



# Indiana Humanities Council

*Think. Read. Talk.*

## Request for Board Nominations

### **About the Indiana Humanities Council**

Founded in 1972 and headquartered in Indianapolis, the Indiana Humanities Council is the official state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The Indiana Humanities Council connects people, opens minds and enriches lives by creating and facilitating programs that encourage people to think, read and talk.

The Council receives substantial annual support from the NEH. Major funding for the Council's projects also comes from private gifts, grants and contributions. The Council is a nonpartisan, independent, not-for-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of 18-30 Indiana educators and community leaders. Six of the directors are nominated by the Board of Directors and appointed by the Governor of Indiana, while the others are selected from nominations solicited annually from the public.

### **The Staff**

A president serves as chief executive officer of the organization. The president is extensively engaged with the Board of Directors. The president supervises a staff of five full-time members. Board members work closely with staff through committees and in coordination with the President.

### **The Board of Directors**

A strong Board of Directors is necessary for the Indiana Humanities Council to continue developing the support, resources and connections necessary to encourage Hoosiers to think, read and talk. Because the Council seeks to serve all the people of Indiana, diversity on the Board of Directors is essential. The Board is a geographically, ethnically, and professionally diverse governing body. Board members' active involvement with the Council is vital to the success of the organization.

The members of the Board of Directors bring energy, access, and insight to the work of the Council. Membership is comprised of scholars and public citizens who have made significant contributions to the humanities and civic life and are interested in providing for the leadership in Indiana through the Council. The Indiana Humanities Council Board of Directors articulates the Council's philosophies, establishes policy, and is responsible for the financial integrity of the Council.

Service on the Board of Directors requires commitment, dedication and willingness to devote

time and effort to the organization. Each member contributes to the work of the Council through a commitment of time and expertise and financial contributions. In partnership with the Council's staff, the Board helps to focus, direct and extend the Council's work throughout the state. Board members:

- prepare for meetings.
- serve actively on one Council committee/project.
- actively assist in fund raising and make a personally significant annual financial contribution.
- enlist the aid of legislators and the general population in support of Council goals.
- debate and act on program priorities and grant policies.
- promote and advertise the work of the Council to the public at large.

To be a director, an individual must be a resident of the state of Indiana. Currently all Board members are donors to the Council. In addition, members are asked to assist in resource development.

We seek members who can bring access to additional financial, human, and policy resources to the Council's work. The tradition of the Board is to identify members who bring a love of the life of the mind and a commitment to the purposes of the Council in the state.

Membership involves a minimum of six to eight days of time annually for a three-year term. Elections are held in October for terms beginning November 1.

The board meets as a full body four times each year. The meetings are most often held in Indianapolis on a Friday. One meeting per year is a planning and evaluation retreat typically hosted by a member of the board in his or her own community. This meeting runs from midday Thursday through midday Friday.

Attendance at these meetings is a basic responsibility of each member. One-third plus one of all voting directors of the Council must be present in person to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. There are no proxy votes. An individual who is absent for three consecutive meetings will be assumed to have resigned unless satisfactory reasons for non-attendance are submitted to and accepted by the Board.

To nominate yourself or another individual for election to the Indiana Humanities Council Board of Directors, please write to:

Keira Amstutz  
President and CEO  
Indiana Humanities Council  
1500 North Delaware Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202