

The Humanities

The Humanities include the study of history, literature, ethics and philosophy, language, and the various legal, cultural, religious, and folk traditions--past and present--that define the human experience. Reading and writing, storytelling, research, and many forms of public dialogue and conversation are also central to the Humanities.

- ✓ The Humanities enrich the lives of all Virginians by providing opportunities for learning, creativity, and self-expression.
- ✓ The Humanities contribute to the interpretation and understanding of cultural traditions and to the understanding of current policy debates.
- ✓ Federal support for the Humanities from the National Endowment for the Humanities has been adversely affected by increasing demands for other services and programs.
- ✓ Public investment in the Humanities sends a strong message to the private sector and creates leverage for humanities organizations to obtain additional private support.
- ✓ Humanities organizations in Virginia must compete not only with state institutions for appropriations, but also with the pressing demands that education, social services, transportation, and other programs place on the Commonwealth's budget.