



May 10, 2022

Via E-Mail Delivery

Rep. Mike Nelson, Chair
House State Government Finance & Elections
Committee
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, Chair
Senate State Government Finance &
Elections Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3103
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Nelson and Chair Kiffmeyer:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter to the members of the State Government and Transportation Conference Committee.

On behalf of the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC), I am writing to support the organization's General Fund request included in the House State Government Supplemental Budget bill. **This General Fund request is very modest – a \$22,000 increase in FY23 – and reflects a cost-of-living adjustment for the organization.** Last year, given demands on the state budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MHC did not request a cost-of-living adjustment from the legislature.

MHC's funding comes from diverse sources including state and federal funding, private funding, sponsorships, and earned income from our event center. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue from our event center has been significantly reduced. MHC's event center was only recently opened to outside organizations after being closed for nearly two years.

MHC is a state chartered, statewide nonprofit. We collaborate with organizations and communities through educational outreach and partnerships to provide high quality, consistent, and valuable programming across Minnesota. MHC also serves as the state affiliate for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

MHC's programming is varied and diverse. For example, MHC operates Educator Institutes for teachers providing valuable K-12 classroom concepts and materials. The Educator Institute immerses participants in MHC's proven approach to increase student engagement. The institute incorporates instruction and field experiences taught by a host of diverse community members. These experiences prepare Minnesota educators to develop meaningful connections with their students and implement practical classroom strategies. These materials are available to every public and non-public school in Minnesota.

Another example of MHC's work is our nation-leading Veterans Voices program that engages veterans by helping them tell their stories and connecting them with other veterans. Each year, we recognize veterans around Minnesota for the work they have done in their local communities. In addition, we work closely with NEH and our national partners on veterans programming.

Lastly, the legislature has asked MHC to serve as a fiscal agent for several grant programs, both General Fund and Legacy funding. We have appreciated the legislature's confidence in our organization's ability to distribute state funds and provide program and financial oversight for various projects and programs. We utilize our staff to perform these duties assigned by the legislature to ensure state funds are spent with integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lindsey, CEO

Minnesota Humanities Center
kevin@mnhum.org

C: Representative Frank Hornstein
Representative Mary Murphy
Representative Erin Koegel
Representative Jim Nash
Senator Scott Newman
Senator Jeff Howe
Senator John Jasinski
Senator Scott Dibble