

Utah Humanities Board Member Description



Mission

We strengthen Utah communities by cultivating connections, deepening understanding, and exploring our complex human experience.

Position

As Richard T. Ingram writes in Board Source's Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards: "Within the board's broad roles of setting the organization's direction, ensuring necessary resources, and providing oversight, board members wear many hats. They are guardians of the mission; they ensure compliance with legal and financial requirements; and they enforce ethical guidelines for their organization. They are policymakers, fundraisers, ambassadors, partners with the chief executive, and strategic thinkers. They monitor progress, evaluate the performance of the organization and the chief executive, and demonstrate integrity in everything they do on behalf of the organization."

Term

Utah Humanities Board Members serve a three-year term and are eligible for renewal for one additional term, for a total of six years of service. Terms begin and end in the summer.

Meetings

Board members are expected to participate actively in full board meetings and on at least one committee. Full board meetings are held annually in March (in SLC), August (outside SLC), and October (virtual). In addition, each board member serves on one or more committees: Executive, Audit & Investment, Board Engagement, Development, and Grant Review. The Executive Committee and Board Engagement Committees meet monthly; the other committees meet three to six times annually.

Responsibilities

Governance:

- Provide organizational and fiscal management that is legal, ethical, and accountable.
- Support the Executive Director and conduct an annual Executive Director review.
- Embrace the UH mission and make decisions to advance the mission and strategic plan.
- Work in good faith with staff and other board members towards achievement of our goals.
- Act in the best interests of UH and report potential and actual conflicts of interest.

Participation:

- Make Utah Humanities a priority for time, energy, and philanthropic efforts.
- Prepare for and actively participate in 3 board meetings each year.
- Actively serve on at least one committee and attend committee meetings.
- Participate in at least three UH programs or events each year.
- Stay informed about UH activities. Ask questions and request information when necessary.

- Interpret UH's work and values to the community, represent the organization, and act as an ambassador and advocate.
- Seek and identify potential program opportunities, collaborations, board members, and resources for UH.

Financial Contributions:

- Make a meaningful financial contribution each year to support our goal of 100% board giving.
- Actively participate in one or more fundraising activities each year.

Qualities of UH Board Members

- Personal values align with UH's values of collaboration, thoughtfulness, community-centric, professionalism, cultivating diversity and inclusion, and serving as a catalyst.
- Skilled at listening to and analyzing information.
- Works well with individuals and teams.
- We seek diversity of all types and broad representation, including academic institutions, humanities disciplines, geographic location, community involvement, profession, gender, ethnicity, culture, and perspective.

Qualifications and Skills

- Experience in nonprofit finance, museums, archaeology, K-12 education, community leadership
- Development / fundraising experience
- Residence in the following counties: Beaver, Box Elder, Carbon, Daggett, Davis, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Juab, Kane, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, San Juan, Sanpete, Tooele, Uintah, and Wasatch, as well as South or West Salt Lake County.
- Emerging professionals
- Conservative perspectives

Benefits

- Participate in UH programming on a diverse range of topics.
- Connect to the broader humanities community locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Membership benefits through the Utah Nonprofits Association and the Federation of State Humanities Councils, including subscriptions to *Humanities* magazine and Board Source.
- An opportunity to attend the National Humanities Conference (held in a different state each fall).
- Experience in nonprofit board leadership, strategic planning, decision-making, and advocacy.
- Connect with and learn from others whose life experiences are different from your own.