



## Responding to the Moment: Connecting Kansans in 2020

A nomination for the 2020 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize  
Humanities Kansas

Humanities Kansas (HK) nominates **Responding to the Moment: Connecting Kansans in 2020** for the 2020 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize. In a complicated year, Humanities Kansas responded to the needs of Kansas cultural organizations and individuals with simple, straightforward programming that sparked conversations, engagement, and connection. Beginning in March, HK pivoted programming directions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within days of statewide and local stay-at-home orders, HK unveiled new programs, grant opportunities, and online content with the purpose of 1) helping humanities organizations adapt their projects for an online audience, 2) delivering humanities content in digital and analog formats to combat isolation, and 3) modeling innovative digital programming for HK's statewide partners. Yet, COVID-19 was not the only concern that needed attention. In June 2020, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, it became apparent that HK must respond with a renewed vigor for equity in our state. HK created organizational equity goals, committed financial support for Black-managed humanities projects responding to the moment, and provided a visible, popular platform for a series of Big Ideas essays and interviews with Black scholars highlighting scholarship in equal rights, systemic racism, powerful African American literature, and more. The response by Kansans to these changes – due to COVID-19 and race equity demands – prove that the need for humanities connections and engagement increase during times of crisis. The \$53,637 expended for projects leveraged \$43,125 in in-kind contributions and reached 319,554 Kansans.

### HK responded to the needs of Kansans in 2020 by:

1. Helping humanities organizations adapt their projects for an online audience
2. Delivering humanities content in digital and analog formats to combat isolation
3. Modeling innovative digital programming for statewide partners
4. Recommitting to equity and inclusion by providing resources and programming opportunities



"A Place in Between: Life in Norton County during the 2020 Pandemic"

## Project Background: 2020 Brings Unprecedented Changes and Needs for Connection

March 2020 was shaping up to be a busy month for the humanities in Kansas. 60 events were planned in 43 communities throughout the state, including a HK Speakers Bureau presentation about the Harlem Renaissance in Prairie Village, a book discussion of “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel in Goodland, and a traveling exhibition about the 19th Amendment in Topeka. Events in early March went forward as scheduled with people gathering in person at venues, sharing ideas, and engaging in discussions through the humanities. In mid-March, things changed dramatically. One by one, HK events were postponed or canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, Governor Laura Kelly announced an executive order to cancel or postpone events of more than 50 people. In the weeks that followed, stay at home orders were issued, gatherings were restricted to groups of 10 people or less, and organizations with missions that depended on in-person programming were left to wonder if they would be around after the stay at home orders were lifted.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African American man, was killed in police custody in Minneapolis. Floyd’s death was captured on video and widely circulated on social media. In the days that followed protests erupted across the nation. Kansans in larger communities of Wichita, Lawrence, Topeka, and Overland Park protested, as well as smaller communities like Garden City, Hays, Pittsburg, and Salina. HK recognized the role of the humanities in providing historical context, individual perspective, and literary expression to the ongoing national and statewide conversation.

Recognizing the need for Kansas cultural organizations to survive and thrive and for Kansans to continue to engage with one another, HK quickly responded with new programs, grant opportunities, and online content with the goals of 1) helping humanities organizations adapt their projects for an online audience, 2) delivering humanities content in digital and analog formats to combat isolation, 3) modeling innovative digital programming for HK’s statewide partners, and 4) recommitting to equity and inclusion in Kansas by providing resources and programming to create opportunities to share their stories and explore ideas free from intolerance.

### **Responding to the Needs of Cultural Organizations during a Pandemic**

HK’s first step in responding to the pandemic was to assess the needs of statewide partners. HK partnered with the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, Kansas Museums Association, and the Kansas Library Association to survey the impact of COVID-19 on Kansas arts and cultural organizations. The goals of the survey were to 1) capture early data on the impact of the pandemic shutdown, 2) establish early indications of support needed by arts and cultural organizations, and 3) use the data to develop sustainability plans and create mechanisms for financial support. The survey was designed to be used by museums, art centers, libraries, performing art venues, and other organizations critical to Kansas’s flourishing arts and culture infrastructure. The survey was open March 26 through April 8 and received 125 responses.

The survey shed light on the early and dramatic impact of the pandemic shut down and assessed organizations’ abilities to pivot programming directions. Key findings were 1) a financial impact had occurred and assistance would be needed, 2) organizations were pivoting and adapting programming, but their flexibility to move programming online varied, and 3) Kansas cultural organizations are vital to their communities and their prolonged shut down or closure would have rippled effects on the local economies.

The survey found that the programmatic impact of the coronavirus shutdown was immediate and resulted in event cancellations and postponements. 73 percent of respondents canceled between 1 and 20 events in March and early April. Some organizations indicated that they had the flexibility to reschedule events and exhibitions, while others noted that the availability of speakers, artists, and traveling exhibitions posed a problem for rescheduling in the future.

The necessity of canceling in-person events created new opportunities for organizations to expand or enhance their online presence. 50 percent of respondents noted that their online presence had increased due to the pandemic shutdown. "Some [programs] will be live-streamed or taped and posted on our Facebook or web page," shared one organization. One respondent reported that they were "working on a digital presence that we did not have beforehand. This was something we had discussed and current events pushed this to the forefront. With the abundance of social media applications, our marketing cost is limited to just the creation of digital media." A small but significant number of organizations reported that they did not have the flexibility to adapt programming due to closure, limited staff and volunteers, and the restrictions of gatherings to 10 people or less.

The coronavirus pandemic impacted more than programming; it threatened the future of cultural organizations in general. In the face of an uncertain future, a significant number of organizations were planning to avoid costs, close, and reduce staff. "We barely met expenses before the virus," one organization shared, "so we might not open."

Using survey data, HK responded to the programmatic needs of cultural organizations with tools to enhance their digital presence in four ways: 1) Quick Grants to help bring their programming online and connect their communities, 2) full-length online programming options for HK's Speakers Bureau and Talk About Literature in Kansas book discussions, 3) Rapid Remedies, a white paper and how-to guide for the creation and implementation of digital programming, and 4) Revolving monthly grant deadlines replaced pre-COVID-19 deadlines to allow for more flexibility to applicants whose plans were derailed.

### **Responding to the Needs of Individuals**

The social distancing measures necessary to control the spread of COVID-19 exacerbated social isolation, particularly among elderly and rural populations. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. The CDC recommends that "coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger." The CDC advises healthy ways to cope with stress include connecting with community members online, by phone, or by mail.

HK responded to the stress and isolation experienced by individuals during COVID-19 by creating digital and analog ways for Kansans to connect with the humanities. Movement of Ideas kits are curated online collections of films, literature, and activities designed to spark conversation and generate insights. HK created 21 kits that were sent out every day in late March and early April. In order to reach individuals in an analog way, HK created "Dial-a-Speaker" and "Dial-a-TALK," short 15-minute presentations by HK speakers and discussion leaders that could be given over the phone to individuals free of charge.

### **Responding to the Need for Leadership**

As the leading humanities organization in Kansas, HK modeled ways that online partners can pivot in-person program plans and engage audiences through digital programming. HK has adapted the Big Idea series into popular online interviews and discussions. In advance of the *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* Smithsonian exhibition tour, HK created a virtual *Crossroads* experience at [crossroads.humanitieskansas.org](https://crossroads.humanitieskansas.org).

## Responding to the Need for Equity

At the very heart of the humanities are stories: Stories that educate, transform, and change us. Yet in order for stories to have this power, there must be safe spaces where people willingly listen to one another and engage in difficult conversations about our past, the complexities we face today, and the future we can create together. To address this need, HK 1) worked with Dr. John Edgar Tidwell on an essay addressing the power of the humanities during racial injustice and the pandemic, 2) created and shared organizational equity goals in hopes of modeling expectations for other Kansas cultural organizations, 3) supported community projects exploring race and identity, including “Reading Frederick Douglass” in Topeka, “Say My Name” in Wichita, “Red Talks” Native American podcast series in Lawrence, and a race equity online initiative with the Topeka Youth Project, and 4) pivoted the existing Big Idea series to explorations of race and justice by Kansas Black scholars.

## Project Description: Involvement by Humanities Kansas

*“Humanities Kansas is doing a great job sharing resources and inspiring people during this crisis.”* -Mary Madden, Kansas Historical Society

HK responded to the moment by meeting the needs of Kansans in 2020 in the following ways: 1) pivoting programming offerings, 2) adapting existing programs into digital formats, 3) creating new programs to connect Kansans during a time of social distancing, and 4) recommitting to equity and inclusion through programs and resources.

Embarking on a project of this magnitude requires a steady hand and creative thinking. The entire HK staff participated in pivoting HK’s programming directions. Executive Director Julie Mulvihill led the charge, with support from Associate Director Tracy Quillin, Program Officer Abigail Kaup, Director of Finance Leslie Daugharthy, Development Officer Leighann Thone, and Director of Grants and Outreach Leslie VonHolten. At the onset of the pandemic, HK was in the process of hiring a new director of grants. In order to successfully add a new grant program and produce new humanities content, HK contracted with Sarah Bishop of Coneflower Consulting to implement the new grants and programs. Sarah received her PhD in literature and media from the University of Virginia and has over a decade of experience in grant writing, fundraising, communications, strategic planning, and leadership for Midwest non-profits and institutions of higher education.

### Quick Grants

Developed in response to limits on in-person gatherings, Quick Grants were awards of \$500 to \$1,000 meant to be used quickly to help organizations adapt their programming for a digital audience. Quick grant projects share stories that explore the humanities experience in ways not reliant on in-person events, engage people in humanities discussions through online or other remote opportunities, and generate insights that cultivate a thriving democracy and connect people and place over time and across generations. Between April and August 2020, HK awarded 24 Quick Grants reaching an audience of 206,865. Some examples of Quick Grant projects include:

- The Museum of World Treasures in Wichita developed an online exhibit called “History from Home” that showcased stories and images of heirlooms, keepsakes, and documents submitted by Kansans. “This project allowed us to build capacity to do virtual exhibits,” shared the project director, “we plan to use the structure built to continue adding new virtual exhibits.
- In Dodge City, the Boot Hill Museum’s online video series, “New Connections to the Old West,” gives Kansans a chance to explore some of the Boot Hill Museum’s collections, to learn a little bit about what it takes to run and curate a historical Museum, and to hear some of the best stories the Old West has to offer all from the comfort of their living rooms. Videos feature in-depth explorations of 19th century health care, the history of Harvey Houses, and entrepreneurial saloon owners.

- Ashland City Library captured and preserved the stories of Clark County residents as they experienced life during a pandemic. Working closely with historians Dr. Tai Edwards, Associate Professor of History at Johnson County Community College, and Destiny Lalicker, a graduate of Fort Hays State University, the library created a list of twenty-five questions that would enable them to carry out oral history interviews with a range of local residents, including county commissioners, city council members, healthcare workers, pastors, business people, bankers, teachers, nurses, and students. The resulting interviews are being transcribed and published in the *Clark County Gazette* and on the Ashland City Library website.
- Staff at Hodgeman County Economic Development, Inc. in Jetmore wanted to offset the fear and anxiety that so many in Hodgeman County were experiencing as the pandemic dominated the news and economic instability loomed. They decided to make a podcast – “We are Hodgeman Strong” – documenting stories of resiliency from Hodgeman County residents. Episodes include an interview with a local embroidery shop owner who started making masks during the pandemic and the story of a local resident who recalled the Blizzard of 1957 and how the community overcame the crisis through camaraderie and spirit.

### Quick Grant Awards

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| • Arkansas City Area Arts Council, “Virtual Buford Theatre” social media series   | • Legacy, A Regional Community Foundation, Winfield, “Beauty in a Broken World” short film series                               |
| • Ashland City Library, “Clark County’s Response to COVID-19” oral history project  | • Mary Cotton Public Library, Sabetha, “COVID-19! The Mask of Fear or New Beginnings?” video interviews                         |
| • Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, “New Connections to the Old West” video series  | • Morris County Historical Society, Council Grove, “Virtual Tours of Council Grove’s House Museums”                             |
| • City of Neodesha, “Connecting Our Community” virtual discussions  | • Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, “History from Home” virtual exhibition  |
| • Emporia Public Library, “COVID-19 Stories from Lyon County” oral history project  | • Norton County Arts Council, Norton, “A Place in Between: Life in Norton County during the 2020 Pandemic” oral history project |
| • Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, Lawrence, “Portals to the Past” online presentations                                       | • Reno County Historical Society, Hutchinson, “Reno County Museum History and Behind the Scenes” video tours                    |
| • Geary County Historical Society and Museum, Junction City, “1918 Influenza Epidemic in Kansas” short films and podcasts               | • Santa Fe Trail Association, Larned, “The Santa Fe Trail Lives On!” podcast  |
| • Harvester Arts, Wichita, “Beyond Wichita” podcast   | • Special Olympics Kansas, Inc., Mission, “Online Town Hall History Session”  |
| • Hodgeman County Economic Development, Jetmore, “Hodgeman Strong” podcast  | • Stage 9, Hutchinson, “Bringing the Past to Life: A Local History Biography Series”  |
| • Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society, Holton, “Reflections: Jackson County’s Response to COVID-19” oral history project | • Topeka Youth Project, Inc., “Weekly Youth Livestream” interviews  |
| • Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra, “Kansas City Legacy Bandleaders in the Time of COVID-19” oral history project                       | • Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, “Earth Day 50th Birthday Party” online event   |
| • Kansas Post Rock Limestone Coalition, Inc., Lucas, “Documenting Kansas Post Rock Limestone Quarries” film                             | • World’s Largest Things, Inc., Lucas, “Wee Wonders Virtual Road Trip: Kansas!” video series                                    |



## **Rapid Remedies: Getting Cultural Non-Profit Stories Up and Out During COVID-19**

Inspired by the Quick Grant projects, HK introduced a new resource to help cultural non-profits connect with their communities. The *Rapid Remedies* white paper was designed to assist cultural non-profits in their continued efforts to quickly and affordably create engaging online stories that fulfill their unique missions. *Rapid Remedies* includes project models, examples of digital projects from Kansas cultural nonprofits, and tools for creating digital projects. *Rapid Remedies* was written by Sarah Bishop of Coneflower Consulting. The free resource is available for download on HK's website and has been accessed 88 times since August.

## **Movement of Ideas Kits**

On March 18, 2020, HK launched the first of a series of 21 Movement of Idea kits. Over the years, HK and HK's project partners have created essays, podcasts, short films, and oral histories showcasing unique Kansas stories. HK turned to these projects to create curated kits offering a variety of humanities-at-home projects. The "Centennial of Women's Suffrage" kit features a 19th Amendment quiz and links to blog posts and podcast about women's suffrage. "From Masa to Mariachi: Exploring the Mexican Immigrant Experience in Kansas" includes links and discussion questions for the film "Mariachi Estrella: Ad Astra Per Aspera" and the essay "Chasing the American Dream." The kit "Root for the Home Team" presented a history of sports mini-film festival, complete with a recipe for a sports-themed snack. HK generating 60 Movement of Ideas kit social media posts across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter engaging an audience of 25,895 people.

## **Dial-a-Speaker and Dial-a-TALK for Individuals**

For the first time ever, HK offered the popular Speakers Bureau presentations and Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK) book discussions as a phone service for individuals. Dial-a-Speaker and Dial-a-TALK programs allow Kansans to receive mini-presentations about Kansas history and literature with one of HK's highly-qualified Speakers Bureau presenters or book discussion leaders from the comfort of their home via phone. 4 Dial-a-Speaker and Dial-a-TALK programs reached 24 people.

## **Online Programming Pivots for Organizations**

The pandemic has changed the way that programming is conducting, making virtual and "plan B" options a necessity. HK updated Humanities for All and Culture Preservation grant guidelines to encourage plans for virtual programming and a backup plan should stay-at-home orders be put into effect. HK's robust catalogs of Speakers Bureau presentations and TALK book discussions were quickly adapted for full-length online presentations. HK updated the online request forms to allow for an online presentation option so that program coordinators could easily plan their events. Upon hearing feedback that funds were a barrier to implementing Zoom or WebEx presentations, HK now provides funds to support a short-term Zoom or WebEx subscription. HK also created a document that provided instructions on how to set-up and run an online meeting via Zoom and other platforms to guide those who had no experience using that technology. 27 online events have reached an audience of 4,480.



**"Rocky" led video tours of the Strataca Underground Salt Museum with an HK Quick Grant**

## Community Projects Supporting Exploration of Race and Identity

Responding to the need for engagement and discussion of issues of race and identity, HK partnered with cultural organizations to support community projects. On July 5, 2020, ArtsConnect of Topeka presented “We Read Frederick Douglass,” an online community reading of the 1852 speech by Frederick Douglass, wherein he critiqued the American values of liberty, citizenship, and freedom that excluded enslaved people. 40 people participated in the reading and the reading was projected on the Brown v. Board National Historic Site for a week after the reading. 3,500 people viewed the video at the Facebook watch party. On October 1, The Kansas African American Museum in Wichita hosted an online conversation exploring why the chant “Say Their Names” resounds in recent racial protest and the connection between our names and identities. The event was streamed live on Facebook and the video recording has been viewed 100 times. Lead Horse LLC adapted their “Red Talks” interview series with Native American influencers from an in-person event to a podcast series. Beginning in the spring, Freddy Gipp of Lead Horse LLC has livestreamed interviews with Native American entrepreneurs, politicians, cultural leaders, chefs, professors, and others who are shaping 21st century Native American culture. The podcasts have been viewed 5,145 times. The Topeka Youth Project is an online discussion series about race and equity. The live discussions on Facebook have had 5,203 views.

### Big Idea

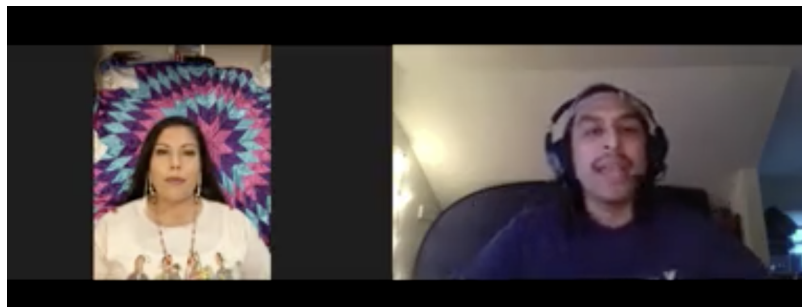
The Big Idea is HK’s essay and discussion series featuring fresh ideas about historical and current events that provide a starting point for conversations about ideas that shape our world. Big Idea essays are circulated on social media with a follow up engagement activity on Facebook, Zoom, or another online platform. HK was able to quickly adapt the Big Idea for successful online programming. In response to nationwide protests in summer 2020, the Big Idea became a powerful way to engage Kansans with issues of race and equity. 5,782 Kansans attended Big Idea online events with an additional 17,069 engaging with 43 Big Idea social media posts.

2020 Big Idea topics include:

- “Pandemic, Interracial Strife, and the Saving Grace of Humanities,” by Dr. John Edgar Tidwell, professor emeritus of English at the University of Kansas
- “Free Did Not Mean Welcome for My Family,” by Dr. Carmaletta Williams, executive director of the Black Archives of Mid-America
- “Images from the Mind of a Bi-Racial Black Woman,” by Ann Dean, professional photographer
- “It’s Time to Tell the Stories of African American Entrepreneurs,” by Dr. Robert E. Weems, Jr., Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History, Wichita State University

### Crossroads: Change in Rural America Website

As the August kickoff of the *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* statewide initiative approached, HK staff created a backup plan to make *Crossroads* activities accessible in the event any of the venues had to shut down. HK worked with Flint Hills Design of North Newton, Kansas, to create a *Crossroads* website. The website features a virtual tour of the *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* Smithsonian traveling exhibition, online exhibitions from the *Crossroads* communities, and activities. The website launched in August and has had 533 visitors.



Freddy Gipp interviews powwow coordinator Larissa No Braid for the “Red Talks” podcast

## Project Impact: Responding to the Moment: Connecting Kansans in 2020

A summary of the number of people reached by HK's Covid-19 programming

• Quick Grant projects	206,865
• Dial-a-Speaker/Dial-a-TALK	24
• Big Idea interviews	5,782
• Speaker Bureau online presentations	780
• TALK online book discussions	100
• Humanities for All online events	13,948
• Crossroads website	533
• Social Media	91,522
◦ Movement of Ideas Kits	
◦ Big Idea posts	
◦ Story Chasers	
◦ Quick Grant stories	
◦ Rapid Remedies	

<b>Total</b>	<b>319,554</b>
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### Anecdotal Evidence of Impact

A project director from Sedgwick County shared how helpful she has found HK's COVID resources, especially the *Rapid Remedies* document. They decided to move their in-person events to online, but they had never done anything like it and they were nervous. Thanks to HK's resources, they were experimenting with apps like Padlet and had ordered a tripod.

"Zoom has really broken a barrier for us in making our live programs accessible. We even had people from Pennsylvania attend because John Brown spent time there before he came west. They had a whole different part of the John Brown story than most Kansans are familiar with."

-Jim Ogle, Executive Director of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, "Portals to the Past" Quick Grant project

"The project was an attempt to fill a void left by the shutdown this spring because of COVID-19. Normally, Strataca would have had as many as 600 children come through our doors, but all that was canceled. We felt the need to produce some kind of virtual tour. The result was a series of videos of the museum with our animated rock named Rocky talking about the different exhibits. The project far exceeded our expectations. We got a good response from teachers who used the videos. The big surprise was how many members of the general public watched the video just for fun."

-Michael Ables, Strataca/Reno County Historical Society, "Reno County Museum and Behind the Scenes" Quick Grant project



"In recognition of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Watkins Museum of History organized an all-day virtual event to celebrate the history and meaning of Earth Day. The event was originally scheduled to occur as an in-person gathering with participation by several local organizations that would demonstrate activities and projects related to Earth Day. Due to the coronavirus and the need for social distancing, the event needed to be adapted. Instead of cancelling or delaying the program for a later date, we decided to turn it into a virtual event and asked participating organizations to create 10-15 minute videos that celebrated the history and meaning of Earth Day, which we shared on the day of the event. The Earth Day 50th Birthday Party used stories and activities to demonstrate the relevance and impact of Earth Day across a variety of organizations. Audience members were able to make connections about the importance of Earth Day by watching videos that convey multiple perspectives, whether a history lesson or virtual walk through the woods. The project provided us with a model for more online events."

-Will Hickox, Watkins Museum of History, "Earth Day 50th Birthday Party" Quick Grant project

"The project far exceeded our expectations. [The films are] a wonderful document about this time in history and how history repeats itself. It was received with huge applause. People were truly grateful to have the films during this crazy time. While the [Bartlett Arboretum] gates were closed, we let them in for their own personal tour, and we hopefully taught them some things about the history of the Arb and the history of our country. We shared the videos on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube channels and we've never seen such high amounts of traffic before."

-Robin Macy, Legacy Community Foundation/Bartlett Arboretum, "Beauty in a Broken World" Quick Grant project

"We appreciate Sarah taking the lecture online. She did an excellent job – it was interesting and well organized. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to have the in-person lecture, having the online lecture was the best option for the situation – thank you!"

-Charlotte Brownson, University for Man, Community Learning Center, Manhattan, "Politics on the Platform: Women's Suffrage at the Chautauqua" Speakers Bureau presented by Sarah Bell

"This [online] program attracted new followers to our Facebook page. The event became a vehicle to discuss diverse experiences of Kansans."

-Kelly Erby, Washburn University, Topeka, "Poet Laureate of Kansas: May Our Voices Ring True," presented by Huascar Medina

"ArtsConnect is excited to have an opportunity to continue to do work that fosters important conversations, creates connection and uses the arts as a tool for social change. This reading helps strangers become friends, our community become stronger and artists become activists for social justice. The issues that Douglass so eloquently addresses in this speech reflect a continued struggle for equality and justice in the United States."

-Sarah Fizell, ArtsConnect, Topeka, "We Read Frederick Douglass"

"These Red Talks podcasts are here to stay and will be a part of our overall plan post-COVID-19. We see an interesting opportunity to serve as an alternative platform that will dedicate itself to highlighting the positive aspects of Lawrence's Native community and Indian Country."

-Freddy Gipp, Lead Horse LLC, Lawrence, "Red Talks" podcasts

## Financial Structure: Responding to the Moment: Connecting Kansans in 2020

Coordinating the COVID-19 and racial equity programming response, staff time, consultant fees, developer, and speaker honoraria were the major expenses. Private donations were used for the *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* website.

NEH	\$52,437
Private Funds	\$1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,637</b>

### Cost Share Breakdown

The 24 Quick Grant and three Humanities for All grant organizations donated staff, time, and resources including facilities, equipment, online events, supplies, publicity, and promotion.

**Partner Site Cost Share** **\$43,125**

### **In Conclusion:**

The humanities start with stories— stories that connect us, that tell us who we are and where we've come from. They help us draw on insights from history, literature, ethics and the arts to live richer lives. They remind us that we need more than food, water and shelter to survive. We need beauty and truth — and the freedom to explore our own ideas, to listen to those of others and to find common ground that moves us forward. The humanities make the challenges and the uncertainty of the pandemic more bearable, by providing opportunities for reflection and insight through literature and stories of the past. The humanities connect us with one another by providing opportunities for self-reflection and discussion. By pivoting program directions and modeling online engagement, Humanities Kansas bridged the distance between Kansans by providing opportunities to engage with new ideas and with one another through the humanities.

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"The Hug" by Ann Dean from the the Big Idea "Images from the Mind of a Bi-Racial Black Woman"

## Program Description for the Federation Website

Humanities Kansas responded to a complicated year of pandemic social distancing and protests for racial equity with straightforward programming and resources to connect and engage all Kansans. New grant opportunities, innovative digital and analog resources, and inclusive programs brought Kansans together during times of crisis.

### Links to Program Information

- Quick Grants: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/new-opportunity-quick-grants>
- Rapid Remedies: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/rapid-remedies>
- Movement of Ideas Kits: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/get-involved/kansas-stories>
- Dial-a-Speaker: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/dial-a-speaker>
- Dial-a-TALK: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/dial-a-talk>
- Speakers Bureau: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/speakers-bureau>
- Talk About Literature in Kansas: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/talk-about-literature-in-kansas>
- Big Idea: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/get-involved/kansas-stories/the-big-idea>
- We Read Frederick Douglas: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=605757880348770&ref=search>
- Say My Name: <https://www.facebook.com/humanitieskansas/posts/10158692570217943>
- Red Talks: <https://www.facebook.com/TsanThoopAhn/videos>
- Topeka Youth Project: <https://www.facebook.com/topekayouth/videos>
- Crossroads Website: <https://crossroads.humanitieskansas.org>

## Image for Federation Website

Image courtesy of Norton County Arts Council

