



NEW MEXICO HUMANITIES

Newsletter of the New Mexico Humanities Council

...seeking to understand who we were, who we are and who we hope to be...

Spring/Summer, 2013

NMHC receives funding from the Federal/State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the NM Department of Cultural Affairs

the perspective of an eyewitness. This sealed letter, written from the Lodge Resort in Cloudcroft, belongs to a collection of approximately forty letters my father, a young 2nd generation German-Jewish U.S. Army engineer wrote, during his assignment to "Project Paperclip." My father, Sandy Hess, was the first American engineer assigned to work with the Ger-

Cloudcroft, continued on page 2



Photo © Memphis Barbree 2012

After opening the 1946 letter, Project Director, Filmmaker Melinda Hess reads the letter live to a global audience via web streaming, surrounded by her sisters and aunt. Filmmaker Ramon Emerson captures the scene as part of the three camera live shoot.

Opening the Letter From Cloudcroft Event & Symposium

by Melinda Hess

Several years ago I discovered, hidden in an old suitcase, a bundle of yellowed letters written in 1946. One letter stood out from the rest and became the inspiration for our documentary film, *Letter From Cloudcroft*. Ini-

tially, I had no idea that the envelope, adorned with a calligraphic logo of the Lodge Resort, would uncover a secret story. While the envelope's contents were a mystery, my partner and I realized that the sealed letter was a portal to explore a momentous historic project through

Photo © Memphis Barbree 2012



Preserved inside its envelope for over 66 years, the opened letter revealed its exquisite stationery with brilliant colors from the Lodge Resort.

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Photo © Convivial Design 2012



Private Sandy Hess, author of the letter collection at Fort Bliss, El Paso Texas in 1946

Cloudcroft, continued from page 1

man Nazi rocket scientists secretly brought to the Southwest along with 300 railroad cars of V2 rocket technology.

During New Mexico's centennial year celebration, on November 10, 2012, in a public event and symposium funded by the New Mexico Humanities Council, I opened the sixty six year old letter as it was broadcast live to the world via web streaming. Inspired by the unopened letter, the free humanities symposium addressed the complex issues surrounding the legacy of the V2 rocket in America, illuminating the connection between its origins

in the rocket slave camps of the Holocaust, to the desert of White Sands Proving Ground and finally to the moon. The overlay of the German and Jewish engineering collaboration via the story of Private Hess provided a unique window into this subject.

Eight accomplished scholars made presentations from both Jewish Studies and American Space exploration perspectives. Rick Hendricks, the New Mexico State Historian, served as moderator. It was by all accounts an unprecedented and extraordinary event, with a unique set of speakers making the connections between the Holocaust and U.S. space exploration,

Mission

The New Mexico Humanities Council supports and conducts innovative and imaginative programs through the State that lead to a greater understanding of, and motivate interest in, the richness of our human experience and heritage.

El Consejo de las Humanidades de Nuevo México dirige y apoya programas novedosos y creativos a través de la provincia que conllevan a la mayor comprensión y motivación de nuestro rico legado cultural humano.

COVER STORY

connections not widely publicized even among scholars. The symposium stirred people's emotions and intellects, raising numerous moral and ethical questions about the government's decision to bring Nazi scientists to the U.S., given their knowledge even in 1946 of Holocaust atrocities.

As for the live opening of the sealed envelope, extracting the letter from the container that had preserved its physical integrity for sixty-six years was extraordinary. When I opened the folded sheets of hotel stationary, the letterhead's brilliant colors startled me. The deep crimson red of the graphic drawing, floating in a wash of brilliant blue was shocking in its exquisite crispness. It had been preserved to perfection, my father's penmanship in bold dark ink, unfaded by time. It was breathtakingly beautiful. And then the words my father wrote, starting with "I'm sitting here by the fire with my pipe..." couldn't have been more sweetly expressed. Writing about the food, drinks and weekend activities, he described his experience at the Lodge in detail, referring to it as "the most wonderful

weekend he had in the Army." His letter concluded by reporting that the day before venturing to Cloudcroft he had been to White Sands, where he witnessed the successful launch of a V2, the best on record, which was confirmed by the enthused rocket scientists at our event.

As filmmakers, the day was the culmination of years of imagining and planning. At the same time, the opening of the letter was the beginning, the launch of our project in a public venue, setting forth the intention to complete film production this year. The *Letter From Cloudcroft* documentary follows my journey exploring a critical moment in my father's life with the historic development of American space exploration. The story journeys across the U.S. and back to Germany, where the origins of U.S. space and missile development began with the V2 rockets and the rocket slave camps of the Holocaust. Using letters written by my young Jewish father in 1946

when assigned to "Project Paperclip" as a U.S. Army engineer, the film interweaves an intricate historic, personal and political story piecing together the complexities of history, trauma, personal narratives and collective memory.

For more information about our documentary film, letter collection, interactive LFC event and book projects, please visit our website: <http://letterfromcloudcroft.com>. You can find us on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LetterFromCloudcroft>. **Film.** To watch a video of the live letter opening, visit: <https://vimeo.com/channels/letterfromcloudcroft> or contact me at mah@convivial.com.

"The story journeys across the U.S. and back to Germany, where the origins of U.S. space and missile development began with the V2 rockets and the rocket slave camps of the Holocaust."

Photo © Convivial Design 2012



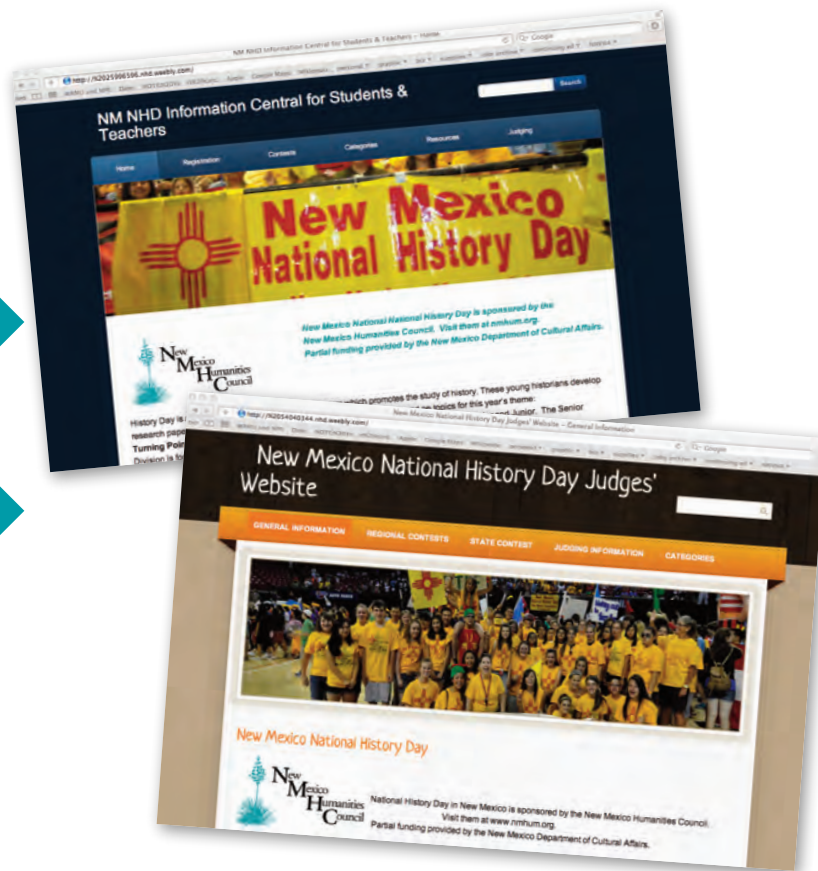
The 1946 unopened envelope that inspired the Letter From Cloudcroft film and transmedia project.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

What's New?...New Mexico History Day

Our contract with the Dept. of Cultural Affairs was renewed!

- New Mexico National History Day developed two new websites.
 - One contains information to help judges learn more about the judging process and how to judge each category. <http://54040344.nhd.weebly.com>
 - The second one assists teachers and students with the registration process and rubrics to polish their projects. <http://25996596.nhd.weebly.com>
- New Power Point presentations were created for teachers to use with their students. A Power Point on the theme for 2013 *Turning Points in History* and a Power Point “Is Your Project Ready?”
- For the first time teacher workshops were held in our new NMHC building.



National History Day Competition

Students to be eligible at the state competition must first compete in one of the regional competitions after they complete their research and projects. Regional competitions were held in three locations around New Mexico.

- The Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces
- San Juan College in Farmington
- National Hispanic Cultural Museum in ABQ.

Student winners from these three contests are eligible to compete at the state contest in April. Over 250 students from Shiprock to Lordsburg will be presenting their projects to teams of judges.

On a limited seating basis, we invite the general public to watch documentaries and performances, and exhibits may be viewed during lunch. You may also join us for a Chautauqua performance at 3:00 and the awards ceremony at 4:00. The New Mexico State Contest for National History Day is Friday, April 26, 2013, from 9:00–5:00pm.

Student winners from the state competition will be eligible for the National History Day contest which will take place on June 9–13 at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

The NMHC sponsors New Mexico events and provides funding for lodging and registration costs and assists with travel depending on funds available. Partial funding provided by the Department of Cultural Affairs.



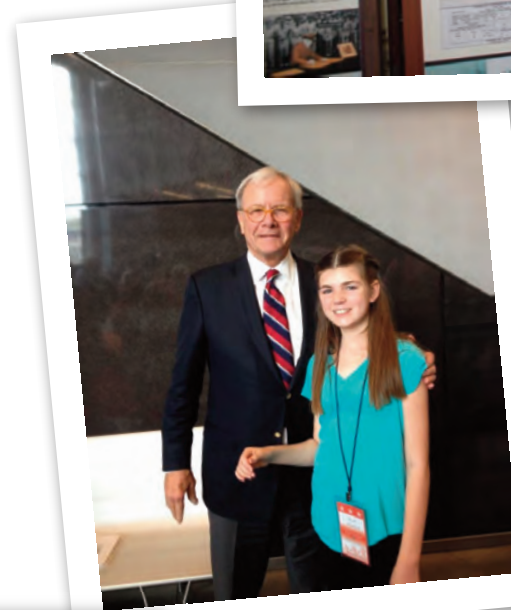
Ruby Selvage Visits New Orleans

Fifty-one National History Day students from all over the United States gathered in New Orleans to celebrate the opening of the National WWII Museums U.S. Freedom Pavilion. Ruby Selvage from Los Alamos was selected from a group of New Mexico students who submitted essays on their states' part in WWII. Her selection gave her the honor and opportunity to travel to New Orleans and represent New Mexico. She was accompanied by her mother and both feel that this was a once in a lifetime experience. They met many people from around the country who love history and attended a VIP Gala where they met with Tom Brokaw, author of the WWII book *The Greatest Generation*.

To read Ruby's essay, please visit The National WWII Museum New Orleans website and click on *A Salute To Freedom* section, or enter the <http://www.salutetofreedom.org/> onto your browser.



Ruby displays her work on Kirtland Airforce Base



Ruby with Tom Brokaw



Ruby escorting WWII Veteran

“Her selection gave her the honor and opportunity to travel to New Orleans and represent New Mexico.”

New Mexico Humanities Council Awards Grants

The New Mexico Board of Directors has provided partial funding for the following projects in the grant cycles listed below in the amount of \$75,368.

To learn more about these grant funded projects, please contact Senior Program Officer, K. Michelle Quisenberry, at 505/633-7374.

October 2012 Awardees

\$11,500 to the Center for International Studies for *Bubble, Bubble, Boil & Trouble: Critical Countries, Critical Issues We Need to Understand.*

Dr. Marina Oborotova,
Project Director
505/856-7277
www.abqinternational.org

\$11,500 to the New Mexico History Museum for *Cowboys Real and Imagined Public Programming Series.*

Dr. Frances Levine
Project Director
505/476-5093
www.nmhistorymuseum.org

\$8,500 to 516 Arts for *Cultural Identity: Place/Displaced.*

Suzanne Sbarge, Project Director
505/242-1445 • www.516arts.org

\$6,351 to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society for *Opening The Letter From Cloudcroft Event & Symposium.*



Ms. Melinda PBJ Hess
Project Director
505/685-4603
<http://letterfromcloudcroft.com>

\$7,013 to the Institute for Medieval Studies for *Medieval Myths and Monsters.*

Dr. Timothy C. Graham,
Project Director
505/277-1191
www.unm.edu/~medinst/

November 2012 Awardees

\$1,995 to the Regents of the University of New Mexico for the *British Women Writers Conference*

Annarose Fitzgerald,
Project Director
505/277-6347
<http://2013bwww.com>

February 2013 Awardees

\$14,000 to El Rancho de las Golondrinas for *Seven Living History Programs.*

Michael King, Project Director
505/471-2261 • www.golondrinas.org

\$5,000 to the Historical Society of New Mexico for *Lectures on the History of Livestock in New Mexico.*

William Dunmire,
Project Director
505/867-3474

\$6,935 to the Southwest Research and Information Center for *Behind the Headlines: The Juarez-New Mexico Femicides.*

Kent Paterson,
Project Director
505-277-5779
<http://frontera.nmsu.edu>

\$2,574 to the American Rock Art Association for *Ancient Hands Around the World: Exploring Rock Art Through Multiple Perspectives.*

Mavis Greer, Project Director
307-473-2054 • www.arara.or

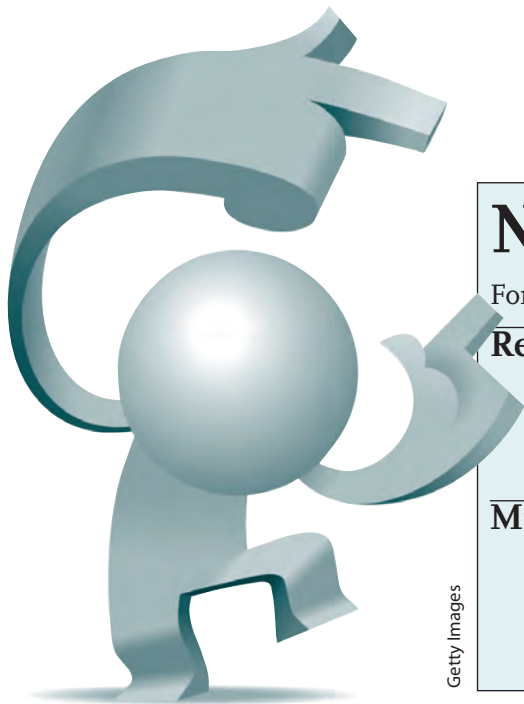


Exhibitions
Local History
Education
Books
Art
Music
Dance
Film
Theater

Getty Images

The next grant deadline is June 1, and for this deadline you can request up to \$2,000 for your humanities program!

For other upcoming grant opportunities and deadlines, visit: <http://nmhum.org/grants/>



Getty Images

NMHC Grant Deadlines

For grant guidelines and eligibility go to www.nmhum.org.

Regular Grants (more than \$2000)

Consultation Deadlines

January 10
September 10

Application Deadlines

February 1
October 1

Mini Grants (up to \$2000)

Consultation Deadlines

May 10
October 10

Application Deadlines

June 1
November 1

See us on Facebook

You can now visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewMexicoHumanitiesCouncil! We regularly post event information, grant deadlines and more. Additionally, we welcome your comments and questions. You do not need a Facebook account to view our page, so please stop by and take a peek. If there is anything you would like us to add to the page, do let us know. Thank you to all those who “Like” us and we look forward to reading all your comments and link postings!



**VISIT US ON
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NMHC Welcomes Fellow

Jacobo D. Baca

Almost fifteen years ago, I was a sophomore at the University of New Mexico, working in archives-Special Collections when my supervisor directed me to begin working on a pile of dusty boxes labeled “NMHC.” Working in a makeshift office on a makeshift desk in an old car dealership, I attempted to make sense of the productivity of this small organization that was apparently driven by a near obsession with making the humanities accessible to the public. Nearly a decade and a half later, I am both pleased to be a part of this organization and still trying to figure out how the New Mexico Humanities Council does so much with so little!

Since my time organizing the NMHC’s archives, I worked cataloging other manuscript collections while focusing my studies on modern New Mexican history. I completed my undergraduate degree in history in 2003 while working on the personal papers of land grant activist Reies López Tijerina and my Master’s degree in 2006, writing my thesis on the once renowned ‘Dixon Case’ while cataloging the personal papers of Chi-


cano activist Cecilio García-Camarillo and three-time New Mexico Governor Bruce King. These combined experiences have given me both an interest in modern New Mexico history and an ambition to make our shared story accessible to the greater public.

I am excited about the opportunity to work with the NMHC and with the community to share the human stories that help us realize the importance of the public humanities in building a greater society. As the 2013 NMHC Fellow, I both serve as the Chautauqua Program Coordinator and will begin a compilation of an organizational history of the New Mexico Humanities Council. I look forward to getting to know the many people that make it possible for the Council to enrich the lives of our communities by sharing our human experience and I hope to help advance the public humanities throughout New Mexico.



“I am excited about the opportunity to work with the NMHC and with the community to share the human stories that help us realize the importance of the public humanities in building a greater society.”

—Jacobo D. Baca



Visit nmhum.org
for programs, grant information,
and more!

Staff Member Departs

Christina Welz

As my time at the New Mexico Humanities Council necessarily comes to a close, positive reflections permeate my mind. Serving as Administrative & Communications Assistant has emphasized for me just how spectacular it is to strive together toward the goal of “Seeking to understand who we are, who we were and who we hope to be”—a conscious goal of mine for some time. It has been a delight to both observe and provide support for a broad variety of reflective undertakings in environments where differences in perspective are valued.

I have seen firsthand:

- Students in middle and high school newly empowered by the ability to grasp and demonstrate the significance of historical figures, events and movements through National History Day projects
- Chautauquans breathe life into an array of topics and historical figures, giving audiences the unique opportunity to interact instead of simply observe



- Public access to unique discussions of diverse topics—historic to contemporary, local to international—provided in partnership with other non-profits who are dedicated to the enrichment of peoples’ lives
- Small museums bring special Smithsonian exhibits to life through the addition of local historical components and artifacts, connecting local residents to the history of our nation in an unprecedented fashion

Witnessing such connections most certainly serves as inspiration as I journey ahead. I can say without hesitation my four years here at the Council have been the best yet of my career, encouraging contemplation, connection and growth. For that I thank you all – NMHC Staff, Board Members and constituents alike!

Kind regards,
Christina Welz

NMHC Seeks Board Members

The New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the humanities to public audiences throughout New Mexico. NMHC has a continuing need for interested and qualified board members. NMHC invites your nominations of both humanities scholars and members of the public for its Board of Directors.

NMHC is currently searching for members from a variety of areas throughout New Mexico. The full board meets three times a year to conduct business. Board members also serve on committees, assist with fundraising and contribute expertise and energy to the

activities of NMHC. A member’s term is for three years. Each nomination must include the following: a letter of recommendation from the nominating party, a resume or biographical statement providing useful information for evaluating the potential contributions of the nominee, and a letter from the nominee indicating willingness to serve and make a commitment to public humanities programming. Board members must live in the state of New Mexico. Please send nominations and supporting documents to: New Mexico Humanities Council 4115 Silver Ave SE Albuquerque, NM 87108.



Council Loses a Good Friend

Dr. Craig L. Newbill, Executive Director

Juanita Janice Palmerhall lost a courageous battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma on December 20, 2012. Juanita was one of the longest serving board members for the Council, serving from 1986 to 1995 when the Council was known as the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities (NMEH). She served as the NMEH Chair from 1990 to 1991. According to her grandson Keegan, Juanita spent her last day, "listening to Elvis and cuddling, and I sang Christmas carols and hymns to her, read from the Bible and massaged her tired, sore body."

Born at home in Hedrick, IA on October 9, 1930, Juanita lived her early childhood in Iowa before moving on to Avon, SD where she attended elementary and middle school. She graduated from Avon High School in 1948. Later she pursued a nursing degree at Dakota Wesleyan during the height of the polio epidemic. During the Korean Conflict, Juanita married Don Pudwill, her high school sweetheart and the union later produced three daughters; Mary, Lois, and Susan. As a 1950s homemaker Juanita was happily active in church and community life to include the Eastern Star and Camp Fire Girls. The Camp Fire Law became Juanita's motto: "Worship God, Seek Beauty, Give Service, Pursue Knowledge, Be Trustworthy, Hold on to Health, Glorify Work, Be Happy." These values would later guide Juanita through new adventures and chal-

lenges as she returned to college to become a teacher. Juanita graduated in 1971 from Iowa State University with a BA in Speech Communications. She taught Speech and was the Drama Director at Tampa High School for the next seven years. While teaching at Tampa she also cared for six foster children, becoming one of the earliest single mothers in Iowa to serve as a foster parent.

In 1978 Juanita earned her MA degree from ISU in Theater, Indian Education and Communications. After moving to Minneapolis, she became the head teacher of the North Wind Warriors program for Gifted and Talented Native American students. Juanita met Sam Cooper, the man she would later marry and move with to the Mescalero Apache Reservation in 1981. She continued her directing and teaching career at New Mexico State University – Alamogordo for 17 years, also simultaneously teaching at Holloman Air Force Base.

Juanita was elected to the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities Board in 1986 and served for ten years. During this time she was elected Chair (1990-1991), where she was an outgoing, popular and effective board member and chair. After retiring in 1996, Juanita moved back to Minneapolis to enroll at United Theological Seminary and became an Episcopalian Priest in 2000 at the age of 70; she was truly someone who characterized and epitomized the concept of

"The Camp Fire Law became Juanita's motto: "Worship God, Seek Beauty, Give Service, Pursue Knowledge, Be Trustworthy, Hold on to Health, Glorify Work, Be Happy."

"life-long learning." According to the obituary written by her grandson Keegan, "Juanita joyously filled her days with family and friends, planning social events, swimming, canoeing, ice skating, camping, singing, theater, traveling, porcelain doll making, scrapbooking, reading, gardening, cooking, new adventures and new knowledge."

Juanita was an engaging person whose generosity and kindness are fondly remembered by those of us who worked and socialized with during her time in New Mexico. She was ahead of her time as a single mother who returned to school and created a career as a teacher, artist, scholar, and later a priest. Juanita was the kind of person who still brings a warm smile to her friends and family when her name is mentioned. She is missed by all of us who were lucky enough to have known her.

Visit <http://atlas.nmhum.org/> for our Centennial Online Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps featuring 20 historic, interactive maps.



The New Mexico Humanities Council thanks the generous donors who make NMHC programs possible.

With your support, NMHC enriches the lives of New Mexicans in every part of the state.

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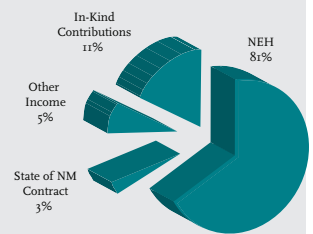
Financial Overview FY/12 November 1, 2011–October 31, 2012

The following figures and charts are based on the audit completed for NMHC by Mackie, Reid & Company. Copies of the audit are available by calling NMHC (633-7370)

Support and Revenue:

NEH	\$ 609,739
State of NM Contract	\$ 24,144
Other Income	\$ 38,176
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 83,521

NMHC
Support & Revenue
FY 2012 per audit



“NEH” reflects NMHC’s grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities for FY2012. These grants include the general operating grant and the special “We the People” grants from NEH.

State Contract includes the contract that NMHC has with the Department of Cultural Affairs, State of NM.

Other Income reflects fees received for Chautauqua programs, History Day entry fees, sales of items, interest earned from investments and net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments.

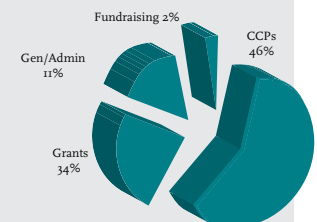
In-Kind Contributions include time and other contributions (non-monetary) that are used to help projects succeed. Such things as the time board members give to board/committee meetings and reading grants; space of NMHC offices (rent free); time that the Chautauqua and Speakers devote to preparing for their programs; time given by the Chautauquan project directors to make sure that the Scholar is booked, the room is available, the chairs are set up, ect; and the time given by History Day judges. Project Directors for grants must certify donated time/resources/etc equal to the dollar amount of the grant received from NMHC.

Expenses:

In-Kind contributions are included in the related Categories.

CCPs	\$ 390,085
Grants	\$ 249,270
Gen/Admin	\$ 83,635
Fundraising	\$ 10,496

NMHC
Functional Expenses
FY 2012 per audit



CCPs are the Council Conducted Projects including the Chautauqua Program, History Day, Museum on Main Street, and other special projects.

Grants Grants are the “regrants” that NMHC funds throughout the state to support Humanities projects.

General/Admin are the administrative costs that are associated with the general functioning of NMHC.

Fundraising are costs related to raising funds for NMHC projects.