



HUMANITIES COUNCIL

OF WASHINGTON, DC

2011 Annual Report

November 2010 - October 2011

Mission Statement

The mission of the Humanities Council is to enrich the quality of life, foster intellectual stimulation, and promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of local history in all neighborhoods of the District through humanities programs and grants. The Humanities Council believes that in-depth consideration of the issues that affect us as individuals in a society can make a positive impact on our lives, and believes each citizen can participate in our vision to **“transform lives through the power of the humanities.”**



Programs

Art All Night DC

In September, the Humanities Council participated in DC's first Nuit Blanche, a cultural tradition in France that has swept the globe. The festival kept arts and humanities lovers up late into the night, up and down the 7th Street NW corridor from Chinatown to Shaw. Street performances, art shows, and spectacular splashes of light and color filled the sidewalks, vacant buildings, and streets.



The Council's programming at the Warehouse Theatre included an author talk, a Humanitini, a Hand Dance class, a poetry

slam, and a concert from the always effervescent ChristyLéz Bacon.

World House Series

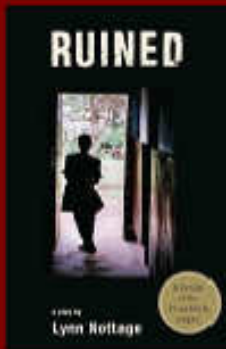
Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned a "World House" in which all nations share the responsibility to take care of our planet and be more socially conscious. In panel discussions held in every quadrant of DC, the Council will create space for fruitful community discussions on local environmental activism, the ethics behind going green, international cooperation on the issue of climate change, and the popularity behind the green revolution.



Panelists at the Embassy of Bangladesh.

First Annual Live to Read

Live to Read, the Humanities Council of Washington, DC's city-wide celebration of literature strives to revitalize the role of reading in the District by sharing a book with the community. 2011's inaugural program brought together 20 partners who hosted panel discussions, film screenings, workshops and community art shows all of which focused on Lynn Nottage's award winning play, *Ruined*, and its themes. Live to Read programs engaged adults and high school students across the city in conversations about the impact of war, violence against women, Congolese culture, theater and the art of storytelling.



Conversations on Great Streets

This program uses a panel discussion format to examine Washington, DC's most historic commercial corridors. This year, we honored longtime business leaders in the greater U Street area. Including Ben's Chili Bowl and Lee's Flower and Card Shop both of which weathered the destructive forces of the 1968 Riots and the five year construction of U Street's Metro Station to help sustain the neighborhood's reputation as one of DC's most vibrant commercial corridors. Another honoree, SORG Architects, reflected the changing nature of the corridor, and attempts by new businesses to keep the neighborhood's memory and culture alive.

Humanitini

The Council's "think and drink" program returned in a big way in 2011. Four events held weekly in the months of August and July attracted over 200 attendees to bars on U Street, and near the Convention Center on 7th Street. The riotous series was hosted by SpeakerDC's Amy Saidman and covered topics such as: Sex, Scandals, and Social Media; Coming Out and Speaking Out; Gentrification; and Blogging. The programs give young professionals a chance to discuss the humanities issues important to them in a

Soul of the City

Our month-long youth program develops DC's future leaders and community innovators through a challenging, dynamic, and fun curriculum. It has helped over 200 young people identify key political, social, and community issues while devising original solutions to common challenges.



In 2011 we partnered with the DC Department of Human Services for the second year. DHS' Summer Youth Employment Program participants traveled to museums, cultural centers, and historic sites throughout July.

DC Community Heritage Project

The DCHP began as an effort to explore the social and cultural history of DC neighborhoods from the perspective of long-time residents. This important mission was continued throughout 2011 with a House History Workshop at the DC Public Library Washingtoniana Division, a grant cycle that awarded \$38,000 for local history projects, and a symposium where grantees, scholars and other public historians shared ideas.

Grantees showcased their work at Tenth Israel Congregation in December of 2010.



Introducing the DC Digital Museum! wdchumanities.org/dcdm

A digital repository of past grants and programs.

Dear Friends,

Our mission at the Humanities Council of Washington, DC is to "transform lives through the power of the humanities," but 2011 saw a number of bold transformations within the organization itself. After five years conducting the popular Big Read program, supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, we initiated "Live to Read," DC's new city-wide read. Soul of the City, our youth leadership program, has been held annually during the DC Public Schools' Spring Break week in April since its founding in 2005. This year, in partnership with the DC Department of Human Services, the program was expanded; transformed into a month-long exploration of DC's unique history and culture after which the students had a new understanding of their city and themselves. Finally, the Council participated in the city's first Nuit Blanche - Art All Night DC. Modeled after similar festivals in major cities throughout the world, Art All Night saw almost a thousand people experiencing and enjoying history, art criticism, and poetry, humanities all night!

The Council's grant program remained strong, supporting 40 outstanding projects across all of the city's Wards. 2011 was the fifth year funds were distributed through the DC Community Heritage Project. This important grant cycle funded the creation of exhibits, oral histories, and documentary films interpreting the history of DC's neighborhoods, landmarks and culture!

None of these enriching and transformative humanities experiences could happen without the generous support of our funders. I truly appreciate the generosity these foundations, corporations, agencies, and individuals show year after year. It is their dedication to civic engagement, community conversations, and the humanities disciplines that make Washington, DC such a vibrant and intellectually stimulating place to live.

Sincerely,
Joy Ford Austin,
Executive Director

Grants

Cycle I 2011

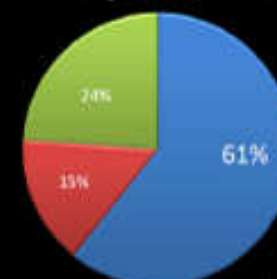
Peoples' Production House
 We are Ward 1: An Oral History and Video Slideshow
 Ford's Theatre Society
 Civil War Washington Teachers Fellows
 MOMIES TLC
 The Children's Gallery of Black History: Mobile Gallery Program
 DC Scores
 DC Scores Power of Poetry
 Double Nickels Theatre Company
 The Red Ball Express: And Other Experiences of Black WWII Vets
 Video Action
 A Community of Gardeners Film Screenings
 National Hand Dance Association
 Hand Dance: A Capitol Swing-Documentary Screening, Discussion
 American Islamic Congress
 DC Muslim Film Festival
 Corcoran Gallery of Art
 Festival for the Corcoran Gallery of Art
 Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
 Is Your Neighborhood Clybourne Park?
 Latin American Youth Center
 DC's Civil War
 Facing History & Ourselves
 Choosing to Participate
 Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
 Supreme Courts: How DC Changed the Basketball World
 Latino Economic Development Organization
 We Own This! Stories of Tenants Preserving their Housing in DC
 Cesar Chavez Public Charter School
 Chavez Schools DC Neighborhood History Project
 Smithsonian Anacostia Museum
 Community Cultural Assets Community Forums
 Textile Museum
 2011 Textile Museum Fall Symposium
 Studio Theatre
 New Ireland: A panel and Symposium on Irish Drama
 9/11 Unity Walk
 2011 9/11 Unity Walk
 Friends of the Congo
 Ruined in DC Schools: Connecting Congolese Youth
 Military Road Preservation Trust
 150 Years After the Civil War Prejudice is Still Alive and Well in the USA
 Words Beats and Life
 The Red Line DC Project

DC Community Heritage Project Grants 2011

John Eaton Elementary School Home School Association
 John Eaton Elementary School Website
 Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington
 Exterior and Interior Graphic Panels and Video about Historic Adas Israel Synagogue
 Friends of Peirce Mill
 Panel Exhibition on the Re-opening of Peirce Mill
 Alliance for Global Justice (Empower DC)
 Ivy City History Project Film
 Women of the Dove Foundation
 What's in a Name? DC Public and Public Charter Schools... History and Heritage...
 Split This Rock
 DC Authors Houses: A Web Exhibit
 The Exposure Group African American Photography Assoc., Inc.
 FotoCraft Camera Club: More Than Seven Decades of Photography in the Nations Capital
 Public Communications, Inc.
 Voices on 14th Street: Columbia Heights in the Sixties An Oral History Project
 African American Holiday Association
 African American Pioneer Muslims in Washington, DC
 Columbia Heights Youth Club
 Living Images in my World: A History Beneath US-Forgotten Sacred Ground Across the River Creek
 Multi-Media Training Institute
 Preserving LeDroit Park: A Historic Community in Washington DC
 Historic Woodlawn Cemetery Perpetual Care Association
 Historic Woodlawn Cemetery Records Conversion Project
 Anacostia Bicyclist Association
 Anacostia Heritage Ride
 Deanwood Heights Main Streets
 Third Annual Historic Church Tour of Deanwood
 The Institute of Caribbean Studies
 The Museum of the Caribbean Diaspora: A Digital Repository
 Capitol Hill Arts Workshop
 Uncovering Capitol Hill History Through Stories of the Capitol Hill Art Workshop
 The Essential Theatre
 My Neighborhood in 1955
 International Artists Support Group
 Washington Color School Project

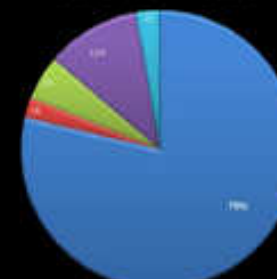
2011 Financials

Expenses



- Grants and Programs \$488,748
- Fundraising \$123,419
- Administrative \$192,530

Revenue



- NEH Funding \$664,014
- Foundations and Corporations \$19,707
- Individual Giving \$43,898
- DC Government \$93,000
- In Kind \$23,320

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Or Visit our Website www.wdchumanities.org

