



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

GRANTMAKING 2014 - 2017

Seeding and sparking thoughtful community exchange, building new audiences, innovating new methods, and advocating for the value of the humanities to an engaged democratic public.

Since 1973, grantmaking has been at the heart of the mission of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities as we invest in public humanities projects by and for all Rhode Islanders in communities from Woonsocket to Westerly. In the last four years alone, the Humanities Council has made 148 grants totaling over \$702,000. Read on to learn more about these thought-provoking, innovative projects undertaken by organizations and individuals throughout our state.



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Grants Awarded in FY 2017

\$178,462 was awarded to 33 grant projects in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement across the state.

Public Project Grants

In support of organizations and projects that enrich and enliven the life of our state through public humanities programs.

Major Grant Awards

Providence Preservation Society, \$10,000 to *Why Preserve*

Funds requested to support five public programs across the capital city exploring the multifaceted value of historic preservation in distinct communities, neighborhoods, and populations. Community tours, public lectures, and scholarly presentations bring together public audiences, politicians, and business leaders to challenge fundamental notions and perceptions of preservation's value and relevance.

New Urban Arts, \$10,000 to *Scholar Support for Summer Art Internships*

Funds requested to infuse the Summer Art Internship program with deeper connections between the arts and humanities through the support of a humanities scholar. The interdisciplinary program engages low-income youth from Providence public high schools in research and artmaking, connects them to Rhode Island's cultural resources, and culminates in a public exhibition.

Preserve RI / Doors Open Rhode Island, \$10,000 to *Doors Open Rhode Island Festival Programming*

Funds requested to support public programming connecting Rhode Island and regional audiences to notable places in greater Providence. Throughout a day long festival, 20 unique sites across the capital city are open for the public to visit, tour, learn, and experience the built environment.

newportFILM, \$10,000 to *newportFILM OUTDOORS 2017*

Funds requested to support the 8th annual outdoor documentary film screening series, held weekly in the summer at venues across Aquidneck Island. The project deepens public engagement with the films' humanities themes through moderated post-film conversations, online video content, and a blog series.

Manton Avenue Project, \$10,000 to *Out-of-School-Time Playwriting for Young People in Olneyville*

Funds requested to support after school courses in playwriting for underserved youth aged 8-18 in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood. Using humanities themes as a framework and local experts as guides, students engage in critical and creative thinking on topics of community, history, and culture

and develop plays that express their understanding of human experience in their community and their world.

Little Compton Historical Society, \$10,000 to *Rethinking the Wilbor House Tour*

Funds requested to support a project that strengthens Little Compton Historical Society’s ability to tell a richer, more authentic, and more relevant community history by redeveloping the Wilbor House Tour, formalizing docent training, and developing new marketing approaches to reach wider audiences.

The Sandra-Feinstein Gamm Theatre, \$8,682.50 to *The Gamm Humanities Forums*

Funds requested to support a series of forums on the themes of world politics, gender, and power comparing Tudor times to now. Gamm’s humanities forums create opportunities for the public to come together to examine questions of gender and power in relation to the histories of Queen Elizabeth II and Mary Stuart as presented in the production of *King Elizabeth* - Tony Estrella’s adaptation of Friedrich Schiller’s *Mary Stuart*.

Preserve RI / Lippitt House, \$10,000 to *How to Be There: An Immersive, Multi-Sensory Experience at Lippitt House Museum*

Funds requested to support the development of a multi-sensory interactive exhibit at the Governor Henry Lippitt House on the East Side of Providence. By engaging with the sites, sounds, and voices of 19th-century residents of the house -including both owners and their servants- visitors learn about the state’s tumultuous labor movements and their relation to current economic and social structures.

Providence Children’s Film Festival, \$10,000 to *2018 Providence Children’s Film Festival*

Funds requested to support the 9th annual Providence Children’s Film Festival, which engages children and families in Rhode Island and beyond in the craft of filmmaking, discussions on challenging and diverse stories and topics, and connections with cultures near and far in order to cultivate empathetic, globally aware, and visually astute makers, thinkers, and doers of tomorrow.

UPP Arts, \$7,900 to *UPP Arts Archive*

Funds requested to formally document the work of the Urban Pond Procession over the past decade to inspire civic engagement in the environmental cleanup of the Mashapaug Watershed. For over a decade, social practice artist Holly Ewald has been working to highlight the environmental issues of Mashapaug Pond and affiliated watersheds in the West Elmwood neighborhood of Providence and Cranston.

Mini Grant Awards

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$1,500 to *2017 Rhode Island Docent Symposium*

Funds support a day-long professional development conference for staff and docents who work in Rhode Island’s heritage tourism sector. Learning sessions and the keynote presentation focus on

equipping attendees with knowledge on how to best meet the varied physical, learning, and social needs of diverse populations who visit their museums, collections, and historic houses.

The College Crusade of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *The 22nd Annual Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading*

Funds support an annual event at the RISD Museum celebrating Langston Hughes' work and his contributions to American art and culture. The event includes readings from community members of Hughes' wide range of works, a jazz trio playing music of the Harlem Renaissance, and a keynote address by a public humanist contextualizing the long-term impact and legacy of Hughes.

Rhode Island Latino Arts, \$2,000 to *Stories of our Ancestors – Historias de Nuestros Antepasados: Theatrical Monologues*

Funds support community convenings where people share their experiences of living in Rhode Island as a member of the Latino community. In Pawtucket and Providence, theater artists facilitate conversations while a community scholar documents the discussion. Collected oral histories are adapted and curated into a preliminary script for a performance piece at Trinity Repertory Company.

Books are Wings, \$2,000 to *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: A Books Are Wings Humanities Curriculum*

Funds support the development of a humanities-based curriculum for schools, early learning organizations, and community centers interested in teaching local history to pre-kindergarten and elementary-age children. The curriculum is implemented with the distribution of free books to roughly 1,000 children in Providence schools.

The Peace Flag Project, \$2,000 to *East Providence Library Peace Flag Project*

Funds support afterschool workshops exploring the history and intellectual framework of peace and nonviolent action as a means to achieve social justice. Studying the work and philosophies of figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, students create a collective peace flag to be raised and celebrated during the United Nation's International Day of Peace.

University of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *Phenomenology and the Arts Today*

Funds support a public conference exploring the philosophical theory of phenomenology and its relationship with the arts today. The project culminates in a daylong conference that connects the Rhode Island public with local, regional, and international scholars. Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Dr. William "Bro" Adams, delivers the conference's culminating keynote.

Rhode Island Computer Museum, \$1,830 to *A Computer in Your Pocket: Bits and Bytes of History!*

Funds requested to support student research projects and public programs that connect the vast collections of the Rhode Island Computer Museum with public audiences. Through public research labs, staff and peer educators help students learn and share the historical significance of computer

software and hardware housed at the museum. The culminating research is added to the RICM's public educational resources.

West Broadway Neighborhood Association, \$2,000 to *Learning About Thomas S. and Vincent Luongo Memorial Square*

Funds support the development of four historic panels that detail the history and legacy of Thomas S. and Vincent Luongo Square on Providence's West Side. Stationed at the center of the square, the panels illuminate the culture and experiences of the historic square to neighbors, visitors, and business patrons alike.

South County History Center, \$2,000 to *Eternal Rest: Death, Mourning, and Memorials Program Series*

Funds support four public events exploring historical practices of mourning, burial, and memorialization in Rhode Island. The project connects scholars, archeologists, reenactors, and historic gravesites with the public for a collective reflection on the historic means and methods of interment and preservation of memory.

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, \$2,000 to *TAPA/ArtsLiteracy Curriculum Development Project*

Funds support the development of an interdisciplinary ArtsLiteracy curriculum at Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts that explores how people address intuition, think critically, reason, and construct identity. Utilizing two core works: *Thinking Fast and Slow* and *Between the World and Me* teachers and scholars will develop a grade-wide curriculum that blends English Language Arts learning with music and performance.

FirstWorks, \$2,000 to *Qyrq Qyz & Forty Girls: Bardic Storytellers from Central Asia*

Funds support a panel discussion exploring the work of the storytelling troupe Qyrq Qyz who draw on themes, stories, and performance art of peoples rooted in the steppes of Central Asia, a bastion of Islamic culture and community. Local scholars in musicology, history, and activism help make the work accessible and relevant to local Rhode Island audiences.

Adopt A Doctor, \$2,000 to *Carve/Paint: 2 Black Artists at the Racial Divide: Bannister and Prophet in Providence*

Funds support a paneled discussion exploring the role of race in the life and artistic productions of two Black Rhode Island artists: Edward M. Bannister and Nancy Elizabeth Prophet. A pop-up exhibit at the Providence Art Club, featuring the two artists' works, compliments the paneled discussion.

Congregation Beth Sholom, \$2,000 to *Aliyah from Rhode Island: A Photo-Text Exhibit and Panel Discussion*

Funds support the development and installation of photo-exhibit that explores the history and cultural impact of Jewish peoples “making aliyah,” by moving from Rhode Island to Israel. A panel of scholars, cultural leaders, and citizens, provides additional context to the subject matter and exhibit.

Documentary Film Grants

In support of documentary films that preserve Rhode Island’s stories and bring its history to life.

Major Grant Awards

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$5,000 to *Triple Decker, A New England Love Story....A Trailer*

Funds requested to support the development of a trailer for Triple Decker, A New England Love Story. The film focuses on the cultural impact of southern New England’s iconic triple-decker houses. Triple-deckers, prevalent throughout Rhode Island, hold an iconic status as the historic homes of many immigrant and working-class families and often reflect the stories of those who have struggled, and prospered, inside their walls.

Mini Grant Awards

David H. Wells, \$2,000 to *Echoing Histories*

Funds support the editing phase of a documentary film exploring the complex social identity and art of scholar and photographer Annu Palakunnathu Matthew. An external scholar who specializes in South Asia studies and a focus group made of Rhode Island citizens provide independent feedback for editing the film’s rough cut.

Civic Education Grants

In support of projects that enhance the humanities components of K-12 education and cultivate the civic leaders of future generations.

Major Grant Awards

New Urban Arts / Pushed Learning and Media, \$9,550 to *Educational Tour of Rhode Island Public Schools Focused on Media, Segregation, and Expression*

Funds requested to support eight public programs connecting high school and middle school students with performers and educators who utilize hip hop, geography, history, and social science data to explore the state’s economic, racial, and cultural divisions. School wide performances and classroom work, allows students to reflect on and process the varied life experiences of fellow Rhode Islanders who live so close, but are worlds apart.

Youth In Action, \$5,000 to *Corridor Communities*

Funds requested to create an after school program that teaches youth how to study the transit corridors in their neighborhood through research, observation, and reflection and overlays economic, cultural, racial and geographic nuances of South Providence.

Preservation Society of Newport County, \$10,000 to *Edible Schoolyard at Green Animals*

Funds requested to support the implementation of a K-12 historic foodways program at Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth. The experiential learning curriculum, developed with a planning grant from the Council, offers school groups and the public an opportunity to explore connections between food and horticulture practices, cultural heritage, health, and the environment.

Historic New England, \$10,000 to *Education Programs at Arnold House*

Funds support hands-on learning activities and field trips to the Arnold House for underserved students from elementary schools in the Blackstone Valley, Providence, and Warwick regions. In an authentic 18th-century setting, students are immersed in Rhode Island's colonial history, learning about the home life, trade, and labor of early settlers.

Fusionworks, \$10,000 to *Moving from Oppression to Empowerment – The Study of Marginalized Groups in Rhode Island*

Funds requested to support multidisciplinary, in-school residencies with elementary and high school students in Pawtucket, Providence, and Cranston. Dance instructors partner with social studies teachers and museum professionals to develop cross-curricular explorations on themes of marginalization, oppression, and empowerment.

Mini Grant Awards

Davisville Middle School, \$2,000 to *Smokeless Tobacco: Past, Present, and Me*

Funds support a field trip of 100 North Kingstown middle school students to the Gilbert Stuart Museum. Through interdisciplinary workshops, students learn about the transatlantic slave trade, snuff production, art and self-representation, and the historic and contemporary health concerns associated with smokeless tobacco use.

Research Grants to Individuals

In support of independent research that captures and illuminates Rhode Island's stories.

Mini Grant Awards

Suzanne Scanlan, \$2,000 to *Women, Design, and Manufacturing in Rhode Island*

Funds support research exploring the careers, creations, and lives of three early women graduates of the Rhode Island School of Design: Marion Perkins, Frances E. Henley, and Mabel W. Luther. The

project examines the social history of the graduates and their contributions to local industrial manufactures, individual patrons, and the design community of early 20th-century Providence.

Taylor Polites, \$2,000 to *The Cathedral Square of Yesteryear*

Funds support research exploring the historic development of buildings and public spaces in, and near, Providence's Cathedral Square. Research culminates in a handmade artistic booklet that shares the complex, and occasionally tenuous, history of the unique public space.

Grants Awarded in FY2016

\$166,452 was awarded to 36 grant projects in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement across the state.

Public Project Grants

In support of organizations and projects that enrich and enliven the life of our state through public humanities programs.

Major Grant Awards

Everett Company and Stage School, \$10,000 to 2016 Freedom Cafe Series

Funds support a series of public forums that bring together scholars, artists, community experts, and the public to examine issues related to mass incarceration and the structural, systemic, and human sides of the criminal justice system.

Little Compton Historical Society, \$12,000 to *If Jane Should Want To Be Sold: Stories of Slavery, Indenture, and Freedom in Little Compton, RI*

Funds support a series of public programs exploring the stories of the 250 men, women, and children of African, Native American, and English descent who were enslaved or forcibly indentured in Little Compton from 1676 to 1820.

The Manton Avenue Project, \$12,000 to *Afterschool Playwriting for Young People in Olneyville*

Funds support after school playwriting courses for underserved youth ages 8-18 in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood. Using humanities themes as a framework and local experts as guides, youth develop plays that express their understandings of the human experience in their community.

New Urban Arts, \$5,000 to *Scholar Support for Summer Art Internships*

Funds deepen the integration of the arts and humanities in the Summer Art Internships Program by creating a summer scholar position to develop humanities themes, shape curricula, and foster connections between program participants and local cultural resources and institutions.

newportFILM, \$11,250 to *newportFILM OUTDOORS Summer 2016*

Funds support the 7th annual outdoor documentary film series, held weekly in the summer at venues across Aquidneck Island. The project aims to deepen public engagement with the films' humanities themes through moderated post-film Q&A sessions, a blog series, and further readings and resources.

Opera Providence, \$8,900 to *Do Lord Remember Me: The Black Church in Rhode Island*

Funds support a multi-platform program on the complex history of Black churches in Rhode Island, exploring their formation and function as the community's moral compass, town hall, and developer of artists, thinkers, and doers.

Orlando R. Smith Trust, \$7,070 to *South County Sampler Initiative*

Funds support a digital humanities project and public programs led by South County historical, cultural, and higher education institutions and the national Sampler Archive Project to document, interpret, and celebrate historic needlework samplers and girlhood embroideries.

Providence Children's Film Festival, \$12,000 to *PCFF Film Hub Development*

Funds deepen and amplify PCFF's Film Hub, which connects the community with a database of curated, international films and educational resources in order to promote digital literacy, worldly perspectives, and youth film programming in schools, homes, and libraries across Rhode Island.

Providence Children's Museum, \$12,000 to *Connecting Children to the Humanities: Exhibit Components for Ages 4-11*

Funds support major renovations to the *Coming to Rhode Island* exhibit, which engages children in exploring themes of tolerance, diversity, and inclusion through stories of immigration to Rhode Island and illustrates for adults the connection between play and the development of foundational humanities skills.

Providence Public Library / The Hi-Fi Collaborative, \$4,000 to *Stories of Histories; Stories of Spaces*

Funds support a series of public conversations with authors, scholars, librarians, and historians, exploring the intersections of history and fiction, interdisciplinary approaches to writing, and how space inspires and shapes narrative.

Mini Grant Awards

Coggeshall Farm Museum, \$2,000 to *Building a Multicultural Narrative for Coggeshall*

Funds help support the development and incorporation of a multicultural narrative and curriculum into the teaching materials, printed documents, and learning experiences of visitors to the historic salt marsh farm in Bristol, RI.

Providence Public Library, \$2,000 to *Portals: A History of the Future*

Funds support an exhibition and programming series that uses archived technologies, artifacts, and publications to create a time travel exhibit examining how people of the past looked into the future

and inviting today’s visionaries to speculate on the future through creative innovation and experimentation.

University of Rhode Island, \$1,982 to *Memory vs. Representation: Veterans’ Homecoming in History, Literature, and Memory*

Funds support veterans programming focusing on the literary interpretations of homecomings and the harsh realities that veterans often face. Three panels across the state encourage veterans, and their families, to engage in open dialogues about the challenges of reintegration into civilian society.

Wilbury Theatre Group, \$2,000 to *Invisible UpSouth*

Funds support a project examining race relations in a “post-racial society,” drawing inspiration from Providence communities and Ralph Ellison’s “Invisible Man” to develop and workshop an original work that uses storytelling, poetry slams, rap battles, and hip hop to connect the past to the present.

School One, \$2,000 to *Write Rhode Island*

Funds requested to support the development of a statewide creative writing competition for students in grades 8-12. As part of the contest, free workshops in community libraries across the state connect educators and professional writers with participating students, and winning students’ works are published in a professional anthology.

Salve Regina University, \$2,000 to *Ideas into Actions: Uncovering Lessons from Claiborne Pell Planning Projects*

Funds requested to support the development of an oral history project examining the legislative techniques of Rhode Island’s long-standing senator, Claiborne Pell. Compiled oral histories of Senator Pell’s legislative team, fellow federal representatives, and colleagues inform citizens and public leaders about Pell’s effective means of creating bipartisan agreement.

Friends of Hearthside, Inc., \$2,000 to *The Decade that Roared: A 1920s Rhode Island Experience*

Funds requested to produce exhibits and attractions linking the historic and cultural developments of the roaring 20s to modern American society. Local scholars, performers, and experts share material culture, music, dance, song, fashion, and food to enliven and connect 1920s Rhode Island to the developments of the larger economic and cultural developments of the nation.

Seedworks Fund, \$2,000 to *Seeking Shelter from the Storm: Daniel Berrigan, Bill Stringfellow, and Block Island*

Funds requested to support research for the development of a film and exhibit exploring the impact of Block Island’s community and culture on Father Dan Berrigan and Bill Stringfellow, intellectuals and notable members of the ‘60s and ‘70s counter-culture movement who chose to make Block Island their home.

Direct Action for Rights and Equality, \$2,000 to *Providence: The Backstreets*
Funds support the final cut of a documentary web series by Deanna Brown examining the interconnectedness of education, poverty, art, culture, and demonstrations related to the local and national #blacklivesmatter movement and challenging the identity of Providence as a “renaissance” city.

Documentary Film Grants

In support of documentary films that preserve Rhode Island’s stories and bring its history to life.

Major Grant Awards

Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, \$12,000 to *The Rhode Island Hip Hop Project*
Funds support the production and post-production phases of a documentary film by Ana Gonzalez and Jeffrey Matteis exploring the history, culture, music, and art of Rhode Island’s hip hop community at the intersections of race, class, gender, and generation.

OpenDoors, \$5,000 to *9 Yards Documentary*

Funds support the development phase of a documentary film following the progress of 15 formerly-incarcerated participants of the 9 Yards Program, a resource-intensive reentry program that focuses on building self-efficacy and ending the cycle of crime and incarceration.

Civic Education Grants

In support of projects that enhance the humanities components of K-12 education and cultivate the civic leaders of future generations.

Major Grant Awards

Blackstone Academy Charter School, \$8,090 to *Upstanders in the RI Community*

Funds support an interdisciplinary humanities project that engages 10th grade students in a culminating project in American History. Students select a current issue and pair academic research and hands-on internships at local nonprofits to make an impact on challenges in Rhode Island communities.

The Preservation Society of Newport County, \$4,705 to *Edible Schoolyard at Green Animals*

Funds support the development phase of a K-12 historic foodways program at Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth, exploring the connections between food and horticulture practices, culture, health, and the environment.

Mini Grant Awards

Brown University, \$2,000 to *Shakespeare para todos!* [*Shakespeare for Everyone*]

Funds support the development of a program connecting scholars and undergraduate students with Spanish speaking children and communities to study Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The program connects with larger community efforts of theatres, universities, and libraries celebrating Shakespeare's First Folio exhibit, hosted by Brown University in 2016.

Davisville Middle School, \$1,000 to *Smokeless Tobacco: Past, Present, and Me*

Funds support a field trip for Davisville Middle School students at the Gilbert Stuart Museum to learn about the colonial slave trade, snuff production, and historical and contemporary health concerns associated with tobacco use through interdisciplinary workshops.

Living History, \$1,955 to *Iron Man Phase III*

Funds support a project engaging high school students from the MET School in hands-on learning about the technical, economic, and cultural impact of 18th century iron making at the Nathanael Greene Homestead in Coventry. Students participate in an archaeological dig, document their findings, and act as guides and interpreters for 6th grade school visits.

Vartan Gregorian Elementary School PTO, \$2,000 to *Vartan Gregorian CityArts STEAM Friday Residency*

Funds support the activation of a STEAM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) examining community, urban planning, history, and culture through hands-on interactive projects in a school-wide partnership with youth arts organization CityArts.

Western Rhode Island Historical Society, \$2,000 to *Rhode Island Model Legislature 2.0*

Funds requested to support the development and dissemination of a digital model legislature training module. Modules are accessible online and help independent clubs prepare for the annual statewide legislative session convening at the Rhode Island State House.

Research Grants to Individuals

In support of independent research that captures and illuminates Rhode Island's stories.

Mini Grant Awards

Paul Daglieri, \$2,000 to *Walking in Light - African American Gospel Churches in Providence*

Funds support phase two of a project focused on the social significance of African-American gospel churches in Providence, Rhode Island through photographic documentation, oral history collection, and an online exhibition.

Rachael Rosner, \$1,500 to *Illuminating the Golden Ghetto of Providence: Aaron Temkin Beck and the Origins of Cognitive Therapy*

Funds support archival research on the early years of Aaron Temkin Beck, a son of Providence's early 20th-Century Jewish community who is regarded as the father of Cognitive Therapy. Research cumulates into public presentations and the first chapters of an authorized biography.

Sandy McCaw, \$2,000 to *Matunuck, Not Just a Place, but a State of Mind*

Funds support the development and printing of the eighth volume of the *Matunuck Oral History Project*. After conducting oral histories of local Matunuck residents, the narratives are edited into a printed volume and distributed to several local libraries and historical societies.

Theresa Guzman Stokes, \$2,000 to *Legacies of Slavery and Freedom: A Family Journey Through the Atlantic World*

Funds support a reexamination of New England's colonial slave trade through genealogical research, interviews, and the archival records of both an enslaved person and past slave owners. Researchers reactivate the legacy and history of the Atlantic slave trade by adding faces, names, and life experiences of those involved in the practice.

Marc Levitt, \$2,000 to *Triple Decker: A New England Love Story*

Funds requested for a research project on the cultural impact of southern New England's iconic triple-decker houses. Triple-deckers, prevalent throughout Rhode Island, hold an iconic status as the historic homes of many immigrant and working-class families and often reflect the stories of those who have struggled, and prospered, inside their walls.

John Tschirch, \$2,000 to *Mapping the Newport Experience*

Funds requested to support research on how cultural identity is embedded in the streetscapes of Newport as reflections of multiple overlapping historic and economic communities. Utilizing maps, images, and written descriptions in archives, research culminates in the creation of an online illustrated essay and two new walking tours.

Robb Dimmick, \$2,000 to *On The Road to Freedom: A Guide to Historic Black Sites in Rhode Island*

Funds requested to support the research and development of a guide cataloging 150 sites, markers, buildings, and public art installations that commemorate and demonstrate the statewide influence and impact of African-Americans in Rhode Island. Research also contributes to the development of an abridged booklet for circulation at cultural sites and tourism councils across the state.

Richard Goulis/Sheryl Kopel, \$2,000 to *Unjuried/Uncensored: AS220 and the Making of a Creative Place*

Funds requested to support research for the development of an independent documentary film examining the history, impact, and character of Rhode Island's flagship artistic placemaking organization, AS220. Oral histories, archival materials, and community interviews shed light on the 30+ years of AS220's placemaking in Providence.

Grants Awarded in FY2015

\$172,827 was awarded to 37 grant projects in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement across the state.

Public Project Grants

In support of organizations and projects that enrich and enliven the life of our state through public humanities programs.

Major Grant Awards

FirstWorks, \$13,000 to *Art Activating Community: Urban Bush Women in Rhode Island*

Funds support public humanities events contextualizing performances by the Urban Bush Women, whose socially conscious dance has inspired neighborhood change and challenged stereotypes for over 30 years. Audiences explore movement traditions of the African Diaspora and their relevance to modern-day issues addressed by Black music and dance.

Little Compton Historical Society, \$10,000 to *The Stories Houses Tell*

Funds support a special exhibition and public programming that provides a new and non-traditional examination of Little Compton's broadly defined set of historic houses, including the Native American weetus, seventeenth-century stone-enders, and the barracks of soldiers stationed at Fort Church during World War II.

Opera Providence, \$8,245 to *Stages of Freedom: Black Performing Arts in Rhode Island*

Funds support public programs and an exhibition exploring how Rhode Island's performing arts have served as a gateway to African American freedom, personal expression, independence, cultural identity, self-determination, and community dialogue.

Providence Athenaeum, \$12,410 to *Open Sesame: Collaboration in the Athenaeum's Collections*

Funds support the integration of the Athenaeum's cultural partner-driven programs with the collections-based library functions in order to strengthen relationships with and across partnership organizations, promote inquiry and research, and cultivate new and diverse audiences.

Providence Children's Film Festival, \$12,000 to *PCFF Online Film Directory*

Funds support the launch of an online film directory showcasing the curated films shown at the Providence Children's Film Festival and providing complementary educational information and resources to Rhode Island's libraries, classrooms, and families in order to advance digital media literacy.

Providence Preservation Society, \$6,470 to *Endangered Places, Emerging Stories*

Funds support a symposium and series of tours exploring the history and demographic shifts of Providence’s neighborhoods and the various relationships between preservation, social equality, and sense of place.

RI Latino Arts, \$6,900 to *Nuestras Raíces: Foto Historias*

Funds support a project to train elementary school youth in South Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls to collect oral histories and photographs from their Latino communities, and the installation of large-scale photographs and quotations in public spaces to foster a sense of history, heritage, community, and place.

RiverzEdge Arts, \$10,000 to *Stories of Access/Stories of Denial: Civil Rights to Civic Engagement in Northern RI*

Funds support a project that engages youth with mentors in interpretation and storytelling to explore and illuminate untold narratives among communities of color in the Blackstone River Valley from the 1960’s to the present day.

WaterFire Providence, \$5,500 to *We Did Start the Fire: The Burning of the Gaspee & RI’s Role in Sparking the American Revolution*

Funds support public humanities events that use site, narrative, spectacle, and the history of the Gaspee Incident to build engagement, understanding, and passion for Rhode Island’s unique past.

Mini Grant Awards

AS220, \$2,000 to *Unpacking Authentic Creative Placemaking*

Funds support a panel discussion to debate and disseminate the impacts of creative placemaking in the US. Local and national experts connect the nationwide placemaking movement to what is happening in the State’s capital and engage the community in a discussion about the successes, challenges, and opportunities of the city.

Frequency Writers, \$1,920 to *A New Spelling of My Name and Invisible Cities: A Four-Week Creative Writing Workshop for Teens*.

Funds support the production of a month-long writing workshop for teens aged 13-17 in Providence. Using creative writing as a medium of expression, teens explore questions of identity and the influences of urban planning on society.

Friends of Hearthside, Inc. \$2,000 to *World’s Fair 1904: Rhode Island Stories from History’s Greatest Exhibition*

Funds support historical exhibits and attractions linking the technological developments of the early 20th Century to those of early 21st Century. Exhibits, reenactors, performers, and historical technologies come to life at the Hearthside House’s second “1904 World’s Fair Tribute.”

Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, \$2,000 to *The Prison Op/Ed Project*

Funds support a program for incarcerated individuals on composing op-eds in order to assist inmates in developing writing skills while they explore themes of civic engagement, education, prison reform, and policymaking.

Manton Avenue Project, \$2,000 to *The Manton Avenue Project – TAG Team Project – Entrepreneurship Plays*

Funds support a playwriting program, performance, and community dialogue for 5th graders from William D’Abate Elementary School in Olneyville, focused on the theme of ethical entrepreneurship, and exploring Olneyville’s roots as a hub of creative entrepreneurship.

Manton Avenue Project, \$2,000 to *Narragansett Bay Play Festival, our Play-It-Again Program for Fourth Graders*

Funds support a playwriting program, site-visit to Narragansett Bay, and performances of plays written by 4th graders from William D’Abate Elementary School in Olneyville, focused on themes connected to Narragansett Bay and its impact on the Ocean State’s history, ecology, food, community, and culture.

North Kingstown Free Library, \$2,000 to *North Kingstown Free Library – A History and Celebration*

Funds support a short documentary exploring the unique and important role the library has played for the citizens of North Kingstown for nearly 120 years, telling the story through historical materials and oral histories of past directors, staff, and community members.

Rhode Island College, \$1,700 to *Wordsmith/Metalsmith*

Funds support public programming about Rhode Island’s jewelry history to accompany the *Wordsmith/Metalsmith* exhibition at Rhode Island College’s Bannister Gallery, which focuses on contemporary design of jewelry and how the written word can be converted and worn.

Rhode Island Computer Museum, \$2,000 to *The Story of Global Communications*

Funds support the construction of a traveling exhibit on historical communication devices and accompanying presentations that demonstrate the universality of electrical technology and ways it has impacted human communication.

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$2,000 to *Combatting Injustice: A Public Dialogue and Online Archive*

Funds support a series of talks highlighting the crucial role that people of color have played in the creation and defense of local, national, and international democracy, including public conversations on race, freedom, and how our collective history informs and shapes our shared present and future.

Roger Williams University, \$2,000 to *Bristol: Past and Present*

Funds support the creation of an exhibit comparing the historical imagery of key buildings, streetscapes, economic activities, and cultural events of Bristol, RI, and a panel discussion to catalyze discussion examining the heritage, history, and future of the city.

Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, \$2,000 to *Pawtucket Humanities Forums: "Why Did You Shoot Me?" Standing Your Ground in Today's America*

Funds support four humanities forums, panel discussions, and talk-backs examining the themes of Andrew Case's play "The Rant," including race, violence, empathy, and perspective.

UPP Arts, \$2,000 to *Exploring Indigenous Culture Around Mashapaug Pond*

Funds support scholarly involvement in the 2016 Urban Pond Procession's series of programs thematically centered around Rhode Island's indigenous cultures. A multitude of public programs, workshops, and educational activities engage community members, educators, and government agencies with the health and environmental challenges that face the state.

Westerly Library and Wilcox Park, \$2,000 to *Out of the Corner: Bringing Westerly Library's Special Collections to Rhode Island and the World*

Funds support three planning charrettes bringing together the board of directors, staff, and community representatives of the Westerly Library to create a plan for activating the library's unique and expansive archive.

Wilbury Theatre Group, \$500, *The Wilbury Group's Chat and Chew*

Funds support public talkbacks after performances of "Next to Normal," exploring the play's themes of mental illness, drug abuse, and familial ties and examining the connections between mental illness and society, mental illness and the media, and outlets for help that exist in local communities.

Documentary Film Grants

In support of documentary films that preserve Rhode Island's stories and bring its history to life.

Major Grant Awards

Documentary Education Resources, \$13,000 to *Councilwoman*

Funds support the production and post-production phase of a documentary film by Margo Guernsey focusing on Carmen Castillo, a Dominican hotel housekeeper and mother, who sits on the Providence City Council. A story about civic participation and democracy, the film follows Castillo as she learns the ropes of political office –and eventually– the bid for reelection.

Civic Education Grants

In support of projects that enhance the humanities components of K-12 education and cultivate the civic leaders of future generations.

Major Grant Awards

Fusionworks, \$10,000 to *The Rhode Island Immigrant Story - Historical and Personal Journeys of Rhode Island Families*

Funds support Fusionworks residencies at five schools in Pawtucket, Woonsocket, and Cranston. Dance educators will partner with social studies/history teachers to guide students in a cross-disciplinary exploration of immigration in the United States.

Historic New England, \$8,500 to *Education Programs at Arnold House*

Funds support hands-on learning activities and field trips for underserved students from elementary and middle schools in the Blackstone Valley, Providence, and Warwick regions to visit Arnold House, an historic home in Lincoln, where they will be immersed in local history and an authentic 17th century setting.

Living History, \$9,273 to *Iron Man*

Funds support a project engaging students from the MET School in hands-on learning about the technical, economic, and cultural impact of 18th century iron making at the Nathanael Greene Homestead in Coventry. Students participate in an archaeological dig, design interpretive signs for the site, and act as peer-educators and interpreters for fellow students.

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$4,657.50 to *Rhode Island History Digital Textbook*

Funds support the development of the first unit of a Rhode Island history digital textbook, a free online resource for grades 7-12 that aligns with the grade span expectations for social studies in Rhode Island.

Mini Grant Awards

Davisville Middle School, \$2,000 to *Snuff, The Triangular Trade Route, and the Gilbert Stuart Connection*

Funds support a field trip for Davisville Middle School students at the Gilbert Stuart Museum to work with material culture, engage in class dialogues and role-playing, and learn about colonial life and trade.

Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society, \$2,000 to *Rhode Island Model Legislature 2.0 (2015)*

Funds support the construction of a website to serve as a resource hub with instructional materials including videos, guides, FAQs, and forms to enable broader access of teachers and students with the RI Model Legislature program.

Research Grants to Individuals

In support of independent research that captures and illuminates Rhode Island's stories.

Mini Grant Awards

Chris Witt, \$1,920 to *Literary Providence*

Funds support the production of a literary map of Providence examining how the city has shaped and been shaped by both writers and its literary culture. Historically underrepresented authors will be a focus of the work.

Daniel Snyder, \$2,000 to *The Quiet Genius of Design: The Architecture of Robert H. Robertson in Rhode Island*

Funds support a research project on Robert H. Robertson, a well-known and prolific American architect of the late nineteenth century, whose buildings continue to play a significant role in defining a sense of place in Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, and Ohio.

Genevieve Belcher, \$1,896.35 to *The Role of Kent County in the Industrial Revolution*

Funds support the research phase of a documentary film and website exploring the history, economic impact, culture, and community of the historic mill town of West Warwick.

Jeffrey Matteis, \$1,960 to *The Rhode Island Hip Hop Project*

Funds support the research phase of a documentary film bringing to light the history, development, and current state of the hip hop community in Rhode Island through interviews, oral histories, and archival research.

Lucy Boltz, \$1,975 to *Feeling at Home: West Elmwood Before and Since Displacement*

Funds support a research project and public forums examining the history of housing, deindustrialization, demographic shifts, and displacement in the West Elmwood neighborhood of Providence, shedding light on both the past and current community fabric of a sector of the city often forgotten.

Mary Beth Meehan, \$2,000 to *Providence Portraits: A Public Installation and Conversation*

Funds support humanities components surrounding a portrait series highlighting the varied backgrounds, identities, and “faces” of the citizens of Providence, and a community dialogue and introspection of the Washington Street Festival organized by the city’s Art, Culture, and Tourism Department.

Grants Awarded in FY2014

\$185,098 was awarded to 42 grant projects in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement across the state.

Public Project Grants

In support of organizations and projects that enrich and enliven the life of our state through public humanities programs.

Major Grant Awards

Everett, \$10,000 to *Freedom Project Brain Café Series and Documentation*

Funds support a series of multidisciplinary Brain Cafés that invite audiences to engage with humanities scholars, artists, and community experts in a dialogue on topics such as prisoner health and human rights and the role of race and class in the criminal justice system.

Hispanic Heritage Committee of Rhode Island, \$5,000 to *Nuestras Raices - The Latino Oral History Project of RI*

Funds support a research and oral history project on Cubans in Rhode Island to be included in a larger oral history collection of stories about Rhode Island's Latino Pioneers.

Manton Avenue Project, \$10,000 to *2014 Manton Avenue Project - Programs and Training for Kid Playwrights*

Funds support Manton Avenue Project's year-long playwriting programming for elementary school student in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood, including after school lessons with local experts, playwriting instruction, and theatrical training.

Newport Art Museum, \$4,212 to *Docent Program 2.0*

Funds support the development of the museum's docent program including training materials, docent guidelines, job descriptions, and a sustainable plan to grow the program in the future.

Olneyville Neighborhood Association, \$5,000 to *Heroic Voices II: Stories of Separation and Survival*

Funds support a community-led oral history project chronicling the experiences of immigrants and their families with detention and deportation.

Opera Providence, \$7,900 to *Cutting Stone: The Life & Art of Nancy Elizabeth Prophet, RI Black Sculptress*

Funds support a series of multidisciplinary events on the life and art of Nancy Elizabeth Prophet, a Rhode Island African American sculptress during the early 20th century.

Providence Children's Film Festival, \$10,000 to *Providence Children's Film Festival*

Funds support year-long programming focused on building children’s media literacy through high-quality independent film screenings and educational programming that encourages critical, analytical, and imaginative thinking.

Redwood Library & Athenaeum, \$3,750 to *Robert Feke’s Newport*

Funds support the planning process for an exhibition on Newport-based colonial artist Robert Feke (1705-1752), examining Newport as context and crucible for a flourishing arts and intellectual community in the decades leading up to the American Revolution.

Rhode Island Historical Society/Museum of Work and Culture, \$10,000 to *Smithsonian Institution “The Way We Worked”*: Exhibit and Programming

Funds support an exhibition and programs exploring the effects of industrialization, urbanization, immigration, labor unrest, wars, and economic depression on ordinary working Americans from 1857-1987.

RiverzEdge Arts Project, \$9,500 to *MIXfits: 21st Century Identities and Public Life in Woonsocket*

Funds support a project that engages teen artists in a collaborative research project that explores personal, community, and group identity formation through the reading of primary source texts, the experience of local place, and the creation of original works.

Salve Regina University, \$10,850 to *Aias: A Community Conversation About Returning Veterans*

Funds support a Veteran’s Day touring production of *Aias* (Ajax), an ancient Greek play that introduces audiences to the emotional trauma of war and post-play discussions about how best to support soldiers returning from tours of duty.

WaterFire Providence, \$10,000 to *The Call of Lovecraft*

Funds support the creation of a smartphone application that utilizes augmented reality and interactive audio and video to engage users in historical and creative content on the life and works of local writer, H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937).

Mini Grant Awards

Barrington Public Library, \$2,000 to *Outside the Box: Public conversations on helping our children to thrive*

Funds support panel discussions exploring issues related to children’s mental health development and environmental factors that help youth flourish and become active contributors to their community.

Elemental Theatre Collective, \$1,000 to *A Brief History of the World and Everything in It*

Funds support public post-performance discussions revolving around issues raised by the play, including the conflict between religious doctrine and belief and public education and politics, and the role of satire and humor in shaping and combating policy.

Friends of Hearthside, Inc., \$2,000 to *A Tribute to Rhode Island at the 1904 World's Fair*
Funds support a festival event bringing to life Rhode Island's important role in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair through an exhibition and family programming at the setting of Hearthside House, which was selected as the model for the Rhode Island Pavilion at the Fair.

General Nathanael Greene Homestead Association, \$2,000 to *Signage Project*
Funds support the creation and installation of three informational signs for visitors to the historic Nathanael Greene homestead in Coventry, RI.

Laotian Community Center of RI, \$2,000 to *Stories of Lao Textiles*
Funds support the research and documentation of different Laotian textile traditions through oral history interviews with Rhode Island's Laotian community.

Providence Children's Film Festival, \$2,000 to *The PCFF Online Film Directory – Planning*
Funds support planning for an online international children's film directory to offer Rhode Island families, educators, and librarians access to film related resources, learning guides, curricula, and information on accessing previously featured films.

Providence Preservation Society, \$1,470 to *Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk Summer Tours*
Funds support a series of walking tours exploring the historic, demographic, and economic influences that have shaped Providence's neighborhoods and probing audiences' understanding of the challenges facing preservation efforts in Providence today.

Providence Public Library, \$2,000 to *Crossing Paths*
Funds support two panel discussion events that engage historical fiction writers, historians, and special collections librarians in conversations about the processes surrounding historical research and the narratives that organize history into compelling stories.

University of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *The History of Shellfish in Rhode Island*
Funds support the creation of a printed resource to give cultural context to the statewide Shellfish Management Plan by shedding light on how shellfish are interwoven in the fabric of Rhode Island history as an important commercial, culinary, and cultural resource.

Documentary Film Grants

In support of documentary films that preserve Rhode Island's stories and bring its history to life.

Major Grant Awards

Center for Independent Documentary, \$8,000 to *Working the Boats: Masters of the Craft*

Funds support the production phase of a documentary film by Claire Andrade-Watkins on Local 1329 of the International Longshoremen’s Association, the first predominantly Cape Verdean labor union in New England, which was founded in Providence in 1933.

Documentary Education Resources, \$5,000 to *Councilwoman Castillo*

Funds support the development phase of a documentary film by Margo Guernsey following Providence Councilwoman Carmen Castillo and exploring themes of race, class, and gender in politics, civic participation, and the evolution of democracy in America.

Preserve Rhode Island, \$5,000 to *Historic Tours of RI*

Funds support the development phase of a documentary film by Edward Brassard that traces the history of agriculture in southern Rhode Island from native culture to present day, and explores how its social, political, and economic evolution relate to the changing character of South County.

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$4,850 to *Divine Providence: A City Transformed*

Funds support the development phase of a documentary film by Salvatore Mancini that uses historical and contemporary visual materials to explore the city of Providence’s transformation over the past 25 years.

The WWII Foundation, \$10,000 to *Above and Beyond: The Incredible World War II Journey of Former Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun*

Funds support the production phase of a documentary film by Tim Gray on the journey of WWII B-17 Flying Fortress Pilot Bruce Sundlun who would ultimately become Rhode Island’s 71st governor.

Civic Education Grants

In support of projects that enhance the humanities components of K-12 education and cultivate the civic leaders of future generations.

Major Grant Awards

Steamship Historical Society of America, \$5,000 to *From Sail to Steam - A Study of Historical Transition in R*

Funds support the development of an educational outreach project designed to use historic primary source and published materials to illustrate the social and commercial impacts of the significant transition from sail to steam technology in the 19th century.

Vartan Gregorian PTO, \$8,000 to *I WAS THERE PROJECT*

Funds support a classroom and community project that engages 4th and 5th grade students in learning about the history of Fox Point through lessons, activities, and teacher training. The 2014 theme for the program centers around the history and impact of modes of transportation in Fox Point.

Mini Grant Awards

Davisville Middle School, \$1,000 to *Snuff, The Triangular Trade Route, and the Gilbert Stuart Connection*

Funds support two field trips and off site workshop experiences at The Gilbert Stuart Museum for seventh graders from Davisville Middle School in North Kingstown.

North Smithfield High School, \$2,000 to *We the People*

Funds support a freshman honors government class as they compete at the national We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition with 51 schools from across the country.

Providence College, \$1,906 to *Henry A.L. Brown Digital Letter Collection*

Funds support an online exhibit of letters from the Henry A.L. Brown Collection on the Dorr Rebellion Project Site, and the development of an accompanying lesson plan guiding students in grades 8-12 on using primary source documents in an innovative way.

Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society, \$1,860 to *Rhode Island Model Legislature 2.0*

Funds support a series of planning workshops for advisors to the Rhode Island Model Legislature program to develop online program modules in order to sustain and build the oldest model government program for high school students in the United States.

Research Grants to Individuals

In support of independent research that captures and illuminates Rhode Island's stories.

Mini Grant Awards

Alex Caserta, \$2,000 to *Rhode Island Nursery Farmers*

Funds support a research project to record, document and preserve the oral histories of three Rhode Island farmers as a digital photographic essay to be housed at the archives of the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association.

Paul Daglieri, \$2,000 to *Walking in Light: The African American Gospel Church in Providence*

Funds support research on the people, traditions, customs, and cultures of various storefront American American Pentecostal churches in Providence, Rhode Island.

Robb Dimmick, \$2,000 to *Disappearing Ink: A Bibliography of Books by and about Rhode Island African Americans*

Funds support a research project to create a comprehensive bibliography of books related to Black life, literature, and culture in Rhode Island in order to open up access to and shed light on this existing body of literature.

Carolyn Gennari, \$2,000 to *The Wonder Show Presents: The Arctic Theatre Royal*
Funds support research, script development and slide creation for a series of public magic lantern performances focused on the written accounts of the early 19th-century expeditions of Captain William Parry and his crew.

Theresa Guzman-Stokes, \$1,800 to *Gilded Age Newport in Color*
Funds support a research project on the lives of affluent African Americans who visited Newport between 1870-1930 and who took part in a rare opportunity for free social and cultural exchange.

Marjory O'Toole, \$2,000 to *New Stories of Enslavement: A Return to Primary Source Documents in Little Compton, RI*
Funds support a research project exploring the little-known history of slavery and indentured servitude in Little Compton, Rhode Island in order to add to the growing body of work promoting new understandings of Rhode Island's slave history.

Kenneth Proudfoot, \$2,000 to *Austin T. Levy, Heart of a Social Entrepreneur*
Funds support a research project on the life of Rhode Island businessman, musician, community supporter, and philanthropist, Austin T. Levy (1880-1951).

Sylvia Ann Soares, \$2,000 to *Eddie Soares Tribute*
Funds support a research project on the life and influence of Cape Verdean jazz pianist Edwin Jose "Eddie" Soares (1913-1993) of Fox Point in Providence, a prominent figure from a time when Providence's jazz scene was lively and robust.

Sylvia Ann Soares, \$2,000 to *"It Is Just Defiance."*
Funds support a research project focused on the life of Nancy Elizabeth Prophet (1890-1960), a Rhode Island sculptress from Newport. in order to develop a living history presentation on Prophet's life and legacy.

Robert L. Tessier, \$2,000 to *Anatomy of a Village: The Influence of the Lapham Family on the development of Albion, Rhode Island*
Funds support a research project on the history of the village and historic district of Albion, Rhode Island, located in the town of Lincoln.