



UTAH HUMANITIES

Ideas in Action

I rise today to honor, congratulate, and thank our friend, Cynthia Buckingham, who is retiring as Executive Director of Utah Humanities.

Cynthia has been with Utah Humanities since 1983, and her priorities included expanding and diversifying funding sources, increasing outreach activities, and designing programs to reach new audiences.

She came to Utah from Minnesota, where she was Assistant Director for Government and Public Affairs for the Federation of State Humanities Councils. She served as Associate Director of Utah Humanities from 1983-1997, and as Executive Director from 1997-2017. In 1988-89, she took a leave to work as Administrative Director for the fledgling University of Utah Humanities Center, developing its structure, programs, and funding base. She has also served on the board of the Federation of State humanities Councils as Vice Chair.

Under Cynthia's graceful leadership, Utah Humanities' programs have grown to deeply affect individuals and influence communities in highly positive ways. She is a champion of working with partners all over the state to generate discussion of important issues, preserve Utah history, help promote literacy, and provide life-changing educational opportunities for historically excluded adults and students.

Cynthia is a kind and passionate Director, who has been able to achieve an amazing balance of leadership and freedom that has allowed the staff, the board, and the organization to thrive. She is universally respected and has left a shining reputation for Utah Humanities to continue doing this work and improve communities.

In addition to her passion for public humanities, Cynthia is a loving wife and mother, very recently a grandmother, and a dear friend.

The board and staff of Utah Humanities would like to offer our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Cynthia for her patience, her determination, and her enthusiasm for the public humanities. She is a remarkable woman who will be missed, and her influence on this organization and this community will continue as a tribute to her life-long love of the humanities.

Thank you, Cynthia!