



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL FOR THE
HUMANITIES

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

Founded in 1973, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities is an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. As a non-profit 501(c)3, the Council receives funding from federal and private sources.

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders. Through innovative partnerships and grantmaking, the Council connects and cultivates the state's tremendous cultural resources to help make Rhode Island a vital place to live and work. Our work is based on the conviction that history, literature, philosophy, civics, the arts, and other fields of the humanities are central not only to formal education, but to the daily lives of free and diverse people in a strong democracy.

Since 1973, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities has awarded over \$7.4 million in grants to support more than 550 organizations and individuals throughout the state of Rhode Island. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders have participated in Council-funded activities, including community conversations, workshops and lectures, new media technology, museum interpretations and exhibitions, walking-tours, radio shows, oral histories, documentary films, and many more.

For more information, please contact Development & Communications Manager, Adrian Moore at adrian@rihumanities.org.

RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES
131 Washington Street, Suite 210 • Providence, RI 02903
(401) 273-2250 • www.rihumanities.org
www.facebook.com/rihumanities

PROGRAMS

Grants

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Grantmaking Program funds nonprofit organizations and individual researchers to stimulate new research in the humanities, spark thoughtful community exchange, build new audiences for the humanities, innovate new methods in the humanities, and advocate for the importance of the humanities for a lively and engaged democratic public.

Center for the Book

The Rhode Island Center for the Book is a statewide organization devoted to promoting personal and community enrichment by celebrating the art and heritage of reading, writing, making, and sharing books among people of all ages and backgrounds across Rhode Island. Founded in 2003, RI Center for the Book is an affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and through a variety of programs and activities, connects communities, appreciates imagination and craft, and encourages exploration of the written word. This is achieved through four signature programs: Reading Across Rhode Island, Kids Reading Across Rhode Island, Letters About Literature, and Art of the Book.



Catalyzing Culture: Catalyzing Newport



The RI Council for the Humanities is developing a new, collaborative model of support for the public humanities sector titled Catalyzing Culture. Catalyzing Newport, the current project, grew out of a yearlong planning grant the Council received in 2012 from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation to assess the current limitations to and possibilities for developing a collaborative platform among cultural historical institutions in Newport. The key stakeholders are all Council grantees and include the Newport Historical Society, the Newport Restoration Foundation, the Preservation Society of Newport County, the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, and the Rhode Island Historical Society. The Council and the stakeholders will now move forward over

the next three years on implementation, with the goals of seeding sustainable, long-term, integrative solutions to addressing challenges, improving the outlook for Newport's cultural institutions, and establishing broader audiences through meaningful dissemination, community engagement, and marketing.

Mobile Historic Smart Phone Application

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage are partnering to create a statewide mobile historical smart phone application for local, place-based histories of Rhode Island. The appearance and format of the app will be similar to Sakonnet Historical, a mobile app developed by the Public Humanities Center, the Tiverton Public Library, and the Little Compton Historical Society, with funding and support by RICH. The first projects that have been chosen to represent a diverse approach to Rhode Island history, from notable African Americans to Revolutionary War forts, orphanages and almshouses to the natural and social history of an urban pond.



Expansion Arts



The Expansion Arts Program is a peer-learning capacity-building program supported by a collaboration of the RI Foundation, the RI State Council on the Arts, and the RI Council for the Humanities. Expansion Arts offers funding and technical assistance to community-based arts and humanities organizations in the form of consultation time, administrative support, and peer group work. Organizations accepted into the program can expect to grow capacity in areas of governance, financial management, marketing and audience development, documentation and evaluation, leadership development, and strategic collaborations. Organizations build and learn together over time, share resources, and build valuable long-term relationships.

EnRICHment Opportunities

Our Speakers Bureau, EnRICHment Opportunities, brings humanities programs to public audiences throughout Rhode Island. Ideal for public libraries, historical societies, and community centers, the programs offered through EnRICHment Opportunities include lectures, discussions, performances, workshops, and slide presentations on a wide range of humanities topics focusing on Rhode Island history and culture.

BOARD LISTING

Joan Abrams, Vice Chair
Professor and Director of Masters in
Communications
Simmons College

Phoebe S. Bean, MLS
Printed Collection Librarian
Rhode Island Historical Society

Winifred Brownell, PhD
Dean of Arts & Sciences
University of Rhode Island

Shawn Christian, PhD
Associate Professor of English and African
American Studies
Wheaton College

Daniel DeCelles
Interactive Literacy Teacher
Calcutt Middle School

Daniel P. Egan, Secretary
President
Association of Independent Colleges and
Universities in Rhode Island

Sandra Enos, PhD
Associate Professor of Sociology
Bryant University

Rhoda Flaxman, PhD
Director
WriteConsulting

Larson Gunness, Chair
Owner and Managing Director
Gunness Financial Services

Bill Harley
Singer, Storyteller, Author

Polly Hutcheson
Executive Director of Grants and Contracts
Roger Williams University

**Kathryn Kilguss, LLM, JD, Immediate Past
Chair**
Community Philanthropist and Attorney

Paula Krebs, PhD
Dean of the College of Humanities and Social
Sciences
Bridgewater State University

Lynne Malone, Treasurer
Chief Financial Officer
YMCA of Greater Providence

Mary Lee Partington
Independent Education Management Professional

Lauren K. Perry, Esq.
Attorney
Mignanelli & Associates, Ltd.

Angela Renaud, EdD
Dean of Arts & Sciences
Johnson & Wales University

Sue Stenhouse
Director of Member Promotion
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce

William Vareika
Gallery Owner
William Vareika Fine Arts Ltd.

Kyle Zambarano, Esq.
Litigation Associate
Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Francis Executive Director

As executive director of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Elizabeth Francis leads the Council's promotion of civic engagement, culture, and history, working with the Council's board of directors and leaders in government, higher education, and cultural organizations to connect humanities resources and perspectives with challenges and opportunities in the state. Overseeing the Council's relationship with the National Endowment for the Humanities, Elizabeth helps to position the Council's work more broadly as well as to build public-private partnerships. Appointed to the board of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in 2013, Elizabeth participates in the state's economic development planning and has co-authored a strategic plan for Rhode Island's creative and cultural economy. Before her role at the Council, Elizabeth was director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Brown University for 10 years. She earned her doctorate in American Studies at Brown, and her book, *The Secret Treachery of Words: Feminism and Modernism in America*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2002. She completed her bachelor's degree at Hampshire College. Elizabeth taught at Brown and the University of Rhode Island for several years, has been a member of the board of the International Charter School in Pawtucket, RI, and chaired the Grants Committee as a member of the board at RICH. Elizabeth also currently serves as a member of the Advisory Council for the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University and on the Community Advisory Board for Rhode Island PBS. She lives with her daughter Lulu, a junior at Classical High School, in the historic Armory District of Providence's West End.

SueEllen Kroll

Director of Grants and Strategic Partnerships

SueEllen has worked over 15 years in Rhode Island's nonprofit sector, ten of which have been with the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities where she has advised countless nonprofit organizations and individual scholars on how to develop their humanities ideas and projects to be competitive with the Council's funding goals and parameters. In addition to overseeing the administration of the grant program (including policy, outreach, and compliance), SueEllen spearheads its advancement via strategic partnerships, resource-building, and new initiatives. Her current partnership projects include; (1) RHODE TOUR – a joint partnership with Brown University's Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage to advance Rhode Island history and place-based tours through mobile phone technology; and (2) CATALYZING CULTURE – the development and implementation of a collaborative-based model that revives and showcases the assets of the cultural sector (leadership, rich heritage, and placemaking) and tools of the humanities (civic/community engagement, historical context, critical thinking, storytelling and informed dialogue) to enhance and strengthen the cultural sector. SueEllen serves on many cultural boards and taskforces, including the Advisory Board for the radio show "Action Speaks: Underappreciated Days that Changed America" produced by AS220; the Rhode Island 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Commission; and, the Board of Directors of the State House Visitor's Center and Gift Shop. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and collecting African literature. SueEllen has a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Wheaton College.

Carole Ann Penney

Director of Operations

With a background in education, non-profit management, and systems-approaches, Carole Ann manages the Council's infrastructure and performance management systems to support strategic decision-making, measuring and communicating impact, and resource development to sustain the humanities in Rhode Island. In her time at the Council, Carole Ann has led the planning of the annual Celebration of the Humanities, streamlined financial and grant administration processes, and re-envisioned the Council's data collection and reporting systems. Before joining the Council staff in 2010, Carole Ann developed her passion for the creative and cultural sector through her experience as the Assistant to the Director of Education at Providence Children's Museum, Artist Mentor at New Urban Arts, and Program Director of The Hive Archive. When she is not in the office, Carole Ann leads workshops and one-on-one sessions as a life purpose coach for entrepreneurial women with multiple careers. Carole Ann has a bachelor's degree in Education Studies from Brown University.

Adrian Moore

Development and Communications Manager

Adrian Moore comes to the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities with eight years of experience in strengthening culturally focused nonprofit organizations and advanced training in public humanities. Most recently, as Communications and Operations Coordinator at New Roots Providence, Adrian created communications plans and social media campaigns and developed programs in fundraising, performance management, and leadership development. As a graduate student at Brown University, Adrian helped to

develop programs for organizations ranging from Providence Storycorps to RI Campus Compact to D'Abate Elementary School. Before coming to Providence, Adriangained development and communications experience as Program Director for Arts for the Aging and danced with Nancy Havlik Dance performance group in Washington, DC.Adrian has implemented projects that incorporate performance, fine arts, and history with American Dance Legacy Initiative and Everett: Company, Stage and School here in Providence and The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Y-Space (Hong Kong), the National Museum of American History, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Adrian has a bachelor's degree in dance and anthropology from Wesleyan University and earned a master's degree in Public Humanities from Brown.

**Logan Hinderliter
Program Coordinator**

As program coordinator at the Council, Logan Hinderliter supports the administration and development of the Council's programs, maintains the Council's archives, and serves as an assistant to all of the projects and staff. Hailing from Northwestern Pennsylvania, Logan is a recent graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, MA, where he studied Classics and Early Modern Art History. While at Wheaton, Logan was a founding member of the Wheaton Institute for the Interdisciplinary Humanities, serving as a student member of the advisory board and digital content and strategy outreach assistant. An avid advocate and enthusiast for the humanities, Logan studied the politics of Rome and promoted the humanities to potential and incoming students. Logan also represented the student body as co-president of the Wheaton Athletic Mentors and was a varsity track and field athlete. Recently, Logan worked as the strategy and communications intern for the Council and aided in the coordination of the NEH site visit, the development of the Council's strategic plan, and social media communications. Logan is excited to integrate into the Rhode Island community and utilize, live within, and experience the state's unique history. Loving cafes, libraries, historical sites, live music, and community events, Logan will be ever out and about.

**Gina Rodriguez-Drix
Administrative Fellow, Expansion Arts Program**

A theatre artist, writer, and community-based educator, Gina brings an holistic approach to the Expansion Arts Program, a capacity-building program that provides a cohort of diverse community-based arts and culture organizations with funds and technical assistance. Since joining the Expansion Arts Program in 2011, Gina has provided organizations with training on methods and approaches in arts administration and nonprofit management, and has spearheaded an alumni-network initiative to build upon the Expansion Arts thirty-year legacy in the state of RI. Before joining Expansion Arts, Gina worked as the After School Director at Community Preparatory School, where she engaged students in a variety of arts-integrated academic enrichment activities. Gina shares her passions for art and community as the Co- Chair of the Board of Directors for the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), and as an Advisory Committee member of *Plural*, an international collaborative project dedicated to supporting ethnocultural arts. Gina is an accomplished playwright whose original works have been produced in RI, MA, and NY. When Gina is not working in the arts, she is attending both home and hospital births as a birth doula, or spending time with her daughter. Gina holds a bachelors degree in Africana Studies from Brown University.

**Kate Lenz
Director, RI Center for the Book**

Kate's professional background is as a classroom teacher and school librarian for many years. She volunteered in her sons' local school communities for over 8 years as an officer of their school PTOs. She has also been a coordinator of the increasingly popular RI Festival of Children's Books and Authors for the past 6 years. Nurturing readers to engage with books and authors lead organically in July of 2012 to her current position as Director of the Rhode Island Center for the Book. Along with hundreds of volunteers, she coordinates RI Center for the Book's programs; Reading Across Rhode Island, Kids Reading Across Rhode Island, Letters About Literature and Art of the Book. Kate initiated successful partnerships with the RI Festival of Children's Books and Authors, The Rhode Island Association of Independent Authors, RIDE, and The Charles H. Watts II History and Culture of the Book Program. She advocates zealously for RI libraries and represents the state of Rhode Island at the National Books Festival and at the Library of Congress Annual State Centers Meetings, both in Washington, D.C. Kate holds a master's degree in Children's Literature from Simmons College and a bachelor's degree with English and French double major from Kenyon College. Kate is currently a board member of the Michael Flanagan Foundation and past board member of the Barrington Educational Foundation.

**Kathleen Shannon
Consultant, Collaboration Facilitator and Strategist, Mapping Newport**
Kathleen Shannon has spent over 20 years exploring collaborative models across disciplines, sectors and

organizations to expand and diversify funding opportunities and shared infrastructure opportunities. In her career, she has built a creative toolset that includes brand strategy and implementation, business development, online and offline marketing strategies, and private and public fundraising in a diverse array of environments including health, education, urban planning, cooking, and publications. In recent years, she worked closely with faculty leadership at Brown University as the Director of Research Initiatives. In that role, she increased awareness of Brown's unique interdisciplinary research strengths, built critical national/international partnerships and enhanced and diversified sources of sponsored funding.