



RHODE ISLAND  
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

# IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

## Mobilizing to Meet the Moment: The Humanities Council and the 2020 Pandemic

For 47 years, the Humanities Council's grants, partnerships, and initiatives have innovated bold approaches to the humanities, amplified voices that need to be heard, and taken on civic challenges through knowledge, questions, reflection, and action. In 2020, in response to the global pandemic, the Council continued these programs and also mobilized to help organizations stay afloat and seed, support, and strengthen humanities activities that are contributing to civic engagement and connecting communities at a critical moment for society. Humanities engagement will help to build informed and resilient communities as the public health crisis evolves and the movement for racial justice advances change.



### **95 grants for total of over \$547,000 - more than double a typical year**

Directly delivering operating support of over \$345,000 to humanities organizations throughout the state in addition to \$170,000 in major and mini grants.



### **Pivoting Partnerships to Meet Pressing Needs**

Through the RI Expansion Arts Program partnership, providing \$42,000 through 28 emergency relief grants to cultural heritage organizations.



### **Documenting and Engaging Safely**

Supporting projects that document the pandemic and that produce outstanding virtual and in-person humanities engagement compatible with social distancing.



### **Humanities Perspectives and Solutions**

Expanding communications through our Humanities In Context e-newsletter to include diverse humanities perspectives and solutions that help Rhode Islanders place contemporary issues in a larger context.

# CARES ACT

In 2020, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, additional funding was provided to the Humanities Council by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the federal CARES Act. Read on for more details about these recipients and the impact this support has made on their operations and programs.

## OPERATING SUPPORT RELIEF GRANT AWARDS

49 awards totaling \$345,646

Ashaway Free Library  
Aurea  
Blackstone Valley Historical Society  
The Cocumscussoc Association  
Davisville Free Library  
Dirt Palace Public Projects  
Educational Center for Arts & Sciences (Teatro ECAS)  
The Empowerment Factory  
Everett Company, Stage & School  
FirstWorks  
Frequency Writers  
Friends of Hearthside, Inc.  
Generation Citizen  
India Association of Rhode Island  
International Tennis Hall of Fame  
Langworthy Public Library  
Lippitt House Museum / Preserve RI  
Museum of Work & Culture / Rhode Island Historical Society  
New Urban Arts  
Newport Art Museum  
newportFILM  
Newport Restoration Foundation  
Norman Bird Sanctuary  
North Kingstown Free Library  
Oasis International  
Old Slater Mill Association

Portsmouth Free Public Library  
The Preservation Society of Newport County  
Providence Athenaeum  
Providence Children's Film Festival  
Providence Children's Museum  
Providence Preservation Society  
Providence Public Library  
Rhode Island Black Heritage Society  
Rhode Island Center for the Book  
Rhode Island Computer Museum  
Rhode Island Kung Fu & Lion Dance Club  
Rhode Island Latino Arts  
RISD Museum  
South County History Center  
South County Museum  
Southside Cultural Center of Rhode Island  
Stages of Freedom  
Tomaquag Museum  
Warwick Center for the Arts  
WaterFire Providence  
Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society  
What Cheer Writers Club  
The Wilbury Theatre Group

*"The support from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities has allowed us to not only sustain our staff and operations for the near future, but it's allowed us to pivot our planned programming in a way that will serve our mission and our community despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. We're grateful that with the support of the Council we've not only found a way to survive this difficult period, but we've also been able to discover new ways to thrive."*

**– Josh Short,  
The Wilbury Theatre Group**

## HUMANITIES IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING PROJECT GRANT AWARDS

16 awards totaling \$32,000

*These CARES Act project grant titles provide an inspiring glimpse into the way Council grantees are adapting their public humanities initiatives for our current moment.*

*"The emergency funding supplied through the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities ensures that the Athenaeum can continue to provide programming. This is the most difficult environment for the cultural sector in decades, and champions like the Humanities Council are helping to preserve the cultural fabric of the state."*

**– Matt Burriesci, The Providence Athenaeum**

- Barrington Public Library Corporation for Rhody Radio: RI Library Radio Online
- Block Island Historical Society for Block Island: Virtual Visits to its History
- Bristol Historical & Preservation Society for Lost Main Street in the Age of COVID-19
- Coggeshall Farm Museum for Digital Civics/History Program for Grade 5 Students
- George Hail Free Library for LUMINOUS COASTS: The Life and Works of Henry N. Cady (1849-1935)
- Kingston Chamber Music Festival for Kingston Chamber Music 2020 Online Festival
- Providence Public Library for RICovidArchive.org Project Coordinator for Latinx/Spanish-Language Outreach & Promotion
- South County Museum for Virtual Campus Social Studies Learning Tools
- Stages of Freedom for Engaging the Black Community in the Age of COVID-19
- Teatro ECAS for Disproportionate Impact
- WaterFire Providence for Decameron, Providence: Sharing New Stories for a New Era
- Aashish Edakadampil for Project Saudade
- Kelly Eriksen for How You Talk Now
- Lisa Limer for Providence Diary
- Daniel Phillips for Super 8 Film Festival
- Rose Weaver for Don't Take the Memories with You: COVID-19 As a Catalyst to Examine My Arts Work in Rhode Island