

The Maryland Humanities Council *FY2011 Budget Request: \$53,500*

What is the Maryland Humanities Council? The mission of the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) is to stimulate and promote informed dialogue and civic engagement on issues critical to Marylanders. MHC brings people and communities together, encouraging Marylanders will different backgrounds and viewpoints to see, hear, and learn more about others and themselves. We believe that only informed, engaged citizens can build healthy, democratic societies.

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
- ***Practicing Democracy: Seeking Common Ground*** brings discussion programs that use the humanities as a springboard to discuss contentious local issues to communities across the state.
- ***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
- ***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 (socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic) that are not served by other MHC programs
- include projects by institutions and organizations not previously involved with MHC

MHC uses the humanities as tools for exploring critical issues and themes. The humanities include literature, history, philosophy, archeology, language, comparative religion, jurisprudence, ethics, art history and aspects of the social sciences. The humanities explore the human experience. Through the humanities we think about who we are—our ideas, our histories, our literature, and our values—and how we relate to one another. The humanities foster understand and improve our ability to interact amicably and meaningfully. Each year, MHC program reach nearly 1.5 million Marylanders.

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MARYLAND
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL

Opening eyes. Opening ears. Opening minds.