



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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****PHOTO ATTACHED****

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Maryland Humanities Council’s “Practicing Democracy” Receives Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize at National Humanities Conference

(Baltimore) - The Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) is proud to announce that it is a recipient of the Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for “Standout in Risk-Taking and Most Demonstrable Community-Changing Outcomes,” an honor given by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, for its “Practicing Democracy” program.

During its inaugural year, “Practicing Democracy” brought Marylanders together for a series of public discussion forums, workshops, and interactive events which provide the opportunity for people of different opinions and points of view—who may have previously been unable to agree or even have an open dialogue—to come together for passionate, respectful, and effective civic conversation. Programs addressed the issues of natural gas extraction in Western Maryland, transportation in Baltimore City, cultural diversity in Kent County, and land use and development in Queen Anne’s County. Support from the Boeing Charitable Trust enabled three state humanities councils to launch “Practicing Democracy” programs, including Maryland, Washington, and Illinois.

The Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize is awarded annually to up to three programs for outstanding work in the public humanities. It is awarded to councils for innovative programs that have had a significant impact on citizens, organizations, or communities in their states, and is funded through an endowment from former Federation board members Helen and Martin Schwartz.

The Maryland Humanities Council is a statewide, educational, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. MHC’s mission is to stimulate and promote informed dialogue and civic engagement on issues critical to Marylanders. For more information, visit www.mdhc.org.



Photo credit. (MHC Staff L to R) Andrea Lewis, Phoebe Stein Davis, Elizabeth Barbush, Lydia Woods, Jean Wortman