Florida Humanities programming annually touches Floridians in every region of the state. From our award-winning FORUM magazine and walking tour app, to our exhibition partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and family literacy programs in public libraries, we are dedicated to convening Floridians in community-based experiences that bring us together and deepen our understanding of Florida.

Our Impact Statewide 2018–2019*:

$1,005,000 total federal and state dollars invested in local projects statewide

$2,140,000 total local funds leveraged to match Florida Humanities’ support

Funding for Florida Humanities comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and private donations.

Grant Funding for Local Humanities Projects

Since 1971, Florida Humanities has awarded more than $8-million in federal funding statewide in support of the development and presentation of humanities-rich cultural resources and public programs. These projects help preserve Florida’s rich history and heritage, promote civic engagement and community dialogue, and provide opportunities for reflecting on the future of our state.

Florida Stories Walking Tour app

Our downloadable walking tour app allows users to delve behind the scenes of Florida towns with an emphasis on local history, culture and architecture. Connected via a statewide platform, the tours create sustainable cultural tourism products that increase knowledge and appreciation of local history. The app includes 35 tours of unique Florida communities from Pensacola to Key West.

Museum on Main Street

Museum on Main Street is a partnership program that brings Smithsonian Institution exhibitions, resources, and programming to small towns across the state. These high-quality exhibitions are designed to bring revitalized attention to underserved and rural communities and serve as a launching point for storytelling and local pride. Exhibition host sites report an average attendance increase of more than 60% over the previous year.

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FORUM Magazine
Through its insightful perspectives on Florida, FORUM magazine provides readers with engaging and colorful stories about the people and places that define our state. Each issue of this award-winning magazine is distributed to over 15,000 people statewide. To highlight the wonderful literary accomplishments in the state, an annual issue of FORUM recognizes and honors the annual winners of the Florida Book Awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing.

Poetry Out Loud
Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students hosted annually in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Participating students not only learn about great poetry through memorization, they also master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about our literary history. More than 9,000 students statewide participate in local competitions each year.

“100 Faces of War”
Florida Humanities has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to bring the acclaimed “100 Faces of War” traveling exhibit to Florida. Through the eyes of soldiers who participated in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters, “100 Faces of War” gives voice to the warriors among us by featuring 100 personal essays and oil portraits of veterans from every state. The exhibit highlights the importance of the humanities both in helping Americans to understand the experiences of service members and in assisting veterans as they return to civilian life. Host sites include the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach (Sept–Nov 2018), Pensacola Museum of Art (Oct 2019–Jan 2020) and Coral Springs Museum of Art (Sept–Nov 2020).

Family Literacy Programs in Public Libraries
Florida Humanities supports a variety of reading and discussion programs for families held in public libraries. These include PrimeTime Family Reading Time and English for Families, a new series of ESOL classes that provide parents and their children with opportunities to improve their speaking and writing skills together. All programming utilizes award-winning children's books to inspire thought and conversation, improve basic literacy skills, promote critical thinking, and provide valuable information for families about library resources.

Speaker Programs
Florida Humanities’ Speakers Directory includes more than fifty expert historians, storytellers, researchers and authors who deliver thought-provoking programs on a wide variety of subjects related to Florida. Programs are free for the public to attend and are presented in partnership with civic organizations, museums, historical societies, public libraries and other non-profit groups statewide. More than 10,000 people attend speaker programs statewide each year.

Seminars for Educators and High School Students
In summer 2018 and 2019, K-12 educators and high school students from across the state participated in challenging and interdisciplinary studies of the humanities at one of our enriching seminars. Led by distinguished scholars, the seminars combine classroom sessions with relevant field experiences that highlight our state’s history and culture.
Florida Humanities

Grant Funding for Local Humanities Projects—$59,485

- **$5,000**—City of Gainesville (Alachua)—“Synchronica: Framing Time,” organized by the City of Gainesville Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, an exhibit of 150 photographic self-portraits created by high school students to mark the 150th anniversary of the city.
- **$5,000**—Flagler College (St. Johns)—“Cultural Resilience and Contemporary America,” Flagler College’s 2018-2019 “Ideas and Images” annual lecture series featuring noted scholars speaking on topics reflecting the past 50 years of U.S. culture and history as well as a celebration of the College’s founding in 1968.
- **$5,000**—Florida Living History (St. Johns)—“Colonial Transition – Turmoil Along the Frontier,” historical interpretations and re-enactments depicting Florida’s colonial Spanish and British periods.
- **$5,000**—Museum of Science and History (Duval)—“Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America,” a traveling exhibition developed in collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative and the Brooklyn Museum that provides a national perspective on the history and legacy of racial lynching from 1877-1950. Exhibit is complemented by a series of public programs as well as text panels and video clips of oral histories that tell the story of lynching in Duval County.
- **$5,000**—St. Johns County Public Library System (St. Johns)—“St. Johns Reads 2019,” an annual countywide, month-long celebration of reading with public programming designed around author Lisa Wingate’s book “Before We Were Yours”, a fictional historical novel set the 1920s-1950s South.
- **$5,000**—The Actors’ Warehouse (Alachua)—“The American Black Experience: Then and Now,” a series of community conversations about race and racism in America following performances of the two plays “The Colored Door at the Train Depot” and “Pipeline”.
- **$5,000**—University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine (Alachua)—“From Colored to Black: The Stories of North Central Florida,” a stage play based on oral histories of North Central Florida African Americans that recounts the black experience from segregation through integration and the Civil Rights movement.
- **$5,000**—Writers Alliance of Gainesville (Alachua)—“Sunshine State Book Festival,” a three-day festival celebrating the literary history of the region with opportunities for the public to engage with contemporary writers, novelists, playwrights, and poets from throughout Florida.
- **$4,900**—St. Augustine Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (St. Johns)—“500 Years of Maritime Florida,” a lecture series dedicated to Florida’s 500-year maritime history and how Florida’s proximity to the sea continues to influence its future.
- **$4,800**—Welcoming Gainesville (Alachua)—“Remembering Refugees in Jacksonville: Oral Histories of Resettled Refugees,” a series of public programs offered with assistance from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida that share the stories of refugees from various countries that have settled in Jacksonville over the past decade.
- **$3,610**—Jacksonville Public Library (Duval)—“On the Fringe: Blurred Lines of Florida Folk,” public programs and music workshops to complement the 2019 Florida Folk Music Festival and an exhibition exploring how contemporary folk artists capture cultural identity and community values by blending traditional skills with present-day aesthetics.
- **$3,000**—Alachua County Library District (Alachua)—“The Alachua County Great American Read,” public programming to complement the national broadcast of PBS’s “Great American Read” series in fall 2018.
- **$1,675**—PAL Public Library Cooperative (Putnam)—“Celebrating Authors in Putnam County,” a series of public programs that celebrate local authors in Putnam County.
- **$1,500**—Friends of Hemming Park (Duval)—“Jax Poetry Fest,” as part of National Poetry Month programming, a community conversation about social issues including diversity, inclusion and gun violence with Emmy and Peabody Award winning poet Al Letson.

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Museum on Main Street
A partnership program with the Smithsonian Institution that brings high-quality, nationally touring exhibitions to small towns and underserved communities across Florida. More than 17,000 people toured the exhibit, attended complementary public programs, or participated in school field trips in the following communities:

- Amelia Island Museum of History (Nassau)
- Cedar Key Historical Society (Levy)
- Suwannee River Regional Library System (Suwannee)
- West Nassau Historical Society (Nassau)

Florida Stories Walking Tour App
Downloadable walking tours featuring the history and culture of unique Florida communities. Connected via a statewide platform, the tours provide sustainable cultural tourism products for community partners.

Program partners:
- Amelia Island Museum of History (Nassau)
- Flagler College (St. Johns)
- St. Johns County Tourist Development Council (St. Johns)
- St. Augustine’s Colonial Era, St. Augustine’s Gilded Age, South of the Plaza, Lincolnville

Poetry Out Loud
A national poetry recitation contest for high school students offered in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. More than 9,000 students statewide participate in local competitions each year.

Student participation:
- More than 500 students from Alachua, Duval and St. Johns counties competed in local competitions with winners sent to the statewide competition.

Seminars for Educators and High School Students
In summer 2018 and 2019, K-12 educators and high school students from across the state participated in challenging and interdisciplinary studies of the humanities at one of our enriching seminars.

Program partners:
- More than 250 students and teachers attended summer seminars hosted by Flagler College and the University of Florida Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere since 2015.

Speaker Programs
Florida Humanities annually partners with community organizations statewide to present informative and lively lectures and community conversations about Florida’s rich history and culture.

More than 2,300 people attended programs hosted by:
- Amelia Island Museum of History (Nassau)
- Cedar Key Historical Society (Levy)
- Lightner Museum (St. Johns)
- Matheson Museum (Alachua)
- Palm Coast Historical Society and Museum (Flagler)

PrimeTime Family Reading Time
A six-week reading and discussion program for underserved families with young children. Held in public libraries, this program demonstrates how literature can enrich one’s life, models strategies for continued family bonding through children’s books, and provides information for families about library resources.

Program partners:
- Jacksonville Public Library System (Duval)
- Putnam County Library System (Putnam)
- Suwannee River Regional Library System (Suwannee)

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