

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Florida Humanities Council:

As I begin my two-year term as chair of the Florida Humanities Council, I am convinced that the humanities have never been more important to our state. The recession, which has severely impacted Florida, has forced us to think creatively about our future. We



Rachel Blechman

cannot continue to rely on the staggering level of growth that has supported Florida over the past half century. The current pause in our state's growth offers us the opportunity to think about Florida anew. The humanities offer the perfect vehicle for this.

The humanities inspire us to explore the past, to challenge our assumptions, to examine our values, and to view issues from other perspectives. The humanities encourage spirited discussion, study, reflection, and debate. They supply us with a framework to ask provocative questions for which there are no single answers. Applying the humanities to public policy discussions not only expands our perspective, but also engenders a civility that many of us see absent from many public forums.

During the past year, the FHC has brought Floridians together across the state to discuss a wide range of topics that use the disciplines of the humanities to explore issues related to the environment, religion, and cultural diversity. These programs use scholars, texts, exhibits, and films to launch spirited discussions.

In the coming year we will premiere our public television documentaries produced in partnership with five Florida stations. These documentaries will examine the role that a sense of community and civic engagement plays in several Florida communities. We are also embarking on an exciting new partnership with the Askew Institute and the Fred Friendly Seminars at the Columbia Journalism School to develop a statewide televised panel discussion that will address the topic of "Florida in a New Era."

A healthy democracy relies on rigorous debate and an active citizenry. I invite you to attend and participate in one of the many programs FHC will sponsor in the coming year.

ackel Bluckman

Sincerely,

Rachel Blechman Chair of the Board Florida Humanities Council

#### TEACHERS CENTER

Our professional-development seminars provided strong academic content, provocative ideas, and lots of inspiration to 463 Florida teachers from 107 elementary, middle, and high schools in 37 counties. Led by distinguished Florida scholars, these weeklong and daylong seminars generated information, materials, and lesson plans about the state's history and culture that help teachers enrich their classroom instruction. In addition, with a competitive grant from the



The Florida

National Endowment for the Humanities, FHC conducted two weeklong seminars for 81 teachers from 19 states (including Florida) on the life and work of Zora Neale Hurston, the novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist who recorded the stories of black Floridians during the first half of the 20th century.

#### GRANTS

We awarded more than \$425,000 in federal funds to support humanities projects in 74 towns and cities across Florida. These grants leveraged an additional \$425,000 in local matching funds from the 67 nonprofit groups that created and executed the projects. The individual FHC grant awards—ranging from \$25,000 to less than \$1,000—helped nonprofit groups around the state bring in speakers for public programs; conduct research into local history; and create local heritage programs, exhibits, oral history projects, lecture series, and much more.

#### ROAD SCHOLARS

Our Road Scholars crisscrossed the state, bringing thought-provoking public programs to thousands of Floridians at community centers, libraries, theaters, schools, and other public venues in nearly 60 towns and cities. Our roster of scholars, authors, storytellers, journalists, and dramatists made presentations and



engaged people in discussions on topics ranging from Florida's folk art, food, and local characters—to the state's politics, history, and civil rights.

#### THE GATHERING

Our cultural heritage tours, which we call "Gatherings," explored two distinctive areas of the state: the Everglades in South Florida and the historic Gulf port town of Apalachicola on Florida's "Forgotten Coast." These outings—guided by preeminent scholars, local leaders, and longtime community residents—helped introduce 71 Floridians to what makes Florida special. This revenue-generating program also helps the host communities celebrate their unique heritage.

#### PRIME TIME

More than 125 families attended our six-week literacy programs at nine public libraries in Hillsborough, Orange, Sarasota, Pinellas, Hendry, and Alachua counties. Our Prime Time program uses the humanities to create excitement about reading. Combining award-winning children's books with real-world themes and open discussion, Prime Time connects literature to participants' lives.

#### FORUM

Published three times a year, our award-winning statewide magazine provided lively in-depth looks at the characters, culture, and environmental crisis of the Everglades; the critical economic and societal issues facing our state; and the Florida authors and books recognized in the third annual Florida Book Awards. Each issue of FORUM, the magazine for thinking Florida, reached an estimated 50,000 readers.

#### RADIO

Our lively five-minute broadcasts about Florida history and culture were aired on public-radio stations across the state, twice monthly through August. More than 100,000 listeners heard each program, featuring interviews and reports about the people, places, and events—both past and present—that have shaped Florida.















#### CONTRIBUTING STATEWIDE

Our programs touched cities and towns in every region of Florida during our 2009 fiscal year (November 2008 through October 2009). This map shows the communities that received our grant awards and were host to our Road Scholar presentations, teacher seminars, cultural heritage tours, and family reading programs. In addition, our reach extended statewide with our public-radio programs, and FORUM magazine.



## Celebrating our Growing Support

The Florida Humanities Council (FHC) would like to acknowledge the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; and the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that made contributions during our 2009 Fiscal Year (11/1/08–10/31/09). Thank you! \*Denotes members of FHC's Board of Directors







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#### \$35,000

HTR Foundation—Teachers Center

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Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice—PrimeTime Thomas M. & Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust

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FHC would also like to recognize the contributions of our numerous donors who gave \$49 or less as well as the generous in-kind support of our board members and other friends of FHC.

We have attempted to ensure the accuracy of this report. If we have misrepresented or omitted a contribution, please contact our office at (727)873-2001 or via email at cguidry@flahum.org.

# Extracted Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2009

#### BALANCE SHEET

#### **ASSETS**

Cash and Investments	928,196
Grants Receivable	433,860
Prepaid Expenses	26,906
Contributions Receivable	267,833
Fixed Assets	30,543

## TOTAL \$1,687,338

#### **LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	67,566
Grants Payable	350,028
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	615,534
Temporarily Restricted	640,125
Permanently Restricted	14,085

\$1,687,338

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

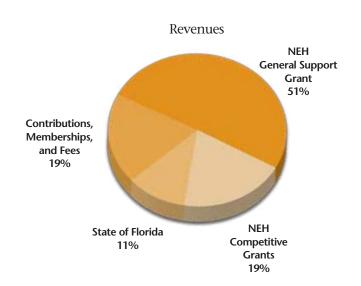
#### **REVENUES AND RELEASED NET ASSETS**

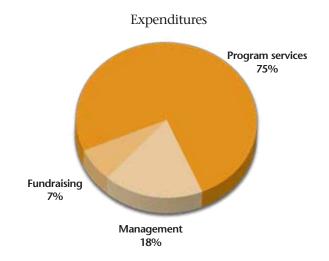
TOTAL	\$2.185.159
Contributions, Memberships, and Fees	415,117
State of Florida	240,400
NEH Competitive Grants	420,230
NEH General Support	1,109,412

#### **EXPENDITURES**

**TOTAL** 

TOTAL	\$2,140,836
Fundraising	143,696
Management	381,853
Program Services	1,615,287







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