

MINNESOTA HUMANITIES CENTER

House Legacy Committee Presentation

March 20, 2024

Kevin Lindsey, CEO



ABOUT MHC

FOUNDED IN 1971

MHC was created when the Endowment for the Humanities began funding state-based humanities programs.

MISSION

Spark positive change by increasing collective understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our histories, through stories and experiences.



VISION

A just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate.

OVERVIEW

To provide committee members with an update on the progress made by Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) in administering Legacy funding provided by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2023-25 biennium.

2023-25 LEGACY GRANTS



During the 2023-25 biennium, MHC will administer more than **\$12 million** in grants to individuals and/or organizations in Minnesota **working to create, celebrate, and teach the art, culture, and heritage of diverse Minnesota communities.**

This is the **highest** dollar amount administered by MHC.

2023-25 LEGACY FUNDING

LEGACY FUNDS

Community Identity & Heritage Grant Program

Cultural Heritage

\$ 8,000,000

Emergency Response

\$ 100,000

Capacity Building

\$ 750,000

Children's Museums Grants

\$ 3,200,000

Civics Grants

\$ 300,000

PRE-APPLICATION



**STREAMLINED
APPLICATION
PROCESS**



**LEVERAGED
NETWORKS TO
EXPAND OUTREACH**



CREATED FAQs



**HOSTED
INFORMATION
SESSIONS**



**PROVIDED
SUPPORT &
ASSISTANCE**

OUTREACH



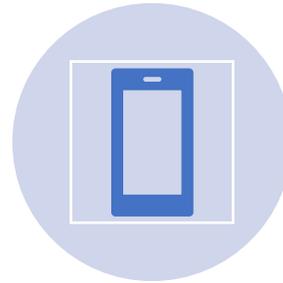
Advertised on **16 radio stations** across BIPOC communities



MHC's CEO, Kevin Lindsey, **interviewed with seven media outlets**



Advertised with Hmong Times, Sahan Journal, 3 Hmong TV stations & promoted through numerous email lists, newsletters, etc.



Advertised on **41 media screens** in several BIPOC communities

MHC SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



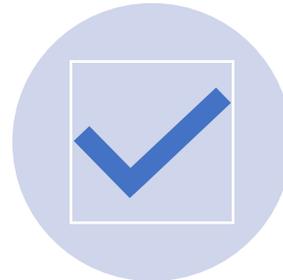
Responded to **hundreds of inquiries** (emails/phone calls/drop ins)



Hosted **seven informational sessions** for 263 participants



Hosted **30-minute meetings with 128** interested applicants to discuss pending applications



Reviewed **86 draft applications** & provided feedback prior to application submission

REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1 - Initial

Ensure each application:

- Is complete
- All attachments have been provided
- Within statutory requirements

Step 2 - Panel

Each application is:

- Assessed against criteria & alignment with legislative intent
- Scored against rubric
- Recommend grant award amount

Step 3 - Financial

Ensure:

- Financial documents are within guidelines
- IRS check is complete
- Proposed expenses are in alignment with Legacy requirements

CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

Number of **total applicants** – **14**

Amount **requested** by applicants – **\$3,864,307**

Average grant request – \$276,022

Funds available – **\$2,200,000** (over two years, minus 5.5% admin fee)

STATUS – MHC has identified **twelve** museums to award grants which will exhaust the available funding. A non-competitive \$1,000,000 grant to the Saint Paul Children's Museum was executed during this time period.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS GRANTS

The Works Museum \$321,964	Duluth Children's Museum \$215,000	(Neo)Muralismos de Mexico \$80,000	Otter Cove Children's Museum \$149,455	Wondertrek Children's Museum \$280,000
Great River Children's Museum \$280,000	Children's Discover Center \$180,000	Judy Garland Children's Museum \$127,581	Children's Museum of Southern MN \$220,000	SPARK \$150,000
	Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum \$25,000		Asian American Business Resilience Network \$50,000	

CIVICS PROGRAMS

Number of **total applicants** – **31**

Amount **requested** by applicants – **\$1,778,099.72**

Average grant request – \$127,007

Funds available – **\$300,000** (minus 5.5% admin fee)

STATUS – MHC has identified **seven** organizations to award grants which will exhaust the available funding.

CIVICS GRANTS

Move for America

\$95,000

**MN Legislative
Society**

\$20,000

Youthprise

\$75,000

**Young Men's
Christian Assoc of
the North**

\$40,000

ASAL Charities

\$18,000

**Legal Rights Center,
Inc.**

\$18,000

100 Rural Women

\$17,500

CULTURAL HERITAGE Capacity Building

Number of **total applicants** – **130**

Amount **requested** by applicants – **\$7,204,440.16**

Average grant request – \$55,418.77

Funds available – **\$750,000** (minus 5.5% admin fee)

STATUS – in **final** review stage, **12 – 16** projects will be awarded which will exhaust the funds available.

CULTURAL HERITAGE Emergency Response

Ongoing application process through October 14, 2024

- Number of **total applicants** – **12**
- Amount **requested** by applicants – **\$324,838**
- Average grant request – \$27,000
- **Funds available** – **\$100,000** (minus 5.5% admin fee)

STATUS – MHC has awarded **one** grant for the commemoration of the life of Tou Ger Xiong in the amount of \$14,500. The majority of the grant request have sought funding to establish new businesses.

CULTURAL HERITAGE Program Grants

Number of **total applicants** – **387**

Amount **requested** by applicants – **\$47,332,405.77**

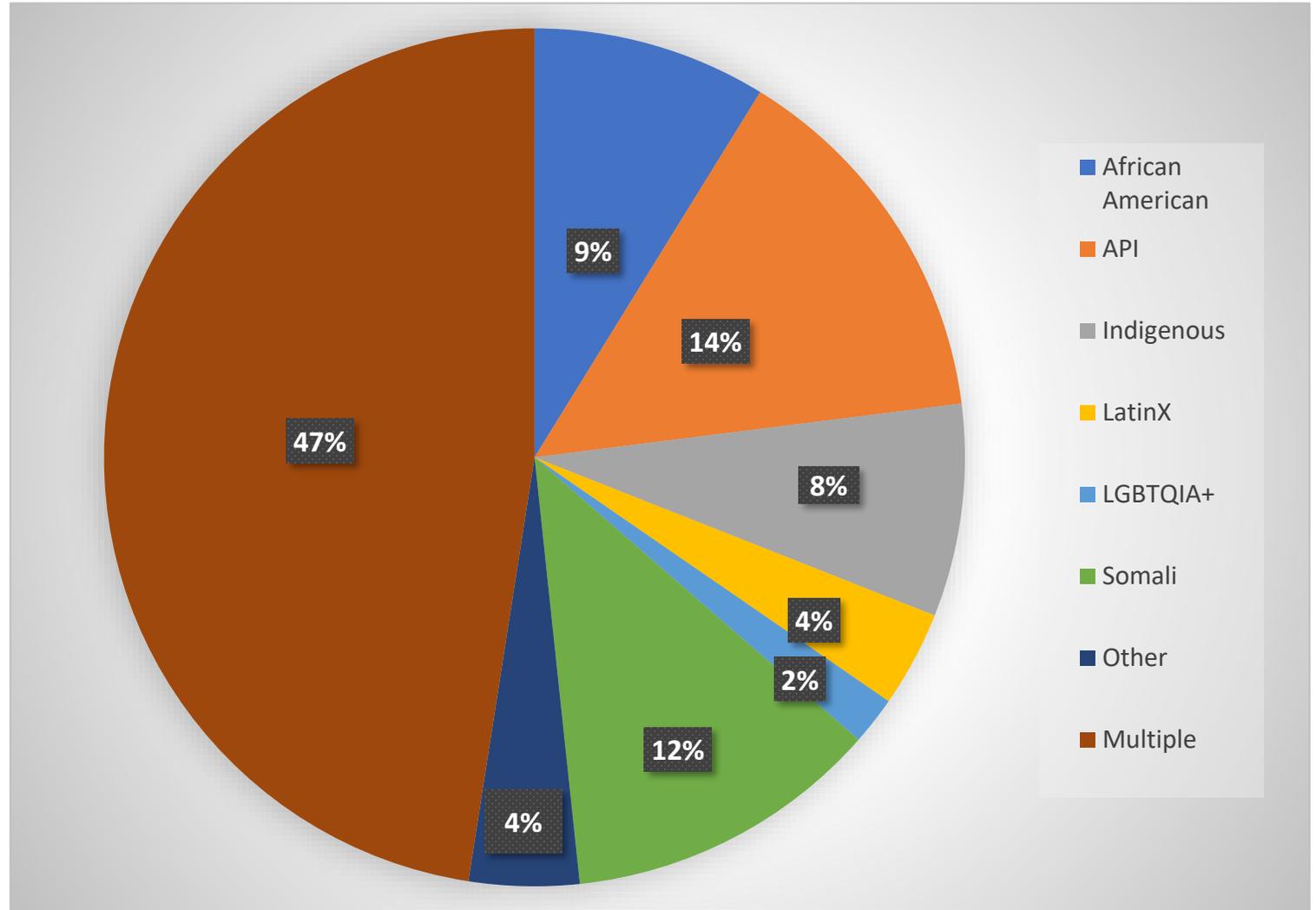
Average grant request – \$121,990.73

Funds available – **\$8,000,000** (*minus 5.5% admin fee*), **\$2,000,000** (*minus 5.5% admin fee*) is for grants over \$150,000

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Total Applications Received

387



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Requests **Under** \$150,000

Number	Number of applicants - 269
Amount	Amount requested by applicants - \$13,723,665.39
Average	Average grant request – \$51,017.34

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Requests **Over** \$150,000

Number	Number of applicants – 118
Amount	Amount requested by applicants - \$33,594,738
Average	Average grant request – \$284,701.16

PANEL REVIEWS

MHC assembled independent review panels to review **Cultural Heritage** and **Capacity Building** grant applications.

Up to **twelve** Independent Review Panels will be assembled to assess the Cultural Heritage program grant applications.

Due to the limited number of applicants and prior experience with civic organizations and children museums, MHC served as Review Panelists for both grant lines.

Emergency Response grants are also reviewed by MHC staff because of the need to move expeditiously.

CLOSING

- NEH has renewed United We Stand grant funds.
- Demand for Civics grants is **high**.
- Demand for Capacity Building grants is **very** high.
- Demand for Cultural Heritage grants is **extremely** high.



THANK YOU