WHY ARE THE HUMANITIES IMPORTANT?

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY
The humanities ask questions that give insight into the creative imagination — literature, art, architecture, and music — and the culture that surrounds us. The inquisitive habits of mind nurtured by the humanities lie at the heart of a liberal arts education and draw together faculty, students, and citizens throughout Wyoming.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITIES
The humanities construct meanings and understandings that bring our local communities together. The humanities reveal how history is made, traditions created, and democratic decisions formed. The humanities help us understand an increasingly complex, diverse world.

ANTICIPATING OUR FUTURE
Through the humanities we can examine the history of the future — how our forebears have dealt with moments of change and have adapted to developments in larger cultural, economic, and civic environments. The humanities offer a meeting ground where ideas can be incubated, courses of action charted, and civic decision debated.

WHAT DOES THE WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH SUPPORT?
27 faculty/professional staff grants funded
7 active research/reading groups
3 collaborative projects with the Wyoming Humanities Council
2 programs with the UW Art Museum
6 distinguished lecturers
2 International visiting scholars (International Fellowships)

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD:
Kim Cannon, Sheridan
Nick Murdock, Casper
Tom Rea, Casper
Dave Reetz, Powell
Bruce Richardson, Casper
Lynn Simons, Cheyenne
Pete and Lynne Simpson, Cody
Shannon Smith, Laramie
Kathleen Urban, Cheyenne

For further information, contact
Eric Sandeen, Founding Director
Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research
1000 East University, Department 4036
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
www.uwyo.edu/wihr
esandeen@uwyo.edu, 307-766-3839
Just over 150 years ago, in the depths of a wrenching and costly Civil War, two self-taught men made a visionary public investment in the future of the American nation. Vermont Senator Justin Morrill wrote and President Abraham Lincoln signed the legislation to establish Land Grant universities in every state, opening higher education to ordinary Americans for the first time in history anywhere in the world.

The land grant legacy brought women and men, African Americans and Native Americans, into college education to benefit the nation, and serve the states in which their degrees were granted.

It was an essentially humanist vision that promoted “the liberal and practical education” of the citizens of a democracy.

Land Grant universities like the University of Wyoming address the need and desire of community members to learn about their world through the humanities and other subjects, to cultivate the fullest appreciation of their own lives and capabilities as individuals, and to work together to shape the future.

**WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?**
Through the humanities we understand ourselves and our world: how we form and express values and articulate beliefs; how we preserve our traditions and anticipate the future. The humanities are the medium through which we participate in a democratic, civil society. The humanities are an essential component of a land-grant university.

**WHAT IS THE WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH?**
Our mission is to support UW humanities scholarship and foster conversations within the university and across the state. We support invited speakers, events, and discussion groups, and are the main source of funding for individual and collaborative research projects by UW humanities faculty and professional staff. WIHR encourages the engagement of our humanities community with local, national, and international scholarly communities and engages in critical reflection on the nature of the humanities and their role in a civil democracy. WIHR taps the potential of the humanities to invigorate faculty interactions, enrich teaching, and deepen the connection between the university and the state.

The WIHR community consists of over 60 faculty and professional staff members, representing more than a dozen departments and programs, in addition to the American Heritage Center, the UW Art Museum, and the Wyoming Humanities Council.

**WHERE ARE THE HUMANITIES AT UW?**
- African American and Diaspora Studies
- American Heritage Center
- American Indian Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Architectural Engineering
- Art History
- Biodiversity Institute
- Creative Writing Program
- English
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- Geography
- Global and Regional Studies
- History
- Latino/a Studies
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Religious Studies
- UW Art Museum
- UW Libraries
- Wyoming Humanities Council