



# Bridges to connection, learning, and change.

2024 Annual Report



# Our Mission

MARYLAND HUMANITIES  
CREATES AND SUPPORTS  
BOLD EXPERIENCES  
THAT EXPLORE AND  
ELEVATE OUR SHARED  
STORIES TO CONNECT  
PEOPLE, ENHANCE  
LIVES, AND ENRICH  
COMMUNITIES.

# 2024

## BY THE NUMBERS

109,091

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

217,401

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

535

IN-PERSON EVENTS

32

VIRTUAL EVENTS

19,189

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

25,891

VIDEO VIEWS

889

VOLUNTEERS



This annual report is designed to honor the lives and the families of Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, Maynor Yasir Suazo-Sandoval, Carlos Hernandez, Miguel Angel Luna Gonzalez, and Jose Menor Lopez, the six essential workers who lost their lives after a container ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore on March 26, 2024.

# Welcome.

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the ways Maryland Humanities has expanded its reach, deepened its impact, and strengthened its commitment to fostering meaningful conversations across our state. This year, our programs have continued to evolve in response to the needs of Marylanders, ensuring that the humanities remain a powerful tool for connection, learning, and change.

One of our most significant achievements this year was the second round of **SHINE funding**, providing critical general operating support to humanities organizations across the state. **SHINE** continues to be a game-changer, empowering organizations to sustain and expand their work in communities where the humanities serve as a vital bridge to understanding, storytelling, and cultural preservation.

We also took bold steps in expanding access to **Maryland History Day**, ensuring that more students can participate in this transformative program. This year, we launched initiatives to include English Language Learners and incarcerated students, making **Maryland History Day** even more inclusive. These efforts reinforce our belief that every student, regardless of background or circumstance, deserves the opportunity to engage with history, develop research skills, and have their voices heard.

In July, we hosted our first-ever statewide summit, *When We Are All Engaged: Promoting Media Literacy and Mental Health*. This event brought together educators, scholars, and community leaders to explore the critical intersection of media consumption, misinformation, and mental well-being. At a time when navigating digital landscapes is more complex than ever, this summit highlighted the essential role the humanities play in fostering informed, engaged, and resilient communities.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without our dedicated board members, staff, partners, and supporters. Your unwavering belief in the power of the humanities has allowed us to grow, innovate, and serve Marylanders in new and impactful ways. We are especially grateful for the resilience and dedication of our board members, many of whom continue to serve despite personal and professional challenges in today's political landscape.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening our partnerships, and ensuring that the humanities continue to be a force for good in Maryland. Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for being part of this incredible journey.

With gratitude,



Chanel Johnson, Board Chair



Lindsey Baker, Chief Executive Officer





# Year at a glance.

Thank you for joining us in a year of growth and impact, bridging gaps, and widening perspectives throughout Maryland. Here’s a Fiscal Year 2024 (Nov 2023 - Oct 2024) snapshot:

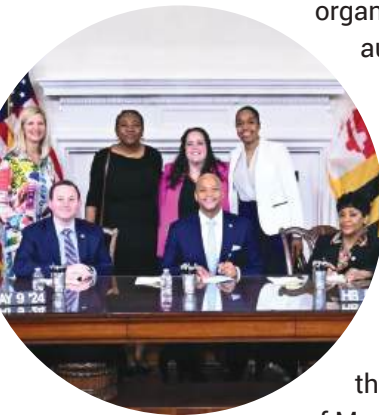
### One Maryland One Book

With the selection *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy, **One Maryland One Book (OMOB)** conducted public programs and events tied to the book’s themes, including Haitian history and culture, environmental disaster, race, colonialism, spiritual practices, and more. As part of this, we distributed over 7,000 free copies of the book to 117 partners, which included 23 library systems, 14 school districts, and many individual community, cultural, and education organizations. This culminated in the **OMOB Author Tour**, where Myriam Chancy spoke at five events, both virtual and in-person, to audiences across the state.



### SHINE

Governor Wes Moore signed legislation appropriating \$1 million to the Department of Planning funding the Maryland Humanities Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening Humanities Investments in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative. In FY2024 we awarded 95 grants of \$10,000 through the **SHINE Grant Program**. Eligible applicants needed to be small nonprofits doing humanities work, located in Maryland, with Maryland residents as their primary constituents, and have an annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less. Evaluators looked at each applicant’s organizational culture, programming, audiences and community impact, and budget and financial impact of grant funds. The organizations awarded in 2024 represented 22 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. To date we have regranting more than \$2.3 million in funding to humanities organizations throughout the entire state of Maryland.



Top from Left: Andrea Mansfield, MD Humanities Lobbyist; Alexandra Cenatus, Director of Programs at Maryland Humanities; Lindsay Baker,

Chief Executive Officer, Maryland Humanities; Claudia Allen, Director of Advancement, Maryland Humanities; Bottom from Left: Bill Ferguson, Maryland Senate President; Maryland Governor Wes Moore; Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

To date we have regranting more than \$2.3 million in funding to humanities organizations throughout the entire state of Maryland.

### Veterans Book Groups

Maryland Humanities sponsored another year of the **Veteran’s Book Group (VBG)** program, now in its ninth year. Groups met in Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Prince George’s, and St. Mary’s County for a five-month season in spring 2024. Topics and themes of the selected books range across the major wars in America’s history, with many exploring it through new perspectives or contexts. These serve to widen understandings of conflict, and root them in personal human experiences that allow Veterans to process their own pasts through engagement with literature. In supporting **VBG** sites, Maryland Humanities provided facilitator fees and travel, as well as purchasing 180 books for participants to keep. For 2024 we had a total of 163 participants.

### Maryland History Day

Students participating in **Maryland History Day**, an affiliate of **National History Day®**, explored the theme *Turning Points in History*. In 2024, more than 28,845 students participated at the school, county, and state level. At **National History Day** in June, 11 Maryland students were recognized for their achievements. During the 2023-2024 school year, our outreach staff served nearly 3,000 in the classroom and provided professional development for 126 teachers. In September, we wrapped up an eight-year grant through the "Teaching



Primary Sources” program at the Library of Congress which led to the creation of 234 inquiry kits that have been used nationally and are available online on Thinkport Education thanks to our partnership with Maryland Public Television. The grant also funded staffing, outreach, and teacher summer institutes.

Crowd at Maryland History Day and 2024 Maryland student winners of National History Day, Avani Durvasula and Farah Hawks

### Museum on Main Street

Our next **Museum on Main Street (MoMS)** tour, titled *Spark! Places of Innovation* explores the unique combination of places, people, and circumstances that sparks innovation and invention in rural communities. As a planning year, 2024’s focus was on recruiting host communities, planning for the tour and building capacity. We have had a great deal of success increasing representation and inclusion with **MoMS** by recruiting four of six host organizations that are BIPOC led with another having a specific focus on African American history that has not been presented in the past. During the last tour, and traditionally, we have not had any BIPOC-led organizations serve as host sites.



Yolanda Acree discussing building community partnerships at MoMS workshop.

### Regional Humanities Network

We began to shift from building out the infrastructure for **Regional Humanities Network (RHN)** to outreach and implementation. Partnering with Maryland State Arts Council, we have participated in several “open office hour” events to share information about our programs and raise the visibility of **RHN** in particular. These gatherings vary from region to region as they are being developed in partnership with different organizations around their needs and events with the goal to make an appearance in every county. We also worked with a consultant to

create a new section for **RHN** under the “Programs” area elevating its visibility as well as developing multiple pages. In addition, we secured funding from both Preservation Maryland and the National Park Service to develop workshops and the first humanities conference in July of 2025.

### Special Initiatives - United We Stand

The “When We Are All Engaged: Promoting Media Literacy and Mental Health” summit was a free two-day event examining how media consumption impacts mental wellbeing. Through a “What We See, What We Hear, What We Say, and What We Share” framework, more than 100 attendees participated in carefully designed workshops, panel discussions, and engaging hands-on activities, shaping how they understand and engage with social media. Through this summit, we’ve developed a replicable event model that will influence our future programming approaches. The initiative also generated lasting impact by establishing meaningful connections with elected officials, including Delegate Jamila Jaye Woods. Our outreach efforts resulted in establishing relationships with local mental health organizations that will continue beyond this summit.



Joanne Awuor Oport, Founder & CEO of Africans for Mental Health, shares insights during the panel discussion entitled, “Unraveling Maryland’s Mental Health Landscape.”



“

As a Maryland educator and resident, I have seen firsthand the impact that Maryland Humanities has had. From the research endeavors accomplished in preparation for Maryland History Day to the thought-provoking conversations with students and staff about the annual One Maryland One Book, the support of Maryland Humanities has made our communities stronger.

– Tracey Osborne

# Looking ahead.

We're delighted to share a glimpse of some exciting new developments for the next twelve months.

## Grants

With seed money from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Trust, we awarded 90 grants of \$10,000 through the Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grant Program. Eligible applicants needed to be small nonprofits doing humanities work, located in Maryland, with Maryland residents as their primary constituents, and have an annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less. Evaluators looked at each applicant's organizational culture, programming, audiences and community impact, and budget and financial impact of grant funds.



Andrea Mansfield, Lindsey Baker, Alexandra Cenatus, and Claudia Allen, attend bill signing in Annapolis, Maryland celebrating \$1 million in funding for our SHINE grant program.

## Maryland Center for the Book

The Maryland Center for the Book develops and supports programs that promote and celebrate books, reading, libraries, Maryland writers, and the state's literary heritage, and includes participation in the CityLit, Gaithersburg, and National Book Festivals.

## Maryland History Day

In a friendly competition, students in grades six through 12 immerse themselves in a relevant historical theme through in-depth research and creative presentation. They showcase their findings through documentaries, websites, exhibits, performances, or papers. In 2024, more than 28,845 students participated at the school, county, and state level. The theme for 2025 is "Rights and Responsibilities." Professional development for teachers is offered through online courses and platforms, summer teacher institutes, workshops, and classroom outreach.



## Museum on Main Street

Small communities can transform when connecting with the combined resources of the Smithsonian Institution and Maryland Humanities. Through interactive MoMS traveling exhibitions, each host site engages in capacity building activities, develops complementary exhibits and programs, and builds relationships with community partners. *SPARK! Places of Innovation*, our current tour in Maryland, kicks off on May 17, 2025 at the College of Southern Maryland Velocity Center & Life Journeys Writers Guild, Inc. The tour will conclude on March 1, 2026.



## One Maryland One Book

Each year, friends and strangers come together throughout Maryland in libraries, schools, senior centers, bookstores, and correctional facilities to discuss a single shared book. Maryland Humanities enhances these community-driven gatherings with a statewide author tour each fall, distributing thousands of free copies to public libraries and high school classrooms across the state, complete with reader's and teacher's guides. Our 2025 One Maryland One Book, themed "What We Collect/What We Tell," will feature *Kin: Rooted in Hope* by Carole Boston Weatherford with artwork by Jeffery Boston Weatherford.





# Grantee Spotlight.

Highlighting a few of our 2024 SHINE Grantees:

## LEAGUE OF KOREAN AMERICANS (ELLICOTT CITY)

“The **SHINE** grant has been a game-changer for the League of Korean Americans, allowing us to expand our capacity and better serve Maryland’s Korean American and Asian American communities. As a small, three-person team, general operating support is essential. Through this grant, we’ve been able to increase access to our internship and mentorship programs, host monthly seminars with professionals, and offer transportation assistance. **SHINE** helps us meet the diverse needs of varying generations of immigrants including language and senior services. **SHINE** stands out for its accessibility and focus on equity, making the application process straightforward and inclusive. We’re grateful for this partnership which strengthens our mission to promote education, cultural exchange, and advocacy across generations.”



## TODD'S INHERITANCE (SPARROWS POINT)

“Support for operating costs including utilities, security, and speaker stipends has allowed us to enhance our programming and eliminate admission fees. As a result, attendance has more than doubled over the past year. Our speaker series has grown and drawn new audiences while keeping long-time supporters engaged. Visitors often leave saying ‘I didn’t know that,’ highlighting the value of sharing local history. **SHINE** makes it possible for us to preserve and promote the rich heritage of Sparrows Point and Todd’s Inheritance.”

## CHESAPEAKE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM (ANNAPOLIS)

“SHINE funding is a vital source of support for the Chesapeake Children’s Museum. With one full-time staff member and a largely volunteer-run team, flexible funding makes a significant difference. The ability to use these funds for general operating expenses allows us to put staff time into new exhibits and to programs that don't necessarily generate a return in earned income. In this way we can serve audiences with a wide range of income levels. We believe SHINE fills a critical funding gap for humanities programming.”



# Donors.

Community involvement is what sustains our ability to keep hundreds of program activities free and accessible to all. Maryland Humanities can’t be community-led if we are not community-backed, so we’d like to thank our committed donors. This list reflects gifts and pledges received between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2024.

Please call (410) 685-0095 to notify us of any errors.

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Memorial Fund

# Financials.

Statement of Financial Position FY2024

## ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,835,269
Accounts Receivable	546,283
Other Current Assets	24,823

**Total Current Assets** 2,406,375

Fixed Assets (Net)	15,154
Other Assets	187,042

**Total Assets** \$ 2,608,571

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 70,097
Credit Card Payable	21,457
Other	288,578

**Total Current Liabilities** 380,132

Long-Term Liabilities	190,560
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**Total Liabilities** 570,692

Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 1,911,104
With Donor Restrictions	126,775

**Total Net Assets** 2,037,879

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** \$ 2,608,571

“  
Gaining an unbiased  
understanding and  
a love for history  
is key to being an  
informed citizen.

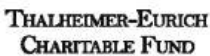
– Nancy Stark

# Partners.

Maryland Humanities is grateful for our corporate and foundation sponsors who because of their partnership we are able to bring programming and services to every county throughout the state including Baltimore City.



THE CITIZENS OF  
BALTIMORE COUNTY



Help us make a difference.

Your donation helps us create even more impact across Maryland.

**GIVE TODAY!**





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