

# National Humanities Alliance Humanities Advocacy Day 2023

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## What is Humanities Advocacy Day?

Humanities Advocacy Day is an annual coordinated event wherein scholars, educators, librarians, publishers, and others from around the country meet with members of the House and Senate and their respective staffers to illustrate the vital importance of humanities education in the US and request voting action on funding packages, appropriations, and bills.

## What is National Humanities Alliance (NHA)?

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is a nationwide coalition of organizations advocating for the humanities on campuses, in communities, and on Capitol Hill. Together, we promote the value of studying the humanities, make the case for the public value of the humanities, and cultivate support for federal funding for the humanities.

**Senator Benjamin Cardin**  
Democrat Maryland  
@SenatorCardin

**TALKING POINTS**

The NEH: Ensures widespread access to the humanities, including for K-12 students, teachers, and veterans. Preserves cultural heritage. Awards grants that are often leveraged for private investment.

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays: Address shortage of language experts in business, diplomatic corps, and military. Faculty who receive grants prepare students for global engagement.

NARA: Demands on NARA have increased while funding has stagnated. NHRPC increases access to historical documents and the papers of significant figures.

**CAUCUSES**

Senate Community College Caucus  
Senate Black-Jewish Caucus  
Senate Real Estate Caucus, Chair  
Senate Retirement Security Caucus, Chair

**GRANT DATA**

From FY13 to FY22, Maryland received more than \$27.4 million in grants from the NEH.

**SUPPORT HISTORY**

is not a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus.

Signed the FY23 Dear Colleague Letters requesting robust funding for the NEH, NARA, and Title VI.

**COMMITTEES**

Environment and Public Works Committee  
Finance Committee  
Foreign Relations Committee  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Chair

**REQUESTS**

Join the Senate Cultural Caucus  
Sign humanities-related Dear Colleague Letters when they begin circulating



The MD Delegation in Representative Dutch Ruppersberger's office. Yelena took the photo

## NHA goals

**Support funding for NHE, NARA and Title VI:**  
FY 2024 ask for the NEH is robust funding  
FY 2024 ask for Title VI is \$152.1 million and Fulbright-Hays is \$21.5 million  
FY 2024 ask for NARA and NHRPC is robust funding

NEH appropriations in millions of dollars							
FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
146	149.8	152.8	155	162.25	167.5	180	207

Appropriations in millions of dollars							
	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
NARA	380.6	384.6	373	359	377	388.3	427.5
NHRPC	5	6	6	6.5	6.5	7	12

## Our Team

- **Jessica Berman**, Dresher Center for the Humanities at UMBC
- **Greg Campbell**, Community College Humanities Association
- **Austin Heath**, Johns Hopkins University
- **Erin Hogan**, University of Maryland Baltimore County
- **Manasi Karthikeyan**, Johns Hopkins University
- **Yelena Luckert**, University of Maryland Libraries
- **Trevor Parry-Giles**, College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland
- **Alexander Perez**, Association of American Universities
- **Jordan Sly**, University of Maryland Libraries
- **Margaret Vitullo**, Linguistic Society of America

## Our Meetings

March 21, 2023

Number of advocates in your group: 9

Member of Congress	Meeting with:	Role:	Time:	Office Location:	Notes:
Kwesi Mune					
Chris Van Hollen	Sung Chung and Alexandra Wilcox	Legislative Correspondent	10:00 AM	730 Hart	
Ben Cardin	Gray Maxwell	Floor Director	11:00 AM	509 Hart	
James Raskin	James Raskin	Congressman	12:00 PM	ZOOM - VIRTUAL	Virtual meeting due to ongoing medical concerns
Glenn Ivey	Maryam Hassanian	Staff Assistant	1:00 PM	1829 Longworth	joined by photographer
Andy Harris	Hannah King	Senior Legislative Assistant	2:00 PM	1830 Longworth	
Dutch Ruppersberger	Daniel Clayton	Legislative Assistant	2:30 PM	2206 Rayburn	
David Trone	Ely Kovacev	Policy Advisor	3:00 PM	2404 Rayburn	
Stacy Hoyer					Drop off materials at their office if available

**Resources:** Humanities Daily Priority Toolkit, Advocacy Guide, Member Toolkit

**Senate Office Buildings:** Dirksen Hart Russell

**House Office Buildings:** Cannon Longworth Rayburn O'Neill

### MD delegation's schedule for the day.

- After our first meeting went well, we all got very comfortable and our team began to hit our stride with each of us naturally fitting into certain talking points and stories to relate
- Yelena discussed Title VI and the historical support for developing foreign language collections in libraries making them some of the best in the world thereby how supporting it fosters the education of global citizens and the American influence in the World
- Jordan discussed the importance of humanities both in higher education and in public schools and gave some examples from his son's school
- We sought to relate the goals of NHA with those of the individual representatives and tie personal outcomes to national data
- We also wanted to demonstrate the way the appropriations funding would impact people in the state at all levels
- All but one of Maryland representatives have been enthusiastically supportive of humanities

## Reflections

- I. It was clear through the conversations and shared experiences of delegates from other states that we are quite privileged here in Maryland to have a receptive and active group of representatives at the national level. Their understanding of the vital need for continued humanities funding was clear and their vocal willingness to engage on the floor with these issues was heartening. Other delegations were not as fortunate
- II. As librarians we need to ensure the needs of libraries continue to be heard alongside the needs of humanities, social science, and STEM education funding. None of the initiatives discussed through the NHA/NEH could be possible without the support of libraries, library resources, or librarians
- III. The concerns of the humanities do not exist in isolation and all discipline areas are in vital need of funding as both higher education and public education is under attack in the current political climate and will be for the foreseeable future
- IV. There are many myths about the humanities and higher education that need to be dispelled through rigorous data and longitudinal studies that will demonstrate clear benefits
- V. This was a truly wonderful experience and a terrific chance for us to advocate on behalf of the humanities and libraries



The MD Delegation after our first meeting of the day with Senator Ben Cardin's staffers. We were well prepared for these meetings and sought common ground with the staffers on shared issues and interests. If the staffers had a UMD connection or followed our Terps, especially the Women's Basketball team at that time, we had an in!

## Links

National Humanities Alliance website: <https://www.nhalliance.org/>  
NEH For All: <https://nehforall.org/>  
Humanities Advocacy Day website: <https://www.nhalliance.org/had>  
Humanities for All: <https://humanitiesforall.org/>  
Study the Humanities: <https://www.studythehumanities.org/>  
2023 HAD slides and materials: [https://www.nhalliance.org/2023\\_annual\\_meeting\\_resources](https://www.nhalliance.org/2023_annual_meeting_resources)

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An example of our background information on the representatives. This gave us talking points to start from in terms of past support, goal alignment, and more.