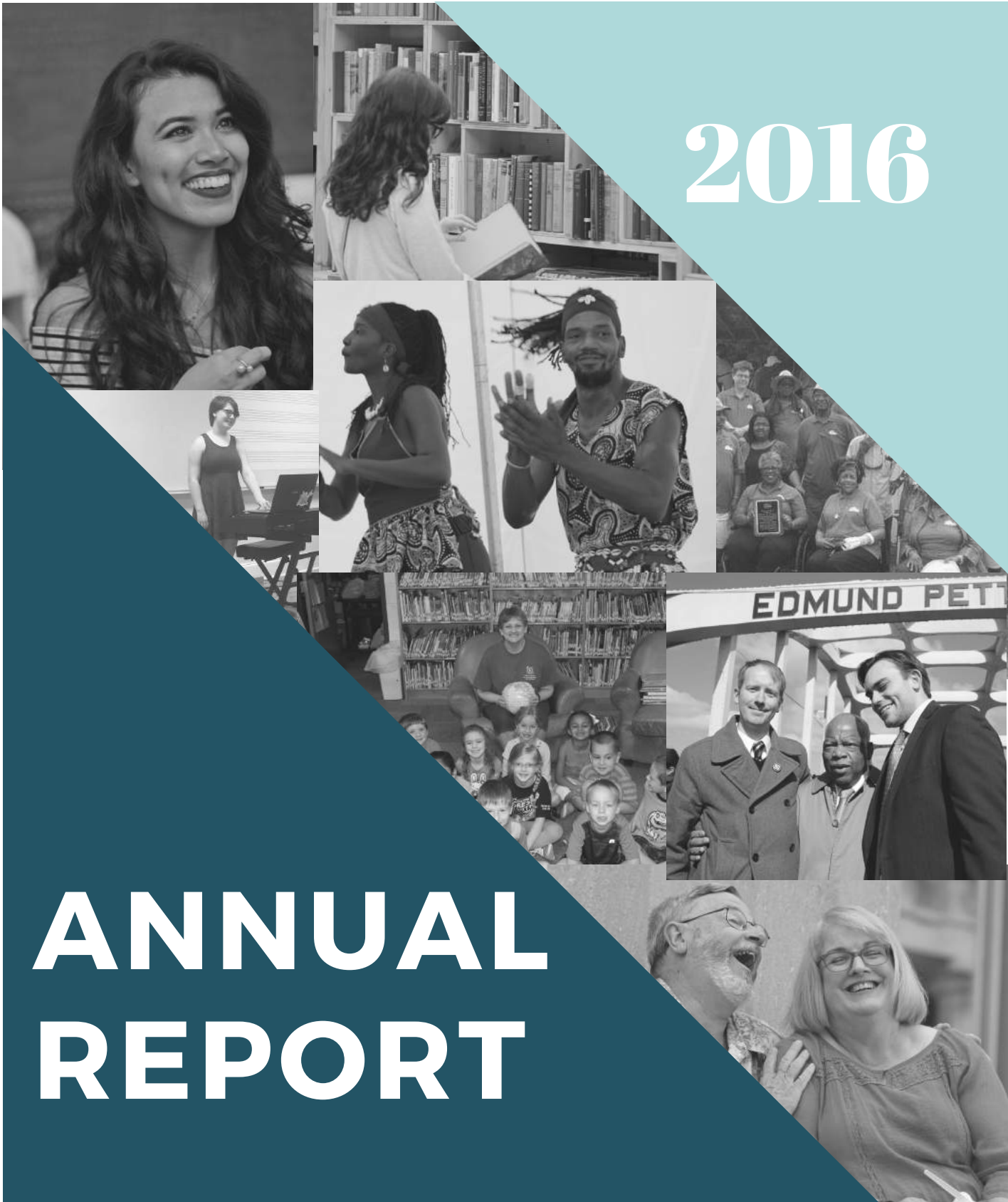


2016



ANNUAL REPORT



HUMANITIES
TENNESSEE

Our Stories. Our State.

www.HumanitiesTennessee.org



A Word from the Director

As we review this past year, Humanities Tennessee is both encouraged and challenged to look to our immediate future. 2016 was a fruitful year, full of change for our organization – a year of realizing many goals and setting new ones for the coming five years.

In our new Strategic Plan, we renew our commitment to the longstanding mission of strengthening Tennessee's communities by providing accessible public programs that use the humanities. Now we continue the challenge of ensuring that these programs meet the needs of Tennesseans statewide. In the current political climate, we recognize that social divisions are crystallizing and that people continue to self-segregate into like-minded communities. While the reasons for increased social separation may be obvious, the results are often hidden until rhetoric reaches heated levels.

We believe that our programs can make a real difference: when people think critically about their own beliefs and opinions, practice deeper, more empathetic understanding of contrary opinions, and place great value in the study of our shared histories, we can all engage in a more productive and constructive public discourse and begin to see each other differently and with increased civility.

This is the crux of our work at Humanities Tennessee; it has been for decades. We hope you will see the results of that work in this review of 2016, and we look forward to continuing it with you in the years ahead.

TIM HENDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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About Us

Our Mission

Humanities Tennessee nurtures the mutual respect and understanding essential to community by enabling Tennesseans to examine and critically reflect upon the narratives, traditions, beliefs, and ideas – as expressed through the arts and letters – that define us as individuals and participants in community life.

Our History

Founded in 1973 as a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, HT is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a sense of community through statewide programs and grants in literature, history, and culture.

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2016 Highlights

Thanks to our dedicated donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends, Humanities Tennessee accomplished the following in 2016:



- Gave away more than 2,285 books and sponsored more than 550 humanities-related events and activities across the state.



- Awarded more than \$155,250 in grants and scholarships to Tennessee museums, libraries, historical societies, community organizations, educators, and students.



- Convened Tennesseans of all walks of life to discuss difficult topics – such as immigration, prison reform, religion, veterans' issues, and more – in a civil manner, helping to strengthen communities.



- Reached nearly 500,000 Tennesseans through programs and grants and with the help of media partnerships.



The Southern Festival of Books

A Celebration of the Written Word

The 28th annual **Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written Word (SFB)** took place October 14-16, 2016, in downtown Nashville. More than 250 national, regional, and local authors offered readings and book signings, including **Yaa Gyasi, Matthew Desmond, Arlie Russell Hoschschild, Lauren Oliver, Randi Pink, Richard Schweid, Alison Stewart, Kix Brooks, J.D. Vance, Ann Patchett, Donald Ray Pollock, Lagnajita Mukhopadhyay, Curtis Sittenfeld,** and many more.

We are proud to partner each year with the **Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University** to present a themed track of sessions at SFB. This year, the "**Pulitzer Prizes 100th Anniversary Celebration**" track featured Pulitzer Prize-winning authors **Annette Gordon-Reed, Robert Olen Butler,** and more. With National Endowment for the Humanities funding, we presented a second themed track, "**Our Histories of Race & Ethnicity,**" featuring **Gail Lumet Buckley, Ibram X. Kendi,** and more.



Authors in the Round

The 9th annual **Authors in the Round (AIR)** dinner, a fundraising event for Humanities TN and the Southern Festival of Books, was held Friday, October 14, at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. Co-chairs **Dianne Neal and Paul Ney** hosted a wonderful evening of dinner, drinks, and conversation.

Local author **Andrew Maraniss** emceed the evening. Artwork was provided by Knoxville-based artist **Daniel Lai**. Founding and Honorary chairs **Todd Bottorff and Jean Bottorff** were in attendance, along with 43 authors and more than 350 guests.

THANK YOU to the 2016 SFB & AIR SPONSORS:





The Appalachian & Tennessee Young Writers' Workshops

The Appalachian (AYWW) and Tennessee (TYWW) Young Writers' Workshops are week-long, residential creative writing programs for young people, giving them the opportunity to explore their interest in writing and devote time to the development of their skills with accomplished authors in a supportive environment.

AYWW, co-sponsored with Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), was held June 19-25 on the LMU campus in Harrogate. Seventeen students attended classes in poetry with Jesse Graves, lyrics with Belinda Smith, creative nonfiction with Christopher Martin, and many more. Seventy percent of the students attended with partial or full scholarships.

TYWW was held July 10-16 at Cumberland University in Lebanon. Forty-seven students studied screenwriting, spoken word poetry, songwriting, fiction, graphic novels, and more with Mike Dobrzelecki, Dylan Philips, Christina Stoddard, Kristen O'Donnell Tubb, Julien Baker, Kevin Wilson, and other outstanding faculty.

Letters About Literature is a writing contest that encourages students in grades 4-12 to write a personal letter to the author, living or dead, of a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, essay, or speech about which they have strong feelings. State winners receive a cash award and a certificate from Humanities TN. The 1st place winners receive a \$100 prize and advance to the national competition.

More than 985 students from across the state entered the contest in 2016. State winners hailed from Ooltewah, Knoxville, Memphis, and Germantown.

Letters About Literature

Student Reader Days

The **Student Reader Day** program brings together writers and young readers with the goal of offering great literature, critical thinking, and discussion opportunities in classrooms across the state. We match authors with schools, free of charge, for unique presentations to underscore the importance of literacy/ literature in young people's lives. Participating 2016 authors included **Frye Gaillard, Randi Pink, Ruta Sepeys, and Courtney Stevens.** In total, we distributed **2,286 books to 2,224 students at 8 schools.**

Support for the Student Reader Day program is generously provided by **Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Nashville Predators Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.**

"What an amazing experience this event was for our readers. Things like this just don't happen for our students. The majority of them live in extreme poverty. This definitely could not have happened without the help of Humanities TN. Our school has been struggling with literacy for quite some time, and I think events like this one will help tremendously."

The Conversation Project



The **Conversation Project** is a small-group program that allows community members to come together and discuss difficult topics such as race, inequality, poverty, citizenship, religion, war, and more. We recently expanded the program thanks to generous support from the **NISSAN Foundation**.

Conversations in 2016 included "**Routes to Roots: Migration Stories**," facilitated by Antonio Vasquez of MTSU and held in Nashville, Charlotte, and Dickson; a series called "**Neighbor2Neighbor: Muslims in Community Life**" held in partnership with the Faith & Culture Center, The Muslim Women's Council, and the Nashville International Center for Empowerment; and "**The School-to-Prison Pipeline**," exploring the disparities of class and race in approaches to juvenile justice, administered at Stratford and Maplewood High Schools' "Top Floor" summer program.

Chapter 16

A Community of Tennessee Writers, Readers, and Passersby

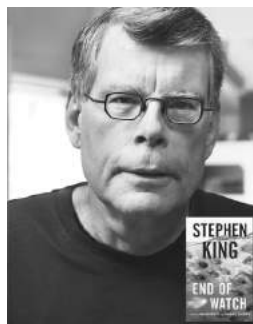
Humanities Tennessee founded **Chapter16.org** in 2009 in response to the loss of book coverage in newspapers around the state. It is now the only publication that provides comprehensive coverage of Tennessee's literary news and events. The site posts new reviews, interviews, poems, and excerpts each weekday and provides the content, free of charge, to the **Memphis Commercial Appeal**, **Nashville Scene**, and **Knoxville News Sentinel**.

In 2016 we produced content on Tennessee-related authors **Congressman John Lewis**, **Wilma Dykeman**, **Ann Patchett**, **Lee Smith**, **Jay McInerney**, **Ruta Sepetys**, **John Jeremiah Sullivan**, **Jeff Zener**, **Amy Greene**, and **Robert Hicks**, as well as on visiting authors **Julian Barnes**, **James McBride**, **Yaa Gyasi**, **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Richard Russo**, **Stephen King**, **William Joyce**, **Kate DiCamillo**, **Elizabeth Strout**, **Claire Vaye Watkins**, **Mary Karr**, **Ron Rash**, **JD Vance**, **Jonathan Safran Foer**, **Colson Whitehead**, **Beverly Lowry**, **Maria Semple**, **Michael Chabon**, and many more.

SALON@615

The **Salon@615** series presents bestselling authors for talks and book signings. The series is an ongoing partnership between Humanities Tennessee, the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Public Library Foundation, Parnassus Books, and BookPage.

The 2016 lineup included **Stephen King**, **Hoda Kotb**, **Kate DiCamillo**, **Richard Russo**, **Louise Erdrich & Jane Hamilton**, **Steve Case & John Ingram**, **Michael Chabon**, **Rick Riordan**, **Jonathan Safran Foer**, **Jacqueline Woodson**, **Glennon Melton & Ann Patchett**, and **Colson Whitehead**.



Nashville Reads

Nashville Reads is a community wide reading program that encourages everyone to read a specific book and attend special events and discussions related to the book.

The 2016 book selection was **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother** by **James McBride**. Public programs took place throughout Nashville beginning in early March, culminating in an event with McBride on May 9 at the Nashville Public Library.

Nashville Reads is an ongoing partnership between Humanities Tennessee, the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Public Library Foundation, Parnassus Books, BookPage, and the Mayor's Office.



Annual Grant Program

Our **Annual Grant program** provides funding for ambitious public humanities projects each spring. Leftover funds are distributed in a second round of grants for small projects each summer.

The following projects received grants, totaling \$44,679, in 2016:

- **"An Archaeologist's Eye: The Parthenon Drawings of Katherine A. Schwab" Exhibit** (Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park, Nashville)
- **"Secrets of the Nolichucky River" Documentary Film** (East Tennessee Public Television, Knoxville)
- **"My Community, My World" Youth Photography Project** (Etowah Arts Commission)
- **"The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966: Commemorating the Preservation of Tennessee Cultural Heritage for 50 Years" Traveling Exhibit** (MTSU, Albert Gore Center, Murfreesboro)
- **"A Matter of Black and White: 60th Anniversary of Desegregation in Nashville"** (John Early Museum Magnet Middle School, Nashville)
- **Tennessee Agricultural Museum Curatorial Package** (Oscar L. Farris Museum Association, Nashville)
- **"Poetry and the African American Experience" featuring Frank X. Walker** (Global Education Center, Nashville)
- **Grassmere Historic Home and Farm Interpretive Sign Project** (The Nashville Zoo)

Outstanding Educator Awards

Outstanding Educator Awards are available each year for up to six full-time, 3rd-12th grade Tennessee teachers and/or librarians. Each award winner receives a \$2,000 grant to further their professional development in the humanities. The recipient's school also receives a \$1,500 grant to purchase humanities instructional materials or for student humanities programs.

The 2016 Outstanding Educator Award recipients were:

Geoffrey M. Smith, History, St. Andrew's-Sewanee School / **Michael G. Robinson**, Human Geography, Houston Central High School (Germantown) / **Suzanne Costner**, Library-Media Specialist, Fairview Elementary School (Maryville) / **Dr. Hunter M. Brimi**, English, Hardin Valley Academy (Knoxville) / **Jane Sasser**, English, Oak Ridge High School / **Brian Smith**, Social Studies, Jefferson Middle School (Oak Ridge)



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March to the 19th (Chick History, Inc.)



This statewide, multiphase initiative will rebuild women’s history in Tennessee over the next five years, commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, and give voice to the women in America’s history. Projects include women's history bootcamps, digitization days, and more.

"Our Muslim Neighbor" Conference (Faith & Culture Center)

The theme for 2016 conference was “The Power of Rhetoric and Imagery,” and the aim was to convene a group of practitioners, experts, and interested community members to build and extend a constructive conversation on the issue of media portrayals of Muslims on the national and local level.



"Memories of a Massacre: Memphis in 1866" (U of Memphis)



Through a series of lectures, book discussions, exhibits, and other events, this project commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Memphis Massacre and explored the impact of those violent events on federal policies and constitutional law in the Reconstruction Era.

The Neighborhood Story Project (Amie Thurber, doctoral student)

The Neighborhood Story Project is a facilitated three-month community project to celebrate and/or commemorate significant people, places, and moments in Nashville neighborhood’s past and present. The Story Project has two components: the formation of a Neighborhood Story Team, and a culminating public event.



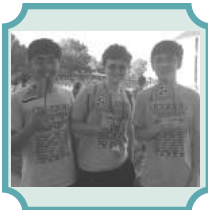
Since 2003, Humanities TN has offered scholarships for the annual Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) conference, held each March. The scholarships are available to volunteers who work for nonprofit museums that have no paid professional staff. Scholarships cover conference registration fees and two nights' lodging for two people from up to 15 organizations. Since the start of the program, we have awarded scholarships to 264 individuals from 107 orgs.

Tennessee Association of Museums Conference Scholarships

In 2016, we awarded scholarships to 13 volunteers from the following organizations:
Hardman Co. APTA (Bolivar) / Promise Land Community Club, Inc. (Charlotte) / Cumberland Homesteads Tower Museum (Crossville) / Englewood Textile Museum (Englewood) / Granville Museum (Granville) / Union County Historical Society (Maynardville) / General Longstreet Museum (Russellville/Morristown) / Arts in McNairy (Selmer)

Cooperative Agreements

Humanities Tennessee provides annual support to the following ongoing programs:



Tennessee History Day (Tennessee Historical Society, Statewide)

This project supports students at the state level of the national competition. More than 7,100 students participated in the 2016 statewide competition, with 251 making it to the state finals and 65 moving on to National History Day. Humanities TN gave out special awards for Best Projects in TN history to students from Knoxville and Maryville.



Children's Festival of Reading (Knox Co. Public Library, Knoxville)

The 12th annual Children's Festival of Reading, held on May 21 in World's Fair Park, kicked off a summer of reading with a full day of music, storytelling, arts, crafts, science exploration, food, and fun. Characters in attendance included Ladybug Girl, Paperboy, and Dragonbreath.



Summer Literacy Program (East Nashville Hope Exchange, Nashville)

This program offers six weeks of literacy and civics instruction for more than 75 K-4th grade students. The 2016 program offered activities, projects, field trips, and guest readers surrounding the theme "My Family, My Community, My World." The 2nd-4th grade students created a newspaper; they conducted interviews, wrote the articles, and took photos.



TN History Highlights Workshops (East TN History Center, Statewide)

Delivered! TN History Highlights for Teachers Workshops offered content and strategies for 4th, 5th, and 8th grade American history curricula that relate to our state's story. A special focus was given to Tennessee's frontier, Civil War, industrialization and labor, and women's suffrage stories.



Women GroundBreakers (American Diversity Report, Chattanooga)

Lean IN: Women GroundBreakers presented the 6th annual celebration of Women's History Month & International Women's Day with a free and public storytelling series on four topics: immigration, education, civil rights, and veterans.



West Tennessee Poet Residencies (Southern Word, Inc., Memphis)

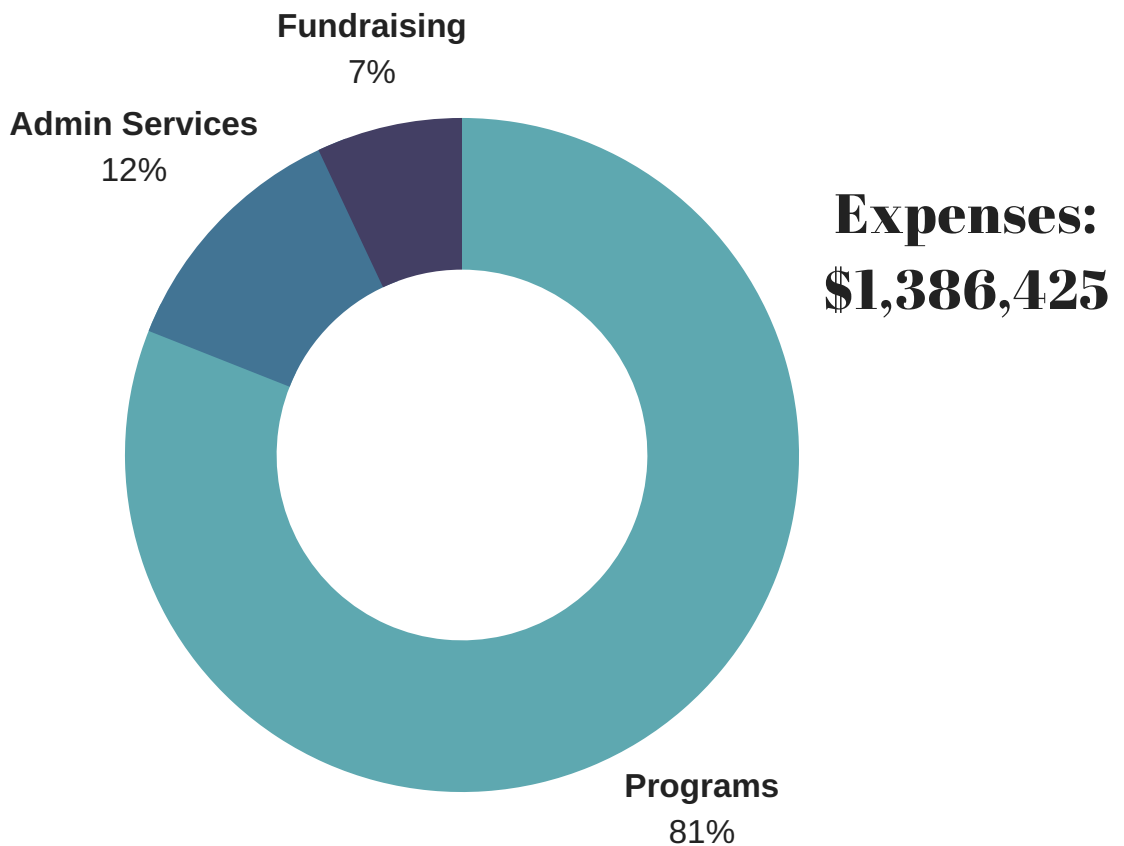
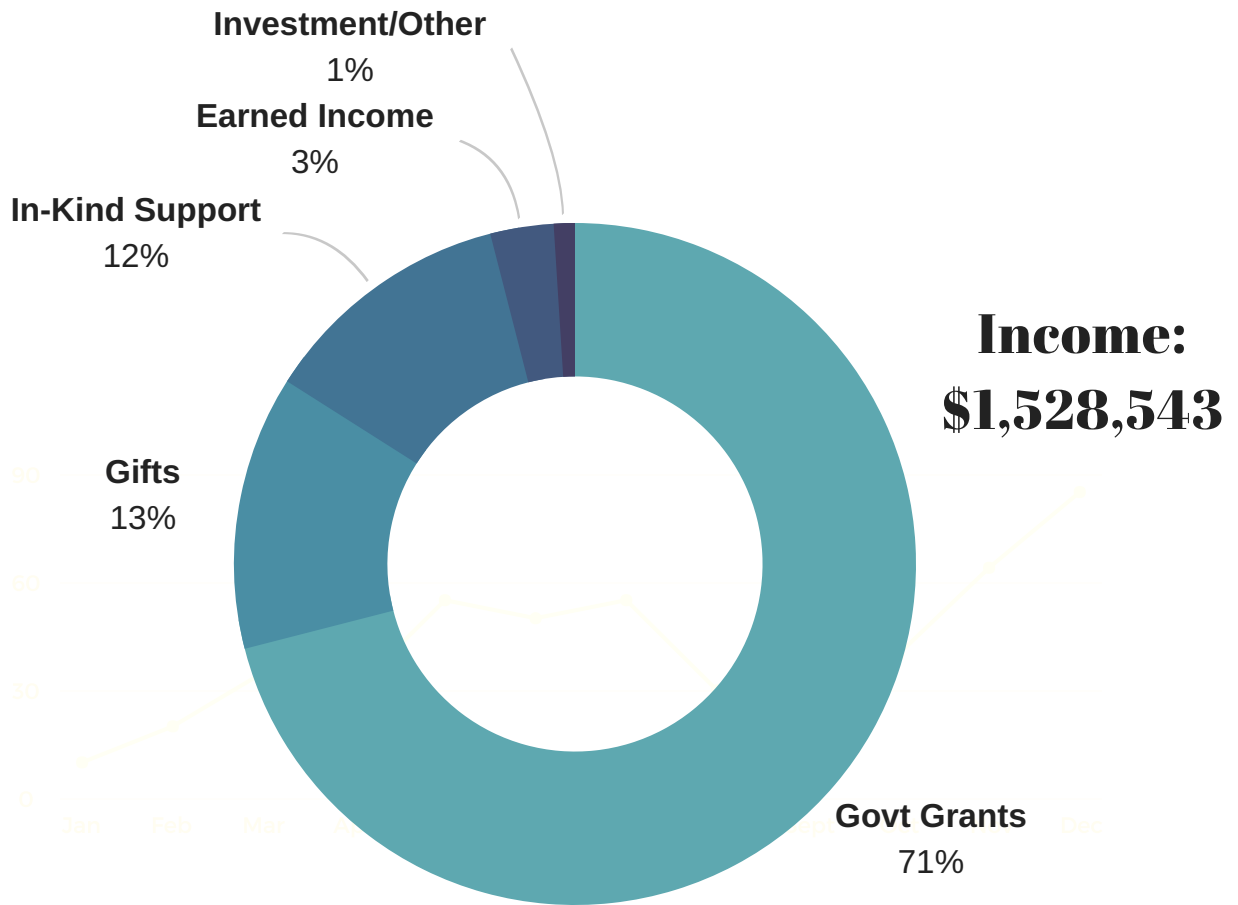
This program places poet residents in four Memphis schools to teach reading, writing, and spoken-word performance to students, culminating in a poetry slam and showcase.

Partnership for Public Humanities

The Partnership for Public Humanities (PPH) provides financial support to nonprofit partners for public humanities projects. It is designed to encourage nonprofits to use the humanities to strengthen work in their communities—whether by sharing local history, cultivating participation in the arts, or developing the workforce.

As of 2016, the PPH includes 30 partner organizations in 30 cities/towns, representing 27 counties across Tennessee.

2016 Financials



2016 Contributors

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who made our work possible in 2016.

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- Vanderbilt University, Office of Public Affairs

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