

**MAINE
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL**

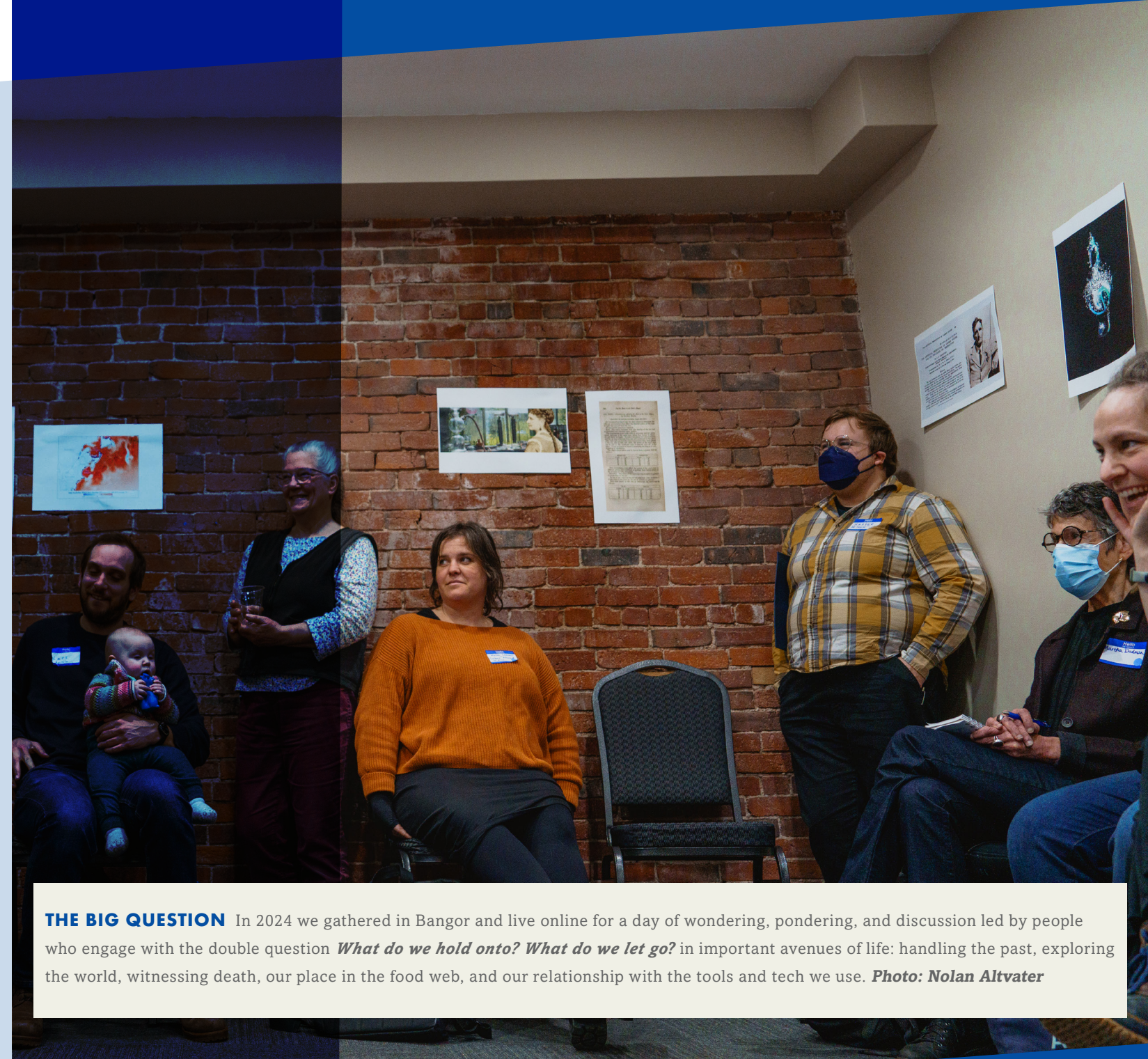
**Harriet P. Henry
Center for the Book**

674 Brighton Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102-1012
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**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

JOIN THE DISCUSSION



THE BIG QUESTION In 2024 we gathered in Bangor and live online for a day of wondering, pondering, and discussion led by people who engage with the double question *What do we hold onto? What do we let go?* in important avenues of life: handling the past, exploring the world, witnessing death, our place in the food web, and our relationship with the tools and tech we use. **Photo: Nolan Altvater**

MAINE HUMANITIES

We connect people with books, communities with ideas, and strangers with one another.

Maine Humanities Council is a statewide non-profit organization 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. As Maine's affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH), we offer humanities programs and grants for all Mainers.

HARRIET P. HENRY CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The Maine Humanities Council is home to the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book, Maine's affiliate for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress Center for the Book was established in 1977 to promote books, reading, libraries, and literacy. In 1997 the Maine Humanities Council established the Maine Center for the Book as a state affiliate of that program. It was renamed the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book in 2003, in honor of Maine's first female judge, a former Board chair of MHC and a longtime supporter of the humanities.

HOW TO REACH US

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#MaineHumanities

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In 2024, Maine Humanities focused on expansion and relationship-building, and we basked in the byproduct of this focus: connection and stories. Our staff stretched out across the state, connecting with new contacts and familiar partners. In the summer, a group of us spent a week in the St. John Valley, where we met long-time supporters and cultural workers. We visited cultural institutions across Northern Aroostook County, including historical societies, adult education centers, and libraries. We also spent time with staff at both the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Nations, and visited the new Mi'kmaq community space that opened this year just in time for their Mawiomi. We enjoyed spending time in Fort Kent, Saint Agatha, New Sweden, Frenchville, and the other towns we visited. We connected through shared storytelling, learning about the Acadian history in the region and about how cross-border relationships have drastically shifted in recent times.

Our staff also made good connections in Bar Harbor, Chebeague Island, Scarborough, Bath, Trescott, Bangor, Presque Isle, and several towns in Lincoln County. On these visits, we were also graced with stories. We heard stories about how people made their way into humanities work; stories about the emergence of their organizations and how significant their organization has been to the community it serves; stories about the deep community connections in those areas and how people thrive together. With every visit we made, we were reminded about the powerful connective work of the humanities and the pressing need for that work right now and into the unknown future.

In 2025, we'll continue to expand; we'll continue to reach out and draw you all nearer to us. We'll continue to create and deliver accessible programming that shares Maine stories. We'll continue to support Maine's cultural work and economy through our grants programs, and we'll keep working to make easeful and meaningful connections with organizations we fund.



SAMAA ABDURRAQIB
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Photo: Genius Black

BOOKS & DISCUSSION

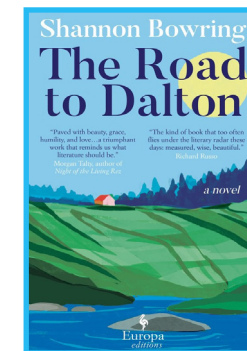
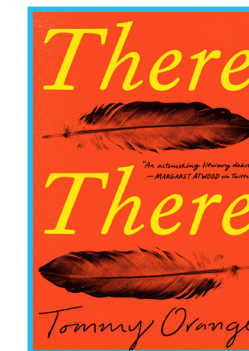
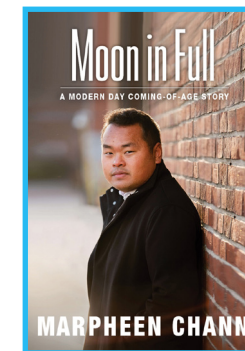
OVER 6,500 BOOKS READ

Texts of all kinds — stories long and short, poems, essays, illustrated books, and more — are essential for Maine Humanities participants to develop a sense of connection, agency, and engagement in our programs.

"I always leave feeling better...like I'm understood and not alone."

Discussion Project Participant

2024 included more than 90 facilitated Discussion Projects, over 60 participating Read ME libraries, Readers Retreat, representing Maine at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, and many more examples of a fundamental component of our work: people gathering to discuss a book they have all read.



Just a few of the titles that connected Maine communities in 2024.

READERS RETREAT

FEATURING TOMMY ORANGE'S *THERE THERE*

In Orono, Scarborough, Lubec, and Online

On April 6, 2024, Readers Retreat brought together engaged readers at more locations than ever before—the University of Maine at Orono, Scarborough High School, Cobscook Institute, and live online. Participants had a chance to meet each other and to hear from and talk with guest speakers about Tommy Orange's *There There*, including indigenous writers Julian Brave NoiseCat, Morgan Talty, and Brendan Shay Basham.

"It was interesting to hear people from very different parts of the state talk about their admiration of this book." - Participant



Scarborough High School Civil Rights Club members facilitate group discussions on Tommy Orange's *There There*. Photo: Michelle Shupp

MAINE SPEAKS

HOSTED IN 42 COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

"The talk was a unique shared experience and helped show our community the importance of asking, listening, and taking the time to get to know one another more sincerely."

- Maine Speaks Host



Photo: Ashely Conti

FEATURED GRANTEE

19 TOWNS, 19 STORIES

Beyond Addiction in Lincoln County

MAJOR GRANT - \$7,500

A project of Studio B, "19 Towns, 19 Stories" provided a platform for Lincoln County residents grappling with the impact of addiction, overdose, and death to share their untold stories. Using a community-led process, Studio B identified storytellers and worked with local organizations to host programs in every town in Lincoln County. These 19 events allowed members of every town to share personal stories and discuss the effects of Substance Use Disorder on individuals, families, and communities. The narratives and photographs of each person sharing their story will be included in an upcoming book and traveling and on-line exhibitions.

"Dozens participated, hundreds attended, and thousands were touched, bringing a sense of visibility and belonging to an often disenfranchised population." - Studio B



Sharon Bailey of Jefferson, who leads the Grieving Hearts of Lincoln County support group, holding a photograph of her son, Matthew. Photo: Hannah Latham

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MAINE HUMANITIES FUNDED PROJECT



GRANTS

Supporting humanities programs that engage Maine communities

Over \$187,000

in support to Maine nonprofits and communities

32 towns represented

24 grantees awarded an MHC grant for the first time



Myron M. Beasley, PhD.



Maya Williams

Constance H. Carlson PUBLIC HUMANITIES PRIZE

MYRON M. BEASLEY, PhD.
MAYA WILLIAMS

Last year Maine Humanities awarded the 10th Constance H. Carlson Public Humanities Prize to Maya Williams and Myron M. Beasley, PhD. Maya Williams, Portland's seventh Poet Laureate, was awarded the prize for their creation of safe spaces for discussion and art, ensuring that people engage with empathy, community, and understanding. Myron M. Beasley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Bates College, was awarded the prize for his innovative leadership in conversations around art, his care in connecting audiences, and the breadth and depth he brings to his creative projects.

Named for the first female president of a public university in Maine, the Constance H. Carlson Public Humanities Prize was first awarded in 1998. Prize recipients are chosen in alignment with the Maine Humanities Council's Prize Criteria, Equity Statement, and Strategic Plan. 2024's prizes were awarded during a ceremony on Wednesday, May 8 at the Equality Community Center in Portland.

BRINGING US TOGETHER

Books, discussion, and big ideas have the power of creating community throughout Maine — and accomplish even more.

The list below includes people, funds, and agencies that helped the Maine Humanities Council accomplish great things between November 1, 2023, and October 31, 2024 (our 2024 fiscal year). Support made after that period will appear in our 2025 Annual Report. If you'd like to join this amazing group of kind, generous, and deeply thoughtful people with a gift of any size, please go to mainehumanities.org/donate.

Photo: Nolan Altvater

Supporters of the Maine Humanities Council

believe in the power of the humanities to bring us together, foster ideas, and inspire us to explore. They believe in the opportunity that books, presentations, films, or pieces of art, theater, history, and music give in spurring discovery and enriching lives. And they know that when we are together in a meeting space (in person or on Zoom), we can accomplish great things — for ourselves and our communities.

ANNUAL GIVING – FISCAL YEAR 2024

Anonymous (5)
 Anonymous,
 in honor of the Constance H. Carlson Public Humanities Prize winners Maya Williams and Myron M. Beasley. Bravo!
 C.L. Abbott
 in honor and memory of Patricia A. Onion
 Friends of the Albion Public Library
 Douglas Allen
 Meredith Anderson
 Ruth Anderson
 in memory of Hayden Anderson
 Robert Arnold
 in memory of Patricia Onion
 Tenney and Newell Augur
 Jo Baldwin
 Peter C. and Danuta M. Barnard Fund
 Richard E. Barnes
 Paul and Cathleen Bauschatz
 Stephen P. Beale
 Carol M. Beaumier
 Berman & Simmons
 Maureen Bien
 Libby Bischof
 Patricia and Eric Bixel
 in memory of Hayden Anderson
 Victoria and Erno Bonebakker
 Jim and Sarah Bowie
 Peter Bowman
 Marjorie A. Boyd, MD
 Dr. Lawrence A. Boyle and Victoria Russell
 Emily and Norman Breitner
 Joan Bromage
 Brooks Family Foundation
 in honor of Myron Beasley receiving the Constance H. Carlson Public Humanities Prize
 Rick and Anne Brown
 Paul E. Brunelle
 Elizabeth A. Burdick
 in memory of Hayden Anderson
 Michael D. Burke, in honor of Patricia Onion
 Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
 Midge and John Burns
 Susan and Franklin Burroughs
 Joan Bussiere
 Corley Anne Byras

Helen Cafferty and Otto Emersleben
 Mary Cacciatore
 in memory of Sean Mulcahy
 Marcia Carter
 William L. Case III
 in memory of Betsy Brewster Case of Bangor, Maine
 Douglas Chamberlain
 Paulette Chernack
 Joseph A. Conforti
 Claire Connor
 Anthony Corrado
 Brad and Anita Coupe
 in honor of Joe Boyle's Board service
 Nancy E. Crowell
 Margaret Cruikshank
 Allan and Linda Currie
 Cynthia Freeman Cyr
 Sally J. Daggett
 Judy and Chuck Danielson
 Jay Davis
 Glen Porter and Jean Deighan
 Craig and Sherry Dietrich
 Diversified Communications
 Linda J. Docherty
 Paul Doiron
 Eva Downs
 Martha Tod Dudman
 Tina and Caleb Elfenbein
 John and Beverly Emerson
 Susan Emmet
 Greg and Deborah Fahy
 Greg Feero
 in honor of Pat Onion
 Lisa Feldman
 Robert and Kathleen Flory
 Donald and Elizabeth Fox
 in memory of Harriet P. Henry
 Ed Friedman
 Gisela Gamber
 in memory of Dorothy Schwartz
 Noel J. Genova
 Mary C. Gillies
 Phyllis and Bernard Givertz
 James and Jette Glazer
 in memory of Pat Onion

Carolyn Gontoski
 Jayne Gordon
 Landis Green and Bruce Norelius
 Wayne and Gerry Gregersen
 Charlie and Sue Grosjean
 Ann Armstrong Guild
 Catharine W. Guiles
 Joe and Merna Guttentag
 Dr. Emily A. Haddad
 Linda Hafford
 Judy Hakola
 Marilyn M. Hall
 in memory of Harriet Henry
 Joe Hall and Melissa Sundell
 James Hall
 in memory of Patricia Onion
 Ruth Hannan
 Melinda and Ralph Harder
 Haste Family Fund
 in loving memory of Harriet Passerman
 Ann Havener
 Stephen Hayes and Carol McCarthy
 Joyce and Wesley Hedlund
 Janet Henry and Vernon Moore
 Leslie Hill
 Erica Hirshler
 in memory of Eric and Marilyn Hirshler
 William and Mary Jean Holt
 Helaine and D. Brock Hornby
 Mazie Hough
 Stanley R. Howe, Ph.D
 Marcia Howell
 in memory of Deedee Schwartz
 Margery Y. Irvine
 Jamie Isaacson
 in memory of Patricia Onion
 Sheila Jans
 Erik C. Jorgensen and Tamara M. Risser
 Theodora J. Kalikow
 Susan A. Kaplan
 Sheldon T. Katz
 Janet Kehl
 James and Beth Kilbreth
 Cornelia Kittredge
 Karen Stathoplos and Kim Krauss

Gloria Williams Ladd
 in memory of Lincoln Ladd
 Neil and Cathy Lamb
 Kristin Langellier
 Catherine and Gary Larkin
 Alice Larrea
 William H. Laubenstein III
 Theodate Lawlor
 Richard and Sandra Lawrence
 Suzanne Leibowitz
 Dawn M. Leland
 Dale and Rich Lewis
 Tom and Leslie Lizotte
 Ryan Lolar and Julia Endicott
 Linda Lord
 Dr. Ben and Barbara Lounsbury
 Mary Sue and John Love
 Kit Lunney and Rick Barton
 Nancy M. MacKnight
 Robert and Marlene Mailloux
 The Racial Equity Strategic Goal Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
 Peggy and Roger Marchand
 Ray Marcotte
 Karen Massey and Jeff Thaler
 Elizabeth Mayberry
 Audrey Maynard
 in honor of my mother, Pamela S. Lord, on her 80th birthday
 Bob and Doris McAfee
 Blainor McGough and Brian Arlet
 Alan McIlhenny and Elizabeth Ackerson
 James McKenna and Jane Orbeton
 Sarah F. McMahan
 Jean McManamy
 Sarah S. Meacham
 Abbott and Nancy Meader
 Patricia Messler
 Linda Michaels
 The Honorable Rebecca Millett
 Luis Millones
 Márcia Minter
 in honor of Pat Onion

Becky Hunt and John Monroe
 in memory of James C. Hunt
 Holley and Terry Moran
 in memory of Patricia Arnold Onion
 Joanne and Earl Morse
 Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust
 Peggy Mower
 Linda Mulcahy,
 in memory of Sean Mulcahy
 Dave Musser and Valerie Sherman
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 Mouhamédou Niang
 Sally and Ted Oldham
 John R. Opperman
 Edward A. Barrett and Nancy H. Orr
 D. Suzi Osher Foundation Trust
 Ruby Parker
 Carol Parks
 Rosalie Tyler Paul
 David Pence
 Dennis Grafflin and Jan Phillips
 Lynne Priest
 Frances Prinn
 Jo Radner
 Rebecca Robbins Raines
 Brendon Reay & Caroline Bicks
 Jamie Rey
 in memory of Sean Mulcahy
 Janice Rey
 in memory of Sean Mulcahy
 David Richards
 Timothy J. Richardson
 Marta Rieman
 Liam Riordan and Susan Thibedeau
 James and Loretta Risner
 Winfield and Victoria Robinson
 Mary Jane and Howard Rosenfield
 Fred C. Rummel Foundation
 Thomas Rumpf
 Jean Sanborn
 in honor of Patricia Onion
 Patricia Sanborn

John Ryan and Jenny Scheu
 Ted and Sharon Sharp
 Julie Sheehan
 Bonnie Shulman
 Linda Silka and Laurence Smith
 Simmons Foundation
 Douglas B. Sinclair
 Lizz Sinclair
 Bethany K. Smart
 Stephen Sokol and Gerda Neu-Sokol
 Rick Speer and Judy Frost
 Kenneth S. Spirer and Joan Leitzer
 State of Maine
 Phoebe Stein
 Didi Stockly
 Lucy Stroble
 Sara Margaret and Mark Stuart Fund
 in memory of Hayden Anderson
 The Sussman Family
 Joe Frazer and Susan Tananbaum
 Linda Tatelbaum
 Deborah Taylor
 Pamela Taylor
 Alalia Thaler
 Tam Huynh
 Linden Thigpen Pavloff
 Barbara and Richard Trafton
 in memory of Pat Onion
 Miriam Kellogg Truslow
 Emily Vail
 Drs. Diane Vatne & Martin Yates
 Yolanda Theunissen and Richard C. Veit
 Mary Vekasi
 Julia Walking
 Edward Walworth
 John and Maryanne Ward
 Peter and Margie Webster
 in memory of Hayden Anderson
 Susan Wegner and John Fischer
 Roberta and Gordon Weil
 Beth Wiemann
 Carol Wishcamper
 Nancy Ziegler and Kermit Lipez

REVENUES AND EXPENSES 2024

During Fiscal Year 2024, the Maine Humanities Council had an operating income of \$3,116,917 and operating expenses of \$1,769,806. Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, including highly competitive grants, made up an important component of the budget. This support was supplemented by a diverse range of other income streams: from the Library of Congress, the State of Maine, generous support from private foundations, the individual contributions highlighted in this report, and program income and investments. Both the income and the expense figures reported in the information below and in the Maine Humanities Council's audited financial statements include in-kind contributions of time, mileage, and materials, valued at \$500,378.

REVENUES 2023 – 2024

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$1,419,417.93
State of Maine Funding	\$163,357
Contributions and Grants	\$282,307.43
In-kind Contributions	\$500,378.00
Program, Investment, and Other Income	\$128,700.80
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$622,756.02

TOTAL \$3,116,917.18

EXPENSES 2023 – 2024

Programs, Re grants, and Technical Assistance	\$1,350,142.71
Administration	\$179,397.05
Fundraising, Marketing, and Communications	\$240,266.52

TOTAL \$1,769,806.28