

## The Maryland Humanities Council

*FY2010 Budget Request: \$107,000*

The Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) promotes humanities programming throughout Maryland, encouraging dialogue that explores human values, strengthens our community, and connects us to the wider world. Annually, MHC produces over 400 humanities programs for students and adults and provides grant funding to non-profit organizations to produce programs in their local communities. Maryland Humanities Council programs use the insights, knowledge, and wisdom of the humanities to inform discussions about issues that we face in our daily lives. Too often, conversations about complex issues are reduced to sound bites in the popular media or short opinion pieces in a newspaper. These simplistic dialogues do not explore the deeper history, thinking, and traditions that are often intertwined with the different sides of an issue.

Programs Include:

- ***Maryland History Day***—middle and high school students delve deeply into historic topics
- ***Letters About Literature***—elementary, middle, and high school students write to their favorite author
- ***Picturing America***—middle and high school students create poetry based on iconic works by American artists
- ***One Maryland One Book***—All Marylanders are invited to read and discuss the selected book
- ***Chautauqua***—visit with historic figures during the summer at various sites across the state
- ***Speakers Bureau***—scholars bring a variety programs to communities to provoke discussion about different topics
- ***Special Initiatives***—MHC selects a “top of the mind” issue and promotes community discussions across the state
- ***Literature and Medicine***—hospital workers read and discuss books, poems, essays, or short stories about medicine and learn more about one another in the process
- ***Literary Mount Vernon Walking Tour***—follow the footsteps of literary luminaries who lived, worked, went to school, or visited, the Mount Vernon area in Baltimore.

**Grant funding** is available for discussions, forums, and other interactive formats using the humanities as the central tools to explore and understand the complexity of an issue. Maryland Humanities Council Grant-funded programs should:

- use the humanities as the central resource to engage diverse audiences in discussions about the critical matters in their communities
- engage residents throughout Maryland, including audiences and communities (socio-economic, ethnic, and geographic) that are not served by other MHC programs
- include projects by institutions and organizations not previously involved with MHC

The humanities comprise the disciplines of the liberal arts, such as history, literature and poetry, classics, philosophy, ethics, jurisprudence, comparative religion, the interpretation of the arts, architecture and archaeology. These humanities disciplines are tools that can help us to explore what makes us human, connect with others, and discover meaning and richness in our lives and the civic life of our communities.

## Maryland Heritage Council

