

DELAWARE

HUMANITIES

ANNUAL REPORT

20
24



PUTTING THE HUMAN IN HUMANITIES

LETTERS

*Adenike
Davidson*

Board Chair, Adenike Davidson



Texting, social media, TikTok, and ChatGPT have become a part of our everyday existence. Email and Teams or Zoom meetings have inundated our workplace. A call for and a resistance to a return to the office and the classroom have divided us. But with the increase and convenience of technology, we have an epidemic of loneliness in this country, especially among those under the age of fifty, without significant differences between race and gender. We have greater access to information but not to each other. Our technological advances make connecting easier, but we make fewer connections and greater divisions. We have all witnessed, and perhaps have been guilty of, colleagues/friends/family sharing a meal in silence with heads buried in phones. Instead of texting, tweeting, and reposting at each other, to make human connections, this involves vulnerable conversations with human beings—allowing an openness to receive and give. The Humanities may seem at odds with technology because it values and centers a human experience at the core of its definition. Ultimately, we are humans seeking validation, understanding, and connection—we seek community. Delaware Humanities is committed to doing the messy but rewarding work of authentic conversations that produce human connections and community across the First State. We hope our work leads the way and serves as a model for our nation.



Executive Director, Michele Anstine

Michele Anstine

In 2024 Delaware Humanities pursued its mission to “strengthen our communities” by connecting non-profit organizations to one another and the audiences they serve through conversations inspired by our grantmaking and program services. With robust funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, complemented by smaller grants from the State of Delaware and Delaware foundations as well as individual donors, Delaware Humanities served multiple communities in all three counties. Our Prime Time Family Reading program brought children ages 6-10 together with their grown-ups to read children’s modern classics and discuss the “big ideas” they inspire. Our brand-new Community Conversations program united neighbors with a trained facilitator both in public spaces and virtually to discuss complex issues of our times, and our toolkits provided all the components and research for community organizations to host their own discussions. Speakers programs sparked the curiosity of learners of all ages, and a special exhibit commemorating the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education generated discussions about the contributing Delaware cases and the lasting effects of the seminal Supreme Court case. In addition, Delaware Humanities awarded over 30 grants totaling over \$225,000 to libraries, historical societies, universities, and cultural and community organizations for exhibits, film screenings, discussion sessions, oral histories, cultural celebrations, and voter information. We concluded our fiscal year with our first Connect & Converse event, designed to bring the people behind Delaware’s community organizations together to discuss the ideas and issues they face and collectively find solutions. I extend my gratitude to all who supported the work of Delaware Humanities this year through donations, partnerships, advocacy, and participation.

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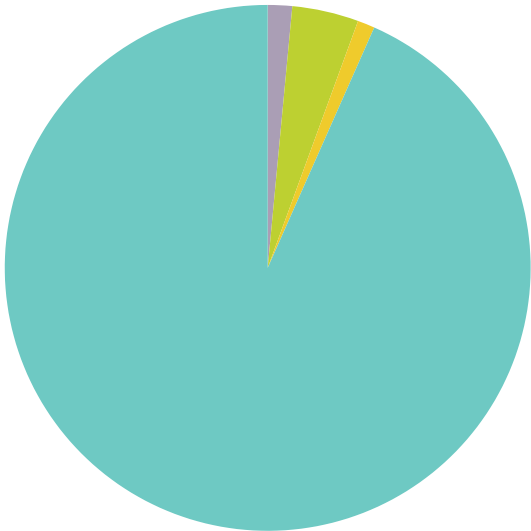
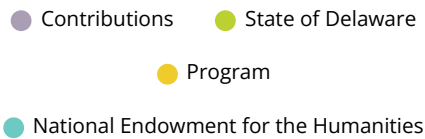


OPERATIONS

For Fiscal Year 2024 (November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024)

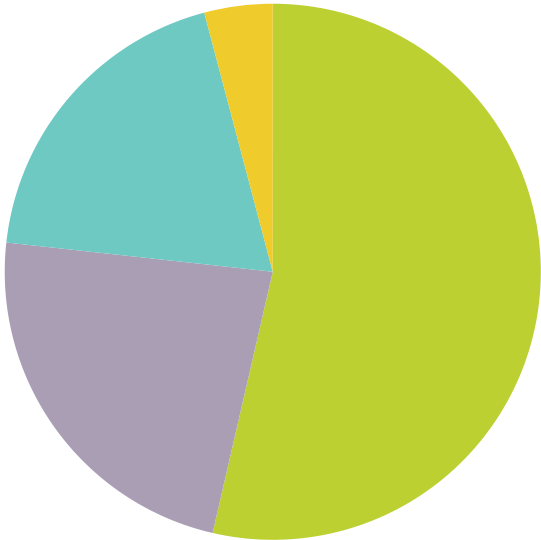
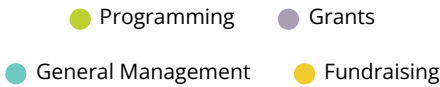
REVENUE

National Endowment for the Humanities	\$949,866
State of Delaware	\$41,604
Public Contributions	\$15,213
Program Income	\$10,747
Total Current Revenue	\$1,017,430



EXPENSES

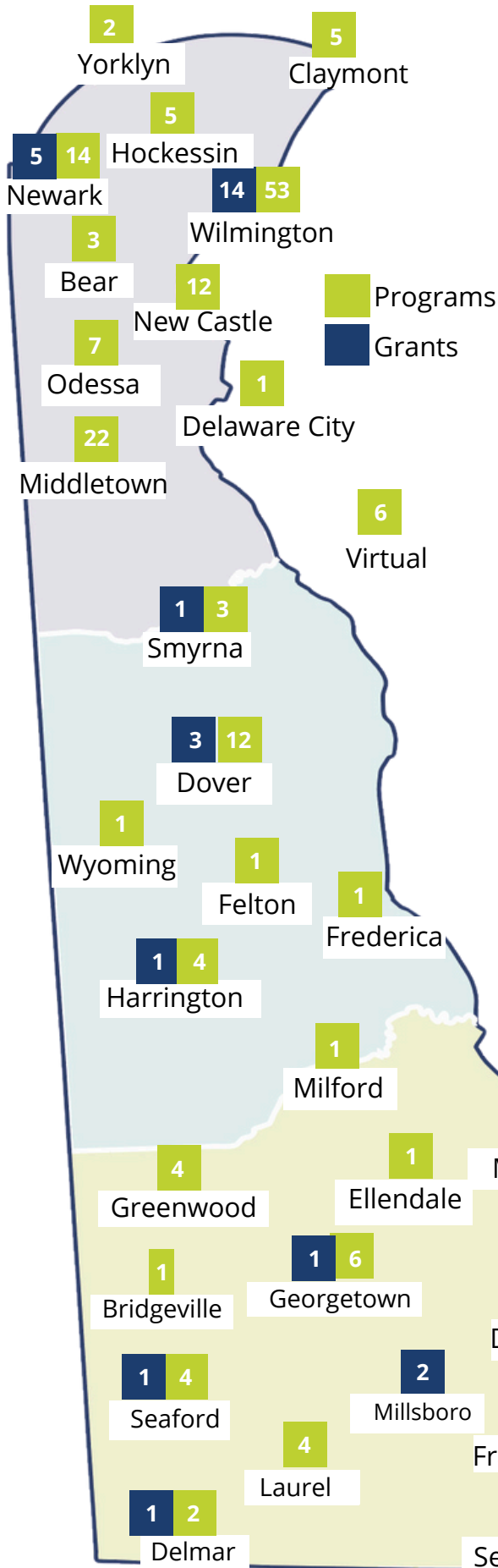
Programming	\$550,455
Grants	\$237,594
General Management	\$196,582
Fundraising	\$49,260
Total Current Expenses	\$1,033,891



Fiscal Year 2024 financial data is preliminary pending audit



OUR IMPACT



In 2024, we held **215 PROGRAMS** and awarded **32 GRANTS**

In FY24, our programs **reached 70,220** people across Delaware at host sites such as libraries, senior centers, schools, historical societies, museums, and community organizations.

These programs included our original exhibit **Injustice & Integration: 70 Years of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Speakers presentations, Prime Time Family Reading, Community Conversations**, our **Podcast**, and more.

We were also able to fund **32 projects** through our Action/Innovation and Opportunity grants. **\$228,629 was distributed to over 30 organizations** throughout the state.

For the grant projects completed in FY24, **714,855 people participated in activities** including festivals, reading and discussion programs, conferences, exhibits, lectures, and documentaries.

United We Stand

Our FY24 programming was in part guided and funded by **United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture**, a NEH initiative created to support state and jurisdictional humanities councils for work that “support[s] local programming that fosters community resilience, educates the public on the history of domestic extremism and hate-based violence, promotes civic engagement and social cohesion, and deepens public understanding of community, state, and national history.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SPEAKERS



Our Speakers Program invites local scholars and experts to give public talks and classroom presentations on history, culture, literature, ethics, the environment, and everything in between, enriching the lives of Delawareans by providing free opportunities for learning right in their own communities. In FY24, we held 137 total Speakers programs, serving 2,923 individuals, hosted by 58 different organizations.

EXHIBITS



We created an original exhibit, *Injustice & Integration: 70 Years of Brown v. Board of Education*, that marked the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and highlighted the Delaware chapters of the Brown v. Board story and their continued impact on our students, our communities, and our state. This exhibit was visited by 57,042 people in Delaware at 50 host organizations.

PRIME TIME



In 2023, we became an affiliate partner of Prime Time Family Reading. In 2024, we continued growing this nationally successful reading and discussion program here in our state. We hosted two more programs, one at the New Castle Public Library and one a partnership between Imani Village housing and the Wilmington Public Library. One father who participated described Prime Time as “the best reading program” he had ever attended.

CHECK OUT OUR 2024 PODCAST

Our podcast *A More Just Delaware* highlighted pivotal moments and legislation related to hate, prejudice, and the fight for equal rights for all in Delaware from the 1950s to today. Listeners learned about Delaware’s history and current landscape through a series of interviews with Delaware representatives, legislators, tribal leaders, and educators. A total of 4,097 people tuned in to this podcast in 2024.



GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating Indigenous Americans
in the Delaware Region

The **powwow**: a Native American celebration rooted in the artful expression of culture and tradition. Music, dance, song, arts and crafts—all these come together in commemoration of community. We're proud to have supported two powwows by state-recognized tribes in Delaware during FY24.



In Newark, the Iron Hill Museum and Science Center

held the **2024 Iron Hill Powwow**. The annual celebration focused on the lives of indigenous elders and their knowledge of their culture, community, and history. Special discussions included the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives



An elder interacts with a guest at the Iron Hill Powwow.

movement and the role of boarding schools in the indoctrination/assimilation of indigenous youths.

In Milton, the Nanticoke Indian Association hosted the **46th Annual Nanticoke Indian Powwow**.



Native storytelling, dancing, and music were the focal points of the celebration. The day started with the Grand Entry and the Flag Song, followed by the Veterans' Honor Song, and traditional dances including jingle dances, grass dances, and fancy dances for men and women.



A hoop dancer performs at the Iron Hill Powwow.

We are proud to have supported both of these events in FY24 with **Opportunity Grants**.

Iron Hill Museum and Science Center received \$1,900 in grant funding for the 2024 Iron Hill Powwow.

The **Nanticoke Indian Association** received \$5,000 in grant funding for the 46th Annual Nanticoke Indian Powwow.

Iron Hill also hosted the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Memorial Grove**, a travelling grove set up to represent the numbers of victims part of the Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women/People. Attendants at the MMIW Memorial Grove provided education and a safe place for mourning and contemplation.

\$228K AWARDED IN FY24 IN GRANTS

ACTION/ INNOVATION

Berkana Center for Media & Education "Farming in the First State" - \$18,000
DE Department of Human Resources "Cultural Kaleidoscope: Advancing Equity & Diversity in Learning" - \$18,000
Delaware Public Archives "Diverse Histories for Delaware 250" - \$18,000
DSPA Hales Byrne House "Commemorate, Celebrate and Educate: 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour of Delaware: " - \$5,100
Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation "William Edward Bazzelle: Chemist, Manager, and Mentor" - \$18,000
History Book Festival "History Book Festival 2024" - \$18,000
Local Journalism Initiative of Delaware "Elections 2024: Community-Powered Voter Education, Dialogue and Debates" - \$18,000
Neighborhood House Inc. "Increasing Access to Humanities Education and Activities for At-Risk Youth in Wilmington" - \$12,000
Network Delaware "The Social Change Summit" - \$16,200
Plastic Free Delaware "YES! (Delaware Youth Environmental Summit)" - \$18,000
Southern Delaware Alliance For Racial Justice "SDARJ Humanities Grant 2024" - \$9,000

OPPORTUNITY

Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware "Untold Stories about Black History in Delaware and the Nation" - \$5,000
Berkana Center for Media & Education "Voices of Delaware's Black History Part 5" - \$5,000
Delaware Academy of Vocal Arts (Elevate Vocal Arts) "Bent But Not Broken: Discussing Racism and Equity in the America's Choral Ecosystem" - \$1,609
Delaware Historical Society "Loop Tour - Landmarks Chronicling the Life of Louis L. Redding, Esq." - \$3,450
Delaware State University "Medical Racism: Exploring Contemporary Experiences of Women of Color" - \$1,600
Delmar Historical and Arts Society "Museum Design and Welcome" - \$1,600
Echoes and Footprints "The Beat IS the History: Polyrhythmic Music in the Americas" - \$3,541
Friends of Belmont Hall, Inc. "Revolutionary War Day" - \$2,700
Georgetown Public Library "Children's Book Festival" - \$5,000
Greater Harrington Historical Society "Oral Histories of Farmington" - \$4,914
Iron Hill Museum & Science Center/Delaware Academy of Science, Inc. "Iron Hill Powwow 2024" - \$3,170
Lewes Public Library "History Revival: Food and Drink Across Delmarva" - \$5,000
Mental Health Association in Delaware (MHA) "7th Annual UMatter2DE Higher Education Suicide Prevention Conference" - \$1,627.50
Plastic Free Delaware "THE OIL MACHINE Film Screening with Director Talk & Discussion" - \$2,000
Seaford Historical Society "Eastern Shore League: 1922 - 1949" - \$3,400
Serviam Media, Inc. "GAME CHANGER - An Oral History with Former DE State Senator Harris B. McDowell, Jr." - \$3,242.50
The Nanticoke Indian Association Inc. "The 46th Annual Nanticoke Indian Powwow" - \$5,000
University of Delaware - Languages, Literatures & Cultures "Interdisciplinary Asia: Bridges to New Opportunities" 52nd MARAAS Annual Conference - \$4,800
University of Delaware - Library "Exploring Black Businesses in Civil War Era Wilmington through Digital Mapping" - \$2,185
University of Delaware - Museum Studies "Delaware Museum Collection-Aid 2024" - \$4,180
Wilmington Public Library "Still I Rise featuring Ben Crump" - \$5,000

GRATITUDE

We are grateful to our supporters for your generous contributions! Your donations and funding help us continue to support organizations throughout the state in strengthening communities by connecting Delawareans through the diversity of human experiences.

\$1 - \$99

Margaret Alexander	Devon Filicichia	Thomas Leitch	Friends of Claymont
Lisa Chase	Ciera Fisher	Judith Martin	Library
Ann De Felice	Alana D. King	Carlene Smith	
Sara D. Hutchinson	Eunice LaFate	Clara Zahradnik	
	Elanore Lampner		

\$100 - \$499

Lynda H. Anstine	Dennis Coker	Donna Henderson	Rebecca Lowe	Donna C. Short
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Gregory Campbell	Edward Gazze	Larence Kirby	Charles Salkin	Foundation Inc.
Justin & Teresa	Richard Givens	Laura Lee	Denise Seliskar	
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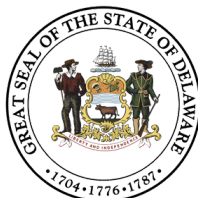
\$500+

Ruthi Adams Joseph	Stan Divorski & Nancy Staisey	Peter Zoll
Michele Anstine	Sara Jatcko	
John C. Athey	Matthew Kinservik	
Theresa del Tufo	Erik Rau	

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



WELFARE
FOUNDATION,
INC.

DELAWARE HUMANITIES

On October 2, Delaware Humanities kicked off National Arts & Humanities Month with our 2024 Connect & Converse annual gathering. We welcomed more than 30 humanities professionals for an afternoon of discussion, learning, and networking hosted at the Milford Public Library. The event proved to be a refreshing forum for the exchange of ideas, building trust, and facing key issues in humanities work.



DELAWARE
HUMANITIES
**CONNECT
& CONVERSE**
2024 Annual Gathering
Milford Public Library | 10.02.2024 | 3:00-6:00pm



- 1: Attendees take part in a discussion during the roundtables
- 2: Rebecca Olsen, Senior Programs Officer and facilitator Ayana Curtis take part in a roundtable discussion
- 3: Rachel Urs-Sheffield, Programs Assistant (left) and Michele Anstine, Executive Director (right) share a laugh during the event
- 4: Guest facilitator Margaret Hughes
- 5: Facilitator Ayana Curtis moderates her roundtable discussion

ANNUAL GATHERING



6: Michele Anstine welcomes attendees to Connect & Converse and goes over the day's agenda

7: Guest facilitator David Stradley

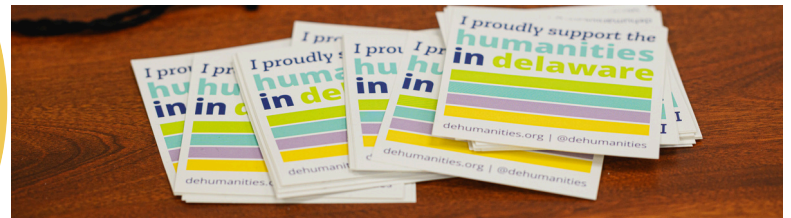
8: Deputy Director Ciera Fisher announces the roundtable discussion Diversifying Audiences

9: An attendee reads *Humanities* magazine

10: Kelly Murray, Engagement & Media Relations Manager signs in an attendee

11: Attendees participate in a discussion

12: Michele Anstine joins attendees for a discussion



DELAWARE

HUMANITIES

100 W. 10th St, Suite 509
Wilmington, DE 19801
dehumanities.org



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our friends on social media are the first to know about all events, organization changes, and updates.

Follow us on our social media to stay up-to-date on all things Delaware Humanities!



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