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**Janice Cummings O'Mahony of Freeland Elected to
Humanities Washington Board of Trustees**

SEATTLE — Humanities Washington has announced the election of Janice Cummings O'Mahony of Freeland, WA to its Board of Trustees. The organization is governed by a statewide Board of Trustees made up of 22 business, cultural, and community leaders from across the state, including four who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington.

O'Mahony brings more than five decades of leadership in public service, community engagement, and the humanities to the role. A longtime supporter and participant in Humanities Washington programs, she was selected for her deep commitment to civic dialogue, education, and inclusive community building across Washington State.

"This is an exciting and uncertain time for cultural work in Washington State," said Julie Ziegler, CEO and executive director of Humanities Washington. "Federal funding for independent, authentic, and honest humanities programs is in serious jeopardy, and we need strong leaders like Janice to ensure continued access to programs that explore current events in the context of our history and various community perspectives. Janice's connections will enable us to reach new audiences, and her practical management experience will help ensure Humanities Washington's long-term viability and success."

Humanities Washington trustees are chosen for their community leadership experience, expertise in the humanities, and dedication to building bridges across political and cultural divides. Trustees come from a wide range of backgrounds in communities throughout the state. Each serves a three-year, once-renewable term. Humanities Washington's Board of Trustees made up of 22 business, cultural, and community leaders from across the state, including four who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington.

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O'Mahony holds a BA in Anthropology and a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. Her distinguished career includes senior leadership roles within King County's juvenile and criminal justice systems, culminating in her service as Assistant Director of the Department of Youth Services. She is widely respected for her ability to translate complex policy issues into clear strategies and to build consensus among diverse stakeholders. Since retiring from county government, O'Mahony has continued her public service through statewide advocacy, nonprofit board leadership, and community-based initiatives. An accomplished author and poet, she brings a humanities-centered lens, collaborative leadership, and a passion for engaging new audiences to the Humanities Washington Board of Trustees.

"I am honored to serve on the Humanities Washington Board of Trustees because I believe deeply in its mission of opening minds and bridging divides by bringing together people of disparate points of view," O'Mahony shared. "I love being at the intersection of visionary thinking and the action steps that bring that into reality, something this organization does so well."

In addition to O'Mahony, Marcine Miller of Wenatchee and Polly Yorioka of Seattle were also named to the Board of Trustees.

In April, Humanities Washington received notice that committed funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities had been revoked by DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency. Since that time, Humanities Washington has canceled programs and cut staff. To ensure that it can continue to offer programs long-term, including reinstating those that have been cut, the organization has mounted a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

ABOUT HUMANITIES WASHINGTON

Humanities Washington partners with more than 300 organizations statewide each year to create spaces for people to come together to explore and consider what it means to be human, and to reflect on our shared past, present, and future. Humanities Washington holds events and programs led by cultural experts, scholars, tradition-bearers and storytellers who explore a wide variety of topics ranging from Washington State history to philosophy to current social issues. The organization also supports and partners with a wide network of communities, organizations, and individuals across the state. All Humanities Washington programs are open to the public, and nearly all are free of charge. For more about Humanities Washington, visit www.humanities.org.

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[PHOTO: Janice Cummings O'Mahony]