Since 1973, Humanities Texas has served Texans of all ages through programs that improve the quality of classroom teaching, support libraries and museums, and create opportunities for lifelong learning.

We strengthen Texas communities by conducting and supporting programs that cultivate the knowledge and judgment that representative democracy demands of its citizens. These programs also contribute to Texas’s thriving economy, culture, and civic life.

The state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Texas is a private nonprofit supported by federal and state appropriations, as well as by foundations, corporations, and individuals. Our volunteer board is a model of leadership, ensuring we fulfill our mission while providing careful stewardship of our funding resources.

The Byrne-Reed House—Humanities Texas’s headquarters—embodies our organization’s commitment to history, culture, and education. In 2010, we uncovered the century-old home, returning it to its original character and distinction. Located in Austin just a few blocks from the State Capitol, the Byrne-Reed House provides a central venue for our programs and events as well as those of other educational and cultural organizations.

Photograph by Casey Dunn.
Organizational History

1970s
- 1973: Texas Committee for the Humanities begins operations at UT Arlington with Sandra L. Myres as executive director.
- 1974: Awards first grants to Texas organizations planning public humanities programs.
- 1975: James F. Veninga becomes executive director.
- 1979: Funds the “Texas Women’s History Project.”

1980s
- 1980: Moves headquarters from Arlington to Austin.
- 1983: Awards first of four major grants supporting expansion of The Handbook of Texas.
- 1985: Receives NEH Exemplary Project Award for programs exploring Mexican legacy in Texas.
- 1987: Awards grants to 140 Texas libraries to obtain the complete Library of America.

1990s
- 1990: Establishes Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Awards with grant from the T. L. L. Temple Foundation.
- 1991: Purchases office in South Austin with Meadows Foundation grant.
- 1992: Incorporates the Texas Humanities Resource Center, the precursor of our traveling exhibitions program.
- 1993: Receives NEH grant to explore uses of new technologies in humanities education.
- 1994: Hosts the National Humanities Conference in San Antonio.
- 1996: Debuts Humanities Interactive website and “Teaching with Technology” workshops.
- 1997: Richard Hull becomes executive director.

2000s
- 2000: Presents first annual Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award.
- 2003: Changes name to Humanities Texas.
- 2004: Awards first of four major grants supporting expansion of The Handbook of Texas.
- 2005: Publishes Conversations with Texas Writers with UT Press.
- 2006: Purchases Byrne-Reed House in central Austin.
- 2007: Receives $1 million NEH Challenge Grant for purchase and restoration of Byrne-Reed House.
- 2008: Holds first Holiday Book Fair benefiting Texas libraries.
- 2009: Receives first-ever state funding to dramatically expand our professional development programs for Texas teachers.

2010s
- 2010: Completes award-winning restoration of the Byrne-Reed House.
- 2011: Holds first Veterans’ Voices reading and discussion program.
- 2012: Establishes the Award for Outstanding Early-Career Teaching.
- 2013: Launches campaign to establish $5 million endowment supporting programming and operations.
- 2014: Holds first community History Harvests in San Angelo and Brownsville.
- 2015: Publishes Conversations with Texas Writers with UT Press.
- 2016: Launches Relief Grants program for Texas museums, schools, and libraries that suffered losses during Hurricane Rita.
- 2018: Receives President’s Award from Texas Association of Museums for supporting the state’s museums’ recovery from Hurricane Harvey.
- 2019: Eric Lupfer becomes executive director.

2020s
- 2020: Distributes more than $1.1 million in grants to Texas cultural and educational institutions affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2021: Awards Relief Grants to libraries and museums that suffered losses during Winter Storm Uri.
- 2022: Secures NEH funding to support establishment of Los Angelitos de Robb Archive at Uvalde’s El Progreso Memorial Library.
- 2023: Celebrates 50th anniversary by holding public receptions in communities across the state.
For decades, Humanities Texas has raised the quality of humanities instruction in Texas schools.

Professional Development Programs
We are the leading provider of professional development for the state’s humanities teachers. In our programs, participants study with leading scholars, exploring topics at the heart of the state’s social studies and language arts curricula.

We focus on serving early-career teachers and teachers in disadvantaged and underperforming schools. In recent years, over 80% of participants in our institutes and workshops taught in Title I schools, and 51% were in their first five years of teaching.

Awards
Our Outstanding Teaching Awards are the most prestigious statewide awards in K–12 humanities instruction. Since 1990, 385 teachers in 126 Texas communities have been recognized.

Curriculum Resources
We produce and disseminate in-depth, innovative materials that engage students in key topics in history, government, and language arts.

Texas Storytime
Our family reading program promotes school readiness and supports early childhood literacy.

Impact:
- 7,178 teachers served by professional development programs since 2004
- 2,367 schools served by professional development programs since 2004
- 375,000+ students served each year

“Humanities Texas fosters excellence in education for the benefit of the children of Texas . . . with few competitors as the premier provider of staff development in our state.”
Michael Acuff, Past Member of the State Board of Educator Certification

“Receiving the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award is a highlight of my career. . . . It validated my work and gave me the assurance I needed to continue my journey as an educator.”
JP Fugler, Van High School, Van
Humanities Texas provides high-quality, affordable resources to cultural and educational institutions throughout Texas and the nation.

We circulate traveling exhibitions on a variety of historical, literary, and cultural topics. These exhibitions are designed to appeal to institutions of all sizes and budgets, from small community centers with volunteer support to museums with professional curatorial staff.
Humanities Texas grants provide support to the state’s libraries, museums, and other public or nonprofit institutions.

Since 1974, we have awarded more than 4,700 grants totaling more than $20 million for lectures, conferences, teacher workshops, exhibitions, reading programs, and documentary films.

We also launch special grant initiatives to support Texas cultural and educational organizations in times of critical need. Most recently, we awarded over $3.4 million in emergency funding to 360 Texas cultural and educational nonprofits affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This funding enabled recipients to pay overhead costs, retain staff, shift in-person programming online, and make resources available to those who depend on them for education and connection.

“Without the support of Humanities Texas, our museum would not be seeing the growth it is experiencing today.”

Jewellee Kuenstler, Museum of the West Texas Frontier, Stamford

“The Humanities Texas grants program plays a crucial role in the success of our mission. . . . It empowers us to make a lasting impact on our community and preserve our rich Texas heritage.”

Olivia Moore, East Texas Oil Museum, Kilgore

Supporting cultural and educational programming

Humans

Texas

1,738

Texas organizations receiving grants since 1973

405

Communities served since 1973

4,775

Grants awarded since 1973

Impact:
Public Lectures and Film Screenings
Throughout the year, we hold film screenings and in-person and online lectures on a diverse range of topics, bringing acclaimed scholars to audiences around the state and nation.

Veterans’ Voices
Our Veterans’ Voices discussion program serves veterans and military families in communities across Texas. Participants engage in facilitated conversations that explore how selected readings relate to their own experiences and allow for shared reflection.

Humanities Texas provides opportunities for lifelong learning to all Texans.

Texas Originals
Texas Originals profiles individuals who shaped Texas history and culture. This radio series is broadcast on stations throughout the state and is available online for teachers to use as an educational tool in their classrooms.

Holiday Book Fair
Our annual Holiday Book Fair welcomes the public to visit with Texas authors and purchase signed copies of their latest books at the historic Byrne-Reed House. Proceeds benefit Texas libraries.

Conducting programs in communities statewide
We invite you to invest in our mission. Help us continue to provide educational opportunities in Texas classrooms, libraries, museums, and beyond.

As a donor, you may direct your gift toward a specific program, the ongoing preservation of the Byrne-Reed House, or our general endowment. Be assured that your gift will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of Texans.

To learn more, visit www.humanitiestexas.org or contact the Development Office at development@humanitiestexas.org or 512.440.1991.

“Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. It must therefore foster and support a form of education, and access to the arts and the humanities, designed to make people of all backgrounds and wherever located masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.”

National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965

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