



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

FY19 Grants in District One

Over \$124,050 invested through 34 grants

Public Project Grants

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

Major Grant Awards

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.

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.



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.

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.



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.

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

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.

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.