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TOBIN MILLER SHEARER,
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July 31, 2019

Dear Dr. Morrow,

This letter is to confirm Humanities Montana's commitment to partnering with Montana State University on the 100 and Change initiative, Project Montana.

Humanities Montana's mission is to serve communities through stories and conversation. We offer experiences that inspire imagination and ideas by speaking to Montanans' diverse history, literature, and philosophy.

Underlying this mission is the belief that the humanities profoundly improve Montanans' lives. They do so by bringing citizens from diverse backgrounds together to address our deepest questions. More specifically, Humanities Montana improves lives by creating safe spaces for in-depth conversation, instilling critical thinking, expanding perspectives through history, literature, philosophy, and more, encouraging partnership among the many cultural organizations in a community, and facilitating personal expression in writing and speaking.

We have a special commitment to serving rural and reservation communities that lack the well-funded cultural opportunities available in Montana's largest cities. We also serve organizations that address the needs of Montana's most vulnerable populations, including senior citizen centers, prisons and youth detention centers, community halls in low-income areas, and schools in Montana's poorest towns.

Our programs are designed to speak to these communities' needs:

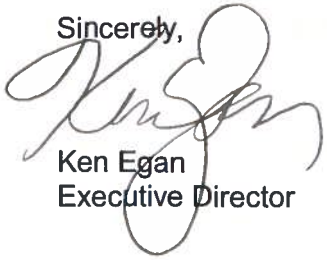
- Montana Conversations offers high-quality humanities programs available at little or no cost to the institutions listed above, as well as libraries, museums, churches, and civic organizations.
- Speakers in the Schools makes these same presenters available for teachers and students.
- Our grants provide direct financial support for the unique cultural aspirations of each community.
- Hometown Humanities offers this full suite of opportunities to a single community for two years, assuring sustained engagement with meaning-rich programs and increasing collaboration among cultural organizations.
- Tribal Partnerships provide direct funding for innovative programs by cultural nonprofits on the seven Indian reservations within Montana's borders, as well as among the Little Shell people.
- Gather Round, our latest offering, is a DIY program that enables informal, meaningful literature-based conversations in participants' homes.

Evaluations from participants, program hosts, and presenters tell us time and again that these programs are life-altering, providing hope, perspective, and intellectual growth.

As a partner in Project Montana, we anticipate scaling up and sustaining these cultural opportunities for the state's most troubled communities. We would add programming staff to assure continued attention to quality and reach. We would assure our offerings serve many more communities and that our engagement with each community will be ongoing and profound. In effect many more communities would become Hometown Humanities hosts.

But above all, Humanities Montana would act as a true partner with all the participants in Project Montana. We are committed to addressing Montanans' deepest needs by leveraging the combined talent, good will, expertise, hard work, and belief brought together through Montana State University's initiative. We can provide a portable model of how mission-driven nonprofits can break down our siloes and take on our biggest cultural and social challenges together. What a difference we could make together with support from the MacArthur Foundation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Egan', written over a circular scribble.

Ken Egan
Executive Director