IDEAS IN ACTION

In 2015, our 40th anniversary celebration focused on how the humanities improve communities.

We all know that there are great challenges in our times—ideas, concepts, beliefs, values that can divide us or unite us, affect our everyday lives, and have the potential to change our futures.

Utah Humanities provides opportunities to have real, face-to-face conversations about important matters, in situations where we feel safe and heard and where we hope to break through barriers of entrenched positions.

Most of us tend to avoid conflict. Examining an issue through history, literature, or philosophy allows us to take a step back from argument, explore another way of thinking, learn from other experiences, develop empathy, and arrive at more informed conclusions.

In this way, UH empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities.

continued on next page
These are stories from people in Utah communities who have experienced the power of the humanities in action. Experiencing the humanities through our programs inspired them in some way and we hope their stories inspire you, too.

**Community Conversations:**
A discussion on the religious/secular divide in Utah the week before the Parliament of the World’s Religions convened in Salt Lake City included Protestants, Mormons, atheists and agnostics, a Zen master, and conflict resolution scholars. The animated conversation continued as people went out the door. Upcoming topics include Making Sense of Violence, Immigration and Border Security, and Why is it So Hard to Talk About Climate Change?

*Why this matters:*
Community Conversations open up dialogue on potentially sensitive subjects. The act of coming together demonstrates a willingness to talk, and the dialogue itself begins to dissolve barriers and misunderstandings.

**Book Festival:**
At our children and young adults literature event, there was a teenager in the audience whose parents immigrated to the U.S. when he was a toddler. His family is very poor and he took two buses and over an hour to get there. Afterwards, he told the authors how badly he wishes to become a writer. They were so struck by his story that they paid for him to attend the upcoming Teen Authors’ Boot Camp. Elated, he left the event in tears.

*Why this matters:*
Literature can simultaneously connect people with each other and with new ideas. Stories come to life in meaningful ways when readers have a chance to talk with authors about the power of language. These interactions and ideas can inspire people to explore new facets of their life and take action.

**Heritage Workshops:**
“This project, which has our museum staff working shoulder-to-shoulder with ongoing mentoring from established museum professionals, has been vital in helping us to build the capacity to care for our collections. Learning to directly apply the information presented at workshops using our own collections, solving our own problems, and learning that this does not have to cost tons of money, has greatly increased our ability to do our jobs.”

*Why this matters:*
Heritage Workshops combine passion, vision, and fundamental skill-building to preserve our cultural heritage. The training and professional mentoring, as well as the infrastructure and networks we help to build, directly support museums and other cultural organizations across Utah, helping to ensure the preservation of our state’s unique history, cultures, and traditions.

**Venture:**
In the middle of the night four years ago, to escape increasing oppression, Brenda left the religious community where she had been born and raised and moved to Salt Lake City with her husband and children, not knowing what the future held. Her Venture Course experience inspired her to apply for college; she wants to be a lawyer specializing in religion and the law.

*Why this matters:*
Venture Course in the Humanities reaches adults living on low incomes who have unmet dreams for their lives. Venture requires complex thinking, critical writing, and self-reflection. Rising to the challenge often results in students completely re-framing what they realize they are capable of. The experience can lead to higher education, greater civic involvement, advancement in employment, or the development of a new business.
Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary

At our 40th Anniversary Human Ties Celebration, we enjoyed a conversation with William “Bro” Adams, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Dianne Harris, Dean of the University of Utah College of Humanities, on “The Common Good: Humanities in the Public Square.”

We also presented three 2015 Human Ties awards:

- Cassie Cox, an exemplary teacher at Two Rivers High School in Ogden, for offering her students real-life experiences in the humanities
- Uintah County Heritage Museum in Vernal, for its long-term partnership with UH’s Center for Community Heritage
- Representative Brad Wilson, for championing the role of the humanities in Utah’s cultural and educational life

“As a 20-year-old combat infantry advisor, I came face to face, acutely, with questions that writers, artists, and philosophers examine in their work—starting with, ‘What does it mean to be human?’”

— William “Bro” Adams
OUR WORK

Creating Partnerships that Put Humanities Ideas into Action

Everything we do at Utah Humanities is in partnership with other organizations. Our mission revolves around offering Utah communities first-hand, engaging experiences that apply humanities perspectives to contemporary issues. Collaborating with cultural, educational, professional, and service organizations is essential to our work, and partnering with us can come in many forms. Examples are highlighted in this report.

Improving Communities Through the Humanities

Our work is divided into Centers, each of which has a specific humanities focus and associated programs. Take a look at our Centers to see how we partner with Utah organizations to improve communities through the humanities.

"We're in this together, and if we united and we inter-culturally cooperated, then that might be the key to humanity's survival.”
– Jeremy Gilley, TEDTalks lecture

The Center for the Book supports programs that foster a love of reading and of books as well as the exploration of contemporary issues through literature.

Utah Humanities is the home of the Utah Center for the Book. As the state affiliate of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, UH’s Center for the Book promotes public interest in books, reading, authorship, and libraries throughout the state.

PROGRAMS:

ANNUAL BOOK FESTIVAL
LITERARY EVENTS

Orem Reads 2015: Terry Tempest Williams fully engages audiences as the keynote speaker for Orem Reads 2015, which focused on Williams’ book Refuge. Photo: Orem Public Library.
BOOK FESTIVAL

Successfully bringing together readers, writers, and book artists to celebrate books and ideas during National Book Month, the 18th annual Utah Humanities Book Festival spanned September and October—a terrific part of our 40th Anniversary celebration.

Featuring a wide variety of authors discussing a diverse spectrum of topics and genres, this year’s festival offered over 120 events with over 100 authors in seventeen communities around the state, drawing more than 13,000 people. Authors included nationally prominent figures such as Terry Tempest Williams, Winona LaDuke, William Vollmann, and Carl Phillips. Several authors graciously took time to visit multiple cities, making a broad literary impact—many thanks to Sarah Alisabeth Fox, Ron Carlson, Gary Dop, Brian Laidlaw, David Lee, and Amy Irvine.

New programming partners in 2015 included libraries in Morgan, Washington, Moab, and Enterprise, as well as the Joe Hill Organizing Committee, the Utah State Poetry Society, and Slow Food Utah.

Satellite festivals continue to grow, with a particularly impressive slate of authors visiting Cedar City, and the St. George festival expanding both the book fair and the school visit components.

Our 2015 Book Festival added a whole day at the Viridian where young readers and their families could interact with the people producing their favorite books. Utah has recently become a hot spot for authors and publishers of children’s and young adult genres, and their readership has exploded.

“This annual book festival always proves to be a rich experience. The topics, events, and resulting discussions are relevant and fascinating. Just when I think I’ve read enough, learned enough, and stretched my mind enough, the festival challenges me all over again. I’m a fan year after year!”

— Book Festival Attendee

Singer & songwriter John McCutcheon plays labor activist Joe Hill in Si Kahn’s one-man play “Joe Hill’s Last Will” at the State Room on November 19, 2015 (the centennial of Joe Hill’s execution). Photo: Mike Green & Associates.
LITERARY EVENTS

The Library of Congress-designated Center for the Book at Utah Humanities supports programs that foster a love of reading and of books as well as the exploration of contemporary issues through literature.

Center for the Book Events
We partner with Utah organizations to offer literature-related events promoting books, reading, literacy, and libraries, as well as Utah’s literary heritage, and helping Utahns to explore community issues through literature.

Community groups choose materials or topics that are most interesting or helpful to them, so programs are highly mobile and easy to provide to rural areas and underserved audiences….helping us to meet our mission of empowering Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities.

In 2015, we collaborated on seventeen events in seven cities, including Kanab, Springdale, Provo, Logan, South Jordan, Cedar City, and Salt Lake City, and partnered with Slow Food Utah, Avenues Bistro, South Jordan High School, the Kanab Library, Z-Arts, and many more community organizations.

One lively addition has been “The Bee: True Stories from the Hive,” a Salt Lake chapter of the widely acclaimed NPR show “The Moth.” The Bee’s live storytelling events are unrehearsed, unscripted, raw, and are taking SLC by storm.

Utah Book Awards
The annual awards were established by the Salt Lake City Public Library to honor exceptional achievements by Utah writers and to recognize outstanding literature written with a Utah theme or setting. Categories include children’s and young adult literature, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. This year’s ceremony incorporated the Sor Juana Awards with the help of Artes de Mexico en Utah and provided double the awards in an engaging, intimate setting. See the full list of finalists and winners on our website.

“With events that are, at the same time, both deeply contemporary and timeless…not to mention, fun… I’ve realized that the humanities are an integral part of our lives. The humanities provide a mirror for us to study ourselves.”

— Event Attendee

Host Giuliana Serena and a storyteller prepare for another round at The Bee: True Stories from the Hive. The Bee has taken Salt Lake by storm, selling out 5 of its first 6 shows and showcasing sixty amateurs in “lovingly competitive storytelling.” Photo: Dallas Graham.
The Center for Community Heritage supports Utahns to explore, preserve, and share their unique local history, culture, and traditions.

PROGRAMS:

HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET: JOURNEY STORIES

Visitors enjoy the Journey Stories and Nation of Immigrants exhibitions at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Photo: Megan van Frank.


Staff and volunteers from Utah’s museums learn to care for their collections at a Utah Humanities collections stewardship workshop in Salt Lake City. Photo: Megan van Frank.
Preserving Utah’s cultural heritage requires passion, committed work, and a high level of skill. Utah Humanities is playing a critical leadership role in the cultural heritage sector by offering field services training and mentoring in collaboration with organizations across the state. Our Heritage Workshops are designed to strengthen the fabric of Utah’s collective heritage by supporting the cultural organizations that are, in large part, responsible for sustaining it.

In 2015, Heritage Workshops on the topics of oral history and museum collection stewardship helped build the capacity of participants through a curriculum founded on national best practices and hands-on learning. Our direct work with participants at their own sites equipped them with both conceptual understanding and real-world skills needed to preserve the heritage of their own communities. Response to these interactive opportunities has been enthusiastic:

“There is no better way to learn than by getting your hands dirty to accomplish a common goal as a team: the result of our hands-on project was beneficial to everyone involved, from the objects in the collection to the mentors and staff alike.”

Partnership with other institutions has been key to the successful design, delivery, and hosting of our workshops. During 2015 we collaborated with 12 partner institutions to reach hundreds of participants from nearly 50 museums and cultural organizations. For this influential work, Utah Humanities has been recognized by partners and peers alike and, as a capstone to our 2015 work, the Utah Museums Association honored Megan van Frank, who directs history and museum programming for Utah Humanities, with its Phil Notarianni Award for Distinguished Service.
The Journey Stories Museum on Main Street Smithsonian exhibition finalized its tour through Utah in 2015, having a successful stay in five communities—Brigham City, Ephraim, Moab, Vernal, and West Valley City. Each host site created its own companion exhibition and took advantage of additional, interactive programming to give visitors a customized experience.

To help host sites engage their visitors, we created a “Utah Journeys from the Beehive Archive” website that showcased a new Utah journey story each week. The website was available through our Utah Humanities site as well as through a multimedia kiosk that traveled to each host community. The site featured 44 new episodes of “The Beehive Archive” radio show that were also broadcast five times each week through our station partners—KCPW and Utah Public Radio—and reached over 2 million listeners.

Our Journey Stories Facebook group helped share Utah journey stories with anyone who wished to join the conversation. In addition, we partnered with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, who strengthened the educational impact in host communities by running docent trainings, delivering a family activity day in each location, and leading school outreach with a companion exhibit, classroom presentations, and teacher trainings. The Utah Division of State History also supported the project with free access to historic images in its collection for reproduction in our publications.

Journey Stories attracted nearly 30,000 people and was a very successful, well-received tour through Utah.

Journey Stories is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide.
The Center for Educational Access supports programs that use the humanities to expand educational opportunities for underserved people of all ages.

PROGRAMS:

CLEMENTE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES
VENTURE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES

East High Clemente Course students in Salt Lake City create a “Jackson Pollock” painting with their art history instructor, Jorge Rojas, as part of their study of “Revolutions in Art.” The painting hangs in the school’s Media Center. Photo: Jean Cheney.

Students take a break from studying at Clemente Humanities Camp to join a drum circle on the plaza at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Photo: Jorge Rojas.

Instructor Jeff Metcalf with students in the Venture literature class in South Salt Lake City. Photo: Jorge Rojas.
Sophomores and juniors at East High School in Salt Lake City, many from refugee or immigrant families, were challenged and excited by the Clemente Course in the Humanities, an interdisciplinary course taught by college faculty from the University of Utah Honors College and Westminster College Honors Program. Through its exploration of philosophy, art history, literature, and history in a discussion-based program, Clemente students learn how to learn and to set their sights on college.

What happens in a Clemente classroom? Teachers and students ask questions and develop multiple ways of understanding those questions and their possible answers. “We take time to understand something and get to the main idea of things,” says one student. The goal of Clemente is to excite underserved students who would be the first generation in their families to attend college to apply and succeed there.

In July, twenty-two Clemente students explored the question “What is Justice?” at the first Clemente Summer Humanities Camp at Westminster College. For one weekend, they read and wrote about this topic from the perspectives of philosophy, art history, and American history, earning one college credit for their work. On the last day of camp, students shared their learning and discoveries through presentations of group projects.

The Clemente Course is a pilot program in partnership with the Westminster College Honors Program, the University of Utah Honors College, East High School, and University Neighborhood Partners.

“I loved our group discussions and guest speakers. I felt as though every conversation exposed us to new things and helped us to think critically about the world.”

— Clemente Student

Clemente student Yerry Perez leads the discussion in the philosophy section of Clemente Summer Camp at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Photo: Jorge Rojas.
VENTURE COURSE

What is freedom? How do you write an essay? What inspired Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? Why did Abraham Lincoln free slaves in 1863, and not before? Who was James Baldwin? Exploring questions like these in Utah Humanities’ free Venture Course inspires adult students every year to stretch their minds. Studying philosophy, American history, art history, literature, and writing with college professors, people who have never had the opportunity to attend higher education discover the excitement of college-level humanities. In 2015, 65 adults living on low incomes enrolled in Venture. They came from many countries and backgrounds but finished the course with reactions similar to this statement from a 2015 Venture graduate:

“I had a chance to meet people from very diverse backgrounds, and I loved learning more about subjects that were formerly fairly unknown to me. The professors were all amazing and I appreciated all their knowledge and support. I definitely want to carry on and attend college!”

Venture is offered in Ogden, through a partnership with Weber State University, in South Salt Lake City, with Westminster College and the City of South Salt Lake, and in Cedar City with Southern Utah University.

Venture is part of a national network of “Clemente Courses” recognized at the White House in the fall of 2015 by President Barack Obama with a National Humanities Medal. The citation read:

“The Clemente Course in the Humanities, for improving the lives of disadvantaged adults. The Clemente Course has brought free humanities education to thousands of men and women, enriching their lives and broadening their horizons.”

“This class allows you to speak your mind and give opinions without being afraid to be wrong. The topics we discuss are actual things that are happening now.”

– Venture Student

Jovan Williams at Venture’s Winter Celebration, where students read from work created during the first semester of Venture, many of them about their own lives, to friends, family, and invited guests. Photo: Jean Cheney
The Center for Local Initiatives supports grassroots humanities projects throughout the state of Utah. Communities identify important issues and use the humanities to address them.

Our grants and fellowships are designed to support projects that directly involve the humanities in engaging a community for the purpose of improving it.

PROGRAMS:

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
COMPETITIVE GRANTS
QUICK GRANTS
ORAL HISTORY GRANTS
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
Community Conversations was introduced in 2015 with the belief that facilitated conversation engages a community better than rhetoric and argument. Communities, large and small, identify issues that are important to them, and come together to discuss them through a humanities lens.

The conversation “Bridging the Secular/Religious Divide” was presented in partnership with The Village Square Utah. Panelists representing diverse backgrounds, including Mormon, Baptist, and Humanist, came together with scholars of religion and conflict resolution to identify religious barriers and discuss ways to overcome challenges. Jacob Z. Hess, Ph.D., Village Square Utah Director, said:

“During a time when research shows Americans are growing increasingly polarized and homogenized into like-minded tribes, the need for proactive efforts to bring people together across these divides has never been greater. Once individuals find themselves in the same room with “those people” eating, socializing, laughing...something changes. We all have a built-in capacity to disagree in healthy ways...we’ve just forgotten how to do it! It’s thanks to Utah Humanities that we’ve been able to launch our first season of conversation events in Utah. By reminding Utahns that thoughtful, good-hearted people disagree on almost everything, I believe we can continue setting a tone and encouraging local citizens to not give up on the founding ideals of our country—including simply this: that a diverse people can come together and create a country together.”

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

– Winston Churchill

Participants discuss bridging divides at a community event. Photo: Paulette Stevens.
GRANTS

Competitive Grants
Salt Lake City School District, *Relating Navajo Landscapes and Stories: A Photographic Exhibit*
Salt Lake Community College Community Writing Center, *Race Perspectives: Candid Dialogue About Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Identity*
Spy Hop, *Sending Messages: True Stories from a Secure Care Facility*
Artes de Mexico en Utah, *Alcanzando la Comunidad / Reaching the Community: Mexican Art and History*
University Neighborhood Partners, *West View Presents: The Language of Food and Culture in West Salt Lake City*
Utah Shakespeare Festival, *Literary Seminars in the Grove: Talking About the Plays*
University of Utah Department of English, *Guest Writers Series: Discussing Contemporary Literature*
Symposium in Science and Literature, *Aging: Where Humanities and Sciences Intersect*
Southern Utah University Gerald R. Sherratt Library, *Willy the Kid: Shakespeare in the Wild West*
Ogden Union Station Museums, *We Dig History! Archaeology Education*
Utah Storytelling Guild, *Story Crossroads: Across Generations and Cultures*

Quick Grants
University of Utah Department of Communication, *The Organic Globalizer: Hip-Hop and Politics*
Morgan County Library, *Reading and Discussion About Health Care Issues*
Mt. Olympus Japanese American Citizens League, *Day of Remembrance: Topaz Camp and Museum*
Pioneer Theatre Company, *From Fear to Frenzy: How Societies Cope with Controversy and Conflict*
Art Access, *Literature and Disability Book Group*
Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts, *A Canyon Peoples’ Portrait Documentary in Kane County*
Brigham City Library, *To the Moon and Beyond: the U.S. Space Program*
Two Rivers High School, Ogden, and Bountiful High School, *Emmett Till and The American Civil Rights Movement*
San Juan County, *San Juan Record Centennial History: The Past, Present, and Future of Rural Journalism*
Draper Park Middle School, *Never Forget...Finding Common Ground: Lessons of the Holocaust*
Westminster College, *Exploring Classic Greek Theatre Festival’s Electra in Ogden, Provo, Salt Lake City, and West Valley City*
Quick Grants (continued)

Moab Multicultural Center, *Navajo Hoop Dancer Traditions*
Summer Dance Festival Committee, *Brothers of the Baladi: Middle Eastern Music and Dance*
Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, *Translation and Commentary on Shoshone Language and Culture*
Salt Lake Education Foundation, *Nine Mile Canyon Stewardship Day: Ancient and Recent History*
Escalante Canyons Art Festival, *Escalante Expressions: Community Through Humanities and Art*
Utah Commission on Aging, *What, Without Memory, Am I? Music and Dementia*
St. George Art Museum, *Weaving a Revolution: Native American Baskets*

**Arts & Humanities Quick Grants**

Utah State Archives, *Gravestones, the Colorado River, Downwinders, and Utah’s Coming of Age*
Orchestra of Southern Utah, *The Rhythm of the Drum: Paiute, Hispanic, and Pioneer Cultures in Cedar City*
WSU Department of Performing Arts, *Playwright and novelist Chana Porter on the intersection of love, technology, gender, fluidity, and the future of communication*
Utah Cultural Celebration Center, *The Recall: Remembrance Readings and the Day of the Dead*
Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, *The Soul of the Native American Artist: The Natural Environment*
Cedar City Public Library, *Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit: Exploring Human Origins: What Does it Mean to Be Human?*
NOVA Chamber Music Series, *The Kreutzer Sonata: Talking about Rage, Revenge, and Remorse*
Discovery Gateway Children’s Museum, *Dia de los Muertos: Latino Cultural Traditions*
Artes de Mexico en Utah, *Posada in Ogden: A Celebration of Life exhibit about Latin American art*

**Oral History Grants**

Logan Public Library, *Logan Library Centennial Oral Histories*
Weber State University Stewart Library, *Ogden’s Immigrant Populations: Italian, Greek, Japanese, and Dutch ancestry since WWII*
University of Utah Division of Occupational Therapy, *Karen Youth Transitions: Traditional Dance of Burma*

**Research Fellowships**

Deidre Tyler, *Alberta Henry and the African American Civil Rights Movement in Utah (Delmont R. Oswald Fellowship)*
FINANCIALS

REVENUES

- National Endowment for the Humanities: $636,070
- Private: $248,741
- State of Utah: $155,000
- ZAP: $103,731
- Other: $4,100
- Interest and Gain on Investment: ($545)

TOTAL REVENUES: $1,147,097

EXPENSES

- Program Services: $627,152
- Management and General: $138,360
- Fund Raising: $95,168
- Public Relations: $62,517
- Grants: $45,532

TOTAL EXPENSES: $968,729

ASSETS

- Cash: $899,850
- Investments: $407,634
- Receivables: $674,704
- Furniture and Equipment: $2,224
- Prepaid Expenses: $1,518
- Investments Restricted for Endowment: $207,009

TOTAL ASSETS: $2,192,939

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

- Accrued Liabilities: $73,001
- Grants Payable: $33,870
- Board Designated: $546,669
- Unrestricted: $833,572
- Temporarily Restricted: $494,097
- Permanently Restricted: $207,009
- Deferred Revenue: $4,721

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES: $2,192,939
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Our heartfelt thanks to these generous donors who make Utah Humanities’ work possible! This list represents gifts received during Utah Humanities’ 2015 fiscal year (November 1, 2014, to October 31, 2015). If you made a gift after October 31, 2015, you will be recognized in our 2016 Annual Report.

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