



Humanities Iowa

Culture. Community. Connections.

ABOUT HUMANITIES IOWA

Humanities Iowa (HI) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to bringing the humanities to life in Iowa through grants, community partnerships, and programs that reach over 250,000 Iowans each year. For over 50 years, we've supported projects that spark curiosity, encourage dialogue, and connect communities through shared humanities experiences.

WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1971, Humanities Iowa is the state's humanities council, established as an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We partner with libraries, museums, schools, cultural organizations, and community groups to bring accessible, engaging humanities programming to every corner of Iowa. Through grants, partnerships, and council-conducted programming, we help local communities explore the stories that shape who we are.

OUR IMPACT

Each semester's Timeless Journeys performance reaches over **2,000** Iowans in-person and virtually

In the past year, Prime Time Reading has helped around **50** Iowan families foster a love of reading

Over **1,300** Speakers Bureau programs have been held over the past decade, including 140 programs across Iowa in FY2025

Partner With Us

Get involved with Humanities Iowa:

- Host a Speakers Bureau program
- Apply for a mini grant
- Collaborate on programming
- Invite us to your community events
- Join our mailing list for updates

Support Humanities Iowa

Your gift helps bring speakers, reading programs, exhibits, and community conversations to Iowans across the state.

Learn more or donate at humanitiesiowa.org.

PROGRAMS

Speakers Bureau

- Humanities Iowa's Speakers Bureau has a wide roster of scholars, historians, writers, and artists who travel to communities across Iowa to present on topics such as history, literature, politics, and arts.

Open Book

- In partnership with CultureALL, Open Book brings together Iowans from various backgrounds to share personal stories and foster dialogue, connecting community members through conversation.

Timeless Journeys

- This partnership with the University of Northern Iowa pairs students with older adults to explore historical images and memories, culminating in creative, intergenerational public performances.

Prime Time Reading

- Prime Time Reading brings together children and families for shared reading and discussion of curated children's books, fostering literacy and a love of learning.

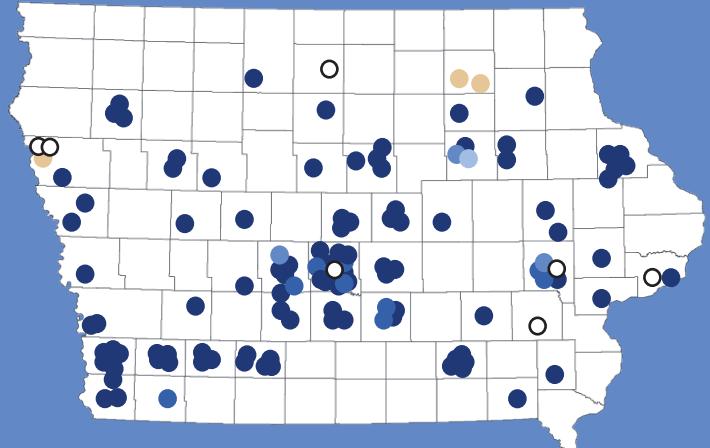
Traveling Exhibits

- HI offers portable exhibits of photography and literature that can be loaned to libraries, schools, museums, and community organizations across Iowa.

Iowa Poet Laureate & Iowa Student Poet Ambassador

- These partnership programs celebrate poetry across the state by supporting a poet laureate and a youth poet ambassador who hold readings, workshops, and public events.

OUR REACH



GRANTS

- Humanities Iowa offers Mini Grants of \$500-\$3,000 to support community-based humanities projects. Mini Grants fund a wide range of public programming—such as storytelling events, cultural discussion series, exhibitions, and rural archives preservation—that engage local communities in Iowa's stories.

FY2026 Mini Grant awards include:

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center's **2026 Humanities Series** will offer free, public Sunday programs featuring historians, artists, musicians, and cultural presenters.

The Garner Chamber of Commerce's **A Legacy of Service & Strength** project will host community conversations to create recorded oral histories for preservation at the library.

UI Arts Share's **Barberman: The Alexander Clark Story** will develop a theater production about Muscatine civil rights leader Alexander Clark, with performances and discussions.

CONTACT US

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