



RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES TO AWARD OVER \$131,000
TO HUMANITIES PROJECTS SPANNING THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

During a press conference at the **State House** on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 2pm**, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will announce its Major Grant Awardees for 2014. A total of **\$131,212.00** will be awarded to 18 organizations in support of humanities projects across the State of Rhode Island.

A list of the Major Grant Awardees including brief descriptions of the funded projects are below; please consider this information embargoed until February 26, 2014.

The press conference will take place on February 26, in the State Room on the second floor of the Rhode Island State House. The brief speaking program will begin at 2:00pm. Light refreshments will follow.

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) inspires and supports intellectual curiosity by providing financial support for research and public programs designed to encourage lifelong learning for all Rhode Islanders. Since 1973, RICH has provided over \$7 million in grants to support more than 550 organizations throughout the state of Rhode Island, as well as independent researchers, filmmakers, scholars, and oral historians.

For more information, contact Carole Ann Penney at caroleann@rihumanities.org or (401) 273-2250 x207.

2014 MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

Public Project Grants

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

Everett, \$10,000 to *Freedom Project Brain Café Series and Documentation*. Funds support a series of multidisciplinary Brain Cafés focused on issues around mass incarceration, 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 Rhode Island*. 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 a year-long playwriting programming for elementary school students 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 that will chronicle the experiences of immigrants and their families with detention and deportation, and will educate the community and general public on immigration issues in Rhode Island.

Opera Providence, \$7,900 to *Cutting Stone: The Life & Art of Nancy Elizabeth Prophet, Rhode Island 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 research and planning process for an exhibition on Newport-based colonial artist Robert Feke (1705-1752), which will examine 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 the installation of the Smithsonian's traveling photographic exhibit, as well as public programs that explore American labor history 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 and their humanities mentors in a collaborative research, writing, and book-making project centered around Woonsocket's local history.

WaterFire Providence, \$10,000 to *The Call of Lovecraft*. Funds support the creation of mobile phone app historical walking tour of Providence based on the life and works of local writer, H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937). The mobile app will utilize augmented reality to engage users in historical and creative content through interactive audio and video.

Democracy Demands Wisdom: Civic Education Grants

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

Steamship Historical Society of America, \$5,000 to *From Sail to Steam - A Study of Historical Transition in RI*. 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 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 aimed at engaging 4th and 5th grade students in learning about the history of Fox Point through lessons, activities, and teacher training.

Documentary Film Grants

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

Center for Independent Documentary, \$8,000 to *Working the Boats: Masters of the Craft*. Funds support the production phase of a documentary film highlighting the golden years of 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 on Providence Councilwoman Carmen Castillo. The film will explore themes of transition from candidate to policymaker, race, class, and gender in politics, civic participation, and the evolution of democracy in America.

Preserve Rhode Island, \$5,000 to *Historic Tours of Rhode Island*. Funds support the development phase of a documentary film 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 on Providence's transformation over the past 25 years, using historical and contemporary visual material, including interviews with the many architects, public officials, and planners behind the process.

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 tracing the journey of WWII B-17 Flying Fortress Pilot Bruce Sundlun who would ultimately become Rhode Island's 71st governor.