

Budget Request: FY 18-19: \$74,000

(NOTE: This funding level included in Governor's Supplemental Budget under Secretary of State)

The need

We live in a time when political, economic, and social disagreements can polarize communities, and fear and misinformation sometimes jeopardize productive public discourse. All of this is occurring while our communities grow more diverse. Within this context, the public humanities are an increasingly necessary part of our survival as a civil society and access to them is a growing need.

Having the Washington State Legislature preserve the \$74,000 in the Governor's Supplemental Operating Budget will allow Humanities Washington to:

- **Provide 125 additional Speakers Bureau presentations** across the state, prioritizing rural areas;
- **Respond to increased demand** for Speakers Bureau and civic engagement opportunities arising from the current political and social climate;
- **Target communities not served in the last three years.** While we are proud of having served 152 communities, an additional 139 have not been served during the years of recession-era budgets (most of these 139 are more than 30 miles from any university or community colleges).
- **Better maximize funding.** All state dollars are matched 1:1 by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which doubles our ability to reach new and underserved areas of Washington State.

How it works

Any school, community group, cultural organization, or nonprofit can book a Speakers Bureau presentation. We also encourage hosts to book multiple presentations, which enables communities to look at a range of issues. All events are free and open to the public. Programs provide important access to our state's history and diverse cultural heritage and include such topic areas as state and national history, racial/ethnic history and culture, civil and human rights, and politics. Funds are used to provide speakers with a small stipend and to help cover their travel costs.

Community Benefits

All Washingtonians need and deserve access to fact-based educational and cultural programs to thrive as students and/or members of the workforce, *and* as members of a democratic society. Humanities Washington's Speakers Bureau:

- Presents audiences with new ideas and perspectives on current/emerging issues facing communities.
- Increases access to programming in underserved and rural communities.
- Increases opportunities to connect with varied points of view.
- Grows and diversifies audiences of and increases collaboration between community organizations.
- Removes barriers to community participation with free, high-quality programs and assistance with travel expenses.

For more information contact Julie Ziegler, Executive Director, 206-682-1770 x110 (o) or 206-227-5020 (m).

Select Presenters (for a full list please visit humanities.org/speakers)



Cornell Clayton
*Crazy Politics:
Populism, Conspiracy
Theories, and
Paranoia in America*



Anu Taranath
*How Children's
Literature Inspires
Bold Conversations*



David Fenner
*The Long Haul:
Stories of Human
Migration*



Mayumi Tsutakawa
*The Pine and the Cherry:
Japanese Americans
in Washington*

Cities Served 2015-2017 (NOTE: A list of those not yet served is available in Excel format)

Airway Heights	Davenport	Liberty Lake	Port Orchard	St. John
Anacortes	Dayton	Long Branch	Port Townsend	Stanwood
Arlington	Des Moines	Longview	Poulsbo	Steilacoom
Auburn	Edmonds	Lopez Island	Prescott	Stevenson
Bainbridge Island	Ellensburg	Lynden	Prosser	Sultan
Battle Ground	Elma	Lynnwood	Pullman	Tacoma
Bellevue	Endicott	Manson	Puyallup	Tekoa
Bellingham	Entiat	Marysville	Quilcene	Toledo
Blaine	Ephrata	Medical Lake	Quincy	Tonasket
Bonney Lake	Everett	Mercer Island	Raymond	Tukwila
Bothell	Everson	Metaline Falls	Redmond	Tumwater
Bremerton	Federal Way	Mineral	Renton	Twisp
Brier	Ferndale	Monroe	Republic	Uniontown
Burien	Forks	Moses Lake	Richland	University Place
Burlington	Friday Harbor	Mount Vernon	Ridgefield	Valley
Camas	Gig Harbor	Mukilteo	Ritzville	Vancouver
Cashmere	Goldendale	Newcastle	Rosalia	Vashon
Centralia	Grand Coulee	Newport	Royal City	Walla Walla
Chehalis	Granite Falls	North Bend	Sammamish	Wapato
Chelan	Ilwaco	Oak Harbor	SeaTac	Waterville
Cheney	Issaquah	Oakesdale	Seattle	Wenatchee
Chewelah	Kelso	Ocean Park	Sequim	Westport
Clarkston	Kennewick	Ocean Shores	Shelton	White Salmon
Colfax	Kent	Okanogan	Shoreline	Winthrop
College Place	Kirkland	Olympia	Silverdale	Woodinville
Colville	La Conner	Omak	Snohomish	Yakima
Concrete	Lacey	Otis Orchard	Snoqualmie	Yelm
Connell	Lakebay	Palouse	Soap Lake	
Coulee City	Lakewood	Pomeroy	South Bend	
Coupeville	Langley	Port Angeles	Spokane	
Cusick	Leavenworth	Port Hadlock	Spokane Valley	

What Communities Say about Speakers Bureau

Bainbridge Island

"I only wish we could entertain more of your speakers as the breadth and depth of your 'menu' of presentations is really inspiring. I'd love to offer an entire monthly thread just featuring the amazing talent featured each year by your organization. Thank you for your always amazing work!"

– Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center

Bellingham

"This was our first partnership with the Pickford Film Center, and was a natural due to the content of the program. It will lead to future partnerships. The Bellingham Public Library mission is to connect our community with each other and the world, and this program very much supported and advanced our mission in the Bellingham community. Programs like this also help our library be more visible in the community, which increases our leadership and ability to partner in the future."

– Bellingham Public Library

Liberty Lake

"(Speakers Bureau) definitely increased program quality. People loved it! We are currently hoping to build a new library/community center and people said at the event, "This is why we need a community center!" I also made connections with the Black Lens, Kiwanis, and library customers who don't usually attend library programs."

- Liberty Lake Municipal Library

Moses Lake

"We live in a rural community with few opportunities for high-quality programming. Humanities Washington presentations allow us to bring vetted, first-rate programs that are not locally accessible. Our museum, because of Humanities Washington, was able to bring a program that is socially relevant which encouraged meaningful dialogue."

- Moses Lake Museum

Sequim

"It was great to be able to offer this scholarly presentation to the community. Our community is geographically isolated from universities (the closest are 3+ hours away). People want intellectually stimulating presentations in our community. Thanks for making this available."

- Sequim Library

Tri-Cities

“The presentation was absolutely superb! I felt that (the speaker) presented a controversial subject with liveliness, thoroughness and an unparalleled understanding of socio-political, gender inequality and the cultural struggle occurring within the different time frames that reflected into the subject matter.”

- WSU Tri-Cities.

“The quality of the speaker and the synergy of marketing with the Tri-Cities Community Lecture Series allowed us to reach out to a new audience. The name recognition and draw of Humanities Washington was a vital connection to the audience size and reach.”

- East Benton County Historical Society and Museum

Issaquah

“The Issaquah History Museum is devoted to teaching all Issaquah residents about history of the city, state and region, and country. Since newcomers constitute a constantly growing part of the current population, and they become decision makers about the future, understanding local, regional, and national history will help them to make more informed decisions benefiting the City of Issaquah. Humanities Washington’s Speaker Program gave us resources to present material for this important discussion among the Issaquah’s citizens about racism. Understanding this subject and its importance to American society is very helpful in defining our own position in a very diversified environment such as Issaquah, Seattle, and the Puget Sound area.”

– Issaquah Depot Museum

Spokane

“Even with colleges in town, people that do not attend or work or live near the colleges don't have opportunities for intellectually stimulating programs. Everyone was very grateful and happy for the chance to attend.”

- North Spokane Library

Everett

“The Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau is a fantastic resource that exposes staff, students, and the public at large to weighty issues that require critical thinking and community engagement. It's truly a treasure for our state!”

- Everett Community College

Shelton

“We have a patron whom we know of as interested in athletics and conservative politics and not much else. He attended the Islam 101 program. We were a bit nervous, thinking he would be, not disruptive or rude, but angry and vocally anti-Islam. Today, he spoke with three of us about his experience of the program. He enjoyed it very much, sad only that it had had to end so soon. He was amazed that some people had been objecting to the presentation of an education talk. "How are we going to understand each other if we don't learn the truth?" The presenter had emphasized that the "bad guys" among the world Muslim population is a small percentage and that most Muslims are just people going about their business. Our patron was gratified to have heard that, and seemed happy to have received confirmation of what he had always suspected had to be true.”

– Shelton Library