

Humanities Montana nominates its Hometown Humanities program for the 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize. Through this program Humanities Montana creates a focused partnership with one Montana community, offering between 25–35 different humanities programs, organizational support, marketing support, and neighborly advice over the course of twelve months. Humanities Montana’s goals are to strengthen our relationship with a particular community, improve a community’s cultural infrastructure, increase their familiarity and comfort with Humanities Montana and our offerings, and break down barriers that may exist for smaller communities looking to create more ambitious cultural programming.

Overview

Hometown Humanities is a response to persistent challenges many humanities councils face: maintaining visibility without a public venue; getting recognition when most programs are supplied through grant support or a partnership with a familiar, local organization; balancing grants and programs between the relatively sophisticated, large, urban institutions and the smaller, more rural organizations; and most importantly, making a lasting impact on our state. In a state as rural and dispersed as Montana, these challenges are particularly pronounced. Montana is ranked fourth in size, but 44th in population and 48th in population density of the 50 states. It has a total area of 147,042 square miles and is 630 miles wide and 255 miles north to south. Its breadth is nearly the distance from Chicago to New York City. With a budget of less than \$700,000, Humanities Montana has always found the vast distances both a funding and staff challenge. The council makes a point of getting our Montana Conversations programs (comprised of our Speakers Bureau, Speakers in the Schools, a variety of reading and discussion programs, and community conversation models) to nearly all 56 counties each year. However, even that accomplishment has felt like a thin and scattershot approach to creating a meaningful humanities presence in any particular community.

As in many states, Montana has a geographical (in our case east/west) divide that is cultural as well as physical. With HM offices located in Missoula (the home of the state’s liberal arts university and situated on the far western edge of the state) there has always been a perception that more of our

resources and programs are dispensed in the west. It's difficult to have any sort of deep-seated understanding of a community and its cultural interests and needs when you're 500 miles away. In addition, staff at rural cultural institutions is often part time and frequently short-tenured. Too many times Humanities Montana staff watched a fruitful relationship with a local library or historical museum end abruptly when a director retired or left.

Within this context HM program staff member Jason Neal asked, "What would happen if we concentrated on one community, giving them everything we've got for a solid year?" Our attempts to discover an answer to that question resulted in Hometown Humanities-Miles City in 2012-13, Hometown Humanities-Dillon in 2013-14, Hometown Humanities-Lincoln County in 2014-2015, and, since early June, Hometown Humanities-Havre, where plans are well underway for 2015-2016.



Our objectives for Hometown Humanities are to:

- Strengthen and deepen our relationships with rural communities one at a time, forging multiple long-term relationships over the years in a wide variety of communities.
- Increase the number and variety of cultural programs available in rural communities.
- Improve the cultural infrastructure of rural communities so that organizations can move beyond booking packaged programs through HM to applying for grants to fund their own projects.
- Share ideas with community leaders about the mechanics of bringing successful, relevant, well-attended cultural programming to their towns, so that even after HH is over they will be well equipped to continue.
- Make the connection between local humanities programming and Humanities Montana.
- Heighten general public awareness of Humanities Montana, our mission, and the work we do in communities.



Hometown Humanities: moving from idea to practice

In order to ensure success in the first few years Humanities Montana chose the Hometown Humanities site communities using criteria such as:

- A population of under 15,000, smaller than our most populous “seven cities” but large enough to have public venues, a local newspaper, and other civic infrastructure.
- The presence and enthusiasm of a current or past board member. It seemed essential in our first years that we have someone who was already very familiar with our work and could be on site to explain us when we weren’t around.
- For year one, a site in rural eastern Montana. Many people in the eastern part of the state feel underserved in general (most of the population and urban centers are in the western half of the state). At Humanities Montana we’re always looking for opportunities to provide programming and funds to this part of the state, so it seemed important that we locate our first Hometown Humanities site in eastern Montana.

Staff and board chose Miles City, a town of around 10,000 in southeastern Montana as our initial site. In June 2012, Humanities Montana held a two-day board meeting in Miles City and worked with the public library on a community conversation about the energy boom that is changing eastern Montana’s economy and culture. The next day HM staff members gathered about 20 community members for a lunch meeting to describe the Hometown Humanities concept, which was met with a great deal of enthusiasm. The most frequent comment was, “This really isn’t going to cost us anything?” We explained that while the program wouldn’t cost them any cash, it would take a lot of time, energy, and commitment. The year-long adventure began.



Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs



The Miles City steering committee met frequently over the summer, sometimes splitting into working committees (program, marketing, schools) and often involving HM staff via speaker phone. The local group was responsible for creating a working process to choose programming, promote individual events and the overall program, schedule events in schools in a tri-county area, and more. The group began promoting Hometown Humanities mid-

summer at the county fair where a Hometown Humanities banner hung and giveaways included neon green wristbands featuring the Humanities Montana logo, flip books, and bookmarks. A generous donation from a local business made it possible to create a large



banner that hung across Main Street. Steering committee members purchased their own Hometown Humanities T-shirts and organized a tailgate party at the high school homecoming game. Most students at the homecoming dance were sporting Hometown Humanities wristbands later that night! The locals on the steering committee knew immediately that Hometown Humanities

should go where the people already were. They knew the nights that weren't viable for programming, who to call in any particular sector or industry, and the first and most important rule: every program is accompanied by food.



In all, September through June, Hometown Humanities offered over 20 different programs with multiple presentations adding up to nearly 70 events in the Miles City region. We partnered with over a dozen different organizations. Programming ranged from an array of our traditional Speakers Bureau and Speakers in the Schools programs, to other facilitated community conversations on topics like diversity and urban renewal, to text-based, small-group conversations, to workshops on the history of American folk dance. Hometown

Humanities venues included churches, museums, schools, a correctional facility, libraries, and parks.

Hometown Humanities Year Two



As HM staff wrapped up a year of planning and programming in Miles City in June 2013, we were also beginning the process with the year two Hometown Humanities site—Dillon. We learned quickly that the programming year would be very different in Dillon, an agricultural community that was proud of its well preserved historical downtown and grappled with different issues than Miles City. Located in southwestern Montana, with a population of 7,500, Dillon is home to a satellite campus of The University of

Montana and has a different economic history (mining, ranching, and outdoor recreation as opposed to Miles City's military and ranching history).

In May, three HM staff members held a dinner meeting at the Dillon Public Library. Attendees included the director of the Beaverhead County Museum, a local bookstore owner, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, several UM-Western faculty members, two board alumni, and the directors of a handful of other nonprofits. In addition to discussing HM programs and community interests, HM staff led a text-based conversation designed to get participants talking about what was worth addressing, preserving, and changing in Dillon. Official programming kicked off in the fall with a two-day board meeting, a historic downtown walking tour, and a community conversation based on the video "The Heart of the Matter." Over 75 community members discussed what the humanities meant in Dillon and even more planning participants were welcomed.



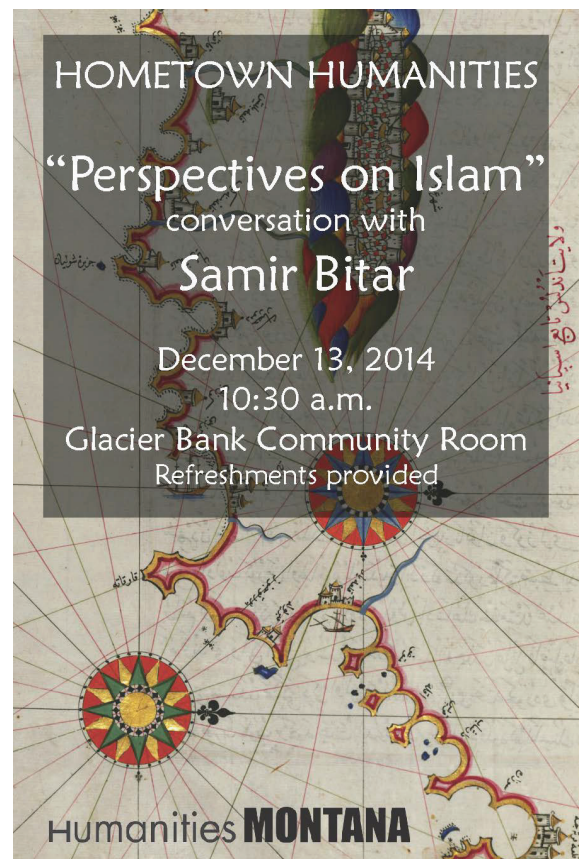


Throughout the year a large variety of organizations hosted HM speakers, the library participated in a five-month long Muslim Journeys reading and discussion program, and community groups created unique programming with HM support (like a free showing of the *American Lives* documentary on Pete Seeger followed by a singalong in commemoration of the activist/musician). A large community conversation, held on the UM-Western campus on water rights issues, “What We Talk About When We Talk About Water,” was facilitated by a rancher/water rights negotiator and was attended by over 150

community members with a wide variety of concerns and opinions. Participants were seated at tables of eight and each table included stakeholders of various competing claims (environmentalists, ranchers, developers, recreationists, etc.) and included a trained recorder/facilitator. The room was totally engaged, the event ran ½ hour longer than scheduled, and people walked out smiling and still conversing. It was an eye-opener, both for local community members who feared that a civil conversation on such a divisive issue could not happen, and for HM staff who were, frankly, a bit nervous themselves.

Hometown Humanities Year Three

With two years of programming under our belts HM staff felt ready to make a few alterations. We opened year three up to applications, hoping that two or three communities would come forward. We wanted to make the application unintimidating and yet we wanted to be sure that applicants understood that being chosen as a Hometown Humanities site would require considerable time and energy. The application required two co-sponsoring organizations, asked for up to ten community members who had expressed an interest in helping with the program, and required involvement from educators in the community. To our surprise we received six applications, almost all of them very strong.



HOMETOWN HUMANITIES

RACE IN MONTANA: A Montana Conversations Series exploring history and culture of different ethnic groups in Montana.



A Black Homesteader’s Struggle

Phil Burgess

FREE

February 18

6:00PM

Cabinet Mountain Brewery, Libby

Humanities **MONTANA**

HM board and staff chose an entire county as the 2013-14 Hometown Humanities site—Lincoln County, bordering Canada in the extreme northwest corner of the state.

While Lincoln County has a population of over 19,000 it is very dispersed with 5.4 people per square mile. The three major towns are Libby (one of the nation’s largest asbestos contamination sites, pop. 2,600), Troy (12 miles from the Idaho border, pop. 968), and Eureka (6 miles from Canada, pop. 1,031).

Representatives from all three communities (as well as the unincorporated Yaak) met with HM staff in June in Libby. Planning partners included high school teachers, librarians, business owners, and nonprofit leaders. HM also received a \$1,000 grant from the Lincoln County Community Foundation to support Hometown Humanities marketing efforts throughout the year. With multiple communities spread over 3,675 square miles marketing was essential to a successful year.

The Lincoln County communities showed an extraordinary diversity in their programming interests—standout programming included a monthly series on race in Montana, which featured five speakers in a popular brewery; 15 separate events to celebrate April as National Poetry Month, including a poetry contest and an appearance by the state poet laureate; monthly workshops on memoir writing held in both Eureka and Libby; a series on important women in Montana history; two barn dances; and dozens of school programs totaling over 35 different programs in the space of ten months. Both the

HOMETOWN HUMANITIES

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: READINGS, WORKSHOPS, & DISCUSSIONS EXPLORING & CELEBRATING POETRY IN MONTANA



Poetry Extravaganza & Montana’s Poet Laureate Reading with Tami Haaland

Announcement of poetry contest winners

May 7 • 6:00pm

Northwest Music/Hot Club Coffee House, Troy

Humanities **MONTANA**

HOMETOWN HUMANITIES

Fish Between the Falls

Film screening and discussion with Director George Sibley, and Fish biologists Ryan Silvester & Greg Hoffinan

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 PM

K.W. Maki Theater

724 Louisiana Ave., Libby

Humanities **MONTANA**



FREE



Lincoln County library and the Lincoln County Historical Museum wrote successful small grants to further their programming. Attendance at almost all events was higher than the sponsors expected. We are wrapping up our year in Lincoln County and looking forward to engaging with our new community for the 2015-16 year.

Hometown Humanities Year Four

After an even more competitive application process in which nine Montana communities vied for the Hometown Humanities designation, our board selected Havre, a town of about 10,000 people on Montana's Hi-Line in the northcentral part of the state. In June, staff drove five hours to meet with interested community members in person, describe the program possibilities, and learn about their ideas and aspirations. Using the poem "America" by Tony Hoagland to start a discussion about the culture and identity of Havre, we were off to a solid humanities start. The initial evening planning meeting at the library drew the largest organizing group yet. The next morning staff met with faculty and administration at Stone Child College, a nearby tribal college with which we have been hoping to strengthen ties. The president of Stone Child attended the meeting and some very promising ideas emerged.

In July we followed up with a conference call, again with a large number of participants. Plans are well underway for a fall series on current Native American culture, a writing workshop for youth on the reservation, a reading and discussion series at the library, conversations to follow theatre productions, multicultural events at the university, and more. Year four of Hometown Humanities already has a lot of momentum. The National Humanities Alliance, based in Washington, D.C., is a partner this year. This national recognition brought Montana State University Bozeman in as a partner as well and helped us secure a sponsorship from Stockman Bank.

After listening to Lincoln County organizers this past year, we introduced a special Hometown Humanities newsletter to keep all community members informed of both planning and programming throughout the year. The response has been very positive and our list continues to grow. We've established a relationship with the *Havre Daily News* and are already seeing press coverage on Humanities Montana grants and programs.





Financial Structure

The financial structure for the program has changed over the past three years. In years one and two HM budgeted a small amount for the program line (primarily to cover staff travel) and all actual programming costs were covered through other program budget lines (for instance our Speakers Bureau budget). Beginning this year, however, we have increased our budget line for Hometown Humanities to \$20,000, which will cover programming, administrative, and marketing costs. Now that we have a track record we are finding that Hometown Humanities is an attractive program to both local and regional funders. Last year's program in Lincoln County garnered \$1,000 in support from the local community foundation. We currently have \$10,000 applications in to two regional foundations and have received a \$1,000 sponsorship from a statewide bank. So while Hometown Humanities is not quite self-supporting, it may well be in 2015-16. The essence of the program has always been more about refocusing our delivery system rather than actually creating costly new programs. Hometown Humanities simply focuses a portion of our existing programs more efficiently for greater impact and utilizes staff interaction to a higher degree. And while the program does require quite a bit of attention from two staff people, both agreed that Hometown Humanities solved many issues of outreach and accessibility they had struggled with for years.

Outcomes:

- **Strengthened relationships with cultural organizations and individuals.** Community organizations in each of our first three Hometown Humanities locations have maintained contact with Humanities Montana and we have seen a sustained increase in the use of our programs in each of these towns. In the case of Dillon and Lincoln County, organizations that had never written a grant proposal received Opportunity grants. Individuals in all three locations have maintained ongoing relationships with HM staff. We have one new board member from Miles City who had never heard of our organization before Hometown Humanities and several other prospects when new board offerings arise.



- **Reached new audiences.** In all four communities we have focused on reaching not just the library/museum/community college communities but also forging relationships with local businesses, social services professionals, and, especially this year, tribal elders and administrators. In Libby, Montana a new and popular brewpub was excited to partner with us to host a series of discussions about race in Montana. In Havre we're already in conversation with the Stone Child College librarian about creating a writing workshop series for Native American youth. Miles City has a very active youth suicide prevention program and those organizers were some of the first to see the possibilities in partnership. We expect that the blend of interested partners will change with each community.
- **Increased opportunities to learn and reflect together.** Our cultural programming can have a very real impact on a small community. Issues that repeatedly come up in our initial planning meetings include concerns that there's nothing for young people in small towns to do and a desire for meaningful engagement with the bigger world. Many Hometown Humanities programs are designed to appeal to twenty-somethings or teens and in each community we try to find a balance between local history and issues and larger, current affairs programming.



- **Positive economic impact.**

Another concern in each of our Hometown Humanities sites has been the value and struggles of local businesses. We look for every opportunity to hold events in local businesses and partner with business owners. In Dillon we held several events and meetings at the Sweetwater Café. In Lincoln County our fairly modest advertising budget was seen as a boon to local papers. In addition, Hometown Humanities is demonstrating that it is a popular program for both local and

HOMETOWN HUMANITIES BY THE NUMBERS

5 – Reading and discussions in Dillon

6 – Communities reached since 2012

9 – Poetry events in Lincoln County

16 – Front page newspaper articles

153 – Hometown Humanities events so far

777 – Miles City students who participated in at least one program

6,250 – Total people at Hometown Humanities events

Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs

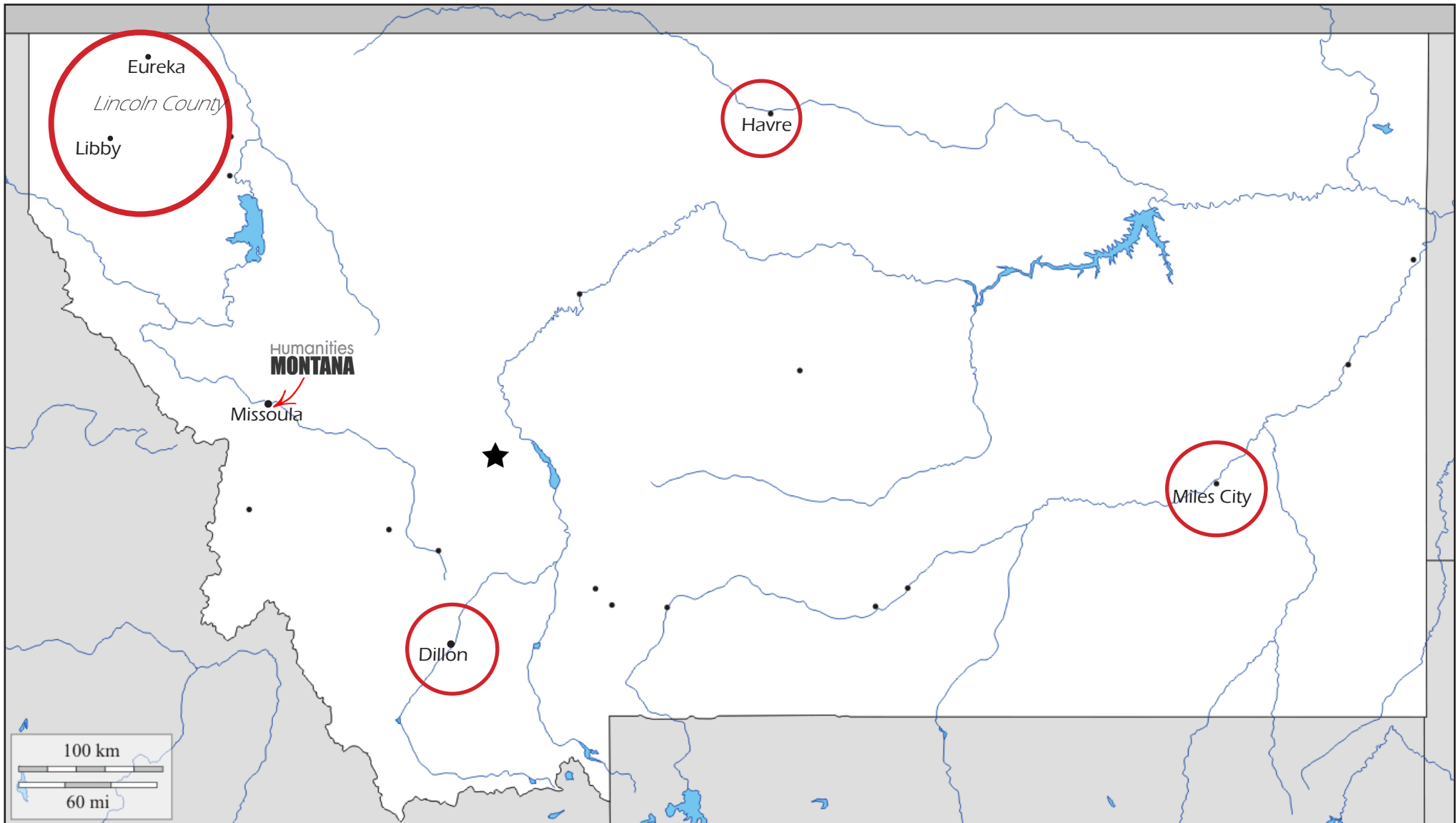
regional funders, including Stockman Bank, National Humanities Alliance, Montana State University Bozeman, Lincoln County Community Foundation, and Stevenson Design.

Conclusion

Hometown Humanities is an organic, grassroots, low-cost/high-impact approach that answers our council's and state's circumstances and needs. We believe Miles City, Dillon, and Lincoln County have a dramatically increased sense and appreciation of the humanities and the wide array of resources available to them—including new possibilities for funding homegrown programs—and a comfort level and closeness to HM staff. We're excited to create new relationships in Havre and discover what the humanities will look like in this new community.



Hometown Humanities sites Years 1-4



Hometown Humanities – Miles City Schedule of Events

"We did get a great picture on the front page of the local newspaper! We had close to 100 in attendance. After Mark's history lesson, we danced until 8:30. We had three stations going with lessons in Two-step/Fox Trot, Jitterbug and Salsa. As far as the kids went, many of them want to continue with more lessons. Unfortunately, maybe I have started something....Thanks so much for your help!"

–Report on "The History of American Dance program," Dee Sutter, high school health teacher

June 7 — Community Discussion of the Social and Cultural Impact of the Energy Boom in Eastern Montana

Public Event, Park Place, downtown Miles City, 7:00 pm.

June 8 — Community luncheon, Planning Hometown Humanities-Miles City

August 1–9 — Custer County Fair booth attended by local steering committee members

September 8 — "Social Marketing for Change" Keller

Public event held in conjunction with the "Out of the Darkness" suicide prevention walk. Saturday, Sep 8, 4:00pm, Art and Heritage Center.

October 1–2 — "Express to Speak" with Tahj Kjelland

Writing and presentation workshops in over a dozen school classrooms in Miles City, Forsyth, Broadus, Brockton, and Glendive. Workshop at the Pine Hills Youth Detention Center.

October 2 — Music, Poetry and Conversation with Tahj Kjelland

Public event. Tuesday, Oct 2, 7:00pm, Miles City Public Library.

October 3 — Diversity: A Community Conversation

Public event featuring guest speakers, including Miles City's own Emily Danforth (author of *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*). Wednesday, Oct 3, 6:30-8:30pm, Town and Country Club.

October 3 — Diversity: A Youth Conversation

Conversations with all classes at Custer County High School about diversity, led by Emily Danforth (author of *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*).

October 5 — Homecoming Tailgate

Public event. Friday, Oct 5, 5:00pm, outside Connors Field.

November 7 — "Some Favorite Indian Stories" with Hal Stearns

Seven school presentations Wednesday, November 7, Custer County Public High School.

November 7 – Indian Education for All

Facilitated conversation with students from Custer County Public High School and St. Labre Indian Catholic High School. Day long, seven presentations.

November 7 — "Homestead Dreams: From High Hopes to Lingering Legacy" with Hal Stearns

Public event. Wednesday, November 7, 6:00pm, Range Riders Museum

November 8–13 --- "Homestead Dreams: From High Hopes to Lingering Legacy" with Hal Stearns

Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs

Seven classroom presentations in Richland County.

November 8 — Planning for the Future of Miles City/Appreciating the Past

Chere Jiusto, lunch meeting for Miles City nonprofits and downtown businesses.

November 8 — The Value of Historic Preservation: A Community Conversation with Chere Jiusto

Public event. Thursday, Nov 8, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Eagles Rainbow Room

November 29 — "A History of American Dance" Lectures and workshops with Mark Matthews

Seven Custer County High School classes.

November 29 — "Banned in the Ballroom" Dance Class with Mark Matthews

Public event. Thursday, Nov 29, 6:00pm, Custer County High School gym lobby

February 16 — "How to Tell a War Story" with David Abrams

Public event. Saturday, Feb 16, 1:00pm, Miles City Public Library

March 25-29 — "Home, Home on the Ranch" and other programs with William Rossiter

Over 20 school events. Monday - Thursday, March 25-28, throughout the day at Sacred Heart School, Garfield School, Kinsey School and Custer County High School

Public event. Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm, Miles City Public Library

April 24 — "A Trapper's Tales" with John Stapler

Eight school presentations at Washington Middle School

Public event. Wednesday, April 24, 5:30pm, Range Riders Museum

May 15 — "Charlie Russell's Pranks and Stunts as Told by Sid Willis" with Richard Baker

Public event. Wednesday, May 15, 5:30pm, fireside in front of the Art and Heritage Center

"The opportunity to host this type of event was wonderful. It has provided a new means for our community to discuss topics that are not necessarily comfortable. The events have been well received and people are asking that we continue to do more, and would like to know when the next event is scheduled.

A hearty thank you to the Humanities MT staff for their continued support of conversations and humanities programming in eastern Montana. We have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this process. It has definitely been a value to our high school students and has allowed new interactive experiences for them and our community."

—From the Miles City Public Library after the first Community Conversation

June 7 — "A Visit with Teddy Roosevelt" with Arch Ellwein

Public event. Friday, June 7, 2:00pm, Miles City Public Library

June 12 — "Community Conversation: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Reflect Session and community conversation and dinner lead by Jason Neal and Kim Anderson, 5:30 pm, Miles City Town and Country Club.

June 13 — Grants Writing Workshop

Humanities Montana and other cultural grant opportunities workshop, led by Kim Anderson and Jason Neal, Custer County Community Health Center, 9:00 am

June 20 — "I Do: A Cultural History of Montana Weddings" with Martha Kohl

Public event. Thursday, June 20, 7:00pm, First Presbyterian Church

Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs

Hometown Humanities—Lincoln County Schedule of Events

September 22 – WOMEN IN MONTANA HISTORY SERIES

Jeannette Rankin: First Woman in Congress with Suzette Dussault, Episcopal Church, Eureka, 7:00 pm

September 25 – WOMEN IN MONTANA HISTORY SERIES

Jeannette Rankin: American Conscience with Mary Jane Bradbury, Maki Theater, Libby, 7:00 pm

October 2 – WOMEN IN MONTANA HISTORY SERIES

Taking Action: A Political History of Women in Montana with Diane Sands, Maki Theater, Libby, 7:00 pm

November 14 – Old Fashioned Barn Dance with Mark Matthews, Asa Wood Gym, Libby, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

November 15 – Old Fashioned Barn Dance with Mark Matthews, Creative Arts Center, Eureka, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

November 21 – Express to Speak with Tahj Kjelland, 4 classes at Troy High School

December 13 -- Perspectives on Islam with Samir Bitar, Glacier Bank, Eureka, 1:30 pm

January 14, 2015 – RACE IN MONTANA SERIES

Blackfeet Worldview with Darnell and Smokey Rides At The Door, Cabinet Mountain Brewery, Libby, 6:00 pm

January 20 – The Enduring Book: Evolution of an Elegant Technology with Audra Loyal, National Hotel Building, Eureka, 5:30 pm

January 24 – Writing Workshop with Caroline Patterson, Creative Arts Center, Eureka, 10:00 am

January 24 – Writing Workshop with Caroline Patterson, Lincoln County Library, Libby, 2:00 pm

February 5 – American Art and Democracy: It All Comes together in Jazz with Wilbur Rehman, The Little Theater, Libby, 6:00 pm

February 7 – Writing Workshop with Caroline Patterson, Creative Arts Center, Eureka, 10:00 am

February 7 – Writing Workshops with Caroline Patterson, Lincoln County Library, Libby, 2:00 pm

February 18 – RACE IN MONTANA SERIES A Black Homesteader's Struggle with Philip Burgess, Cabinet Mountain Brewery, Libby, 6:00 pm

March 3 – Montana 1864 with Ken Egan, Episcopal Church, Eureka, 6:30 pm

March 7 – Writing Workshops with Caroline Patterson, Creative Arts Center, Eureka, 7:00 pm

March 7 – Writing Workshops with Caroline Patterson, Lincoln County Library, Libby, 2:00 pm

March 13 – Modern History from the Perspective of the Saxophone with Dylan Dwyer and Jesse Dochnahl, Eureka Middle and High Schools, 6:00 pm

March 20 – Jimmie Rodgers with Ed Kemmick, Eureka Middle and High Schools, 6:00 pm

March 25 – RACE IN MONTANA Latino America, Latino Montana with Bridget Kevane, Cabinet Mountain Brewing Col., 6:00 pm

March 25 – The Fish Between the Falls film screening and discussion with the film maker, Maki Theater, 7:00 pm

March 25 – Charles M. Russell: Cowboy Storeteller with Richard Ellis, Eureka High School, 8:30 am

March 26 – Charles M. Russell: Cowboy Storyteller with Richard Ellis, Troy High School, 8:30 am

March 27 – Charles M. Russell: Cowboy Storyteller with Richard Ellis, Hot Club, Troy, 6:00 pm

April 1 – POETRY MONTH
Lincoln County Poetry Contest Kickoff with Bent Grass Troupe Performance, Old Ford Cabin, The Yaak, 6:00 pm

April 2 – POETRY MONTH
Bent Grass Troupe Performance, Hot Club, Troy, 6:00 pm

April 6 – POETRY MONTH
Express to Speak with Tahj Kjelland, Cabinet Mountain Brewery, Libby, 6:00 pm

April 8 – POETRY MONTH
Poetry Writing Workshop with Lowell Jaeger, Lincoln County Library, 5:00 pm

April 10 – Art of Glacier National Park with Rafael Chacon, Terri Jones Art Studio, 7:00 pm

April 14 – POETRY MONTH
Wordsongs: Bringing Poetry to Life with Dave Caserio, Troy High School, 2:00 pm

April 14 – POETRY MONTH
Wordsongs: Bring Poetry to Life with Dave Caserio, Heritage Museum, Troy, 6:00 pm

April 17 – RACE IN MONTANA
Perspectives on Islam with Samir Bitar, Troy High School, 2:00 pm

April 17 – RACE IN MONTANA
Perspectives on Islam with Samir Bitar, K.W. Maki Theater, Libby, 6:00 pm

April 17 – POETRY MONTH
Introducing Montana Native American Poetry with Dottie Susag, Lincoln County Library, Libby, 6:00 pm

April 28 – POETRY MONTH
Introducing Montana Native American Poetry with Dottie Susag, Troy High School, 10:40 am & 12:10 pm

April 30 – Good Neighbors: A Community Conversation with Lowell Jaeger, Eureka High School, 6:00 pm

May 7 – POETRY MONTH
Poetry Extravaganza announcement of poetry contest winners and Poet Laureate reading, Hot Club, Troy, 6:00 pm

May 20 – Montana 1864 with Ken Egan, Heritage Museum, Libby, 6:00 pm

May 30 – A Ride Back In Time to the Rocky Mountain Rendevouz Era with Perri Knize, Heritage Museum, Libby, 10:00 am

July 7 – Montana Towns and Rural Places with Hal Stearns, Historic Village, Eureka, 6:00 pm,

August 26 – Singing The Western Legacy with Neal Lewing, Lincoln County Library, 12:00 pm

Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs

Hey All!!

Just wanted to let you know that Bill has knocked my socks off with his programs in the elementary schools. In fact, I can guarantee there are a lot of mismatched socks out there after he walked out of the schools! I watched all of his programs at Sacred Heart and it was amazing to see the kids so engaged. He is a very talented musician but even more, a talented storyteller. And I can tell you that the teachers were also impressed. His music and storytelling is entertaining with a message that is sure to impact the kids. I think every 1st and 2nd grader will confuse their parents when they go home with their neon wrist bands looking for cans and strings and spoons to practice "vibration" and "resonance," not to mention washboards and washtubs (rhythmic noise)!! The middle grades got a lesson on heroes which involved guns and murder (gulp!) and morality and that got everyone's attention! You could hear a pin drop when the Civil War casualties became relevant to the 7th and 8th graders: "Imagine waking up in the morning and everyone in the state of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming....(I forget the whole list) were dead." And they learned the secret purpose of a song being a map, "Follow the Drinking Gourd." One of the 8th graders came back after school let up and asked to play the washtub bass!

Okay. Enough. He still has two more days left. How he is keeping up the energy I don't know. I did have him and Sharon for dinner last night and made sure there was chocolate involved.

Oh, and the Chamber of Commerce sent everyone on their MC list-serve a poster for the Thursday night program, with Humanities Montana front and center. I've decided notifying people by email is quite effective because not everyone pays attention to the local newspaper.

Kim, Jason, Ken...I know this one overshot the budget. But many thanks! It was money well spent!
LEARN! REFLECT! TOGETHER!! and the schools are where you start!

–Karen Stevenson, organizer of multiple school presentations by a Montana Conversations presenter, Bill Rossiter, in March



Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs

HOMETOWN HUMANITIES
MILES CITY

MC Humanities MONTANA

LITERATURE Grants
VALUES HISTORY
Learn PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CONVERSATION
LIBRARIES Reflect
Civility Community
Together Insight
FILM MUSEUMS

You are cordially invited to...

Community Conversation “Diversity”

**Wednesday, October 3rd
6:30-8:30pm,
Town & Country Club**

Area adults and youth are invited to sit down and have a conversation about diversity and growing up in Eastern Montana; topics and issues that affect everyone. Special Guest speakers, including author Emily Danforth, share their experiences. Refreshments provided, different perspectives encouraged. For more information, please contact the Library (234-1496).

See more events at...

HumanitiesMontana.org/MC



WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT WATER

A
COMMUNITY
CONVERSATION

FREE

HOMETOWN
HUMANITIES

DILLON

Humanities MONTANA

Many factors contribute to "water stress" in the West: land use and management, population growth, climate change, policy and administration.

In this community conversation we'll explore the cultural repercussions of water stress on people in Beaverhead County—currently and in the foreseeable future.

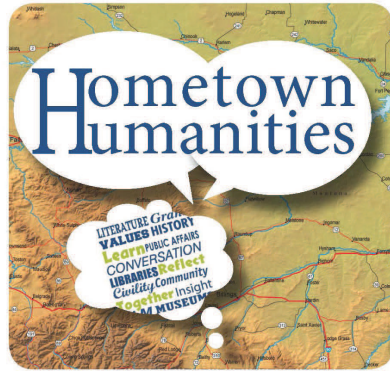
facilitated by
Bill Milton, community facilitator
Montana Water Supply Initiative
&

Lisa Grace, Executive Director
One Montana

Thursday, Jan 30
5:00 pm
Lewis & Clark Room
UM Western

To RSVP:
call 406-243-6022
or email
info@humanitiesmontana.org

FOR MORE INFO: www.humanitiesmontana.org/hometown



NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

A SERIES OF READINGS, WORKSHOPS,
DISCUSSIONS AND A CONTEST EXPLORING
AND CELEBRATING POETRY IN MONTANA.

ALL FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.

APR 1–30 • LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County Poetry Contest opens with Montana Poet Laureate Tami Haaland as judge. Contact library for rules.

APR 6 • LIBBY

Express to Speak with Tahj Kjelland, Cabinet Mountain Brewing Co, 206 Mineral Ave, 6:00pm

APR 8 • LIBBY

Poetry Writing Workshop with Lowell Jaeger, Lincoln County Library, 220 West 6th St, 5:00pm

APR 14 • LIBBY

WordSongs: Bringing Poetry to Life with Dave Caserio and musician Paul Faessel, Heritage Museum, 1367 US 2, 6:00pm

APR 27 • LIBBY

Introducing Montana Native American Poetry with Dottie Susag, Lincoln County Library, 220 West 6th St, 6:00pm

MAY 7 • TROY

Poetry Extravaganza and **Montana's Poet Laureate Reading** with Tami Haaland, announcement of poetry contest winners, Northwest Music/Hot Club Coffee House, Troy, 6:00pm



Humanities MONTANA

Nomination Statement for 2015 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Public Humanities Programs



WHAT IS HOMETOWN HUMANITIES?

Hometown Humanities brings a year's worth of humanities-based events to a single community—15 to 20 events, all **FREE OF CHARGE** and open to the public. Local community members will select from Humanities Montana's extensive catalog—programs include over 100 different presentations on topics like history, literature, current events and the arts—as well as create new cultural events.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

First, leaders in the community (that's you!) work with Humanities Montana staff to bring fun and interesting events into a wide array of venues—museums, library, schools, shops, churches, and any other place where people gather. Programs can include community conversations, reading and discussion groups, interactive workshops, interesting presentations on history, world affairs, and more—you decide!

Finally, tell your friends and family and show up for conversation, entertainment, and community.



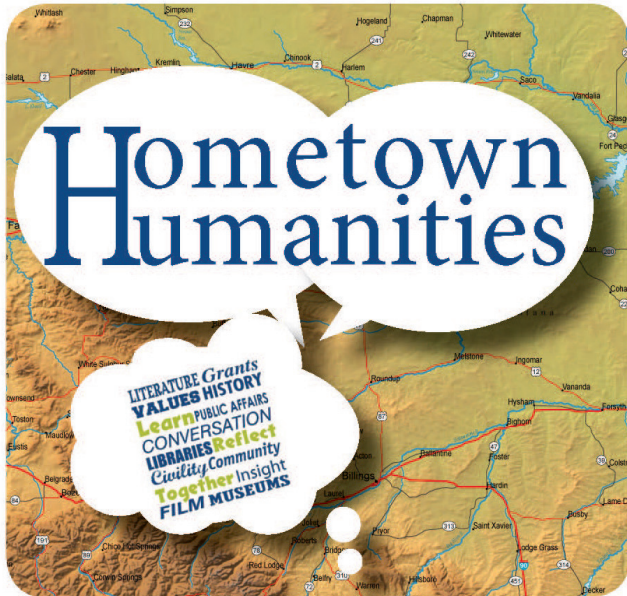
WHEN WOULD THIS HAPPEN? WHAT'S NEXT?

Planning for a fall kickoff event starts now! It will set the stage for terrific programming all the way into the summer of 2016. Contact us if you want to be involved at info@humanitiesmontana.org.

We're looking forward to a great partnership!

Humanities MONTANA
LEARN • REFLECT • TOGETHER

Electronic image



Program description suitable for posting to Federation website

Hometown Humanities is a focused partnership with one Montana community, offering between 25–35 different humanities programs, organizational support, marketing support, and neighborly advice over the course of twelve months. Humanities Montana’s goals are to strengthen our relationship with a particular community, improve a community’s cultural infrastructure, increase their familiarity and comfort with Humanities Montana and our offerings, and break down barriers that may exist for smaller communities looking to create more ambitious cultural programming.

Link to program information

www.humanitiesmontana.org/programs/hometownhumanities/