

What is Arizona Humanities?

Arizona Humanities is a statewide non-profit organization and one of 56 state and territorial councils funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1973, Arizona Humanities has been a prominent and influential leader in the cultural life of Arizona. Arizona Humanities funds humanities based projects and works with museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations to serve communities throughout the entire state of Arizona providing enriching educational programs.

Although Arizona Humanities receives federal funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities, it is not a government agency, but rather an independent, nonprofit organization. Arizona Humanities is incorporated in Arizona, and is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization for the purpose of accepting tax-deductible contributions.

What is the mission of Arizona Humanities?

Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.

The humanities disciplines include: history, literature, language, linguistics, jurisprudence, philosophy, ethics, archaeology, comparative religion, social sciences, and more.

STAFF

Brenda Thomson, Executive Director
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www.azhumanities.org



Prospective Board Member Information



www.azhumanities.org



WHAT DOES ARIZONA HUMANITIES DO?

- Provides grants for high-quality public humanities programs
- Offers entertaining and informative speaker presentations with AZ Speaks
- Brings Smithsonian Museum exhibitions to rural communities
- Encourages reading through family literacy programs
- Supports veterans from all eras with writing workshops, book and film discussions
- Engages people in conversations about important issues facing our communities
- Hosts engaging Authors Nights with local and national authors to encourage an environment of learning and conversation
- And more!

WHO SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

The Arizona Humanities Board of Directors is made up of members who share a commitment to enhancing the cultural life of Arizona in pursuit of a just and civil society. Board Members' backgrounds, expertise, and contacts provide the tools needed to foster a successful, dynamic and entrepreneurial organization.

Arizona Humanities believes its Board of Directors should reflect the rich diversity of Arizona. One-fourth of the board is appointed by the governor, and the remainder is elected by the current Board of Directors from statewide applicants from the public and private sectors. Members serve three-year terms, with the possibility of renewal for an additional three years.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A BOARD MEMBER?

This is a working board in a very real sense, one that depends on the active participation of every board member. Each year members consider dozens of grant proposals, set policy, help plan and oversee Arizona Humanities-sponsored activities, and serve on ad hoc or standing committees.

The full board meets five times annually, on the third Friday of February, April, June, August, and October. This includes a June retreat which gives the board an opportunity to evaluate its current programs and establish new goals and objectives for its long-range strategic plan.

In addition, board members may serve as evaluators for Arizona Humanities-funded projects, attend programs and submit written evaluations. This gives members a chance to meet prominent scholars and cultural leaders, and also provides an opportunity to become acquainted with diverse community organizations throughout Arizona.

Board members may also serve as liaisons to their college, university, corporate, and community groups, encouraging others to work with Arizona Humanities. This could involve making a presentation, or directing the interested group to Arizona Humanities staff for support in developing a project or completing a proposal.

DO BOARD MEMBERS HAVE FUNDRAISING OR DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES?

Yes, a primary responsibility of board membership is to secure the financial health of the organization, not only that Arizona Humanities can remain solvent, but so that it can grow.

Board members are expected to support the work of Arizona Humanities through their own donations and by actively participating in revenue-producing activities. These activities may include: identifying prospective donors or organizations that could partner with Arizona Humanities, visiting with corporate and legislative leaders, or advocating Arizona Humanities to local businesses and leaders.

IS THERE AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS?

Yes, new board members are invited to an orientation session conducted by the Board Governance Committee, the Chairman, and key staff. During orientation they receive a comprehensive overview of board duties and responsibilities, and a tour of the historic Ellis-Shackelford House in downtown Phoenix, home to Arizona Humanities.

If you have questions or would like to receive an application, please contact Executive Director, Brenda Thomson, at 602-257-0335 x22 or email bthomson@azhumanities.org.