Welcome to the 2013 Annual Report of the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC). We always enjoy putting this together for you, sharing with you our work and achievements as they are your work and achievements, too. Read on to see the ways in which you enable MHC to engage, inspire, and impact lives every day.

It takes a lot of people to make this happen: talented staff, dedicated board members and volunteers, skilled partners, engaged participants, passionate public officials, and generous donors. We celebrate you, whatever roles you play, in bringing hundreds of high-quality, free humanities events to life each year.

Thank you for all you do to make our work possible, now and in the future. We look forward to co-authoring with you the next great chapters of the Maryland Humanities Council.

2013 by the Numbers

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of you, our supporters, we are able to offer substantive, impactful humanities programs throughout Maryland. Here’s a snapshot summary of our Fiscal Year 2013 (Nov 2012 – Oct 2013).
Gathering friends and strangers to consider challenging issues. Examining history to give context to our current moment. Discovering our neighbors’ and co-workers’ stories. Providing crucial grants for community-generated projects. These are just some of the ways in which the Maryland Humanities Council is helping build and strengthen community bonds.
The Maryland Humanities Council is devoted to providing opportunities for a lifetime of learning. A curious, seeking intellect nurtured from childhood throughout adulthood is invaluable. Of course, making sure that youth have opportunities to build critical thinking and writing skills is essential. By giving them a solid foundation in the humanities, they’re better prepared to be civically and culturally engaged community members as adults. That’s why many of MHC’s most impactful programs focus on students in public, private, and home schools.

**Letters About Literature** fosters a love of reading while honing students’ creative, analytical, and writing skills. In this national contest, young people pen personal essays to authors whose work has had a profound effect on them. Each spring, Maryland’s finalists and winners are honored during Baltimore’s CityLit Festival. In 2013, first place winners were Jordan Rose and Courtney Sipes from Kent County and Elizabeth Macksey from Baltimore City. Clinton Smith of Prince George’s County’s Parkdale High School won the Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year Award.

**One Maryland One Book** is a dynamic program for both youth and adults. MHC provides more than 6,000 free copies of the chosen book to schools, libraries, and community partners annually. Thousands of students are reading, analyzing, and applying themes explored to their own lives. Several hundred Baltimore City Public Schools students also meet the author during a special event at a local university that includes a campus tour. The 2013 selection was *King Peggy*, the remarkable true story of Silver Spring resident Peggielene Bartels, a naturalized American secretary from Ghana who becomes the king of her ancestral village.
Maryland History Day gives middle and high school students a solid base in critical thinking, research and analysis, and writing. Working solo or in small groups, students devote an average of 70+ hours to create original documentary videos, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a tremendous breadth of historical topics. Students progress through competitions at the school, district, state, and national levels. A national study found History Day participants outperform peers on state assessments in social studies, as well as reading, science, and math.

Maryland History Day has a profound and lasting effect on participants, many of whom go on to careers informed by their experiences. Nathan Rehr, who twice competed as a student in Baltimore City, is a great example. It was his second entry—a documentary on Sargent Shriver that took him to nationals—that put him on a path to undergraduate studies at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a summer internship with MHC in 2011, and currently Peace Corps service in Senegal.

As Nathan shares in a segment of MHC’s radio series on WYPR, Humanities Connection, in addition to giving him necessary skills and experiences for academic success, “History Day also helped determine a few of my next steps in life. In completing my research, I interviewed Dr. Joby Taylor, a staff member at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County who runs a program for returned Peace Corps Volunteers pursuing graduate degrees. I learned more about UMBC’s academic and social atmosphere, and I decided to start college there the following fall. Shriver’s idealism is also what inspired me to join the Peace Corps, a decision that directed my studies and extracurricular activities in college.”
MHC supports innovative humanities projects with grants of up to $10,000. During Fiscal Year 2013 (Nov 2012 – Oct 2013), MHC made 19 grants totaling $92,295 to organizations in eleven Maryland counties and Baltimore City, including three supported through special funding from the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. These grants were leveraged by recipients to secure an additional $345,196 in community supporting funds.

**Allegany County**
Allegany Museum, Cumberland
Preserving Our Musical Heritage:
From Britain to the Blue Ridge
$1,200

**Frostburg State University, Frostburg**
Frederick Douglass, Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Constitution: 1845 Workshop
$6,276

**Baltimore County**
Stevenson University Archives, Stevenson
Hallowed Beauty: A Regional Exhibition of Sacred Art and Text
$1,200

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Department of American Studies, Baltimore
Looking Forward from the 45th Anniversary of the Catonsville Nine Actions
$3,211

**Baltimore City**
Civic Works
Revisiting 1812 at Captain Henry Thompson's Clifton, Home of Service in Baltimore
$10,000

Creative Alliance at the Patterson
Globe Poster: Not To Be Missed!
$10,000

**Calvert County**
Calvert Marine Museum Society, Solomons
The War of 1812: A Legacy of Division
$4,213

**Dorchester County**
Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance, Cambridge
African-American Sharecroppers of Indiantown, Maryland
$9,000

**Harford County**
Harford Community College Foundation, Bel Air
Faces of Freedom: Harford County, Maryland and Beyond
$7,600

**Howard County**
Little Patuxent Review, Columbia
Fall Writers Festival/National Day of Writing
$1,200

**Montgomery County**
dog & pony dc, Silver Spring
Silver Spring Repertory
$745

**Painted Screen Society of Baltimore**
From Little Bohemia to Middle East: 100 Years of Painted Screens
$7,000

**Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, Hyattstown**
Disappearing Agricultural Landscapes
$1,194

**Prince George's County**
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park
Civil War/Civil Rights: The Well-Being of a Nation
$5,200

**Talbot County**
Academy Art Museum, Easton
Joint Heritage at Wye House
$7,000

**Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels**
State of the Oyster
$6,286

**St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square, St. Michaels**
1812 Profiles of Patriots
$10,000

**Washington County**
Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown
Storyfest in the Park
$1,200

**Worcester County**
Julia A. Purnell Museum, Snow Hill
Traveling Exhibit
$400

**Statements of Financial Position: FY13**

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In order to keep our hundreds of annual program offerings free and accessible to audiences, the Maryland Humanities Council relies almost exclusively on our donors for annual operating support. Contributors to the annual fund of $1,000 or more are members of our Leadership Circle. We offer our sincerest appreciation to the following organizations and individuals for their generous financial support (for the 14-month period, November 2012 – December 2013). Due to space limitations, we are only able to list donors of $100 or more.

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Visit us online at mdhc.org to explore our new interactive Program Activities Map. You can sort by program, county, legislative or congressional district, or year. Zoom in on what we’ve been doing in your community.

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Maryland History Day Outreach Coordinator

Andrea Lewis
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Phoebe Stein
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