

The proposed Mission Statement (see below) was reviewed by the Executive Committee in June of this year and will be considered at the September 2018 Board meeting. It was initially conceived by Board member Bud Park, based upon the Board's discussions of values and mission earlier this year. Bud sent it to Staff and we recommended a few changes. We realize it might change during the strategic planning process over the course of the next year, but at this time it accurately reflects what the FHC aspires to do each day, and we believe it is a good foundation upon which to build the strategic plan.

FHC Mission Statement (Proposed)

To preserve, promote and share the history, literature, culture and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities and their state.

The proposed statement identifies specific actions the FHC should undertake; we must preserve, promote and share. We are the custodian of forty-five years of humanities assets and we need to compile, organize and *preserve* what we have. We also want to help local communities preserve their stories, some of which are rapidly disappearing.

As the heart of the humanities network in Florida, and as a voice to explain why the humanities are the foundation to a free society, we *promote* the humanities statewide. Our communications efforts, including an ongoing commitment to FORUM magazine, helps us *share* the humanities as broadly as possible. In fact, all of our programs are designed to share the humanities with "people of all backgrounds wherever located."

The humanities are always difficult to define but this statement uses history, literature, the broad notion of "culture," and the newer concept of "personal stories," to help Floridians understand the benefits of exposure to the humanities. So often the humanities, in whatever form, touch the heart through people communicating with each other...through their personal stories told in authentic conversations. And to what end do we offer the humanities? So that Floridians can gain a better understanding of themselves, their communities and their state. Our ultimate goal is better human understanding and a greater appreciation for our state.