

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

Presentation to:
House Legacy Committee
Kevin Lindsey, CEO & Tristy A. Auger, Grants Manager
Wednesday, March 12, 2025



OVERVIEW

To provide committee members with an update on the progress made by Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) in administering Legacy funding provided by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2023-25 biennium and a discussion of its programming request.

ABOUT MHC

FOUNDED IN 1971

MHC was created when the Endowment for the Humanities began funding state-based humanities programs.

MISSION

Spark positive change by increasing collective understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our histories, through stories and experiences.



VISION

A just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate.

2023-25 LEGACY GRANTS

During the 2023-25 biennium, MHC will administer more than **\$15.4 million** in grants to individuals and/or organizations in Minnesota **working to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities.**



This is the **highest** dollar amount administered by MHC.

2023-25 LEGACY FUNDING

Total: \$15,428,952

Community Identity & Heritage Grant Program

Cultural Heritage \$8,816,952	Emergency Response \$100,000	Capacity Building \$750,000
Children's Museums \$2,200,000	Civics \$300,000	Festivals \$450,000
Cultural & Ethnic Studies \$500,000	Arts & Music Scholarships \$500,000	Direct Appropriations \$1,812,000

PRE-APPLICATION



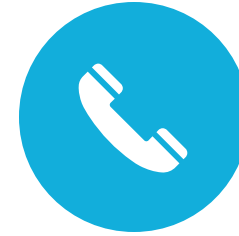
STREAMLINED
APPLICATION
PROCESS



LEVERAGED
NETWORKS TO
EXPAND
OUTREACH



CREATED FAQs



HOSTED
INFORMATION
SESSIONS



PROVIDED
SUPPORT &
ASSISTANCE

OUTREACH



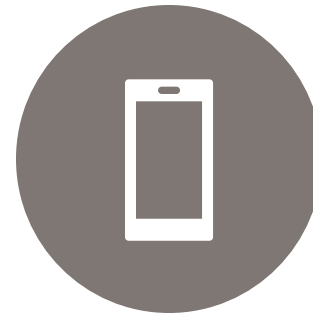
Advertised on **16 radio stations** across BIPOC communities.



MHC's CEO, Kevin Lindsey, **interviewed with seven media outlets.**



Advertised with Hmong Times, Sahan Journal, 3 Hmong TV stations and promoted through numerous email lists, newsletters, etc.



Advertised on **41 media screens** in several BIPOC communities.

OUTREACH



Advertised on **four** MHC social media channels.



Outreach to State and Legislative officials and Ethnic Councils.



Outreach to Community Festival Planners, Small Businesses, and Mayors/Deputy Mayors in **Minnesota**.

APPLICATION SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



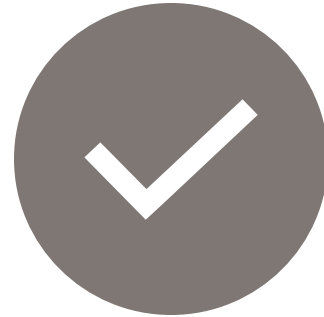
Responded to **hundreds of inquiries** from interested applicants via email and phone calls.



Hosted **ten informational sessions** that were attended by nearly 500 participants.



Hosted **30-minute informational meetings** with **150** interested applicants.



Reviewed 98 draft applications and provided feedback prior to application submission.

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1 – Initial Screen

Ensure each application:

- Is complete
- All attachments have been provided
- Within statutory requirements



Step 2 – Review Panel

Each application is:

- Assessed against criteria and alignment with legislative intent
- Scored against rubric
- Recommend grant award amount



Step 3 - Financial

Ensure:

- Financial documents are within guidelines
- IRS check is complete
- Proposed expenses are in alignment with Legacy requirements

REVIEW PANEL

- MHC assembled independent review panels to review **Cultural Heritage** and **Capacity Building** grant applications.
- **Twelve** Independent Review Panels were assembled to assess the Cultural Heritage program grant applications.
- Due to the limited number of applicants and prior experience with **civic organizations** and **children's museums**, MHC served as Review Panelists for both grant lines.
- **Emergency Response** and **Festival** grants were also reviewed by MHC staff due to the need to move expeditiously.
- **Cultural & Ethnic Study Materials** and **Arts & Music Scholarship** grants will be reviewed by Independent Review Panels.

GRANT LINE SNAPSHOT

Grant Line	Total Requested	Allocated	Applications Submitted	# of Projects Funded
Children's Museums	\$3,864,307	\$2,200,000	14	12
Cultural Heritage	\$47,332,406	\$8,816,952	387	90
Capacity Building	\$7,204,440	\$750,000	130	17
Civics	\$1,778,100	\$300,000	31	7
Emergency Response	\$559,183	\$100,000	20	5
Festivals	\$2,434,737	\$450,000	91	16
Cultural & Ethnic Studies *	TBD	\$500,000	TBD	TBD
Arts & Music Education *	TBD	\$500,000	TBD	TBD
Direct Appropriations	-	\$1,812,000	-	10
Market Bucks (non-Legacy)	-	\$1,000,000	-	1
TOTALS *This grant line will be announced in 2025.		\$16,428,952	673	158

AVERAGE FUNDING REQUEST

CURRENT GRANT LINES

Cultural Heritage
\$121,990

Emergency Response
\$26,311

Capacity Building
\$55,418

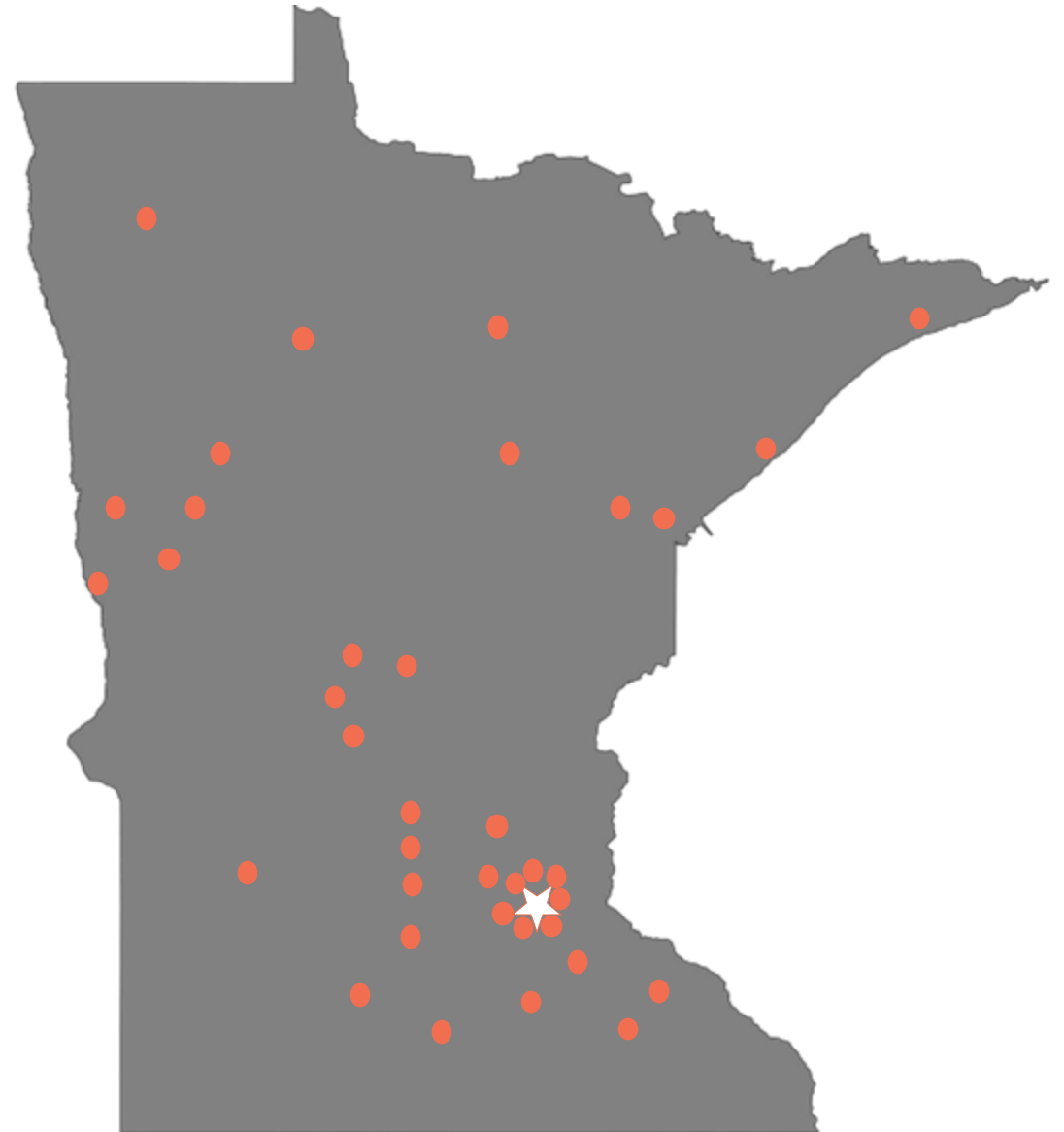
Children's Museums
\$276,022

Civics
\$127,007

Festivals
\$32,267

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Anoka (2)	Mankato (1)
Bemidji (1)	Maplewood (1)
Benson (2)	Marcell (1)
Bloomington (1)	Minneapolis (60)
Brainerd (1)	Moorehead (2)
Callaway (2)	Morton (3)
Cottage Grove (1)	New Brighton (2)
Crystal (2)	Northfield (1)
Dayton (1)	Plymouth (1)
Duluth (5)	Red Wing (2)
Eden Prairie (1)	Rochester (1)
Eagan (1)	Saint Paul (41)
Fergus Falls (1)	Savage (1)
Golden Valley (2)	St. Cloud (3)
Grand Marais (1)	St. Joseph (1)
Grand Rapids (2)	St. Louis Park (2)
Granite Falls (1)	Thief River Falls (1)
Lake Elmo (1)	White Bear Lake (1)
Lanesboro (1)	Winona (2)
Little Canada (1)	Woodbury (1)



GRANTEE SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



Provided training **Padlet** and technical assistance with MHC's grants management system.



Share **Best Practices** with monthly check-in emails and bi-monthly newsletter.



Hosted four **New Grantee Orientation Sessions**.



Held several **meetings with Grantees** to discuss grant activities, review reporting requirements, or review payment requests.



Held **one-on-one** meetings with Direct Appropriation recipients.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



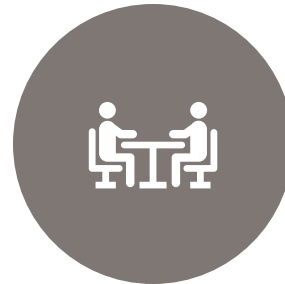
Provide clarity at the Beginning



Interim Report Check-in



Sprinkle Best Practices
Grantee Newsletter/Emails

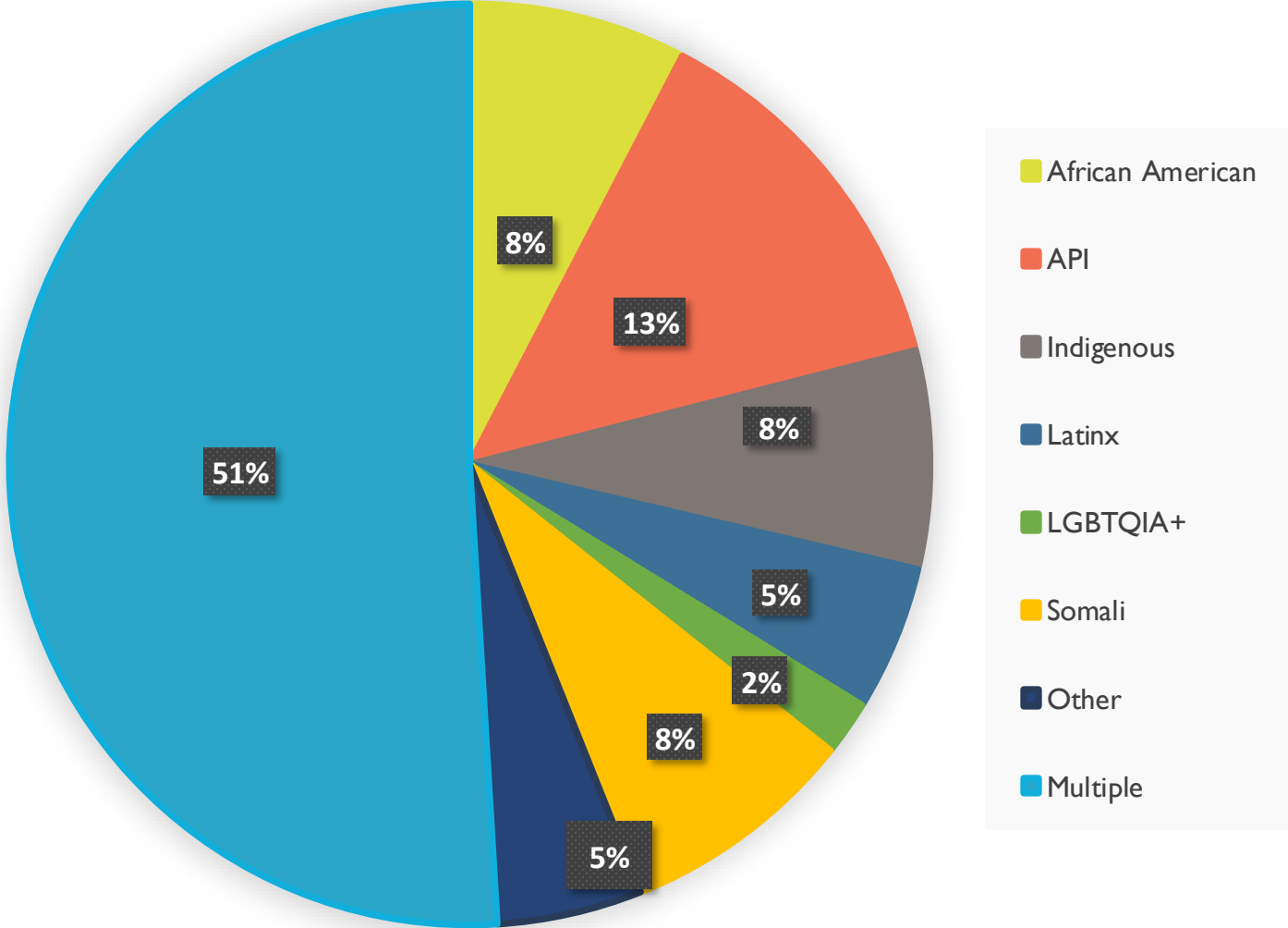


Be Available to Answer
Questions

COMMUNITIES SERVED WITH LEGACY

Total
Grantees

157



CLOSING

- **Unprecedented Demand:** Interest in grants is at an all-time high across all funding categories.
- **Exciting New Opportunities:** Recently funded grant lines have been met with overwhelming enthusiasm.
- **A Lasting Impact:** Legacy funding continues to be a vital resource for communities across Minnesota.

LEGACY APPROPRIATION FUNDING

MHC requests \$2.5 million in FY26 and \$2.5 million in FY27 to expand and grow MHC's Legacy programming statewide.

Through responsible fiscal management and deep community investment, MHC leverages state and federal funding to amplify our impact and better serve all Minnesotans.



CONNECTER
Strategic Partnerships



CONVENER
Bringing Minnesotans Together



CATALYST
Grant Resource for MN

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING

Expand Reach Throughout Minnesota



- Dakota Ojibwe Language Symposium
- Native American Live Series
- Why Treaties Matter
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community - Hočokata ȩi

VETERANS PROGRAMMING

“

When introduced to the Vision Trust I sensed that connection immediately. I recollected my military service. I recollected receiving the Veterans' Voices Award, and the values placed upon that recognition by the MHC. I was reminded of the trust that I held growing up within my community, and how vital that was to my development. I was reminded of my present family who sacrificed so much in my absence. But there is still more work to do.

Dr. David Hamlar – retired Two-Star General, 2016 Veterans' Voices Awardee, and current MHC board member – practices medicine in Mpls.

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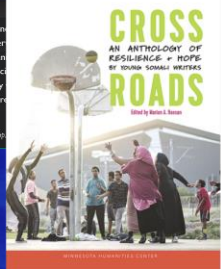
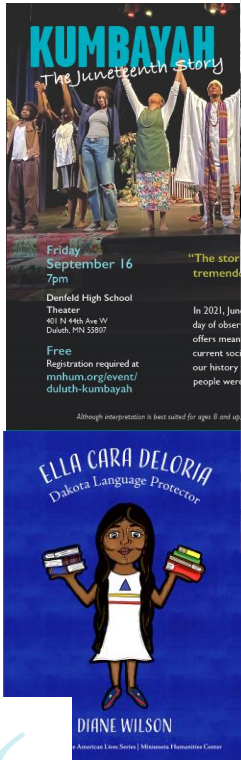
- New “Many Fronts Programming”
- Capitol Mall Learning From Place
- Objects of War: A Storytelling Circle
- The Impact of War, Writing Workshops by Warrior Writers

Many Fronts: Veterans' and Community Voices Video

LIFELONG LEARNING

A Resource for Minnesota

- Expand School District Partnerships
- Co-create New Culturally Relevant Resources, Curricular Content, & Teaching Materials
- Expand Learning From Place Experiences
- Increase Teacher & Paraprofessional Professional Development



“
It's been a phenomenal experience, in any way, that challenges our regular way of thinking. I think it draws many of our staff closer together.
Principal”

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Partnerships



- Third Way Civics
- Create America @250 Programs & Events
- Support New Civic Standard
- Sketches of Minnesota
- Federal Court – Justice & Democracy Center



*I've learned to listen, and that listening is often the best way to learn.
All college should be this way.*

MSU – Mankato Third Way Civics Senior



CONVENE AND CONNECTION BRINGING NEW RESOURCES INTO MINNESOTA

- Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home
- Take Me Where There Is Life
- Museum On Main Street
- IN-NA-PO Poetry Retreat



THANK YOU