

## **Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review**

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

Vermont Humanities Council's Board of Directors meets at least quarterly, four times year. There is often a fifth, retreat-style, meeting. Each Board of Directors meeting agenda as well as minutes of the meetings are stored in a binder at 11 Loomis Street, Montpelier.

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

Vermont Humanities Council Board of Trustees do not receive any per diem though they may request reimbursement for direct expenses associated with participating in board activities. The Board of Trustees list is attached with their term length, expiration, and whether they were elected or appointed by the Governor.

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

Per the by-laws: The Vermont Humanities Council Board of Trustees shall have the entire management and control of the property and affairs of the Council. All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Council as they deem proper and as consistent with law.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, the Council is an active Vermont cultural institution. If our board dissolved, the Vermont Humanities Council would dissolve.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose?

The Vermont Humanities Council board performs its purpose very well. We are grateful for the service of both elected members and those appointed by the Governor.

6. What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

We can provide Board of Trustees meeting minutes as well as committee minutes and copies of our Annual Report and financial audit.

7. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No, the Vermont Humanities Council is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and is required by statute to have a local board of trustees with up to five members appointed by the Governor.

8. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency?

No, our Board of Trustees functions do not overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or state agency.

If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose? yes

9. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes, our board operates within both Vermont and Federal statutory obligations.

10. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Funding for the operations of the Council is provided by several sources including state and federal appropriations, program fees, investment income, and significant private funding. Our FY2019 audit is attached as a separate file.

11. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

We provide a Narrative for the State of Vermont's budget book each fall, we update the report for the Legislature in January, and finally we report to the Vermont Department of Libraries on grant funding received to support our programming.