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**Rhode Island Council for the Humanities receives
'Latino Americans: 500 Years of History' grant**

Providence, RI — Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, in partnership with **Rhode Island Latino Arts**, has been selected to receive a competitive *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) and the **American Library Association** (ALA).

As one of 203 grant recipients selected from across the country, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will receive an award of \$10,000 to produce public programming in partnership with Rhode Island Latino Arts about Latino history and culture.

At the center of the programming is the six-part, NEH-supported documentary film “Latino Americans,” created for PBS in 2013 by the WETA public television station. The award-winning series chronicles the history of Latinos in the United States from the 16th century to present day. (Learn more about the series at www.pbs.org/latino-americans/en/.) The funding will enable the Council and Rhode Island Latino Arts to present the PBS series with locally generated programming that connects Rhode Island history to the national stories shared in the series. The grant will also contribute to the development of local Latino history projects, including augmenting the Latino Oral History Project of RI archive with the creation of a *Foto Historias* tour on **Rhode Tour**, a statewide mobile historical smartphone application that tells stories by and about Rhode Islanders. With these grant funds, Rhode Tour partners – **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities**, **Brown University’s John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage**, and **Rhode Island Historical Society** – will join Rhode Island Latino Arts in exploring issues of translation as well as intersections with Latino history on currently completed tours.

“Latino Americans are the country’s largest minority group, and they are the fastest growing population group in Rhode Island. The development of Latino communities is one of the state’s most important and compelling stories,” said **Elizabeth Francis, executive director of Rhode Island Council for the Humanities**. “Through this support, we will be able to expand the history collected to date and further explore issues that Latino Rhode Islanders share, as well as the

diversity that makes Rhode Island distinctive. By linking the national story with local dynamics, we also will be able to continue a dialogue about moving forward,” commented **Marta V. Martínez, executive director of RI Latino Arts.**

For a schedule of events, visit www.rihumanities.org and www.rilatinoarts.org or contact Rhode Island Latino Arts: info@rilatinoarts.org / 401-486-9095.

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. Since 1973, the Council has provided over \$7.4 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.

Rhode Island Latino Arts is the state’s oldest and most distinguished Latino arts and culture nonprofit. Since the early 1990’s, RI Latino Arts executive director, oral historian, and past Council board member, Marta V. Martínez, has been collecting oral histories from Rhode Island’s Latinos, focused on the theme of “pioneers.” RI Latino Arts continues to organize, promote, and support local Latino art and artists and commemorates National Hispanic Heritage Month every year from September 15-October 15.

The *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* grantees represent 42 states and the District of Columbia, and include 78 public libraries, 68 college/university libraries and organizations, 19 community college libraries, 10 state humanities councils, 12 museums and a range of other nonprofit organizations. [View a full list of the recipients.](#)

Latino Americans: 500 Years of History is part of an NEH initiative, *[The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square.](#)*

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

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