

NEWS FROM INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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LEH 2011-12 Annual Fund Campaign is off and Running!

Dear Friends,

With the start of a new LEH fiscal year on November 1, the 2011-12 Annual Fund campaign has started. Our brochure cover and message from the inside panels appear below. I know that you, a reader of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, will understand and appreciate the passion of our appeal. Please watch for the mailing and thanks in advance for your continuing support. Details on our giving levels and premiums, as well as the LEH programs supported by the Annual Fund, can also be found online at www.leh.org; click on the **Support the LEH** button.

Sincerely,


Jeff A. Hale, Director of Institutional Advancement

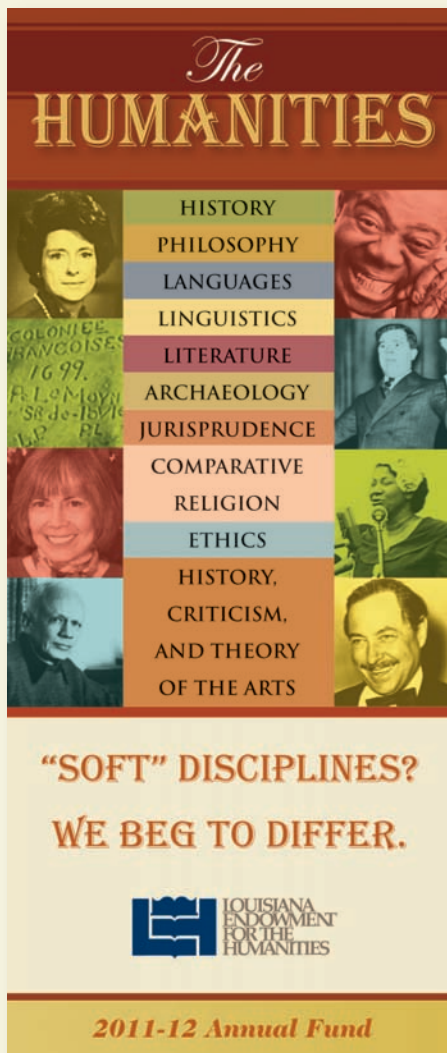


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The Humanities Under Attack

The critique is not new. Those espousing the implied superiority of so-called “hard” disciplines have been attacking the humanities for decades. It was partially in response to these voices that the enabling legislation creating the National Endowment for the Humanities spoke, some 46 years ago:

An advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support for the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future . . . democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. It must therefore support a form of education, and access to the arts and the humanities, designed to make people of all backgrounds . . . masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.

As a supporter of the humanities, you understand the continuing relevance and poignancy of these words. However, sadly, the current economic recession has reignited the anti-humanities critique. The implications of this debate spell crisis—and not just for well-meaning, often financially-challenged parents, who are concerned about the “job prospects” of their children’s education. This crisis is playing out here in Louisiana, just as it is nationally, via the erosion of public support for libraries, museums, arts and humanities councils, and virtually the entire spectrum of America’s cultural infrastructure.

Please Stand With Us

The crisis facing the LEH is fiscal: a 75 percent cut in state appropriations over the past three years (more than \$1.5 million annually), with the prospects of additional cuts in both our state and federal funding looking all but inevitable. **However, we are NOT suffering an “identity crisis.”** Like you, we know the value and import of the LEH’s four decades of cultural and educational investment (more than \$60 million) in all 64 Louisiana parishes. In a state possessing cultural diversity and riches without parallel, the LEH considers it an honor to proudly serve as the standard bearer for the embattled humanities.

So much of what we do is made possible by the generous support of you, our annual fund supporters. With your continued support, we will: keep inspiring kids and parents to read together; continue helping teachers to be better prepared, feel more appreciated, and therefore work harder; and continue to bestow recognition and support upon those working in the arts and culture of our great state. Working together, we will weather both the fiscal and the ill-informed ideological storms.