

**Rocky Mountain Humanistic Institute
of the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Counseling & Psychological Association
DRAFT Vision Statement**

Opening Statement

The Rocky Mountain Humanistic Counseling and Psychological Association (RMHCPA) believes that the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Institute¹ (RMHI) will become an important pillar of the contemporary humanistic and existential movements. RMHCPA intends to purchase a building in Colorado Springs that will house RMHI. This vision statement provides an overview of the structure, purpose, and financial plan of the institute.

Structure of the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Institute

The Rocky Mountain Humanistic Institute would have four branches that would work in conjunction with each other:

1. **Archives.** The archives will include various collections of important figures in existential, humanistic, and transpersonal psychology. Our first collection will be from Tom Greening. We will be actively working to develop additional collections.
2. **Library and Research Center.** The library and research center will house a comprehensive existential, humanistic, and transpersonal psychology library.
3. **Clinic.** The clinic will be comprised of a) independent private practices and b) a practicum site that will house 2-4 practicum students that will provide low fee therapy to underserved populations.
4. **Training Center.** The training center will provide supervision, consultation, and other training opportunities, including continuing education offerings.

Mission of the Institute

The Mission of the Archives is multifold:

- 1) To preserve and honor the history of important humanistic and existential scholars.
- 2) To support the publication of important documents and histories in humanistic psychology. This will include publications in books through a partnership with University Professors Press, the publication of journal articles, and the publications of videos and interviews chronicling the history of humanistic, existential, and transpersonal psychology.
- 3) To create a clinic that will house independent private practices and a practicum site. The purpose of this is twofold:
 - a. To provide training for students interested in pursuing existential, humanistic, and/or transpersonal psychology.
 - b. To provide low-fee therapy options to the Colorado Springs with the explicit intention of providing therapy to underserved populations.
- 4) To provide training through supervision, consultation, and training activities, including continuing education events and an annual conference.

¹ The Rocky Mountain Humanistic Institute is the provisional name of the institute. However, the name of the institute is not finalized.

Needs

The establishment and maintenance of RMHI requires initial funding as well as ongoing income to help maintain and preserve the artifacts. The initial expense of purchasing a building in Colorado Springs that could house RMHI is likely \$500,000-750,000. We estimate that we would need a minimum of \$250,000 in donations to be able to establish the archives in Colorado Springs. It would be preferable to raise at least \$350,000-\$500,000. We do have a private loan guaranteed for up to \$300,000 with a 4.5% interest rate.

Any building would require some work to be able to house the archives. For example, it is important to have good climate control in the building. Colorado's climate, particularly the low humidity, is ideal for an archive. We would also need to obtain some bookshelves, file cabinets, and furniture. In many buildings, some construction to design the building to our needs would be necessary.

We are hoping to attract a number of initial large donors to help fund the purchasing of a building. We have a fundraising plan that includes naming aspects of RMHI and the building in honor of large donors of \$50,000 or more. Donations from \$1,000 to \$49,999.99 will also be commemorated at the archives. We work working on some programming that could be named to honor donors with smaller donations of \$10,000-\$25,000. Additionally, we have begun identifying grants that will help establish and fund the institute.

Leadership and Oversight

We intend to establish RMHI with a solid financial plan that assures its long-term viability. Colorado is increasingly becoming a recognized center for humanistic and existential psychology and training, which can help us build a strong community centered around the archives.

The RMHCPA board would have legal and financial responsibility over RMHI. We have established a strong board with diverse skill sets. Furthermore, we have many individuals with an established track record of leadership in humanistic, existential, and transpersonal psychology. Through the establishment of the RMHI, we believe we will continue to draw more people to our organization. Being located in Colorado and having connections with many schools in the area, we also have a strong volunteer base that can help maintain the archives. Louis Hoffman has been appointed as the Executive Director of RMHCPA. Dr. Hoffman has a strong history of leadership and scholarship in humanistic and existential psychology. Additionally, he has previously helped establish a training clinic and worked at several other training clinics.

We have established a Circle of Advisors for the Archives and Library. Already, we have over 30 individuals committed to serving on the Circle of Advisors. This includes prominent scholars and leaders in humanistic and existential psychology as well as others who have contributed to the development of humanistic and existential psychology locally. The Circle of Advisors also includes individuals with expertise in fund-raising and managing archives and libraries.

Partnerships

We believe partnerships are essential to assuring that the archives actualize its potential and remains sustainable. We have begun to cultivate a number of important partnerships that are discussed below.

First, University Professors Press is interested in partnering, which we believe is a vitally important partnership. University Professors Press (UPP) would rent space from RMHI for a bookstore. UPP is in the process of establishing a legacy series that focuses on the historical figures and institutions in humanistic psychology. This will create opportunities for publications to come out of the archives. Additionally, grants for archives look very favorably on applications that include venues to preserve history through publishing and digitalizing aspects of the archives.

The International Institute for Existential-Humanistic Psychology (IIEHP) is located in Colorado and China. We have discussed partnerships with IIEHP to offer trainings at the archives, which could include bringing scholars and students from China to the archives to learn the history of humanistic and existential psychology and receive training in humanistic, existential, and transpersonal psychology.

Be REAL Ministries is an existential and humanistic organization in Colorado Springs that provides ministry services and works with individuals experiencing homelessness. We have discussed a partnership with Be REAL Ministries that could, over time, add a service element to the archives while also generating consistent rental income.

We have begun conversations with a number of other local and national organizations with hopes of partnering with them.

Sustainability Plan

There will be ongoing expenses to maintaining the archives, even after the building has been purchased and paid for. It is necessary to have a good financial plan for RMHI to remain active, accessible, and sustainable. RMHCPA would not want to begin the archives or the institute without confidence that we have a solid financial plan to assure its sustainability. This includes financial and human resources.

Human Resources

RMHCPA is strong on human resources. We have strong, experienced leadership team and good membership base to draw from. Additionally, we have connections with many local universities and have been successful at finding students to volunteer to work with the organization. With the establishment of a physical building, we are confident that we could attract more human capital.

RMHCPA has appointed Louis Hoffman to oversee the development of RMHI. He is an experienced leader as well as a scholar, therapist, and teacher/trainer. Dr. Hoffman generously has agreed to work on a volunteer basis until certain financial benchmarks are attained, and then will gradually begin receiving financial compensation as those various financial benchmarks are met.

Financial Plan

With purchasing a building, there are many opportunities for helping fund and support the archives. These include:

1. **Grants.** We have connections with multiple people who have experience with grant writing who have offered help with seeking grants.
2. **Private Practice Rental Space.** We are intending to purchase a building that would have 5-8 offices for private practice. This has a number of advantages, the primary being that it assures an ongoing income to support the archives. We would set the rent at a rate that would cover any loan needed to purchase the property. After this, the private practice rental income would help to preserve, expand, and promote the RMHI and the archives. We also will establish a training clinic that would focus on providing low-fee therapy to individuals who have limited access to mental health care.
3. **Training Income.** We intend to conduct trainings regularly in the archives/library. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society for Humanistic Psychology to offer Continuing Education credit for our trainings. Through providing regular training opportunities, we will bring in many professionals to the archives. The proceeds will go to support the archives.
4. **Training Rental Income.** The RMHCPA board is very well connected with the psychological community in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Denver, and Boulder. We will rent space for trainings to various groups. The income will help support the archives. Additionally, this will bring many people to the archives and hopefully serve to inspire their interest in humanistic and existential psychology.
5. **Fund Raising.** We have established a fundraising plan. We are hoping to find 3-5 large donors who may be interested in having the building, part of the building, or part of the institute named in their honor. We also have plans for several fundraising events that will seek out smaller donations. We are set up to receive donations through Facebook, and are also set up with Amazon Smile and Amazon Associates.
6. **Scholar Sections.** We have begun talks with a number of scholars, ranging from mid-career scholars to leaders in the field, who have said that they would be interested in being part of the archives. They are willing to donate a copy of their books and papers to feature in the archives, and would make a regular annual donation for several years or a larger initial donation to support maintaining their place in the archives. We hope that over time this will become a significant collection of works by prominent humanistic, existential, and transpersonal scholars that will help expand and support the archives.
7. **RMHCPA Membership and Annual Conference.** The primary income of RMHCPA is our membership dues and Annual Conference. These proceeds are greater than our annual expenses. The additional revenues can help support the archives.
8. **Sabbatical Retreat.** As the archive is established, we hope that it will become a premiere sabbatical retreat center where scholars will come to use the archives as a place to do writing and professional development during sabbaticals or for writing retreats. They would be able to use the archives to bolster their scholarship and as a quiet place to work. Additionally, they would have established humanistic scholars with whom they can consult during the writing process who are readily available.
9. **University Professors Press Funding.** With the connection with University Professors Press, we have discussed a number of options that may help financially support the archives and generate publications from the archives:
 - a. We hope to establish a clause in UPP contracts that upon the death of authors, unless otherwise noted, the author's share of the royalties will be donated to the archives to help support and advance the archives. This could include funding

- publications that may come from the archives.
- b. We will offer an option, particularly with the legacy series, for a portion of the proceeds of all UPP's new books to go to the archives after the initial investment in the book is paid off.
 - c. As the building is paid off, we would offer an option where people could make donations to RMHCPA that is targeting funding publications from the archives with a portion of proceeds of these books returning to support the archives.

With setting the rent for the private practice offices at a rate that covers any loan payments and utilities costs, additional funding will go to 1) making needed upgrades to the facilities and 2) prepaying the loan or generating a savings to pay off the loan, depending upon the type of loan. As the building is paid off, we would work to establish a reserve for building maintenance and other expenses.

We have secured a private loan for up to \$300,000 at 4.5% interest. It is available as soon as we are ready to purchase a building.

The Four Branches of RMHI

As discussed, RMHI will have a 1) Archives/Museum, 2) Library and Research Center, 3) Clinic, and 4) Training Institute. We discuss each of these below.

Archives/Museum

We have commitments for initial archival donations from Tom Greening and Stanley Krippner. We have already identified a number of possibilities to expand the archives.

Cataloging, Digitalizing, and Publishing from the Archives

The connection to University Professors Press (UPP) provides opportunities to digitalize and publish from the archives. As noted, partnering relationships and opportunities to digitalize and publish from the archives increases the likelihood of obtaining grants to sustain the archives. With connection with many colleges and universities, we hope to engage student volunteers to help organize and catalog the archives. Additionally, we hope to use student volunteers to help digitalize much of the archives, edit and upload videos, and organize the archives. Initially, we will offer roles and titles in exchange for work to help students build their vitas. However, after the property is paid off, we hope to provide scholarships for students who volunteer to work with the archives and are interested in humanistic psychology.

Video Archives

We hope to establish a significant video archive over time as well. We have a connection with a research group that is conducting a number of interviews with prominent individuals in the history of humanistic psychology. These videos can be preserved at the archives with many of these videos being made available online over time. We have already begun developing a number of these videos, particularly of Tom Greening.

Library and Research Center

We intend to develop a comprehensive existential, humanistic, and transpersonal library. This will be established through a combination of purchasing books, resources, and journals and

receiving donations.

We intend to recruit scholars-in-residence and luminaries who would contribute a copy of their books, journal articles, selected conference presentations, and possibly other materials to the library. We would request a financial donation with this to help cover the costs of housing their materials. We will make their collected works available in the library. We will also help to promote all of their works. Over time, we will index these on our website. Additionally, we will promote new publications and accomplishment through our website, social media, and in the archives/museum and library research center.

Clinic

The clinic will house 4-6 independent private practices and well as 2-4 practicum students. The private practices will pay rent, which will cover our loan payments. However, each of the private practices will be independent.

The practicum portion of the clinic will be an intentionally inclusive practice that reaches out to underserved, oppressed, and marginalized groups in the Colorado Springs area. The clinic will be a low fee clinic. The established rate will be \$25.00 per session. However, if clients volunteer at a local non-profit for 1-hour per month, their rate goes down to \$15.00 per session. If they volunteer 2-hours per month at a local non-profit, their rate goes down to \$5.00 per session. For individuals who may not be able to volunteer (i.e., individuals with disabilities that prevent them from volunteering, single parents, etc.), there will be a process to request a lower weekly fee.

The individuals renting space for private practice will be encouraged to see some clients at a discounted rate. If they agree to see 1-2 clients from underserved populations at a highly discounted rate, they will receive a discount on their monthly rent.

The supervision and training for the practicum will be provided by the executive director and therapists in private practice at the clinic.

Training Center

The training center will provide:

- 1) Supervision
- 2) Clinical Consultation
- 3) Continuing Education Training Events
- 4) An Annual Conference
- 5) Speakers Series (see below)

Additionally, we are looking into collaborative relationships with other institutions to offer additional training opportunities.

Service Initiatives

RMHCPA is strongly committed to serving the humanistic, existential, and transpersonal communities as well as our local communities. Although our first priority needs to be establishing financial security, we have begun looking into service opportunities as well. In the

local community, we hope to prioritize working with people experiencing homelessness as well as other underserved and/or marginalized groups in the local community. Initial considerations for service include:

- 1) Providing free or affordable meeting space for organizations in our community serving underserved and/or marginalized people.
- 2) Providing free space for the No More Secrets Symposium, which focuses on promoting mental health awareness with underserved communities.
- 3) Partnering with Be REAL Ministries to provide backpacks with toiletry items to individuals experiencing homelessness and other culturally sensitive services.
- 4) Providing speakers series for the community (see below)
- 5) Initiatives to support marginalized and disadvantaged children and children from marginalized groups (see below)

Speakers Series

RMHCPA hopes to establish several speakers' series over time. These are intended to be named after individuals to recognize donations to RMHCPA. There are two types of lecture series we intend to establish: 1) a professional series for mental health professionals and 2) a community series for people of the community. With both, we hope to establish 2-3 annual series with at least one focused on multicultural and/or social justice issues.

Initiatives to Support Marginalized and Disadvantaged Children

We intend to start several initiatives for children in the community, particularly those from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds. These would be staffed by practicum students and volunteers under the supervision of the executive director and therapists in the clinic. These will include:

- 1) **Reading Time for Children of Color.** We would work to develop a section of the library that has children's books that tell stories about people of color and individuals from marginalized backgrounds. Each reading time would include several books and time for discussion. We will work to bring in older children and teens to do some of the reading. The purpose would be to help children develop pride in their cultural background and become excited about reading. Additionally, through having older children and teens do some of the reading, we hope to empower the volunteers.
- 2) **Children's Reading Group.** This reading group would be broader than the previous one and would include books that reflect important humanistic values.
- 3) **Children Skills Group.** These groups would be groups focused on developing important skills for children, such as mindfulness, problem solving skills, social skills, etc.
- 4) **Success Stories.** We would have regular speakers who could address older children and teens about how they learned to survive and thrive through difficult times. These would serve to empower the speakers from the community, who would be older teens and young adults, while providing positive role models and mentors for the younger teens and children.

Conclusion

RMHI is visioned as an institute intended to make a broad impact from local to international communities. The vision balances a commitment to preserving and advancing existential, humanistic, and transpersonal psychology with service. We are confident that RMHI will become an important permanent home for humanistic, existential, and transpersonal psychology.

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