



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

FY 2023 BUDGET REQUEST

The Federation of State Humanities Councils and Humanities Kansas urge Congress to provide a robust increase for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the state humanities councils. These funds are needed in Kansas to support cultural infrastructure, outreach, civics initiatives, veterans history, and family literacy.

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 \$2.64 million in NEH dollars to leverage an additional \$2.64 million for Kansas (2019-2021).
- Reached 1.24 million Kansans or nearly 47% of population

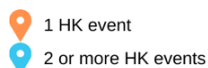
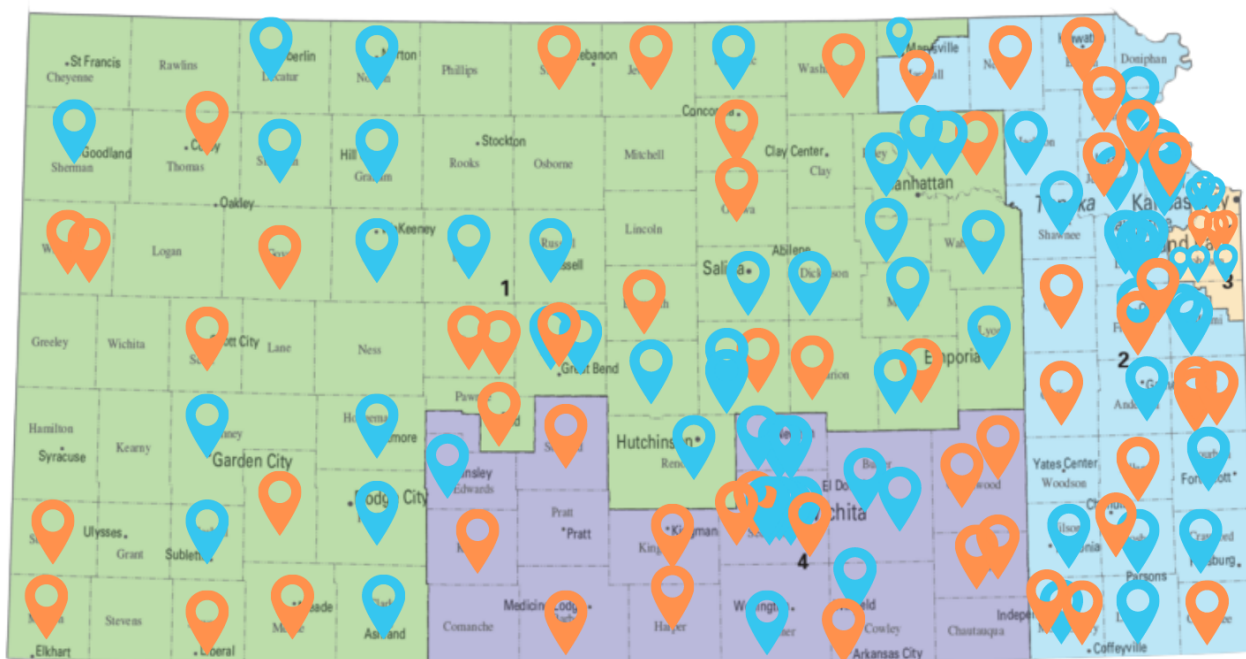
In 2021, HK:

Supported towns of all sizes. 124 communities used HK resources

Diversified statewide resources. 241 partnerships with local organizations statewide

Customized resources to respond to Kansas needs. 361 local humanities events & grants supported by HK

Leveraged local dollars. Local contributions doubled every \$1 provided.



DID YOU KNOW? 57% of the communities using HK resources used **2 or more** last year.

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2021 Humanities Highlights

- 1 to 1 generated in local matching funds
- 13,627 Kansans participated in 132 HK support events and presentations
- 36 communities held HK events with 67 partners

LAST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS:

HK and NEH funds stabilized Kansas cultural nonprofit sector in an uncertain year

History presentations, book discussions, film festivals and other events were offered online, by phone, or in person. Grants to cultural nonprofits offered immediate support for the creation of exhibitions, programs, podcasts and special tours. The *Humanities Hotline* provided mini presentations without requiring Internet access. A DIY humanities project took HK outdoors and leveraged a new partnership with Kansas Tourism and state parks.

HK partnered with Congress to distribute ARP Act funds for cultural organizations in Kansas

HK received \$749,366 in ARP funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and distributed it to 121 cultural nonprofit organizations in 89 communities for general operating support. Awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,400. Funds were distributed in October 2021 and recipients will submit final reports by April 2022. HK received 148 applications with requests totaling \$1,382,490. *A list of recipients is provided on the stewardship report.*

HK worked with Kansans to explore rural innovation and adaptation

HK engaged Kansans in conversations about rural life with “*Crossroads: Change in Rural America*,” a statewide initiative that featured a Smithsonian traveling exhibition, local exhibits, and public events in Independence, Iola, and others. Nearly 20,000 Kansans visited the *Crossroads* exhibition and online companion website with activity kits. NEH funds leveraged private support.

FY23 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

HK will utilize NEH funding to **increase access** to grants, ensure ready-to-use resources are available to communities and organizations of all sizes, develop digital history navigators to build local online capacity, and support cultural entrepreneurship to **jumpstart local economies**. An infusion of federal dollars with a 1:1 match by HK is an investment in Kansas.

HK will develop free resources on American democracy for use by museums, libraries, others

HK will engage Kansans with the launch of 21st Century Civics, a statewide initiative that features a Smithsonian exhibition on the history of **American democracy** with stops in Ottawa and other locations plus a catalog of free presentations and other resources for local museums and libraries to use. Collaborations with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Dole Institute of Politics, Mid-America All Indian Center, and others are planned. An investment of federal dollars will leverage an investment in civic engagement.

HK will honor veteran experiences and document their important stories

HK will reboot the *Kansas Stories of the Vietnam War* oral history initiative to collect and preserve these important American stories. In collaboration with the national Veterans Oral History project at the Library of Congress, HK will work with local community colleges, VA hospitals, public libraries, local museums, and others to do this work. Federal dollars will leverage support from the private sector and strengthen **public-private partnerships**.

HK will invest in the future and partner with local experts to boost reading comprehension skills for students

Working with local partners, HK will introduce the Prime Time Family Reading Time, a program using family-based literacy to **improve reading comprehension** through humanities themes. The program includes free books, resources, training, and weekly gatherings with families, caregivers, and reading experts. An infusion of federal funds is an investment in the future growth of Kansas.