The Idaho Humanities Council was founded in 1973, as a nonprofit organization to promote greater public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the humanities in Idaho. The IHC’s mission is to “deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.” Through history, literature, languages, philosophy, law, cultural anthropology, comparative religion, and other humanities disciplines, the humanities inspire reflective, contemplative, intellectual discovery, and the quiet, often solitary questioning that reveals to us what we value most in life. At the same time the humanities thrive on civic dialogue and lifelong learning for all citizens.

The overriding vision of the Idaho Humanities Council is that the humanities inspire a more literate, tolerant and intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry, better able to embrace life’s possibilities. IHC welcomes all Idahoans to join in this noble pursuit.
The Mission of the Idaho Humanities Council?
Since its founding in 1973 as a nonprofit organization serving as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Idaho Humanities Council’s mission has been to enhance public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of history, literature, philosophy, comparative religion, cultural anthropology, and other humanities disciplines in Idaho. IHC meets its mission by sponsoring and supporting through grants and partnerships hundreds of public humanities programs at libraries, museums, schools, and community halls throughout Idaho, exploring cultural identity and promoting civic dialogue and community engagement.

The vision of the Idaho Humanities Council is that the humanities inspire a more literate, tolerant, more intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry better able to embrace life’s possibilities.

The humanities provide the spark for intellectual discovery, and the quiet, often solitary, questioning that reveals to us what we value most in this life. At the same time, the humanities thrive on lifelong learning. The interpretive power of the humanities influences citizenship, character, and ethical responsibility in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

What does the IHC do?
For more than 35 years, the IHC has funded projects and programs that have enhanced public understanding of our “human ties.”

Annual Distinguished Humanities Lectures, featuring such speakers as historians and biographers Doris Kearns Goodwin, David McCullough, and Robert Dallek, novelists Ivan Doig, Jane Smiley, and John Updike, and journalists David Halberstam, Susan Orlean, Juan Williams, Jim Lehrer, and others.

Annual weeklong Summer Institutes for Idaho elementary and secondary teachers on such topics as Native American literature, the works of John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway, the Bill of Rights, Idaho history, the presidencies of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, American Roots Music, Environmental Literature, the history of the Supreme Court, and many other topics.

Traveling Smithsonian exhibitions to rural communities on such themes as “Key Ingredients,” exploring American identity through food; “Yesterday’s Tomorrows,” about past visions of the future; “Barn Again,” about the vanishing icon of the American landscape; “New Harmanies,” exploring American roots music; and “Between Fences,” exploring the geographical and philosophical borders between nations and neighbors.

Sponsorship of outstanding educational programs on Idaho Public Television. The series American Experience and American Masters, as well as support for original documentaries by IPTV and independent producers.

Longtime sponsorship of the “Let’s Talk About It” library reading-discussion program, which, in partnership with the Idaho Commission for Libraries and with loyal support over the years from US Bank, brings scholars to rural libraries to lead discussions of great books with people of all ages.

IHC’s Humanities Speakers Bureau, which over the years has sponsored hundreds of scholar talks, demonstrations, and performances in towns large and small throughout the state.

Essential grant support to museums, libraries, civic organizations, and individuals throughout Idaho to develop interpretive exhibits, sponsor conferences, preserve collections of historical photographs and oral histories, develop school curricula, support scholarly research, host film festivals and special lectures, and many other projects and programs limited only by the imagination. And much more . . .

YOU CAN HELP!

Please join the Idaho Humanities Council in helping enrich the lives of Idahoans with the promise of the humanities. Your tax-deductible contribution will be most appreciated and put to good use.

Donate online: www.idahohumanities.org or
Mail a check to:
Idaho Humanities Council
217 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
Thank You!