

PELL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

Rhode Island Celebrates **50 YEARS** of the NEH

Request for Projects to Co-Brand

The Pell Center, the URI Libraries, and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities invite you to identify a public or publicly-oriented program, event, or initiative from your institutions taking place between September 2015 and August 2016 that purposefully reflects the role of the humanities in civic life and/or addresses societal grand challenges. Projects identified for the Pell Humanities Initiative will be recognized and promoted as signature contributions to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Rhode Island through both local and national branding, communications, and public relations.

Goals of the Pell Humanities Initiative:

- Amplify the vital connections between research, education, and civic life through the humanities.
- Engage the [founding goals of the NEH](#)
- Activate the current goals of the NEH, especially those of the [Common Good Initiative](#)
- Animate the legacy of Claiborne Pell, his legislative accomplishments and practices, his belief in public-private partnership and partnerships between national entities and local initiatives.

Parameters:

- The projects, events, and programs promoted through the Pell Humanities Initiative are open to the public or are research connected to public issues in Rhode Island now.
- The project can benefit from and contribute to the statewide Pell Humanities Initiative and NEH 50th brand.
- The Initiative does not provide additional funding.
- Projects, events, and programs are already planned and/or do not require new resources.

Vehicles can include:

- Talks and lectures
- Performances
- Tours
- Technologies of interpretation and analysis, networks, access, and dissemination (social media, mobile app, web, digitization, archival access, book, etc.)
- Exhibitions
- K-12 curricular contributions and teacher professional development
- Research that has a public impact
- Civic dialogue

Potential Topics:

- The history of the NEH and/or Senator Claiborne Pell and his legacy

- The role of the humanities in civic life, engaging and addressing grand challenges that we now face as a nation and a state, including but not limited to the questions identified in the [NEH Common Good Initiative](#):
 - What is Rhode Island's particular contribution to addressing cultural and political polarization that has become so prevalent in contemporary American life and to building new forms of community and understanding?
 - How do the humanities contribute to and shape the debate over the dynamics of security and privacy that technological advances have accelerated?
 - What is the meaning of democratic citizenship in the 21st Century, in relation to our founding principles and values, our political history, and our current circumstances?
 - What is the relationship between humans and the natural world?
 - How do the humanities contribute to the achievement of a deeper and broader public understanding of the experience and lessons of war, including the perspectives of veterans?
 - How do we address the challenges and opportunities created by the changing demographics in many American communities?
 - What are the challenges, opportunities, risks, and benefits of new biomedical technologies and procedures and the complex ethical and personal questions they raise?

Your project does not need to be tied to any of the above questions, but it should reflect the humanities in civic life and/or address societal grand challenges.

Benefits of Participation:

- Public awareness of and engagement with your institution's program, event, or initiative
- Greater impact for your program, event, or initiative
- Enhanced profile of humanities at your institution and in the community
- Connection to a significant and prestigious milestone
- Inclusion in national and state communications for the 50th anniversary of the NEH through the NEH, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the Pell Center, and the URI Libraries
- Inclusion in statewide network of institutions and organizations

To submit your topic:

Send an email to Adrian Moore (Adrian@rihumanities.org), Development and Communications Manager, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, that states:

1. Your institution, your name, your title, your address
2. Key contact name, title, email, and phone
3. Topic or idea for topic
4. When it will take place (month) between September 2015 and August 2016
5. Title of Event/Program/Initiative
6. Brief description (a paragraph) of topic, how it addresses the request for projects, and why it is important for your institution.