



## The Minnesota Humanities Center

- **In 2008-2010, the Humanities Center served approximately 80,000 people in nearly 200 communities.**
- Innovative and entrepreneurial resource for K-12 educators
- E-learning opportunities (e.g. *Bdote* Memory Map)
- A uniquely powerful resource for community-based learning
- Brings national resources and thinkers to Minnesota – teams with Minnesota scholars and educators
- With its Legacy Partners, creates resources for education – schools and life-long learning
- Partners to build strong communities = better education and a strong economy.

**Minnesota Humanities Center  
Conference Center Facility**



**Dr. David O'Fallon**

PRESIDENT AND CEO

**DIRECT** 651-772-4240

david@minnesotahumanities.org



**MINNESOTA  
Humanities Center**

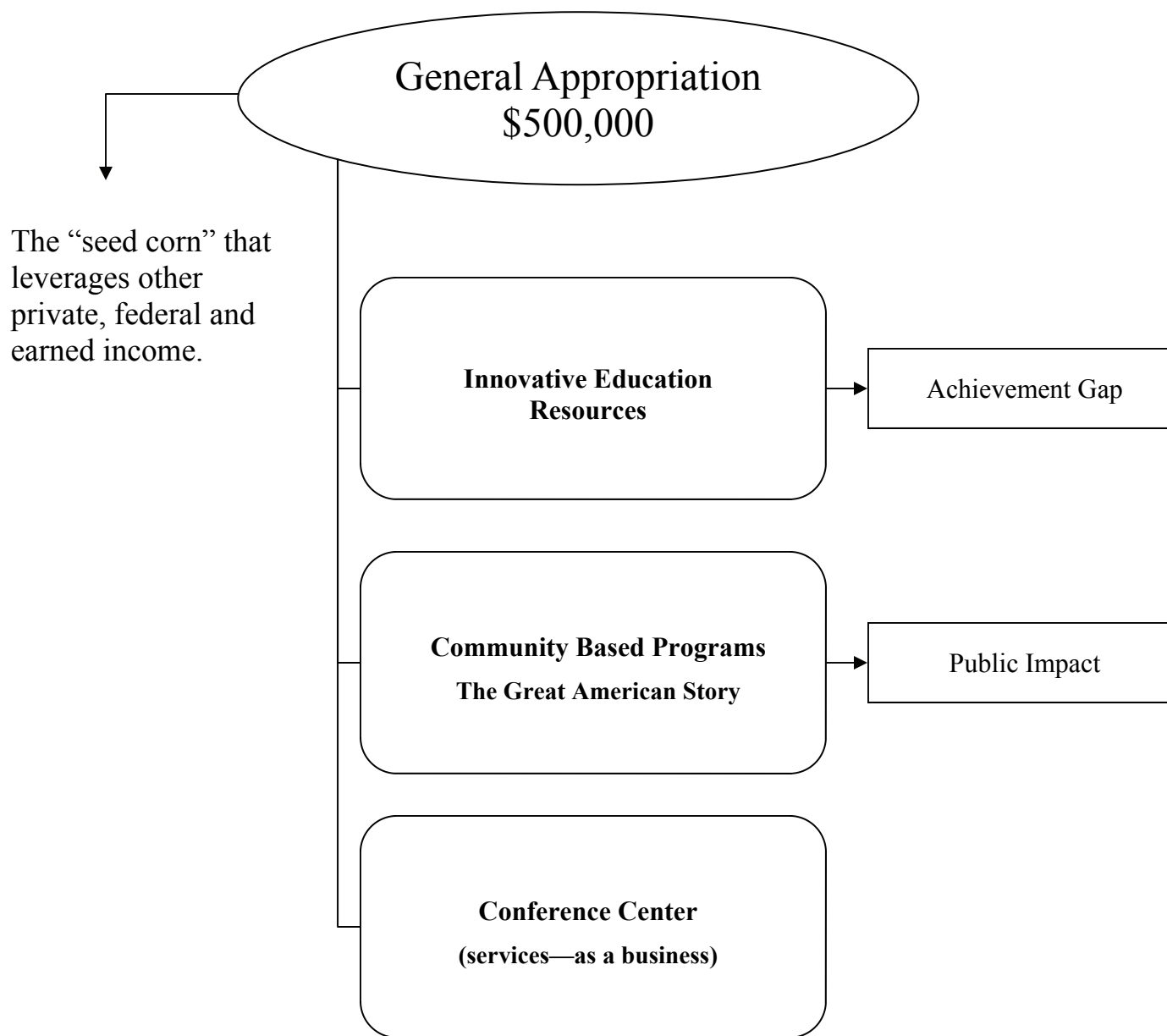
**TEL** 651-774-0105  
**TOLL FREE** 866-268-7293  
**FAX** 651-774-0205

987 Ivy Avenue East  
St. Paul, MN 55106-2046

[www.minnesotahumanities.org](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org)

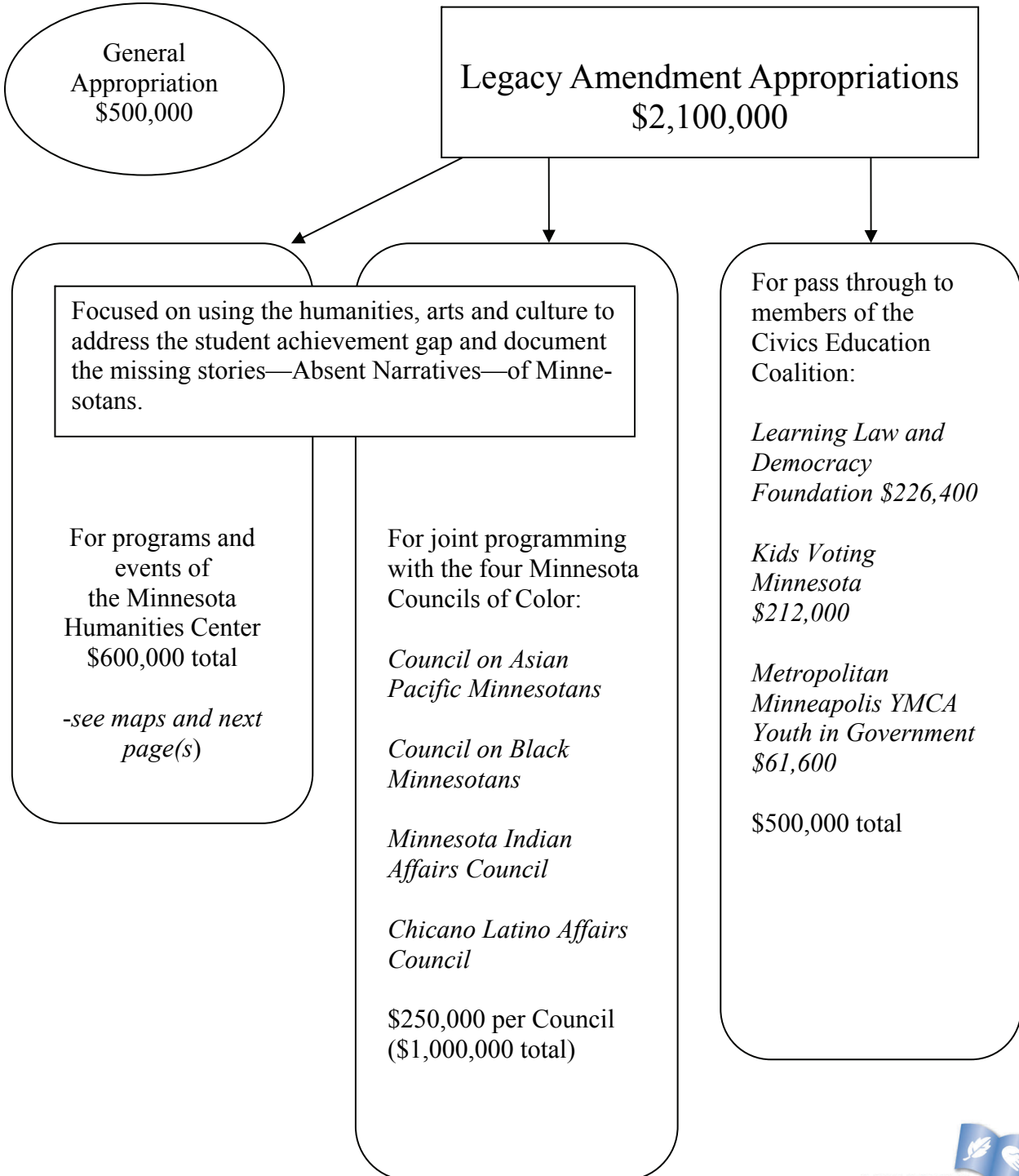


Minnesota Humanities Center  
State Funding 2010-2011 Biennium





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## Partnering to Close the Achievement Gap

The state's leading educational challenge

**MINNESOTA MINORITY STUDENTS** score 6-15 points lower than the national average on Reading and Math assessments.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS IN MINNESOTA** score a full 35 points lower than their white classmates; Latino students 36 points lower; American Indian 30 points lower; and Asian students 11 points lower.

*National Association of Educational Progress*

80% of white Minnesotans meet or exceed state standards in Reading, compared to:

- 60% of Asian** students
- 52% of American Indian** students
- 49% of Hispanic/Latino** students
- 48% of African American** students

*Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Data 2010*

### Our Response: New Content + Rigorous Professional Development

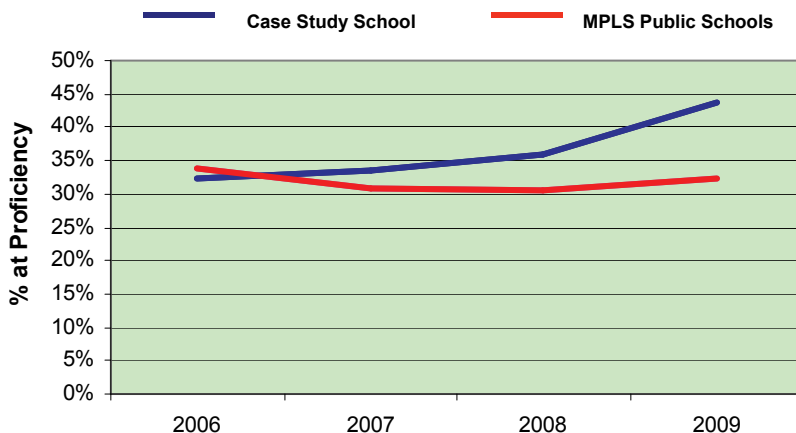
The Minnesota Humanities Center is a resource for schools and districts creating educational programs that engage all students. Partnering with the best local and national scholars, communities and cultural organizations, the Humanities Center helps teachers and districts create academic programs that increase academic achievement and close the achievement gap. The Humanities Center helps educators implement new, and engaging content — content that builds vocabulary, expands knowledge and raises student achievement. The Humanities Center is a flexible, entrepreneurial, and innovative education partner.

#### Intense Professional Development

The Humanities Center partners with districts, schools, and teachers for the long term. Sustainable school improvement requires a long-term commitment and long-term planning. We have built a sophisticated system for supporting sustainable increases in student academic achievement. *The Humanities Center meets school and district needs by offering flexible approaches to professional development and partnership.* The Humanities Center is building an on-line learning system and is able to offer compelling content and professional development any time or any place both on-line and in-

### Achieving Real Results

School Case Study



African American Students at Humanities Center partner schools who perform below proficiency level in reading and math show statistically significant academic growth compared to students in other schools. Example: The Case Study School began its partnership program at **32%** reading proficiency for African American students and has steadily increased throughout the course of the program to **44%** today. By comparison, African American students in Minneapolis began at **32%** in reading proficiency and stand now at **34%**.

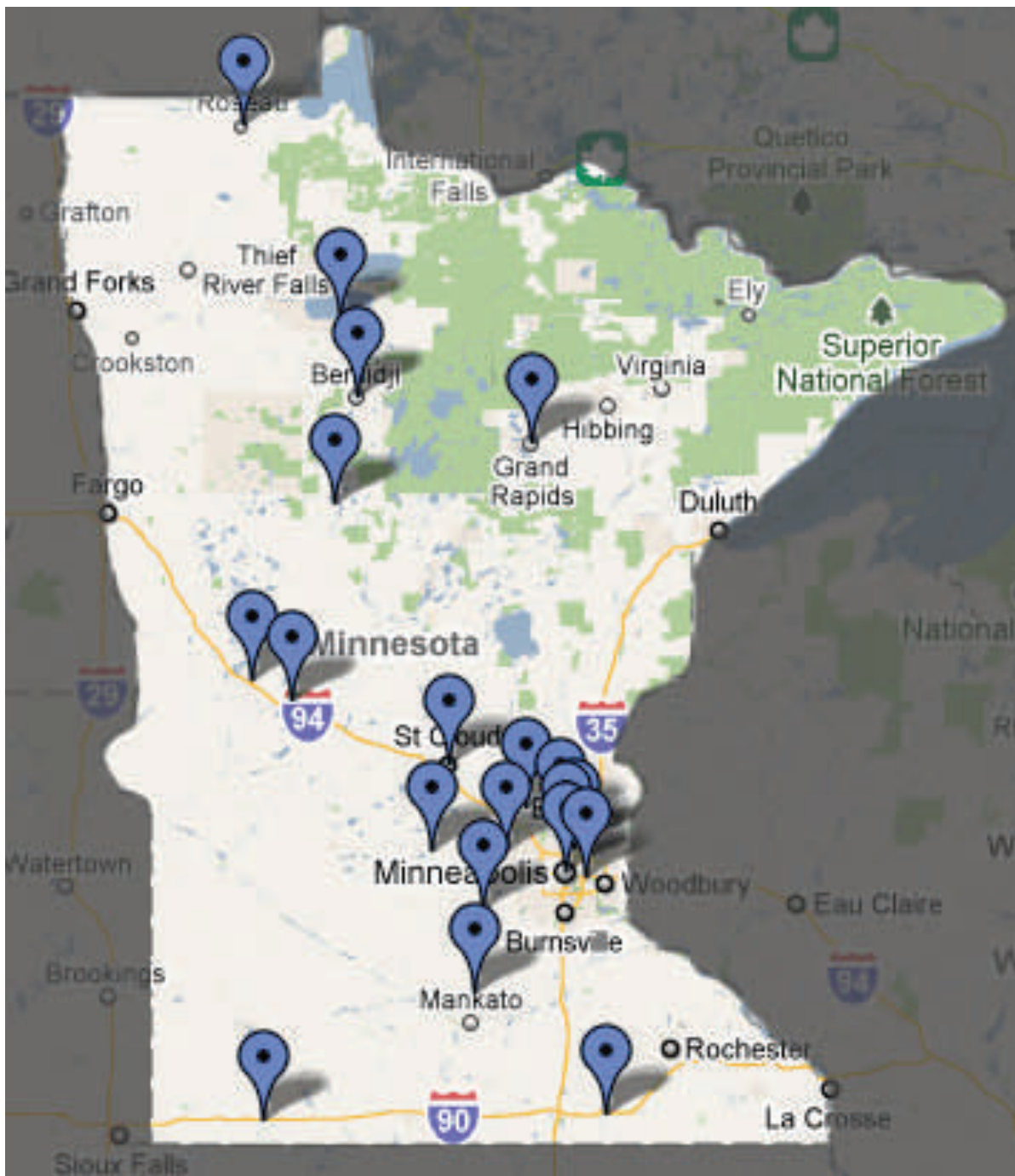
*Wilder Research Center and Minneapolis Public Schools 2005 and 2010*





## Current and Emerging Partnerships

St. Paul Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Mounds View Public Schools, Anoka Hennepin Public Schools, Red Lake Public Schools, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Bemidji Public Schools, Park Rapids Public Schools, St. Cloud Public Schools, Stride Academy Charter School (St. Cloud Area), City Academy Charter Schools (St. Paul), Rockford Public Schools, Elk River Public Schools, WISE Charter School (Minneapolis); Roseau Public Schools, Worthington Public Schools, Alexandria Public Schools, Austin Public Schools, & Evansville Public Schools.







## Public and Community Impact

Adaptive, Flexible, Innovative, and Supportive

**In 2008-2010, the Humanities Center served approximately 80,000 people in nearly 200 communities.**

The Humanities Center is a powerful resource with real results. Agencies and individuals choose to collaborate with the Center for purposes and goals they value.

“The Minnesota Humanities Center is the critical link between organizations like mine, and the Smithsonian. Their support goes well beyond merely coordinating the tour. The Commission transforms what could be just another nifty out-of-the-box display into a tool that strengthens local institutions, builds interagency cooperation, and raises awareness and visibility for the participating partners. It does all this at the same time that it helps the hosts create museum experiences that really deliver meaningful knowledge to the visitors.”

*Ann Hokanson, Austin Public Library*

“I have worked with the Humanities Center for almost three decades. Since joining the board about a year and a half ago I have learned so much more about the important work of the Humanities Center in Minnesota. They do a lot statewide and even beyond our borders to help improve people’s lives.”

*Mark Peterson, Winona*

“I’ve personally experienced the way this organization brings influential people together to learn from the speaker and from each other. Minnesota is stronger because these people have a chance to meet and discuss topics important to Minnesotans. How else could we have learned about that, other than at the Humanities Center? They’re unique and irreplaceable.”

*P.J. Wollum, Grand Rapids*

“Our solid partnership with the Minnesota Humanities Center will augment our efforts towards excellence and accountability.”

*Council on Black Minnesotans Board Member*

“The project our community did with the Humanities Center was fantastic. We were able to have the history of our community that has been traditionally ignored distorted and neglected by MN historical venues, finally get heard and recorded. And the Humanities Center did it right. They went to the community for input throughout the process from the start to the completion. Unlike other groups who tell our story without our input. The Humanities Center certainly personified the words of their mission statement “fosters collaboration among cultural organizations.” Muchisimas Gracias.”

*Gilbert de la O, Saint Paul’s West Side*

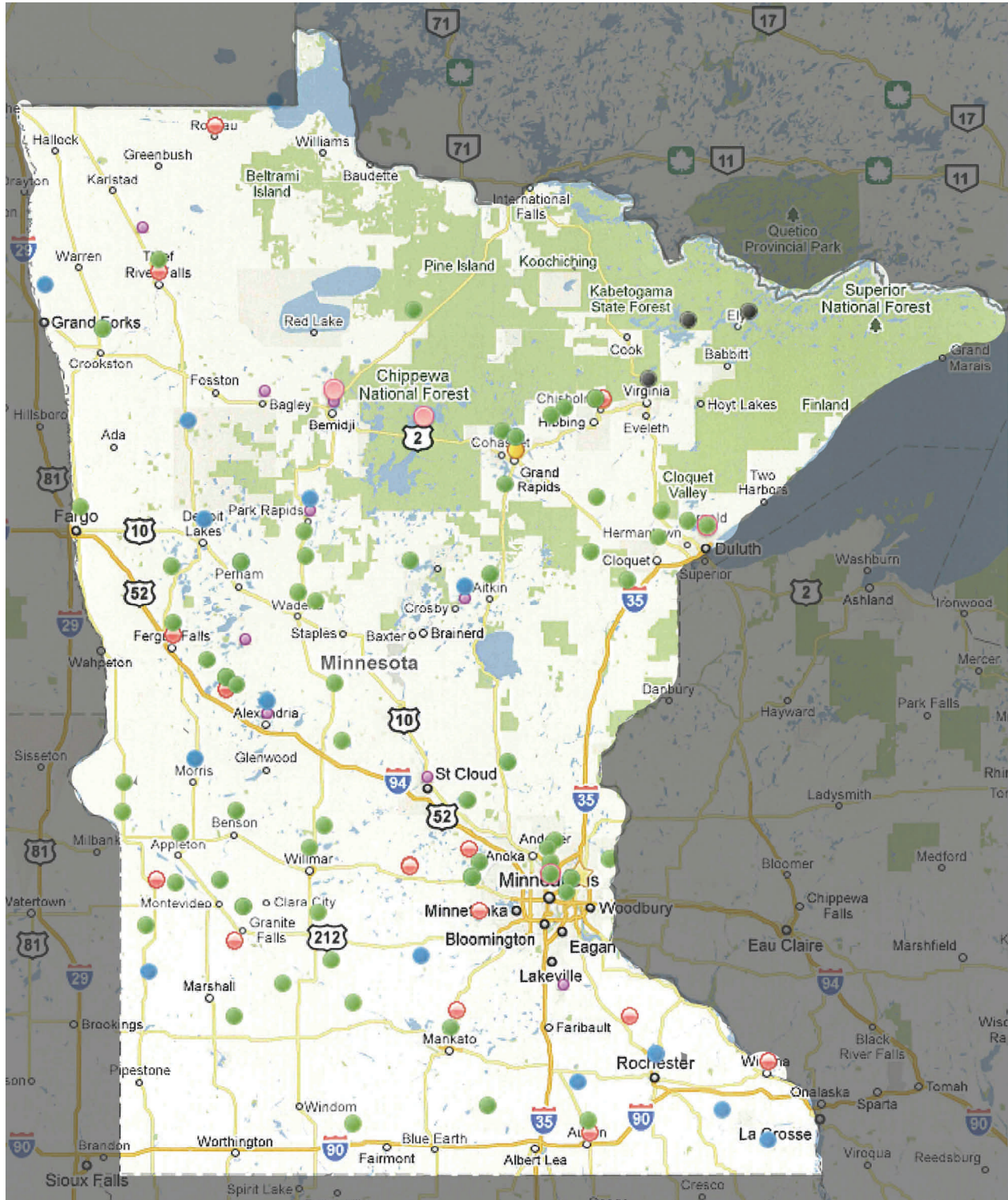
### OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE...

3M  
Allies Media, Inc.  
Arts Center of Saint Peter  
Austin Public Library  
Cargill Foundation  
Chicano Latino Affairs Council  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans  
Council on Black Minnesotans  
Dassel Area Historical Society  
Evansville Arts Coalition  
Headwaters Center for Lifelong Learning  
Indian Land Tenure Foundation  
Library of Congress  
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools  
Minneapolis Community Education  
Minnesota Department of Education  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council  
Northwest Suburban Integrated School District  
Roseau County Historical Society  
Saint Paul Public Schools  
Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian  
Twin Cities Public Television  
Unlimited Learning  
Vocal Essence  
Wilkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America





**Minnesota Humanities Center Programs**  
*grants, museums, events, and media*  
*in the last 18 months*







## Statements of Impact and Results

Where do I start to tell you about what the MN Humanities Center has meant to me over the last 18 years? Their programs are top notch. They always have extremely qualified and interesting presenters. I have learned so much, and it has helped me to be a better teacher in so many ways--in my interaction with my colleagues and with my students, in my knowledge of my subject area and in interdisciplinary subject areas that affect me. I come away from their workshops feeling like I have truly spent my time wisely, that I haven't wasted another day going to another boring workshop. In fact, I CHOOSE to go to their workshops and recommend them to fellow teachers... They truly stand for what is right in Minnesota, what makes us great.

*Monica Cofell, Educator*

I have worked with the Minnesota Humanities Center for almost three decades. Since joining the board about a year and a half ago I have learned so much more about the important work of the Humanities Center in Minnesota. They do a lot statewide and even beyond our borders to help improve people's lives.

*Mark Peterson, Board Member*

The Humanities Center's meeting facility was a perfect setting for our non-profit's staff retreat. The library provided a comfortable meeting space with the modern audiovisual necessities for presentations... We will continue to use the Humanities Center for our annual retreats... It provided a comfortable setting that was conducive to staff rejuvenation and brain-storming. We already are looking forward to next year.

*Meeting and Event Center Client*

When the Humanities Center speaker presented historical information about the Iron Range and immigrant miners who worked there, we learned about how immigrants adapted in the face of hostility from earlier settlers, which is what Somali immigrants face today. I've personally experienced the way this organization brings influential people together to learn from the speaker and from each other. Minnesota is stronger because these people have a chance to meet and discuss topics important to Minnesotans. How else could we have learned about that, other than at the Humanities Center? They're unique and irreplaceable.

*P.J. Wollum*

The Minnesota Humanities Center always has culturally relevant material for schools and educators through their classes and professional development opportunities. Their recent endeavor with Absent Narratives finally gives our many ethnic groups a voice in the curriculum of schools. I am very excited to be able to work with them and open our curriculum to the achievement and voices of our Asian, Hispanic, Black, and Native American communities.

*Mary, workshop participant*

My field of expertise is professional development for educators, especially in the area of classroom practices. When teachers ask: "how can I understand culture and its impact in my school?" my answer has been: Seek out the Minnesota Humanities Center. It is one of the highest quality professional development providers in this area in the country. Their programs are timely, informative and especially applicable to Minnesota educators. Their staff has been filling a void in teacher professional development for many years: cultural identity and cultural awareness are directly related to the achievement gaps in MN. The Humanities Center is dedicated to closing those gaps through its focused, professional opportunities for educators and the community--they provide an understanding of the many cultural contributions and the needs of all our diverse communities.

Topics are explored by the Humanities Center in a variety of formats--from introductory sessions to in-depth, interactive work with local, regional and national experts. 'Sensitive and informative presentations' have been repeated compliments from members of teacher groups. In my capacity as the director of Education Minnesota's nonprofit program, I welcomed the opportunity to promote the Humanities Center's work and to advocate for expansion of their delivery system—from Aitken to Zumbro. Educators and the community in this state rely on the Center to heighten awareness and understanding of the impact of culture in our schools and communities.

*Pat Reisenger, Education Minnesota Foundation  
for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (retired)*





## Statements of Impact and Results

The project our community did with the MHC was fantastic. We were able to have the history of our community that has been traditionally ignored distorted and neglected by MN historical venues, finally get heard and recorded. And MHC did it right. They went to the community for input throughout the process from the start to the completion. Unlike other groups who tell our story without our input.

MHC certainly personified the words of their mission statement "fosters collaboration among cultural organizations." Muchisimas Gracias.

*Gilbert de la O, Community Activist*

I use the Humanities Center to take classes for updating my Elementary Education license. I have gone frequently over the years. I find it to be one of the best facilities for good food, pleasant surroundings, excellent presenters, and current provocative subject matter helpful to me in my field of education.

I have recommended them often to other colleagues because it's such a great place to go, not to mention the helpful staff and good rates. I always come away with new ideas that I can actually use in the classroom. It's a 5 star rating with me!

*Patricia, Elementary Educator*

I have attended programs at the Humanities Commissions for many decades (and at least once or twice a year) and never have been disappointed by the content, expertise, and thoughtful planning of the events. The diversity of topics, speakers, and ideas are always top-notch. The staff at the MHC understands what adult learners need and how to design professional development opportunities for adults who have wide range of interests.

As a classroom teacher so much of what I have learned through MHC programming has been embedded back into my curriculum. The materials from events have been passed through my faculty for dissemination. The MHC is a strong center of support for teacher renewal, growth and development which has such direct impact on our students.

*Kathy G., Educator*

I took two classes last year at the Humanities Center. I am a high school social studies teacher at a charter school for immigrants and refugees. I took a geography course about Africa and one about American Indian land tenure. Both classes gave me more knowledge and teaching ideas and strategies to use in the classroom. I especially found the class on American Indian land tenure to be most helpful because it is difficult to find resources and this complex issue is usually left out of textbooks, so the duty of researching and collecting resources falls on very busy teachers.

*Natasha, Charter School Educator*

Last year I went to 5 or 6 classes or workshops through the MN Humanities Center. I have loved every course I have taken from them. They have fantastic, knowledgeable speakers/presenters and a comfortable space to work. I attended one of their sponsored Landmark workshops last year and it was a well run, fun, and an interesting hands-on learning opportunity.

Lastly, I took 3 of their online training courses and they were a great and informative guide on the topics. The resources are all listed if you want further information at the end of the videos/guides. I recommend these to all! I am a teacher with a double licensure in Elementary Education and Social Studies (grades 5-8.) This organization provides great training for a variety of age levels. I can use the information with Kindergarteners and adapt it to work for older grades too.

*Elementary School Educator*





Minnesota Humanities Center  
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PH 651-774-0105  
Toll Free 866-268-7293  
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987 Ivy Avenue East | St. Paul, MN 55106