

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Humanities Iowa Designated as the State Humanities Council by the National Endowment for the Humanities

[Ames, Iowa] – Humanities Iowa (HI) is proud to announce its official recognition as the designated state humanities council for Iowa by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This designation establishes HI as the state’s leading organization for supporting and funding humanities programming, connecting Iowans to the power of history, culture, and storytelling.

“Humanities Iowa is deeply honored to enter into this partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation’s largest public funder of the humanities,” said Linda Shenk, Board President, Humanities Iowa. “It will increase programming that elevates Iowa’s cultural and historical richness while also connecting us to a national network of councils working to celebrate community and the humanities.”

This milestone builds upon HI’s recent successes, including community roundtables, intergenerational storytelling initiatives, rural archives restoration, the Iowa Poet Laureate and Iowa Student Poet Ambassador partnerships, and a Speakers Series—programs that occur everywhere in the state from small rural libraries to city parks to Iowa’s nationally renowned museums. With over 200 public programs and partnerships funded in the past two years alone—engaging more than 250,000 Iowans—HI has demonstrated its commitment to fostering community connection and cultural exploration.

What has made these events successful is that they have emerged through partnerships with community individuals and organizations who have brought their creativity and Iowa work ethic to the collaboration. As HI looks to the next chapter of the humanities in Iowa, we are excited by the possibilities that the NEH partnership opens, by the incredible work of those partners who have worked alongside us over the years, and by the inspiration that new partners the state will bring.

“We’re delighted to welcome Humanities Iowa to the national network of Humanities Councils and look forward to working together to expand access to lifelong learning opportunities, scholarly pursuits, and educational resources in the State of Iowa,” said Karen Kenton, Director of NEH’s Office of Federal/State Partnerships.

Over the months to come, Humanities Iowa will share more information on the NEH grant and ways to join the effort. Interested parties are encouraged to [sign up for the newsletter](#) and receive updates.

For more information about Humanities Iowa and its programs, visit <https://humanitiesiowa.org>.

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About Humanities Iowa – The mission of Humanities Iowa is to explore and celebrate the diverse people, communities, cultures, and stories of Iowa.