Maryland Humanities seeks a dynamic and forward-thinking Executive Director to continue the organization’s strong history of enriching the lives of Marylanders and strengthening the fabric of the state through the humanities. The current leader, Dr. Phoebe Stein, will depart from the organization at the end of February 2020 after nearly 12 years of service.

The Organization
In 1973, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) formed the Maryland Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy, which later incorporated as Maryland Humanities in 1977. Exclusively a grant-making organization for its first 20 years, Maryland Humanities began conducting its own public humanities programs in the ’90s while continuing to award grants to provide vital support to public humanities programs in Maryland. In 2014, Maryland Humanities reaffirmed its commitment to education and adopted its current mission: to create and support educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. Maryland Humanities envisions a Maryland where the humanities are understood as central to everyday life because they help everyone reflect on the past, understand the present, and shape the future.

Across all of its work, Maryland Humanities engages with numerous partners in every county in Maryland, including K–12 public schools, libraries, museums, historic sites, senior centers, correctional facilities, and hospitals through the following programs:

- **Grants** – Cash awards up to $10,000 to community organizations to support projects that use the humanities to engage diverse groups and individuals in public programming such as exhibits, community dialogues, and documentary films

- **One Maryland One Book** – An opportunity for individuals of diverse backgrounds to read the same book, then have book-centered discussions in schools, libraries, senior centers, correctional facilities, and other venues

- **Maryland History Day** – A friendly competition where students in grades 6–12 explore a relevant historical theme through in-depth research and creative presentation

- **Museum on Main Street** – A collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils that brings high-quality traveling exhibits to small-town cultural venues

- **Chautauqua** – A series of interactive living history performances by actor-scholars, followed by lively Q&A, held at different venues across Maryland

- **Veterans Programs** – Programs for military veterans, active military, and the public that use the humanities to explore the history, experiences, and the meaning of war and military service

- **Maryland Center for the Book** – An affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress supporting programs that celebrate reading, literacy, libraries, and Maryland’s literary heritage, including participation in book festivals and the Literary Mount Vernon Walking Tour

- **Humanities Connection** – A monthly radio program that welcomes guest contributors to explore the role of the humanities in daily life
Governed by a 28-member Board of Directors that meets quarterly – 60% of whom have served for two or more years – Maryland Humanities operates with a balanced budget of $1.8M and a full-time staff of 15. The majority of funding (99%) is contributed income, roughly comprised of federal grants (60%), state/local grants (25%), and private contributions (15%). At present there are cash reserves equivalent to more than 5-1/2 months of operational costs.

To learn more about the organization, visit [https://www.mdhumanities.org/](https://www.mdhumanities.org/).

**Recent Accomplishments**

- Maryland Humanities has been accredited since 2009 by Maryland Nonprofit’s Standards of Excellence Institute for meeting rigorous standards of ethics and accountability. Upon recertification in 2019, it was commended for planning strategically, clear and concise decision making, and demonstrating board effectiveness.

- The NEH’s latest intensive evaluation and site visit (2015), conducted every five years, stated: “The site team’s assessment, in a word, is that the Maryland Humanities Council is extraordinary. The staff and Board have an understanding of, and commitment to, the humanities that has resulted in outstanding programs and initiatives across the state. It consistently reaches out to diverse audiences: geographic, racial, and economic.”

- In the 2018–19 academic year, nearly 26,000 students participated in the year-long historical research competition, Maryland History Day, at the school, county, and state levels. Howard County 8th-grader Addie Skillman was the latest national gold medal winner from Maryland, for her interpretative performance, “Loving v. Virginia: The Stepping Stone for Equality in America.”

- Between October 2018 and April 2019, Maryland Humanities presented *Is Justice Just?*, a series of discussions focused on justice reform that included a conversation on community policing, an interview with a wrongfully convicted citizen, a lecture on the effects of mass incarceration on families, and a documentary screening on the death penalty.

- In 2019, *Humanities Connection*, Maryland Humanities’ weekly podcast and monthly radio series, celebrated its sixth anniversary with segments focused on powerful topics such as Black History and Youth, the Power of LGBTQ Storytelling, *Día de los Muertos*, Journalism and Poetry in Baltimore Neighborhoods, and many more.

- From May 2019 to March 2020, Maryland Humanities tours its sixth Museum on Main Street collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution—*Water/Ways*—to six small communities throughout Maryland.

- One Maryland One Book celebrated its 12th year of programming in 2019 with Mona Hanna-Attisha’s *What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, an inspirational true story that recounts Dr. Mona’s fight to prove how Flint’s water was exposing children to lead.

- In recent years, Maryland Humanities’ annual total of grants awarded has increased from $95,100 in 2015 to $168,814 in 2019. Since 2014, Maryland Humanities has awarded 145 grants to 109 organizations in 19 counties and Baltimore City, for a total of $749,244.
Strategic Priorities
Maryland Humanities is in its final year of Vision 2020, a six-year Strategic Plan that seeks to serve a broader, more proportionally representative cross-section of the Maryland population, increase its local presence throughout the state, dramatically expand its reach, and quantitatively demonstrate the impact of its work. Five strategic imperatives provide the framework for this plan:

- Offer a variety of programs for diversified audiences
- Provide leadership in the public humanities field
- Build organizational capacity and funding
- Invest in further collaborations and partnerships
- Raise visibility and presence

In 2018, as the plan entered its last phase, the Board of Directors and staff identified a few final areas of key focus, including the creation of a formal process for both developing new programs and evaluating existing programs; creation and expansion of regional humanities networks; and the first-phase launch of an initiative to ensure racial equity in Maryland Humanities’ operations and programming.