

RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

GRANTMAKING SNAPSHOT

FY15 - FY19

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. We invest in public humanities projects by and for all Rhode Islanders in communities from Woonsocket to Westerly. In the last five years alone, the Humanities Council has made over 170 grants totaling more than \$860,000 to thought-provoking, innovative projects which have touched the lives of more than 300,000 Rhode Islanders.



"In the humanities I have found life, color, and expression—the things that contribute to our sense of self in the universe, and without which our public square and our civic life would be barren."

Jim Ludes, PhD

Vice President for Public Research and Initiatives &
Executive Director of the Pell Center for International
Relations at Salve Regina University;
Host, Story in the Public Square

OVER FIVE YEARS

IN 2019

\$860,000

170+ GRANT PROJECTS

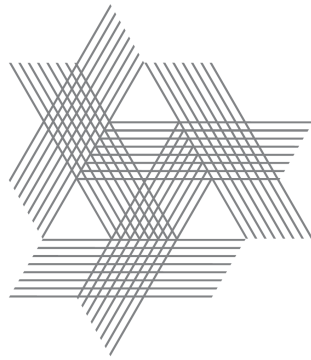
**13,400+ Rhode Islanders engaged
through
71 GRANTEE EVENTS**



"Making a film is a huge undertaking. Having unwavering support from the Humanities Council for the two years it took to complete our project was invaluable. This support gave us the fiscal foundation required to keep our production going and the confidence we needed to finish the film and reach our goals."

Thank you!"

– Ana González and Jeff Matteis, RI Hip Hop Project
View "Almost Dope" at: rihiphopproject.com



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

GRANTMAKING REPORT

2015 - 2019

*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.*

In the last five years alone, the Humanities Council has made 173 grants totaling over \$860,000. 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 2019

\$175,700 was awarded to 34 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

Community MusicWorks, \$11,000 to *Traces*

Funds support a history-based performance project tracing the “sonic memory” of the neighborhood and new home of Community MusicWorks—the West Side of Providence. Working with students and community members, a public scholar facilitates the collection of oral histories that inform the development of several sound installations and performances.

FirstWorks, \$8,250 to *Raise Your Voice: “Outsider” Perspectives and Performance*

Support for public discussions and performances exploring the roles of gender and sexuality in shaping historical representative and artistic production. A performance reimagining the history of American music through a queer lens will be recorded and shared with audiences statewide.

Generation Citizen, \$11,000 to *Improved Civics Education for English Language Learners*

Support for the adaptation of Generation Citizen’s extant educational materials for English language learners (ELL). Working with scholars from Rhode Island College, Generation Citizen’s new civic education materials are piloted with ELL teachers and students in Providence and Central Falls.

newportFILM, \$8,250 to *newportFILM OUTDOORS 2019*

Funds support the 10th annual outdoor documentary film series held weekly in the summer at venues across Aquidneck Island. The project deepens public engagements with the films’ humanities themes through moderated post-film conversations, online video content, and a blog series.

New Urban Arts, \$12,000 to *Art Inquiry: The Immigrant Story*

Support for a robust summer education program at NUA rooted in humanities learning and skills. The interdisciplinary program engages low-income youth from Providence public high schools. Students' research and artmaking connects to experiences of immigration and the demographic and cultural legacies of the Pond Street Neighborhood of Providence.

Providence Children's Museum, \$10,230 to *Cultural Connection at the Providence Children's Museum*

Funds support the cultural connections program at the Providence Children's Museum that brings local artists and humanists to the museum for family-oriented programs exploring history, heritage, identity, and culture. The programs take place the first Saturday of every month.

Providence Public Library, \$6,895 to *Within a Lifetime: Immigration and the Changing City*

Support for a conversation series exploring the complexities and universalities of immigration to Rhode Island as reflected in the history of the Pond Street Neighborhood. The series focuses on six interrelated themes: education, law enforcement, citizenship, voting rights, worker rights, and housing.

Pushed Learning and Media, \$12,000 to *Curriculum Implementation and Long-Term Curricular Design in Rhode Island Public Schools*

Support for public programs connecting students with performers and educators who utilize hip hop and humanities learning to explore the state's economic, racial, and cultural divisions. School-wide performances, individual classroom work, instructional videos, and afterschool programs allow students to understand the varied life experiences of fellow Rhode Islanders who live so close but are worlds apart.

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$10,465 to *EnCompass: A Digital Archive of Rhode Island History*

Funds support seven additional chapters for the online Rhode Island digital history textbook EnCompass. Working with partner scholars and institutions, new chapters cover topics ranging from indigenous history to the Gaspee Affair, women's suffrage, and the Civil Rights Movement.

State House Restoration Society, \$5,000 to *A State House of the Future*

Support for the planning stages of a civics project creating and exploring the "state house of the future." The project challenges architects, designers, and the public to consider the histories of state houses and ways that the buildings can and should be adapted to serve the civic needs of a 21st Century population.

Warwick Center for the Arts, \$5,000 to *Public Educational Exhibit Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment*

Funds support the planning stages of a program series celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The planning stages of the project result in the creation of a project plan, partners list, and detailed list of resources required to explore 100 years of women's suffrage in 2020.

The Wilbury Theatre Group, \$12,000 to *The Olneyville Expo: A Chautauqua-Style Celebration of Olneyville Past, Present, and Future*

Support for a neighborhood-based program engaging artists, scholars, and community members in a celebration of all that is Olneyville. Connecting to the annual PVD Fringe Fest, the Chautauqua will be family-oriented and explore topics such as history, cultural heritage, community, and artistic production.

Mini Grant Awards

Arts in Common, \$2,000 to *Bristol Bookfest 2020*

Funds support a weekend-long literary festival in Bristol, RI focused on “diving deep” into a single novel. The 2020 selection is *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. Throughout the weekend, visiting scholars, artists, and practitioners give lectures, facilitate discussion, and encourage audiences to connect with the work's deeper themes and ideas.

East Providence Public Library, \$600 to *“Good on the Inside:” The Children of Incarcerated Parents*

To support a screening of *Tre Maison Dasan*, a film that looks at children in three families in Rhode Island who have been impacted by the crimes and incarceration of either one or two parents. The film examines the impacts of mass incarceration on families in the US. Following the film, the library hosts a talkback discussion facilitated by the film's director and subjects.

GEAR Productions, \$2,000 to *Knowing Home*

To support a production of *Knowing Home*, a musical about the varied history and experiences of those who have called South Kingstown home. Featuring roles for children of all abilities, the production introduces 150+ novices to the thrill of performance and the value of local history.

India Association of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *Youth Engagement for Cultural Expansion*

Funds support a three-day enrichment program for Rhode Island youth rooted in activities and ideas connected to Indian history and culture. Through contests in poetry, painting, storytelling, dance, athletics, and games, students engage with and practice their cultural heritage.

International Tennis Hall of Fame, \$2,000 to *In Your Court: Black Tennis and Social Justice Then and Now*

To support a planning grant to expand the Tennis Hall of Fame's K-12 educational offerings focused on the history of sport and race in the United States. Working with Rhode Island Black Storytellers and local teachers, the Hall of Fame will infuse its current curricula with storytelling and performances.

Pawtucket School Department, \$1,100 to *Goff Middle School, Generation Citizen*

To support the implementation of a middle school action-civics curriculum for students in Goff Middle School classrooms in Pawtucket. The program empowers students to identify, address, and develop solutions to civic issues and challenges in their communities.

The Providence Athenaeum, \$2,000 to *Ravenous: The Enduring Legacy of Poe*

To support a program series shedding light on the complex connections of Edgar Allen Poe to the City of Providence and the lasting cultural legacy of his work. Through family programming, the series connects adults and students with the complex social circles of Poe and his literary contemporaries.

Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art, \$2,000 to *ReSeeding the City: Ethnobotany in the Urban*

Funds support a one-day forum and month-long series of exhibits focused on the entwined lives of humans, plants, and other life forms existing in New England's urban spaces. Presentations and installations highlight the diverse perspectives, philosophies, and sciences through which we can better see and understand our day-to-day environment.

Rhode Island College, \$2,000 to *Anna and Ahana – A Contemporary Adaptation of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's The Yellow Wallpaper*

To support a short film adaptation of the *The Yellow Wallpaper*, an early feminist work by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Altering the time period and culture of the protagonist, the film explores issues of isolation, alienation, and abuse within immigrant communities in the United States.

Social Enterprise Greenhouse, \$2,000 to *Collective Memories: Mount Hope, Planning a Digital Archive*

To support the research and planning stages of an online archive to preserve and showcase oral histories, documents, and photographs gathered through Mt. Hope Empowerment Dialogues for

Community Action. The project culminates in a tactical work plan that maps out the creation of a digital archive.

Teatro ECAS, \$2,000 to *Por el Amor a la Tierra - Latinx Humanities Forum en Providence*

Funds support an abbreviated performance of *La Danza de Mingó*, a fictional play based on a true series of events in The Dominican Republic at the intersection of agrarian rights, civil liberties, and structural violence. Following the performance is a panel discussion that features the playwright Haffe Serulle with local scholars and artists.

Touro Synagogue Foundation, \$2,000 to *New Perspectives on the History of Touro Synagogue*

To support a program series exploring the historic culture and community of Touro Synagogue. The programs are geared toward bringing together Newport's diverse faith organizations over scholarly lectures and a community dinner. The series engages the community in conversations about American interpretations of the "holy land" and food pathways of Jewish-American culture.

University of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *Public Memory, Place, and Belonging on Block Island*

To support the planning stages of an exhibit exploring the continuous history of Native and African-American peoples on Block Island over the last 400 years. The project begins the process of repatriating narratives of Native and African-American individuals often left out of the standard history and cultural traditions of Block Island.

Warren Preservation Society, \$2,000 to *Sowams Heritage Area Site Visit Support*

Funds support the development of five self-guided tours of early colonial history in Sowams. The traditional home of the Wampanoag, Sowams includes the land and waters of Warren, Bristol, Barrington, East Providence, Providence, and Bristol County, MA. The project seeks to educate the public about the people, places, and events significant to indigenous culture and colonial settlement in the region.

Women's Fund of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *RADical Women 2020*

Funds support a traveling exhibit and program series commemorating the efforts of women and their allies that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment and women's suffrage in the United States. The series looks backwards and forward, documenting progress made toward civic equality, and the work still yet to be done.

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, \$5,000 to *Blood and Watershed: The Scituate Reservoir*

Funds support the scripting phase of a documentary film exploring the creation of the Scituate Reservoir and its current role as Rhode Island's largest freshwater resource. The final film examines the multidimensional role and impact of the Reservoir on Rhode Island culture, economics, infrastructure and citizens' sense of civic agency.

Futuro Media Group, \$11,910 to *UNLADYLIKE2020: Sissieretta Jones and Annie Smith Peck*

Funds support the production and premiere of two documentary shorts exploring the life and times of acclaimed vocalist Sissieretta Jones and internationally-renowned mountaineer Annie Smith Peck. The videos are part of the larger UNLADYLIKE project, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the accomplishments of Progressive Era women. The series culminates in a national broadcast, educational programs, and public dialogues.

Rhode Island Public Broadcasting System, \$11,000 to *The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball*

Funds support the production and premiere of "The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball." The film focuses on Providence's early 20th-Century Black community and the interwoven threads of race, money, sport, and social power as they affected the "national pastime" in Rhode Island.

Research Grants to Individuals

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

Mini Grant Awards

Shai Afsai, \$2,000 to *“Serviceable to People in all Religions” – American Religious Liberty, the Art of Virtue, and Judaism*

To support research exploring the intersection of American religious liberty, Benjamin Franklin’s Art of Virtue, and historic and contemporary Jewish ideals and practices. Diving into local and regional collections, the project will shed light on the lasting cross-cultural impact of colonial America’s shared ideologies and community values, in the context of religious liberty.

Joey DeFrancesco, \$2,000 to *Rethinking the Gaspee Affair*

To support a research project reexamining Rhode Island’s Gaspee Affair and the economic/social motivations of the revolutionary leaders who led the insurrection. The project culminates in a series of community lectures and a small pop-up exhibit hosted by several Rhode Island libraries.

Daniel Denvir, \$2,000 to *Slavery’s Hinterlands*

To support research contributing to a podcast episode and a public symposium exploring Rhode Island’s deep connections to the historic institution of slavery. The research and symposium will explore, through a socialist lens, the challenges of capitalism and the economic practices that supported slavery, and the continuing social injustices of the United States.

Virginia Thomas, \$2,000 to *The LGBTQ Oral History Project of Providence and Rhode Island*

To support a research project documenting the histories and lived experiences of LGBTQ leaders and activists in the state. Recorded and transcribed oral histories are donated to the Providence Public Library and the research culminates in a panel discussion reflecting on the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Grants Awarded in FY 2018

\$169,755 was awarded to 32 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

New Urban Arts, \$12,000 to *Scholar and Program Support for Summer Art Internships*

Funds infuse the Summer Art Internship program at NUA 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, connecting them to Rhode Island's cultural resources, and culminates in a public exhibition.

Manton Avenue Project, \$12,000 to *Playwriting as Civic Engagement Series for Young People in Olneyville*

Funds support after school courses in playwriting for underserved youth aged 8-18 in Providence 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, developing plays that express their understanding of the human experience in their community and the world.

newportFILM, \$12,000 to *newportFILM OUTDOORS 2018*

Funds support the 9th 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.

RISD Museum, \$5,000 to *Program Planning for "Designing Innovation: The Gorham Manufacturing Company 1850 – 1970"*

Funds support the planning stages of a large-scale exhibit, publication, and series of public programs exploring the golden era of Gorham Manufacturing Company in Providence, RI. This stage of the project promotes community engagement in the design and development of the exhibit and program series premiering in 2019.

South County History Center, \$9,480 to *Resilient Rhode Island: Disasters & Determination in the Ocean State*

Funds support a public program series exploring five natural and manmade disasters in Rhode Island:

the Chestnut Blight, shipwrecks, the “Vampire Epidemic,” the 1918 Flu Epidemic, and the Blizzard of ‘78. The project brings together an eclectic mixture of historians, scientists, divers, arborists, and meteorologists to explore topics of unique Rhode Island history and culture.

Rhode Island Latino Arts, \$10,000 to *Este es Mi Barrio – Community Walking Tours*

Funds support community convenings to design and launch three walking tours in Latino-dominant neighborhoods in Providence and Central Falls. Built on oral histories and interviews, the tours reflect histories, stories, and neighborhood assets identified by residents currently residing in Central Falls and Providence’s South Providence and West End neighborhoods.

Little Compton Historical Society, \$12,000 to *Remember Me – Little Compton’s 45 Historic Cemeteries*

Funds support a year-long thematic program series researching, documenting, preserving, and sharing the unique stories of the 45+ historic cemeteries in Little Compton. The project produces an exhibit, guidebook, walking tours, and volunteer trainings on how to clean and preserve historic headstones.

Providence Preservation Society, \$12,000 to *Sites and Stories Explored through Community Engaged Art and Scholarship*

Funds support a public exhibit featuring artistic works exploring the multilayered stories of five historic sites on Providence’s “Most Endangered Properties” list. Local artists and scholars engage citizens as part of the exhibit’s development through facilitated community dialogues and programs.

Stages of Freedom, \$9,999 to *America’s First Black Diva: Sissieretta Jones at 150*

Funds support a program series featuring an exhibit, lecture, and play celebrating Providence-native Sissieretta Jones. Jones is regarded as the first great Black operatic singer and performer, active during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The series collectively accounts Jones’ trials and tribulations and examines the social constructs of Jim Crow America.

Mini Grant Awards

Southside Cultural Center of Rhode Island, \$2,000 to *23^d Annual Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading*

Funds support an annual event in Providence celebrating Langston Hughes’ poetic works and contributions to American art and culture. The event includes readings from community members of Hughes’ works, a jazz trio playing music of the Harlem Renaissance, and a keynote address from a public humanist.

School One, \$2,000 to *Write Rhode Island (2018)*

Funds support the second year of a statewide creative writing competition for Rhode Island students in grades 7-12. As part of the contest, free workshops in community libraries across the state connect

educators and professional writers with participating students. Winning students' works are published in a professional anthology.

Preserve Wakefield (Preserve Rhode Island), \$1,800 to *Public Forum on the Future of Wakefield's Main Street*

Funds support a community conversation exploring the built and natural assets of downtown Wakefield in light of recent placemaking and preservation trends. Local and regional scholars connect community assets to national trends in new urbanism and smart growth, guiding future development and preservation efforts in Wakefield.

Frequency Writers, \$722 to *Creative Cartography Summer Youth Class*

Funds support a four-week summer writing course for ESOL/multilingual high school teens in Providence. Using creative writing as a medium of expression, teens draw on the theme of cartography to improve their writing skills while developing an original piece for a culminating student showcase.

Congress for the New Urbanism, New England, \$2,000 to *(Un)Built Providence*

Funds support the research and planning of an innovative exhibit in Providence exploring the urban redevelopment plans that shaped the city throughout the 20th Century. Taking into account design plans, drawings, models, historic accounts, and personal stories, the exhibit examines how Providence was built and (un)built through the imagination, creation, and destruction of the urban landscape.

Community MusicWorks, \$2,000 to *Planning for "Traces"*

Funds requested to support the planning stages of a civic engagement program to better contextualize and inform the new home of Community MusicWorks in Providence. As part of the project, a public scholar works with students and community members to collect oral histories, organize neighborhood story circles, and explore new partnerships for future projects.

The Wilbury Theatre Group, \$2,000 to *Fringe PVD Daily*

Funds support the development of a daily print newspaper documenting the performances, events, culture, and impact of Providence's 5th Annual Fringe Festival. Distributed to over 5,000+ attendees of Fringe in July and August of 2018, copies of the paper will be archived at the Providence Public Library and RISD Museum.

Newman Congregational Church, \$2,000 to *Lecture & Music Performance: Celebrating the 375-Year Anniversary of the Newman Church & Rehoboth*

Funds support a commemoration of Newman Congregational Church's 375th Anniversary in the village of Rumford, RI. Founded in 1643 by Rev. Samuel Newman. The church's parish was one of the earliest places of colonial settlement on the Wampanoag land known as Sowams. The celebration highlights the history and heritage of both colonial settlers and the Wampanoag Tribe.

Books are Wings, \$1,715 to *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: Latino Social Justice Lesson Plan Development*

Funds support the expansion of a humanities-based curriculum for schools, early learning organizations, and community centers interested in teaching children about civil rights. Working with Rhode Island Latino Arts, community members, and child reading specialists, the updated curriculum includes books and activities focused on Latino history and culture.

Providence Public Library, \$2,000 to *Year of the City: The Providence Project*

Funds support the development of a cross-cutting series of programs exploring Providence's cultural landscapes, both built and imagined. A collaboration of institutions and individuals, Year of the City explores the places, communities, ideas, and institutions that have shaped and transformed the state's capital and largest urban center.

Warren Preservation Society, \$1,999.50 to *Sowams Heritage Area Launch*

Funds support the creation and implementation of a robust publicity and engagement plan to engage the public in the development of the Sowams Heritage Area. The Sowams includes places of significant indigenous cultural heritage for the Pokanoket and Wampanoag peoples that live in Warren, Bristol, Barrington, East Providence, Providence, and Bristol County, MA.

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, \$5,000 to *Unjuried Uncensored: Making AS220*

Funds support the research and planning of an innovative exhibit in Providence exploring the urban
Funds requested to support development and scripting phases 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.

Rhode Island Public Broadcasting System, \$5,000 to *The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball*

Funds support the pre-production and scripting phase of The Missing Season: Race and Community in Rhode Island's Golden Age of Baseball. The film focuses on Providence's early 20th-Century Black community and the interwoven threads of race, money, sport, and social power as they affected the "national pastime" in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Historical Society, \$12,000 to *Triple Decker, A New England Love Story*

Funds support the production phase of 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 immigrant and working-class families, often reflecting the stories of those who have struggled, and prospered, inside their walls.

Mini Grant Awards

Evan Villari, \$2,000 to *Blood and Water Shed: The Scituate Reservoir*

Funds support the research phase of a documentary film exploring the creation of the Scituate Reservoir in the early 20th Century and its current role as Rhode Island's largest freshwater resource. The final film examines the multidimensional role and impact of the Reservoir on Rhode Island culture, economics, infrastructure and residents' sense of civic agency.

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

Meeting Street, \$9,850 to *"Be the Change": The Grace School Public Policy Initiative*

Funds support a civics project at the Meeting Street school exploring the history, legislation, and continued impact of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students travel to Washington D.C. to better experience and understand the implementation of the ADA, and report back ways we might improve equitable access to our nation's capital and public spaces in Rhode Island.

Pushed Learning and Media (New Urban Arts), \$10,100 to *Teacher Training, Curriculum Development, & Academic Support for Teacher & Ethnic Studies Programs*

Funds support eight public programs connecting high school and middle school students with performers and educators who utilize hip hop and humanities learning to explore the state's economic, racial, and cultural divisions. School wide performances and classroom work allow students to reflect on and process the varied life experiences of fellow Rhode Islanders who live so close, but are worlds apart. The project culminates in free and accessible online resource videos for teachers.

Mini Grant Awards

Pawtucket School Department, \$1,100 to *Generation Citizen (Pawtucket 2018)*

Funds support the development and implementation of a middle school action-civics curriculum at Goff Middle School in Pawtucket. The program empowers students to identify, address, and develop solutions to communal issues and challenges in their communities.

Ponaganset High School, \$2,000 to *Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall & Oral History Civic Engagement Project*

Funds support Ponaganset High School as they host the Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the National Vietnam War Memorial. Students work with local veteran organizations, bring visitors to the replica, learn about the Vietnam War, and collect oral histories preserving the voices of Rhode Islanders who served our nation in one of its most turbulent times.

Research Grants to Individuals

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

Mini Grant Awards

Raymond Two Hawks Watson, \$2,000 to *Meshanticut Cultural Heritage Project*

Funds support research exploring seven places of aboriginal cultural heritage located within the city limits of Providence. Research addresses contemporary misconceptions of first peoples' historic residency and use of lands in the Providence area and results in a presentation at the second annual Living Culture Indigeneity Conference.

Joey DeFrancesco, \$2,000 to *A People's History of 18th Century Rhode Island*

Funds requested to support research exploring the often unheard and untold stories of people traditionally on the fringe of dominant historical narratives of early Rhode Island: indigenous people, enslaved individuals, and textile/mill laborers. Via intensive research in local archives and collections, the project culminates in three public lectures at historic sites in Providence and Pawtucket.

Amy Barlow, \$1,990 to *Opening Act*

Funds support the research, archiving, and preservation of a family collection of documents, ephemera, and material culture from two well-known Providence vaudeville performers: Jacques Kammerer and Edna Howland. The project culminates in the stabilization of the archive, open-access encyclopedia entries, and a conference presentation on digital personal archiving.

Charlotte Mangin, \$2,000 to *Research on Sissieretta Jones and Annie Smith Peck for UNLADYLIKE2020 Videos*

Funds requested to support research in local archives and collections exploring the life and times of acclaimed vocalist Sissieretta Jones and internationally-renowned mountaineer Annie Smith Peck. The project culminates in two animated shorts for the UNLADYLIKE project, an initiative that celebrates the lives of female pioneers during America's Progressive Era.

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Ghandi, 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 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 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 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 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 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 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, \$1,000 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 FY 2016

\$164,752 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 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 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 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 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, \$300 to *Rhode Island Model Legislature 2.0*

Funds 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 support 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 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 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 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 FY 2015

\$170,310 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, \$1,598 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 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, \$1,000 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, \$1,685 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.