

# Fostering growth. Inspiring narratives.

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2023 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.



## The Facts

889 VOLUNTEERS

368 IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL EVENTS

109,091 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

# Welcome.

It's been another wonderful year of enriching the cultural landscape of Maryland through our diverse humanities programs.

In FY23, we celebrated a significant milestone with the successful launch of our inaugural SHINE grant program. The first round of SHINE funding, totaling \$500,000, was distributed to 50 non-profit organizations across the state. This initiative demonstrates our continued commitment to fostering the growth and impact of cultural organizations in Maryland. The support provided through these grants will undoubtedly leave a lasting imprint on our communities, contributing to both societal enrichment and a deeper appreciation for the humanities.

This past year we welcomed several new staff and board members. Their dedication and contributions have already been instrumental in advancing our mission and enhancing our organizational capabilities. We are so appreciative of each member of our growing team.

We owe our achievements to the steadfast support of our partners and champions. To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and collaborators, thank you for standing with us in our mission. Your unwavering commitment to the humanities and the people of Maryland is truly inspiring.

As we reflect on our FY23 accomplishments, we are filled with optimism for the future. We look forward to another year of meaningful engagement, impactful programs, and collaborative efforts to “connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities.” Together, let us continue to uphold these important educational and cultural enhancements as catalysts for positive change in Maryland.

Thank you for your continued support of Maryland Humanities.

Alicia Jones McLeod, Board Chair



Lindsey Baker, Chief Executive Officer



# Year at a glance.

Thank you for joining us in another year of “fostering growth and inspiring narratives” throughout Maryland. Here’s a Fiscal Year 2023 snapshot (NOV 2022 to OCT 2023).

The first round of 50 “SHINE grants” came to a close and final reports indicate organizations were able to maintain general operations and create new programs with SHINE funding. In FY23, Maryland Humanities renamed the SHINE grant the “Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Program” in honor of our late Director of Grants and Community Engagement, Marilyn Hatza. We continued the Hatza SHINE Grant Program with a second round of general operating support grants for small nonprofits doing humanities work. After receiving 140 applications, we awarded a total of \$950,000 in general operating support funds to 95 Maryland nonprofits (\$10K per). From Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, our recipients are located in 22 counties and Baltimore City. General operating expenses include salaries, rent, utilities, supplies, programs, and other expenses, allowing organizations to determine where funds are most needed. The amount of grant awards nearly doubled after continued investment in the Hatza SHINE Grant by the State of Maryland via the Maryland Historical Trust.

**Crossroads: Change in Rural America**, our latest Museum on Main Street partnership with the Smithsonian Institute, toured the state from September 2022 to May 2023 and was hosted by several collaborators in different regions. After opening last fiscal year with the Farm Heritage Conservancy, the exhibit then traveled to Oxford Museum, was hosted by Western Maryland Heritage Association at Allegany Museum, a children’s museum at Rose Hill Manor Park and was sponsored by the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area at Kent Cultural Alliance. As part of our capacity-building



support, we developed numerous workshops to assist local organizations in engaging communities as well as creating interpretive materials. Approximately 70,000 people participated in a variety of programs.

**Maryland History Day** successfully returned to an in-person awards ceremony, making the May 6th event completely in-person for the first time since 2019. We welcomed nearly 500 students, their parents/guardians, and 122 judges. At the National History Day contest, 16 Maryland students received honors: Laura Civillico, Poolesville High School in Montgomery County and Abigail Giroux, the Bryn Mawr



School of Baltimore won the gold medal in their categories, and 14 other Maryland students received special prizes, were awarded Outstanding State Entry, or were selected as finalists. Overall, Maryland History Day served 27,087 students in 19 counties and Baltimore City.

**Maryland Humanities was awarded third-year funding for a grant from The Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Program (TPS)** that will support the creation of 20 new Indigenous MD Inquiry Kits. This will help to bring the Maryland State’s Archive’s Mayis database to teachers and students. The TPS Kits will be created by teachers, including some trained in the Maryland State Archive and Maryland State Department of Education’s summer workshop in consultation with tribal leaders and community members.

CONTINUED >

“One Maryland One Book” celebrated Native and Indigenous American narratives with Tommy Orange’s *There There*.

With this funding we will recruit materials testers for the primary source-based, project-based learning materials for English learners (ELs) that were created in the previous grant year. This will allow us to gather feedback, make edits, and think strategically about how to present the Maryland History Day program before disseminating the materials further among teachers of ELs to make the program accessible to a more diverse population of students.

The “Designing Culturally Inclusive Programming” series concluded with three powerful final events. The “Building Successful Partnerships and Collaborations” session featured insights from Basma Alawee, Holly Clarkson, and Deborah Schwartz on developing community-centered programming reflecting local values. In “Decolonizing Organizations,” Janeen Bryant, Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, and Heather Miller unpacked issues like cultural appropriation and empowering diverse representations in museums. Finally, Omar Eaton-Martinez led “Defining and Implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility,” providing a framework around these critical focus areas for cultural institutions. This series reached an audience of approximately 500 by leveraging remote participation via Zoom and recording sessions. The virtual format maximized live engagement and on-demand accessibility for those unable to attend synchronously.



“The Maryland Humanities SHINE Grant was vital in sustaining CityLit and its programmatic activities between the fall of 2022 and December 2023. Such support allowed us to revive some of our staple pre-pandemic events and initiatives. These activities demonstrate our resilience as a literary nonprofit and the need for CityLit among our diverse audiences. In total, the following reported activities collectively engaged 702 attendees.”

– CityLit Project

# Looking ahead.

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

We are proud to receive funding from the State of Maryland to help support humanities organizations’ initiatives through our **Hatza SHINE Grants Program**. Drawing from our experience with funds distribution to our grantees and lessons learned from our surveys, we will spend time reaching out to related organizations that we have not yet connected with. We also intend to revisit some nonprofits whose cultural initiatives did not originally qualify for funding. Additionally, we will develop resources that organizations can use to learn more about our application process. In this way, we ensure that our grantees can use our funds to continue doing great work, while utilizing the lessons learned and resources available to expand their initiatives.

The **Regional Humanities Network (RHN)** serves as a space where organizations from different sectors, such as community organizations, universities, colleges, libraries, museums, and historical societies, can come together to share resources, discuss challenges they are facing in their respective areas, and find solutions. Robert Forloney, Program Officer Partnerships, who spearheads the Regional Humanities Network (RHN), will conduct listening sessions to learn from our partners about patterns and explore opportunities. Our findings will inform our efforts to adapt, build trust, and engage intentionally.

Recent census data indicate that about 15 percent of Maryland’s population is made up of immigrants, many of whom speak languages other than English. Given the role of Maryland Humanities in the State of Maryland, we understand that we cannot operate in isolation from the human right of **Language Access**. Maryland Humanities has already begun assessing its language access needs. For instance, we met with six community leaders to understand the different services they offer to multilingual audiences. We are excited to develop a language plan that will allow Maryland Humanities to identify multilingual communities and determine what materials should be translated or provide interpreters at our events.

Maryland Humanities will organize a summit, **United We Stand**, to address issues related to information/media literacy while examining the negative effects of media on mental health. As a result of our experience spearheading a similar summit in 2018, which was enjoyed by participants, Maryland Humanities will invite experts and provide participants with tools for analyzing the news.

**Racial Equity (RE)** continues to be an important aspect of Maryland Humanities’ internal and external policies, practices, and programming. We will focus on operationalizing workshops for our staff, creating healthy habits for the workplace, and implementing frameworks for collaboration.



## Lost Towns Project

By investing half of their SHINE funds in grant-writing consultant support, the Lost Towns Project was able to pursue even larger awards, and receive assistance in the development of school and other public programs. Funding also paid for interns who greatly increased our capacity for research and community engagement while filling a community need for hands-on archaeology and history education opportunities.



FOSTERING GROWTH

## Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

When Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) creates history or tourism products, they have to maintain, organize, digitize, catalog, and really understand available resources, collection items, historic artifacts, other papers, AND an array of other media (obsolete and otherwise). SHINE funding allowed ATHA to retain an exceptional young, professional archivist to continue this important work.



INSPIRING NARRATIVES



# 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're not community-backed, so we'd like to thank our committed donors. This list reflects gifts and pledges received between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023.

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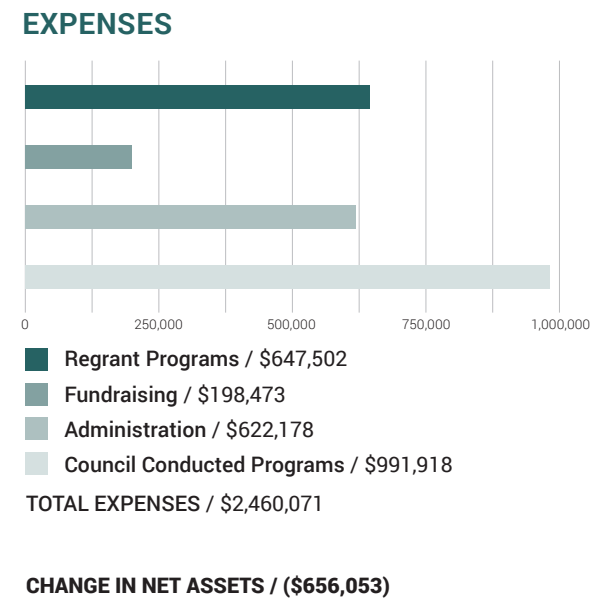
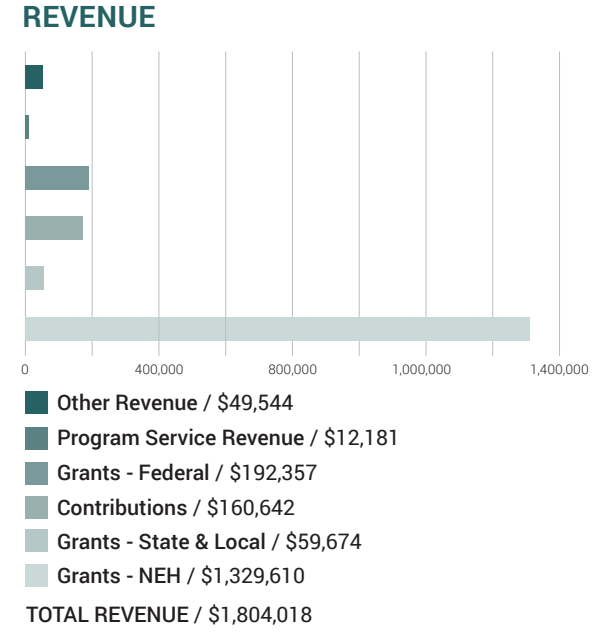
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# Financials.

## Statement of Financial Position FY2023

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$ 1,755,880
Accounts Receivable	325,126
Other	18,322
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,099,328</b>
Fixed Assets	19,425
Other Assets	49,751
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,168,504</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 18,789
Credit Cards	17,355
Other	54,031
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>90,175</b>
Long-Term Liabilities	50,911
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>141,085</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,027,419</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,168,504</b>



## Love humanities?

Help us make a difference. Your donation helps us create even more impact across the State of Maryland.

**GIVE TODAY!**



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Maryland Humanities' Grantees and Partners, along with additional program highlights can be found on our website. Follow the QR code to link to the online version.



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