These questions were created by our Hawai‘i History Day Youth Council, inspired by 36 Questions for Civic Love. We hope they can be a starting point for a conversation in your own home or community.

Where do you go when you feel empowered and why?

What is your future look like?

How do you feel empowereed and why?

Where do you need help?

What communities walk with you?

What love do you need expressed and why?

If you didn’t need to think about money, what would you need?

When would your future look like?

What special place (belong to and how do they represent you? (not romantic)
2021-2022

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The questions you see spiraling on the cover were created by high school students from four islands who participated in a civic engagement summit we organized in July 2022. They were inspired by a project from the National Public Housing Museum in Chicago that offered the idea of “falling in civic love” as a more precise dimension of “civic engagement” or “civic education.” Following leaders like Grace Lee Boggs and Martin Luther King, they argued that love—for our place, for each other, for our histories and futures—is what strengthens communities and inspires meaningful change. And that we fall in love with our community through hearing stories that help us not agree, but better understand each other across our many differences.

Those students tried the exercise out first, answering questions like: What’s the one thing that makes wherever you’ve lived, your home? How were you raised to talk about mental health, if at all? They reflected: “I learned more about my partner in these 30 minutes than I know about my closest friends.” One of our youth, who was an intern at the State Legislature at the time, shared that he had seen frequent examples of politics or civics as arguing to win or get your way. These civic love conversations, on the other hand, felt like they were about deepening connections and relationships that could make collective actions and agreement more possible.

We happily gift to you these young leaders’ questions, and invite you to more deeply connect with someone. This 2022 annual report shares other examples from the year of the power of stories to transform us. This is what the humanities do. Mahalo nui for being a part of this community, ever deepening our capacity to love.

Aiko Yamashiro,
Executive Director

Mary Therese Perez Hattori,
Board Chair
48,284 people attended/viewed 137 public humanities programs.

497,927 people benefitted from ARP funding for the humanities (SHARP) in fiscal year 2022.

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,528,6601

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

$397,734 Council Programs (26%)
$752,746 Subawards (Regrants) (49%)
$197,045 Management & General (13%)
$110,921 Program Development (7%)
$70,214 Fundraising (5%)

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,551,276

$1,418,140 NEH Revenue

NON-NEH REVENUE

Grants and foundations $114,100 (73%)
Individual contributions $30,680 (20%)
Other revenue $10,996 (7%)

We are grateful for $50,000 of NEH funding for “A More Perfect Union”—civic education and engagement activities focusing on lesser-known histories, stories, and voices. Many of our 2022 programs were made possible because of this support.

Mahalo to our community for also providing $677,801 of volunteer time and other in-kind support.
COMMUNITY GRANTS

Pālama Settlement Honolulu HI-01 $10,000
Aloha Kuamo'o 'Āina Honolulu HI-02 $10,000
Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra Honolulu HI-01 $10,000
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Honolulu HI-01 $10,000
Kaua'i Museum Association, Ltd. Līhu'e HI-02 $10,000
Maui Arts & Cultural Center Kahului HI-02 $10,000
The Friends of Iolani Palace Honolulu HI-01 $10,000
U of Hawai'i - Asia Pacific Dance Festival Honolulu HI-01 $9,828
Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth Project Hōlualoa HI-02 $10,000
East Hawai'i Cultural Council Hilo HI-02 $10,000
Krause Family Foundation Kaunakakai HI-02 $10,000
U of Hawai'i - Con Con Legacy Honolulu HI-01 $9,999
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North Hawai'i Heritage Foundation Honoka'a HI-02 $10,000
Dancers Unlimited Inc Honolulu HI-01 $10,000
Story for All Honolulu HI-01 $10,000

*HI-01 / HI-02 signify congressional districts

“My aloha for my community grew because of this project. It was also amazing to see how the process grew new leadership in caring for ‘ike (knowledge) and community into the future. Wow, such a wonderful event!”

—audience feedback
With Hawai‘i International Film Festival, we created discussions and humanities essays for **Film for Thought**—a series that in November 2021 featured science fiction and documentary films that are windows into recovering, rebuilding, and reimagining across time and space. Image from the film KARMALINK.

“I have long loved science fiction for its ability to open us to new worlds. And we are seeing an explosion of Black, Brown and Indigenous creators, who are writing, directing, acting in stories steeped in their own perspectives and experiences.”  —Lyz Soto, Project Director

With Hawai‘i Pono‘ī Coalition and Kāhuli Leo Le‘a, we created and debuted a new historical drama by Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl based on Prince Kūhiō’s life and legacy. The play performed at ‘Iolani Palace and Nānākuli Public Library in September 2022. Image of Kūhiō hosting a US Congressional delegation on a visit to Hawai‘i.

“Mahalo nui. My mo‘opuna were attentive the entire time.” —audience response

“One takeaway underscores what I have always believed: we must all participate and keep fighting for justice. Despite all the terrible things that happen, only those that engage can make positive change. We must support good leaders and be active.”

—audience response
Thanks to State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Hawai‘i State Public Library System for partnering on a big venture, to begin the first-ever statewide program for a Hawai‘i Poet Laureate, dedicated to sharing and empowering poetry in all our communities. Mahalo to the State Legislature for recognizing this achievement in a resolution in their 2022 session. Image of our new 2023–2025 Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate, Brandy Nālani McDougall.

“Poetry has a long tradition of representing the best values of a given community, of helping to nurture and cultivate a rich and vibrant culture, and to bring out the humanity that needs to be shared by all,” —Poet and co-founder of Bamboo Ridge Press, Eric Chock, in his public testimony supporting the Hawai‘i State Poet Laureate Program.

“WHEREAS, storytelling and literature strengthen civic responsibility and civic engagement through promoting deep thinking, increased empathy and understanding, and stronger connections to ourselves and each other . . .”

—Hawai‘i House and Senate Concurrent Resolution, Thirty-First Legislature, 2022.

MAHALO TO OUR PARTNERS ON THESE PROJECTS
What do you keep in your cupboard that someone who raised you also kept in theirs?

Have you turned to your neighbors for help? Why? Why not?

In March 2022, inspired by the National Public Housing Museum’s Civic Love Toolkit, we ran a “Try Think About Civic Love” online series.

“I think the program’s focus on sharing and listening to each other’s stories to help us make connections and effect meaningful change in the community is very valuable. The heart of a community is its people and the best way to know and relate to people is through story and discussion.”

—Civic Love participant feedback

In July 2022, we started a Try Think: Hawai’i and Pacific Short Film Series with the Hawai’i State Public Library System. Image from the film ANOINTED, about the aftermath of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. Mahalo nui Axel Defngin for helping to facilitate these events.

In 2022 Try Think returned to Hālawa Correctional Facility and the Women’s Community Correctional Facility after a long pandemic lockdown. Image shows our exhibit “You may think I am _____, but what I really am is _____” featuring stories from men and women inside. This was displayed at the State Capitol thanks to the ACLU and the Hui Ho’iwai Reentry Summit.

“We don’t have these spaces in here. People either don’t care what you’re saying or you have to be really careful not to offend someone. In [Try Think], we listen to each other. We can disagree without making someone feel small. Everyone is equal. Thank you for the space.”

—participant from Hālawa Correctional Facility
“What kind of youth leadership do I want to see in my community? More young people becoming stronger and quality leaders. For instance, instead of one leader in a group of people, everyone is their leader themselves. But, as a whole, they build a more powerful result. In other words, unity.”

—9th-grader participant from Campbell High School

We worked with National History Day and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to run a first-ever Indigenous Language Showcase feature, of our Hawaiian-language Hawai‘i History Day students from Ka ‘Umeke Kā’eo PCS, Kailua HS, and Kamehameha-Kapālama. Ho‘omaika‘i nô! Image shows Kumu Māhealani Lono’s students at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, Keauhou.

Shannon at a visit to Mr. Pat Gegen and his Hawai‘i History Day students at Island School, Līhu‘e, Kaua‘i. This year was our last year of holding virtual fairs. We conducted District Fairs on five islands, for 36 schools and 677 students, thanks to 174 awesome volunteer judges!

We oversee the annual Gilder Lehrman State History Teacher of the Year award. For the first time, our Hawai‘i teacher, Misha Matsumoto Yee (St Andrew’s Priory) won the national award! The national winner receives $10,000, and access to exclusive educational resources and workshops. Sign up for our e-newsletter to nominate a teacher for 2023.

Mahalo to Mary Therese Perez Hattori, Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program, for helping us organize a Micronesian History and Culture teacher workshop at the Bishop Museum in Oct 2022. We heard from wonderful Micronesian teachers, artists, and parents, looked at cultural treasures from HoMA, and feasted on CHamoru and Marshallese food. We hope events like these can continue to strengthen understanding and justice for all our youth.
Thanks to the NEH A More Perfect Union grant, we got to bring our Youth Council leaders together from four islands for an in-person summit on O'ahu in July 2022. They enjoyed the lo'i thanks to Kauluakalana and talked about leadership with youth from Planned Parenthood and Ka Leo O Nā ’Ōpio. We feel hopeful about our future after spending a year with these Community Cultivators.

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January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Our generous donors are evidence of the vast community that holds the humanities through generations.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error, please let us know so we can correct our records (rchang@hihumanities.org).

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Lyz Soto, for Margaret Hattori-Uchima
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GIFTS FOR OUR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

We began our 50th Anniversary year with a special call for dedications. Here are some of the longer stories shared. Visit hihumanities.org for the full list of heartfelt tributes.

Larry and Marilyn Meyers, in memory of Lorey Ishihara, who personified all the good things that “humanity” encompasses

Lyz Soto, in memory and in honor of Margaret Hattori-Uchima and all the astonishing women who work to make this world better, in honor of the first people to give her stories, Judith & Eric Soto.

Manuel, Kekauonohi, and Abraham Kuloloia, in Honour of Dr. Paul Nakayama for your uncommon intellect, involvement, integrity, and inspiration. WE love you Uncle Paul!

Kathy Phillips, in honor of my wise and wonderful parents, whose two different grammars—one working-class, one standard—taught me that grammar makes no difference to intelligence (let alone wisdom) or kindness or any value

Jane Kurahara, in memory of my parents Masaichi and Flora Yanagihara

Deanna Espinas, for my grandmother, Rosario Meneses Dulay

Phil Bossert, in honor of Dr. Mary Bitterman, who suggested to Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities that it fund the very first TV program that a local NEH affiliate council in the US had ever done and then worked with us to produce “Damien”

Jean Toyama, in praise of Bob Buss and all his unfailing help

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOREY ISHIHARA

Anonymous
Robert and Adella Buss
Malia Lau Kong
Larry and Marilyn Meyers
Diane K. Mokuau
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IN HONOR OF OUR HAWAI‘I HISTORY DAY HERO CYNTHIA SMITH, WHO RETIRED IN 2022

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Ron Pine
Mark Ombrello
Mieko Takara
Shioko Yonezawa
Amy Nishimura, in honor of my aunt; her twisted spine created beautiful backbones.

James Tueller, in honor of my four great-grandmothers all born between 1866 and 1870: Elisabeth von Almen Tueller, Anna Lundstrom Carlson, Kate Delong Heywood and Annie Clove Evans

Robert and Adella Buss, in memory of Asian and Ethnic Studies scholar, Franklin Odo

Trixy 'Iwalani Koide, for my kūpuna who continue to guide me and keep me pono

Cristina Bacchilega, for my nonna who told stories while sewing, for my mother who rewrote her life in poems, and for Bruna & Talia, may they each live their own poems

Mary Therese Perez Hattori, in memory of Dr. Joakim Jojo Peter, who taught us that we are only strong in community.

Misty-Lynn Sanico, in honor of Alexander Boyd Mossman, who encouraged me to stay curious

Nancy Aleck, in honor of the newest navel orange on the branch and its nourishing mother tree

Wayne Tanaka, in honor of my halmeoni. Thank you for the rice and apples and coffee for the first time, and I miss your house that you raised your family in.

Vinnie Linares, in honor of my multicultural grandparents who opened the doors of the world for me

Dawn Sueoka, in honor of Minoru, an artist and dreamer

Tisha M. Aragaki, for Daddy
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are delighted and grateful to announce that we are recipients of a grant of $25,000 from the Atherton Family Foundation for our Hawai‘i History Day ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Program. With this gift, we intend to expand our ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i leadership and expand outreach to more schools. E ola ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i!

The Daniel K. Inouye Institute (Hawai‘i Community Foundation) has awarded Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities a special 50th Anniversary grant, doubling their award from last year to mark the occasion and to support Hawai‘i History Day students being able to participate in person for the first time in three years. Thank you Daniel K. Inouye Institute for inspiration, encouragement, and sharing!

Hawai‘i Electric Industries Charitable Foundation was a new and valued grantor last year and they are repeating their gift this year—providing for Hawai‘i History Day and Now is the Time for Stories: a year of community gathering for our 50th Anniversary. Mahalo for supporting our past and future.

Thank you to the Bendon Family Foundation for granting us $10,000 to promote Hawai‘i History Day in Maui County. The Bendon Family Foundation values organizations which serve the whole state, particularly those reaching out to Maui, Lāna‘i, and Moloka‘i; we are grateful for their participation and interest.

Matson Giving awarded Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities a special 50th Anniversary grant to support travel costs for students participating in Hawai‘i History Day to attend the State Fair in O‘ahu. This is in addition to Matson’s sustaining 3-year gift which started last year! Thank you Matson Giving for so many years of support and for this timely support!

We are grateful to our new sponsor, McInerny Foundation (Bank of Hawai‘i, Trustee) for supporting our continued equity work in our Hawai‘i History Day and Education Programs. The McInerny Foundation is one of the largest charitable foundations in Hawai‘i and is known for its generous contributions to education, social services, arts and culture, health, and environment. Mahalo!

The East Hawai‘i Fund (Hawai‘i Community Foundation) was a new and much appreciated sponsor of the Hawai‘i Island District Fair during Hawai‘i History Day and they have doubled their support with a new grant of $5,000 for upcoming programs and outreach on Moku o Keawe.

Trustees of the Elsie Wilcox Foundation and the G.N. Wilcox Trust are first-time supporters of Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities and we salute their generosity and their years in outreach and care for all of Hawai‘i. Their awards will go towards the Kaua‘i Hawai‘i History Day District Fair—which promises to be bigger and better because of the Wilcox family.
Now is the Time for Stories . . .

2023 is our 50th Anniversary year.

We look forward to sharing stories with you.

3599 Wai'alae Avenue, Suite 25
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