Empowering Utahns to Improve Their Communities Through Active Engagement in the Humanities

OUR MISSION
How do we measure transformation? How can we quantify human connection? How should we assess critical thinking in a complex world? Ultimately, in what ways can we evaluate our success in improving communities through the humanities?

These are questions with which we are often challenged, and our approach is to combine both quantitative and qualitative information, stories along with numbers, narratives coupled with data. Our work in the humanities matters, perhaps now more than ever. The partnerships we strengthen, the capacity we build, the events on which we collaborate, the mix of traditional and unconventional audiences we reach... all combine to improve the lives of Utahns, and we have witnessed these types of transformations over the past year.

We gauge the depth of our influence by the quality of discussions and civic dialogue Utah communities are having. We evaluate our work by seeing the increased capacity of Utah’s small museums to preserve, curate, and share the heritage of their respective communities. We detect the importance of what we offer when children, young adults, and adults alike are talking about literature and connecting what they’re reading with their own lives and current events. We weigh the significance of our programs when students are truly engaged with their own education and begin sharing their understanding of cultures, social issues, and civic participation.

We invite you to join us in experiencing how communities have been improved through the humanities in this Utah Humanities 2016 Annual Report.
OUR WORK

Creating Partnerships that Put Humanities Ideas into Action

Everything we do at Utah Humanities is in partnership with other organizations. Our mission revolves around offering Utah communities first-hand, engaging experiences that apply humanities perspectives to contemporary issues. Collaborating with cultural, educational, professional, and service organizations is essential to our work, and partnering with us can come in many forms. Examples are highlighted in this report.

Improving Communities Through the Humanities

Our work is divided into Centers, each of which has a specific humanities focus and associated programs. Take a look at our Centers to see how we partner with Utah organizations to improve communities through the humanities.

CENTER FOR THE BOOK
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HERITAGE
CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS
CENTER FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES
SPECIAL PROJECTS

“A different voice may be particularly effective in challenging existing participants into re-examining matters they had come to take for granted.”
— Stefan Collini

Participants engage in open dialogue during our community conversation on immigration “When Worlds Collide.” Photo: Jodi Graham.
The Center for the Book fosters a love of reading and of books as well as the exploration of contemporary issues through literature.

Utah Humanities is the home of the Utah Center for the Book. As the state affiliate of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, UH’s Center for the Book promotes public interest in books, reading, authorship, and libraries throughout the state.

PROGRAMS:

- ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL
- LITERARY EVENTS

Book Festival participants experience the magic and comfort of literature at the Salt Lake City Main Library. Photo by Jo-Ann Wong.

This year’s book festival artwork by Utah illustrator Shirley Jackson, captured the timelessness of fables and archetypal stories, as well as the wisdom our authors bring to each book festival.

As part of the book festival, First Folio! The Book that Gave us Shakespeare tour included 36 of Shakespeare’s plays, 18 of which were never printed.
BOOK FESTIVAL

What happens when 12,000 people dedicate a month to literature and reading? Utah Humanities, and communities throughout the state of Utah explore that question each year with our annual Utah Humanities Book Festival.

Featuring 122 events in 16 towns around the state, this year’s festival attracted over 100 authors representing a wide range of genres. Featured presenters included nationally-acclaimed authors such as Dayton Duncan, Lidia Yuknavitch, Anne Perry, Daniel Miyares, and Jonathan Lethem. In addition to strong numbers, we experienced personal and community stories describing the book festival’s influence.

For example, students from Kindergarten through 12th grade enjoyed author visits to their schools throughout Summit, Weber, Salt Lake, and Utah counties. Students explored “coming of age” challenges through the lens of science fiction, dystopia, fantasy, and more. They connected directly with authors in hands-on workshops, writing competitions, and personal conversations with the authors they admire. Students report being inspired to continue reading and experimenting with their own writing.

Additionally, being associated with our annual festival, communities are growing their own city-specific book festivals and increasing their own capacity to host compelling events. For example, the Ogden Book Festival committee boasts volunteers from a dozen organizations, and they hosted events in multiple venues around the city and county with high attendance at each event.

Offering a statewide book festival increasingly means working with partners to build their own capacity and to develop their own programming specific to the interests, needs, and unique culture of their communities. We’ve seen this approach strengthen and broaden the influence of our annual book festival as Utahns dedicate a month each fall to all things bookish.

This year’s book festival kept me busy with stellar topics and discussions. I was able to immerse myself in everything from historical detective stories, to Edgar Allan Poe, to poetry, Shakespeare, and Pulitzer Prize-winning work. I was overwhelmed—in a good way—and can’t wait for next year!

— Book Festival Attendee

Andrew Shaw and Tommy Hamby install the “Reconsidering the Classics” exhibit at the Salt Lake City Main Library on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016. The exhibit features new artwork for classic books, including Shakespeare plays. It’s part of the Utah Humanities Book Festival and Library’s partnership that is also hosting a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio. Photo courtesy Steve Griffin, The Salt Lake Tribune.
LITERARY EVENTS

Reaching a broad and often underserved cross-section of Utahns, our Library of Congress-designated Center for the Book provides opportunities to approach books and literature as a more dynamic part of the cultural landscape.

The unconventional nature of many of the literary events we supported in 2016 exposed Utah Humanities to new audiences and partners. We continue to collaborate on events that push the boundaries of stereotypical humanities audiences, including events that incorporate mediums such as drama, music, and film—all of which gives Utah Humanities a strong voice about the humanities in modern life.

Center for the Book Events
The Center collaborated on 33 events in eight communities around the state. The events varied widely, from Pulitzer-Prize winning photographer Jack Dykinga to award-winning playwrights and musicians Si Kahn & John McCutcheon. We also supported unique pairings, such as Slow Food Utah and Avenues Bistro who featured refugee chefs talking about their contributions to a recent international cookbook.

We also continued to support The Bee: True Stories from the Hive, a series of lovingly competitive storytelling events. All events sold out in a matter of hours and several one-off curated shows have been hosted in collaboration with nonprofits such as the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art. Storytelling topics included migration, disability, and bad behavior.

Utah Book Awards
Established by the Salt Lake City Public Library, categories include children’s and young adult literature, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. For the second year in a row, this ceremony incorporated the Sor Juana Awards with the help of Artes de Mexico en Utah. See the full list of finalists and winners on our website.

“The Bee storytelling events have opened my eyes, my heart, and my mind. To witness my fellow human beings find the courage and eloquence to share their stories gives me hope for the future. The humor, pain, rawness, and honesty in these stories have changed my life and connected me to people I don’t even know.”

— The Bee attendee

Efrén Corado Garcia recounts his story of being smuggled into the United States as an eleven-year-old from Guatemala. Photo: Dallas Graham.
The Center for Community Heritage encourages Utahns to explore, preserve, and share their unique local history, culture, and traditions.

PROGRAMS:

HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET: THE WAY WE WORKED

Educators from the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, our Museum on Main Street education partner, help participants think visually and relate personally to what they see.

Photo: Megan van Frank

Participants in the Museum Interpretation Workshops learn how to create and mount written narratives to provide facts and context to their exhibits. Pictured is staff from the Museum of the San Rafael and Ogden's Union Station. Photo: Megan van Frank

There are many ways to share the rich stories gleaned from oral history projects. Participants in this workshop are introduced to the variety of options for capturing and preserving their community histories. Photo: Megan van Frank.
Utah’s nonprofit organizations play a pivotal role in strengthening our cultural sector. Museums, historical societies, arts and cultural organizations all take on responsibility for preserving local history and heritage. Although individuals come to this work with a passion for what they do, the responsibility comes with multi-layered challenges, including scarce resources, limited staff, and few training options.

Our Heritage Workshops are specifically designed to address these challenges by building the core capacity of participants through a curriculum based on national best practice, hands-on learning, and the opportunity to apply new skills to real-world projects.

For example, in 2016, our workshops provided a focused introduction to the art and craft of oral history, and the nuts and bolts of executing a successful project. Presented in partnership with the Utah Division of State History, crowded workshops drew people from all over Utah – and even from neighboring states!

Participants in our Museum Interpretation workshops learned how to research, design, and create interpretive exhibits augmented by engaging educational activities. In partnership with the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, the five-part series helped staff and volunteers working in nine of Utah’s small museums to develop their curatorial practice and complete exhibit projects at their own museums.

Grant managers from the Utah Division of Arts & Museums and Utah Humanities presented a series of free hands-on grant writing workshops from Cache Valley to San Juan County. Participants learned best practices to increase organizational readiness and received individual feedback on their proposals.

Working with multiple partner organizations, and delivering training and support to hundreds of people, Utah Humanities serves as a pivotal resource and voice in the preservation Utah’s cultural heritage.
MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET

The Smithsonian is coming! Utah Humanities and its partners spent 2016 preparing for our next Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibition, *The Way We Worked*.

We bring Museum on Main Street to the Beehive State in order to serve cultural organizations and residents through community-based programming. As the catalyst for this program in Utah, our role is central to its development and deployment. But it is the collaboration among national, state, and local organizations that truly strengthens the fabric of our heritage preservation efforts.

Alongside our partners at the Smithsonian and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts Education Department – and with assistance from our consulting scholar, University of Utah labor historian Matthew Basso – we worked directly with the six sites selected to host the exhibition: Union Station Museums, Hyrum City Museum, Museum of the San Rafael, Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum, Silver Reef Museum, and Park City Museum. Host organizations received professional development and resources to make the exhibition their own by creating companion exhibits, developing programming, and connecting with their communities in new ways.

Preparing to host Museum on Main Street is a daunting task. During this planning year, we’ve witnessed personal, organizational, and community transformation as a result of taking on the challenge. Host organizations are using the project to increase active engagement, tell under-told stories that draw new audiences, and cultivate new relationships that advance their own missions . . . all of which weaves a stronger Utah.

*The Way We Worked* will tour Utah from January 2017 to January 2018. The exhibition, created by the National Archives, is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Utah Humanities.
The Center for Educational Access uses the humanities to expand educational opportunities for underserved people of all ages.

PROGRAMS:

**CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES**

**VENTURE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES**

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Professor Sean Desilets confers with Obed Rodríguez and Brenda Gutierrez about their oral ethnography project. Photo: Jean Cheney

Students from Clemente and other students from neighboring high schools immersed themselves in a study of the humanities and campus life at the second annual Clemente Humanities Camp on the Westminster College Campus. Photo: Jean Cheney

Roberto Gutiérrez and Militza Martinez share words about their personal transformation as Venture students. Photo: Jean Cheney.
Dynamic, reflective, and forward-looking students at East High School in Salt Lake City participate in the Clemente Course in the Humanities, now in its third year. The two-semester, college-level humanities course, taught by college faculty and honors undergraduates, is offered to high school students from underrepresented groups in college with the goal of aiming them toward university attendance and success.

The challenging year-long course immerses students in deep discussions, research, writing, and projects within humanities subjects. Social issues and the students’ own experiences are viewed through the lens of art history, philosophy, literature, and history. The interdisciplinary approach strengthens their experience and deepens their awareness of how connected their learning is to the world.

For example, students studied “Communicating Through Art,” by examining the work of a wide variety of artists from around the world who often draw attention to social issues in their home countries. Students learned how to research and develop thesis statements and then created collages representing the artwork and social issues addressed.

In addition to coursework, Clemente and students from neighboring high schools immersed themselves in a study of the humanities and campus life at the second annual Clemente Humanities Camp on the Westminster College campus. In this college-accredited summer course, students explored questions such as: How do you determine what is just and unjust? When is it right for you to challenge injustice? Students used philosophy, history, and art history to focus on these questions and to formulate their ideas.

The Clemente Course is exploring options to expand to other Utah schools. As young students continue to immerse themselves in substantial humanities experiences, they will become more engaged, informed, wise, and intellectually curious.
VENTURE COURSE

Our Venture Course in the Humanities, a two-semester, college-level humanities course offered free of charge to adults living on low incomes, is a transformative experience. In Cedar City and South Salt Lake City, students meet twice weekly in the evening, for two hours, to study philosophy, art history, literature, writing, and history with college faculty. In addition to students from the United States, Venture students this year come from the Philippines, Nepal, Mexico, Brazil, Burma, Guatemala, and Iraq.

Regardless of where they come from, Venture graduates often recreate their lives in sometimes miraculous ways as a result of the course. One such graduate is Terri Atkinson. Seven years ago, Terri thought “my life is over.” Her 30-year marriage had ended and her dream of going to college seemed out of reach. Then, she enrolled in the Venture Course in in Cedar City, a partnership between Utah Humanities and Southern Utah University, and through her hard work was able to imagine a much brighter future. Now a senior at Southern Utah University, she will graduate in spring 2017 with a bachelor’s degree.

In South Salt Lake City, the course is offered in partnership with Westminster College and the City of South Salt Lake. Venture graduate Joaquin Diaz described the course’s impact this way: “I do see myself very differently. I’m very inspired and motivated to take on new challenges and to live a fuller life.”

As a meaningful capstone to a successful 2016, and many years in the making, one of this year’s achievements included a moving, well-documented book about the creation of Venture. *Hope, Heart, and the Humanities: How a Free College Course is Changing Lives* was co-written by UH Associate Director Jean Cheney, along with former Venture faculty, and was published by the U of U Press. It was featured at the National Humanities Conference hosted by Utah Humanities in fall 2016.
The Center for Local Initiatives supports grassroots humanities projects throughout the state. Communities identify important issues and use the humanities to address them.

Our grants and fellowships are designed to support projects that directly involve the humanities in engaging a community for the purpose of improving it.

PROGRAMS:

- COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
- COMPETITIVE GRANTS
- QUICK GRANTS
- ORAL HISTORY GRANTS
- RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

_A Competitive Grant to the Utah Shakespeare Festival provided an opportunity for over 10,000 people to participate in lively discussions with prominent Shakespeare scholars. Photo Credit: Utah Shakespeare Festival_

_A Quick Grant to Westminster College’s Classic Greek Theatre Festival connected Euripides’ Herakles to current issues of families dealing with violence, revenge, and PTSD. Photo Credit: Gavan Nelson_

_Trinh Mai led a discussion on how food can bring diverse populations of Salt Lake City’s West Side together as part of a Competitive Grant. Photo Credit: José Bernardo Farijúl._
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

What can happen when individuals and groups discuss challenging issues with respect and open minds? Can the humanities serve as an effective framework for structuring difficult conversations? How can humanities-based community conversations on critical issues improve Utah? These are some of the questions we explore with a dynamic Utah Humanities program that is now in its second year. Community Conversations, introduced as a pilot program in 2015, deepened and expanded its influence during 2016.

This program brings people together with the belief that facilitated conversation engages a community better than rhetoric and argument. In partnership with community organizations, we research challenging, timely topics that directly impact Utah and together we create discussion events to address them through a humanities lens.

For example, a conversation on immigration, “When Worlds Collide,” was presented in partnership with The Village Square Utah, graduate students from the U of U College of Social Work, and the Center for Creating Community. A diverse panel including history and law professors, immigrants, students, and a representative from the Sutherland Institute presented a comprehensive look at the history and future of immigration in America. Free childcare and translation services were provided to include a wide range of interested community members in the conversation.

While one conversation will never provide immediate solutions, it does offer an opening for additional dialogue, mutual respect, and progress towards better cooperation — and Utah becomes stronger in the process.

“Our whole purpose is to build a community of friendships outside our typical worn ideological channels and to deepen human connections through the study of the timeless questions provoked by the humanities....”

— Nathan Nielsen, Books and Bridges

Community members share perspectives, ideas, and listen to each other at the “When Worlds Collide” panel discussion. Photo: Jodi Graham.
GRANTS

Competitive Grants

West View Media, *Who We Are: An Inside Look at the Diverse Cultures of Salt Lake City’s West Side Neighborhoods*

Utah Shakespeare Festival, *Seminars in the Grove*

Utah Museum of Fine Arts, *ACME Sessions*

U of U Department of English, *Guest Writers Series Hivemind Book Club*

Ogden Union Station Museums, *We Dig History!*

USU Museum of Anthropology, *Expanding the World Explorers Club*

Silver Reef Museum, *Student Outreach*

Utah Film Center, *The Tribal*

Spy Hop, *Sending Messages*

Art Access, *Dreamers Project*

Artes de Mexico en Utah, *New Voices / Neuva voces*

Quick Grants

U of U Department of English, *Restoring the Roots of Memory*

Brigham City Library, *Shakespeare: His Life and Times*

Albion Middle School, *The Need to Remember - Accepting and Embracing Diversity*

Salt Lake Acting Company, *Running Away and Returning Home*

Two Rivers High School, *Learning from the Little Rock Nine*

Amazing Earthfest, *10th Annual Kanab Amazing Earthfest*

Art Access, *Disability and Literature Book Discussions*

Westminster College, *Herakles: Classic Greek Theatre Festival*

Great Basin Historical Society, *Down Memory Lane*

Ashley Anderson Dances, *Learning to loveDANCEmore*

“The goal of the grant we received for Bluff Arts Festival Saturday night film festival event was to bring our diverse community of Native Americans and Anglos, Mormons and Episcopalians, ranchers and archaeologists, retirees and students, whole families, to sit down together and talk about our diverse and shared histories and cultures.”

— Marti Callahan, Project Director

In partnership with the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, participants at our series of Grant Writing Workshops (this one held at the Southern Utah Museum of Art) learned about best practices and new tools for writing effective grant applications. Photo: Jodi Graham.
Quick Grants (continued)

Torrey House Press, Envisioning a Society to Match the Scenery: A Conversation about Land, Literature, and Faith
Wasatch Academy, Liberal Hall Symposium Series
Renaissance Now, Shakespeare: Our Contemporary
Central Utah Arts Center, Inhabiting the Mountains: A Look at Land Use Through Multiple Lenses
Bluff Arts Festival, Bluff Film Festival
Park City Film Series, Unlocking the Cage
Salt Lake Acting Company, Death & Dignity Panel Discussion
Salt Lake City Public Library - Marmalade Branch, 2016 Rumi Forum

Oral History Grants

Dixie State University, An Oral History of Motion Picture Production in Washington County

Delmont R. Oswald Fellowship for Utah Studies

Emma Kemp, The Disembodied Word: Marie Ogden’s “Home of Truth”
During 2016, Utah Humanities participated in a year-long celebration of the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize, giving us an unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with some of our media partners. We partnered with the Salt Lake Tribune, Utah Public Radio, and KCPW to feature award-winning authors, journalists, and Utah’s own Pulitzer-finalist for political cartooning, Pat Bagley.

Made possible by the Pulitzer Prizes Centennial Campfires Initiative, a joint venture of the Pulitzer Prize Board and the Federation of State Humanities Councils, nationwide programming illuminated the impact of journalism and the humanities on American life today and inspired new generations to consider the values represented by the body of Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

Our 25 events, interviews, and discussions engaged Utahns in a variety of ways. For example, more than 60 people answered the Salt Lake Tribune’s call to name their favorite Pulitzer novels and, after the 2016 winner of the fiction prize was announced, the Tribune held an event at Trolley Square attracting more than 200 enthusiastic readers. Using a “speed dating” format, it featured readers who defended their choices.

Utah Public Radio aired 13 Access Utah episodes interviewing Pulitzer Prize winners, including New York Times reporter Charles Duhigg exploring the science of productivity and Harvard professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (who coined “well-behaved women seldom make history”) taking a look back at women who challenged the way history was written. KCPW radio broadcast repeats of multiple UPR and Tribune events, and our year-long celebration was a well-received success.

“We’ve enjoyed the challenge of making the Pulitzers accessible to a broad audience through this Campfires grant and know that our readers appreciated the effort.”

– Salt Lake Tribune

The Salt Lake Tribune hosted a Pulitzer Prize-winning centennial party complete with a stack of books made of cake. Photo: Francisco Kjolseth, The Salt Lake Tribune.
FINANCIALS

REVENUES

- National Endowment for the Humanities: $661,898
- Private: $159,232
- State of Utah: $222,500
- ZAP: $110,202
- Interest and Gain on Investments: $11,801
- Other: $2,050

TOTAL REVENUES: $1,167,683

EXPENSES

- Program Services: $710,938
- Management and General: $136,568
- Fund Raising: $125,805
- Public Relations: $74,478
- Grants: $44,892

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,092,681

ASSETS

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These figures are taken from UH's FY 2016 audit, prepared by Tanner LLC
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The Village Square Utah
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Uintah County Library
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Z-Arts

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