



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RI Council for the Humanities Honors Community Connectors

Providence, RI – The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will honor **Roger Mandle**, art historian, curator, and former president of the Rhode Island School of Design, **Consuelo Sherba**, founder and co-artistic director of Aurea, **Rhode Island's Shellfish: An Ecological History - University of Rhode Island**, and **Matthew Lawrence**, writer, editor, curator, and founder of Not About the Buildings, at the **2015 Celebration of the Humanities**. The Celebration will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2015 from 6:00-8:00PM at the Center by the Blackstone in Pawtucket.

This occasion brings together hundreds of community and business leaders, government officials, scholars, artists, and Rhode Islanders to raise funds to support the public humanities including culture, history, heritage, and civic education in our state. Four distinguished awards will be presented: the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award, the Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities, the Innovation in the Humanities Award, and the Public Humanities Scholar Award. This year's honorees demonstrate the power of the humanities to create meaningful connections - across sectors, disciplines, and communities.

Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates an individual or group whose career achievements demonstrate humanities excellence, reflect the Council's mission and core values, and enrich public life in Rhode Island. This year, the award celebrates **Roger Mandle** for his leadership in the field of education in the arts and humanities and his lifelong dedication to cultural preservation and development in Rhode Island and worldwide.

Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities

The Tom Roberts Prize celebrates creativity in topics, disciplines, and formats that extend the field of the humanities. This year, the Prize honors **Consuelo Sherba** for her innovative, cross-disciplinary work with Aurea, a performance ensemble that inspires diverse audiences through imaginative concert programming and educational workshops. Through performances that interface music with the spoken word, Aurea connects the humanities and fine arts in dynamic, accessible, and engaging ways.

Innovation in the Humanities Award

The Innovation Award recognizes the innovative implementation of the humanities by a group of organizations to achieve a common goal. This year, the Award is presented to the **University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute, Coastal Resources Center, and RI Sea Grant** for their powerful use of the humanities to connect cross-sector stakeholders including the RI Department of Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Management Council in the

process of designing RI's Shellfish Management Plan, by examining shellfish as resources interwoven with our state's identity and history.

Public Humanities Scholar Award

The Scholar Award recognizes outstanding public humanities work in teaching and scholarship that advances the civic and cultural life of Rhode Island. This year, the Award honors **Matthew Lawrence** for his work to enrich our state through unique and lively literary events and publications that connect diverse people, organizations, and ideas. By collaborating with organizations and libraries across the state, Lawrence spark rich community engagement with the humanities.

About the Celebration of the Humanities

The Celebration features hors d'oeuvres, an open wine bar provided by Campus Fine Wines, live and silent auctions featuring unique humanities experiences, and the award presentation. The event is open to the public; reservations are \$100 per person (\$35 for students), and can be made at <http://2015humanities.eventbrite.com>. Opportunities for sponsorships are available now. For more information about sponsorships, please call Carole Ann Penney at 401-273-2250 or e-mail caroleann@rihumanities.org.

About the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

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. As an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, 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, since its founding in 1973.

For more information, contact Adrian Moore at adrian@rihumanities.org or (401) 273-2250 x204.

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