



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

REACHING RHODE ISLANDERS

FY2019 Grant Spotlights

Since 1973, grantmaking has been at the heart of the mission of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities to ensure that Rhode Islanders from Woonsocket to Westerly make and experience public humanities.

From exhibits to documentary films, performances to engaging lectures, these projects put federal funds to work in our communities – seeding and sparking thoughtful exchange, building audiences, innovating new methods, and fostering an engaged democratic public.

2019 Grants by the Numbers

\$175,700 awarded 71 grantee events 34 grants
13,400+ Rhode Islanders engaged



NewportFILM

The Humanities Council awarded NewportFILM an \$8,250 major grant to support their NewportFILM OUTDOORS summer series which brought documentary film screenings to stunning locations on Aquidneck Island. Films engaged 18,700 audience members at 12 screenings with relevant topics ranging from the environment to journalism to diverse expressions of American culture. Through their grant, NewportFILM encouraged audiences to make deeper connections to place and engage with the humanities through an innovative blog series that brought deeper context and questions to the film experience.



GEAR Productions

The Humanities Council awarded GEAR Productions a \$2,000 mini grant to support a production of "Knowing Home," a musical about the varied history and experiences of those who have called South Kingstown home. Over 200 students and their families were engaged in GEAR Production's innovative approach to producing "All-Abilities" plays, ensuring a role for everyone and introducing them to the thrill of performance and the value of local history.



The Wilbury Theatre Group

The Humanities Council awarded the Wilbury Theatre Group in Providence, RI a \$12,000 major grant to support the first ever Olneyville Expo – a theatrical event celebrating the history, culture, and community of this immigrant and artist neighborhood of Providence. The Expo brought together over 525 community members through four days of events focused on topics such as Indigenous history and the legacies of manufacturing and labor. The Expo engaged historians, ecologists, storytellers, artists, performers, engineers and artisans to create a collaborative portrait of the space we share.