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## What Supports the Humanities?: Section Introduction

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# What Supports the Humanities?

*To answer the question of what supports the humanities, this section enlists the help of four authors. In the first article, Linda Silka interviews four Maine policymakers and shares their reflections on the importance of the humanities in their personal and work lives. Jessica Skwire Routhier describes how, throughout their history, Maine's cultural institutions have collaborated to share blessings and ease difficulties through their longstanding commitment to the common good. Libby Bischof presents a discussion of the extent of volunteerism in Maine's museums, historical societies, libraries, and friends groups, discussing both the benefits and the challenges this reliance on volunteers creates for supporting the humanities. Anna Sims Bartel explores why the humanities are essential to public policy and looks at how humanities training can enrich the four main stages of policy: conceptualization, crafting, implementation, and evaluation. 🐟*