Mid-America All Indian Center, and others is essential in understanding a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

HUMANITIES KANSAS BOARD MEMBERS

Patricia Ackerman, Ph.D., Abilene, Professor of Language Arts at Kansas State University

Brad Allen, Lawrence, Executive Director of the Lawrence Public Library

Kent Blansett, Lawrence, Langston Hughes Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies and History at the University of Kansas

Conny Bogaard, Garden City, Executive Director of the Western Kansas Community Foundation

Lori A. Goetsch, Manhattan, Dean of Kansas State University Libraries

Kim Goodnight, Maize, Regional Manager of Local Government and Community Affairs for ITC Great Plains

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Nickolaus Hernandez, Dodge City, City Manager of Dodge City

Jane Holwerda, Dodge City, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Dodge City Community College

Brandon Hines, Hays, Director of the Hays Public Library

James T. Lane, Jr., Overland Park, Dean of Arts & Design, Humanities & Social Sciences at Johnson County Community College

Roetta Mann, Quinter, Co-owner of Mann Cattle Company

Denise L. McNabb, Waverly, Attorney at Stevens & Brand, LLP

Eric Norris, Lawrence, State Librarian of Kansas.

Kim Perez, Hays, Associate Professor of History at Fort Hays State University

Sheilah Philip, Overland Park, Professor Emeritus at Johnson County Community College

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Jason Wesco, Pittsburg, Executive Vice President of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas