



VERMONT HUMANITIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Carrying on a Legacy

Message from the Executive Director

Friends, it is my pleasure to present you with Vermont Humanities' 2018 Annual Report. It was a year of transition for our organization—and for many other humanities councils around the nation—as a new generation of executive directors stepped in to fill the shoes of long-tenured leaders. During the last four months of 2018, I sometimes felt that Peter Gilbert's shoes were seven-league boots. But I am delighted to be carrying on his legacy.

In 2018 we held or sponsored over 800 humanities events. We said farewell to both Peter and to Amy Cunningham, our wonderful Director of Community Programs, who became the Deputy Director of the Vermont Arts Council. After Amy's departure, we welcomed Tess Taylor to our staff, and we couldn't be more thankful for her presence and energy. Amy and Tess joined Katherine Paterson, the author of *Bread and Roses, Too*, in crisscrossing the state to meet readers of all ages as part of a hugely successful Vermont Reads celebration.

Through our literacy programs and Vermont Reads we gave away over 11,000 books to teachers, parents, and children from all corners of Vermont. We also set up an improved partnership with the Community High School of Vermont to provide engaging learning opportunities in all seven of our state's correctional facilities.

Thank you for reading this report, and for taking the important step of supporting the humanities in your community and around the state. We look forward to seeing you in 2019!

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup
Executive Director



Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

A Trusted Partner

Message from the Board Chair

Last January I attended "Depictions of a Dream," a special program at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 90th birthday—a collaboration between the Vermont Youth Orchestra, the University of Vermont, and Vermont Humanities. The orchestra's wonderful music was augmented by a visual projection of illustrated pages from the graphic novel *March: Book One* (the 2019 Vermont Reads selection), narrated by the melodious voice of Reuben Jackson.

The afternoon represented the collaboration between the arts and the humanities, between a great performance and great storytelling. It was also a collaboration between Vermonters of all ages and many different backgrounds, between motivated young performers on stage and an engaged and energized audience of proud family members, friends and neighbors. It touched a sweet spot that we always dream of reaching: a program that strongly resonates within our local community that also engenders deep reflection and conversation on issues relevant to our lives and to the life of our democracy.

It was very satisfying to see our new executive director, Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, on stage co-introducing the program and positioning Vermont Humanities just where it should always be—as a trusted partner and cooperator, leveraging relationships and opportunities wherever we can add value and meaning.

Rolf Diamant
Vermont Humanities Board Chair



Rolf Diamant

St. Johnsbury Humanities Camp, Ideas on Tap at ArtRiot, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi at the Fall Conference, Vermont Reads at Mansfield Cooperative School @Shem Roose.



2018

In 2018 Vermont Humanities sponsored over **840** talks, book discussions, literacy programs, and other humanities events in **117** Vermont communities, including towns in every county.



Nearly **20,000** Vermonters from a wide range of ages and backgrounds took part in these events.

We distributed over **11,000** free books through our programs.



We gave **\$40,000** in grants to **21** Vermont nonprofits.

"Justice—and Poetry—for All" reading by the Sundog Poetry Center, Hartford Humanities Camp, Katherine Paterson and a young fan in Rutland, History Camp in Swanton.

Thank You to OUR DONORS

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

Our work depends on the generosity of our many donors and volunteers. In 2018, Vermont Humanities received 700 donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations committed to providing literacy and public humanities programs in every county in Vermont. We are grateful to each of you!

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Hawa Adam (left) and Balkisa Abdikadir of Muslim Girls Making Change with Kiah Morris (center) at the “To Sing of Common Things” event held at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte in July.

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Vermont Humanities Programs

Annual Fall Conference

A 1 1/2 day conference that explores a topic in depth. (2018: "The Ebb and Flow of Optimism in American History")

Before Your Time Podcast Series

Monthly podcast episodes that explore Vermont's history. Produced with VTDigger and the Vermont Historical Society.

Connections

A reading and discussion program with the Community High School of Vermont, the Vermont Department of Corrections, and community organizations

First Wednesdays

Free public lectures featuring nationally-renowned speakers in nine communities each month, October through May.

Humanities Camps

Week-long summer day camps for at-risk middle-school students. The camps strengthen literacy skills and build positive peer groups.

Humanities Grants

Grants to nonprofits for humanities programming in Vermont.

Ideas on Tap

A lecture series exploring engaging topics in a casual setting.

Literature and Medicine

A hospital-based reading and discussion program open to all hospital and affiliated staff.

Never Too Early

Early literacy professional development for childcare providers, and family literacy training for parents.

Reading and Discussion

Discussions led by a trained scholar to help make connections between people, books, and ideas.

Reading Frederick Douglass

Annual community participatory readings of Frederick Douglass's 1852 Fourth of July address.

Speakers Bureau

A full roster of presenters made available to nonprofit organizations for public lectures.

Vermont Reads

Brings Vermonters together for activities related to one book. (2018: *Bread and Roses, Too*, by Katherine Paterson.)

Veterans Book Groups

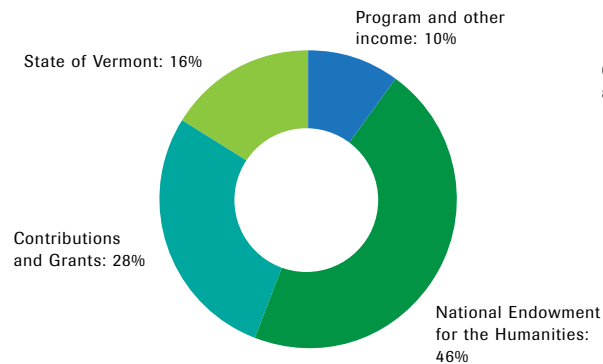
Reading and discussion programs for military veterans, including female veterans.

Voices

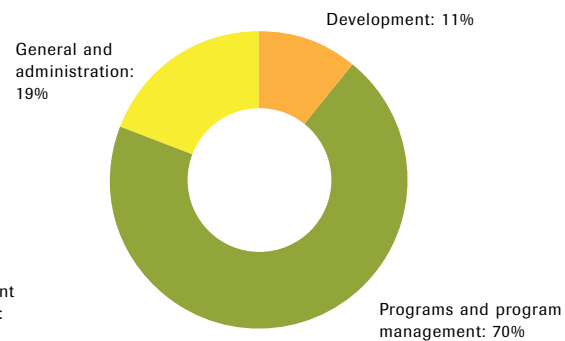
Professional development program for Adult Education and Literacy and other educators to facilitate book discussions. Includes gift books for their students.

Financial Statements 2018 January 1 through December 31, 2018

REVENUE



EXPENSES



We will post the complete Financial Statements, including the Statement of Financial Position, after June 2019, at vermonthumanities.org/financials-2019.

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UVM Anthropology professor Luis Vivanco spoke on the history of bicycling in Vermont at Onion River Outdoors in Montpelier.





Vermont Humanities

Mission Statement

Vermont Humanities seeks to engage all Vermonters in the world of ideas, foster a culture of thoughtfulness, and inspire a lifelong love of reading and learning. A state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Vermont Humanities relies on private donations to do its work.

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