



Why do the humanities and our work matter?

- 1. In a time of oversimplification of complex issues combined with increasing rancor in our public dialogue, Wyoming Humanities programs offer residents the opportunity to contextualize contemporary issues, weigh evidence, and consider differing points of view. They invite people to practice the skills of citizenship — to listen respectfully and engage thoughtfully with their neighbors.**
 - EXAMPLE: “[Reviving Civility in Politics... Is it Possible?](#)” Conversation with former U.S. Senator Al Simpson and former Wyoming Governor Mike Sullivan, broadcast live on Wyoming PBS and available for viewing on demand.
 - EXAMPLE: “[Refugee and Immigration Policy in Wyoming](#)” Live panel discussion attended by 200+ people broadcast live on Wyoming PBS and available for viewing on demand.
 - EXAMPLE: [thinkWY Road Scholars](#) cover the state giving presentations on far-ranging topics from “Issues in Contemporary Islam” to “Spies, Secrecy, and the CIA.”
- 2. In a time when technology can isolate us from one another, Wyoming Humanities brings people together in their communities for face-to-face conversations about ideas that matter.**
 - EXAMPLE: [thinkWY Insight](#) programs bring communities together for an evening of fast-paced story-telling where presenters have 7 minutes to enlighten the audience with 21 automatically advancing slides.
 - EXAMPLE: [thinkWY Gatherings](#) are social “meet-ups” where speakers share their passions and communities are encouraged to connect, collaborate, and engage with one another in fun venues that include a cash bar and open conversations.
 - EXAMPLE: [thinkWY Reading Wyoming](#) sends books and expert discussion leaders to libraries around the state in a program that has been serving adult readers for over three decades.
- 3. Wyoming Humanities supports economic development through cultural heritage tourism by investing in permanent and temporary museum exhibits that attract visitors and support the quality of life in Wyoming.**
 - EXAMPLE: [Butch Cassidy and the Hole in the Wall Gang permanent exhibit at the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie.](#)
 - EXAMPLE: [Museum on Main Street](#), in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, tours traveling exhibits all around the state bringing thousands of people to our communities’ museums and other community institutions.
 - EXAMPLE: “The Odd Couple,” a series of unexpected, unusual or interesting juxtaposition of works of art on display for several years at [the National Museum of Wildlife Art](#) in Jackson.

4. **Wyoming Humanities supports lifelong learning using the disciplines of the humanities to help make better-informed citizens.**
 - EXAMPLE: We partner with Casper College to put on the [Casper Humanities Festival](#) featuring a week of dynamic programs and a keynote lecture on thematic topics of interest to adults and young adults.
 - EXAMPLE: We support [Wyoming History Day](#) at the University of Wyoming, engaging students in grades 6-122 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics.
 - EXAMPLE: We support [Wyoming's World Languages Day Festival](#) at the University of Wyoming, a celebration of language learning and competition for students in grades 6-12.

5. **Wyoming Humanities provides seed-funding to documentary film-makers in the state to create films that protect and share Wyoming's heritage. Producers say that our early investment provides a valuable endorsement enabling them to raise funds to create high-quality films.**
 - EXAMPLE: ["The Blizzard of 49"](#) – a one-hour documentary film tells the story of the "Storm of the Century," the worst series of storms in Wyoming's history.
 - EXAMPLE: ["The Drift"](#) – a one-hour documentary telling the story of the Green River Drift, an old-fashioned horseback cattle drive.
 - EXAMPLE: ["The Stagecoach Bar: An American Crossroads"](#) an award-winning documentary about the iconic Jackson Hole bar where locals and skiers have hung out for decades.

6. **Wyoming Humanities provides grants to the cultural organizations of our state that help strengthens the cultural ecosystem of Wyoming, providing education and enlightenment and bringing comfort and joy to our citizens.**
 - EXAMPLE: The Northern Arapaho Language Preservation Project on the Wind River Reservation matched fluent speakers as mentors with mentees who desired to learn the language which is on the verge of extinction.
 - EXAMPLE: [Cultural Awareness Projects](#) in Jackson helped bring the Latino and non-Latino community together to celebrate diversity and understand the history and contemporary issues of the Latino population of Jackson.
 - EXAMPLE: To commemorate the [150th anniversary of the Fetterman Battle](#) on the Bozeman Trail near Fort Phil Kearney we supported [bringing representatives of the three tribes as well as the current commander of the 18th Infantry Regiment](#) who were involved in the historic battle.

Other information:

- Wyoming Humanities is an independent nonprofit that receives 70% of its funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Those funds are matched at least 3:1 in local support. Without this federal funding, we would not be able to exist.
- Almost all Wyoming Humanities programs (more than 250/year) are free and open to the public.
- Wyoming Humanities programs and broadcasts reach more than 132,000 Wyoming residents annually.
- We decide how NEH funds are allocated in Wyoming, not Washington, so NEH funds can be applied in ways that best serve Wyomingites.