



RI CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

*Community Partner Information Session
Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
February 17, 2022*

Meet the Team!



Julia Renaud (she/her)
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Strategic Initiatives



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Associate Director of Engagement



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Housekeeping.

- Session will be 45 minutes long.
 - Presentation by Julia.
 - Q&A session.
- The presentation portion of the session **will be** recorded. The recording will be stopped for Q&A. The recording will be published online following the session.
- If you have your video on during the presentation, your image may be in the recording published online. If you do not want your image to be included in the recording, please turn your video off now. The Q&A session will not be recorded, so you may turn your video on or off during the Q&A session as works for you.
- Please stay muted whenever you are not talking.



Housekeeping.

- After the session, we will email you PDFs of the guidelines/FAQs, the forms, and the slides from this session; and the link to the recording.
- If you have a question during the presentation, please put it in the chat and we will read it and address it during the Q&A session. If you would rather ask your question privately, please message Rachael your question privately, and she will read it during the Q&A session.
- We are having drop-in office hours regarding this opportunity tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 18, from 1:00-3:00 pm on Zoom. Please feel free to attend and ask any additional questions! You can register online at rihumanities.org.



What is the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities?

- **Mission:** RI Council for the Humanities seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders.
- Established in 1973 as an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); one of 56 humanities councils found in every state and U.S. territory.
- Private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization supported by federal funds from NEH as well as by individuals, corporations, and foundations.
- Make grants and undertake strategic initiatives; only dedicated source of funding for the public humanities in Rhode Island.



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What is civic health? What is a Civic Health Index? Why is it important?

- **Civic health** is a way to think about the strength and resiliency of our communities. Civic health reflects the degree to which people **participate** in their communities, from local and state governance to interactions with friends, family, and neighbors. Civic health also relates to the **overall well-being** of neighborhoods, communities, states, and the nation.
- **Civic Health Index:** A data-driven assessment of the state of a particular community's civic health.
- There has never been a Civic Health Index for Rhode Island.
- A Civic Health Index will provide baseline context and information about diverse Rhode Islanders' connections to civic life, and help us to understand where we are and where we're going, together. The Council and its partners will promote the finished Index statewide and nationwide, making it a powerful opportunity to present civic life in Rhode Island as Rhode Islanders experience it.



Who is creating the RI Civic Health Index?

Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

- Founding of the National Endowment for the Humanities: "**Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.** It must therefore foster and support a form of education, and access to the arts and the humanities, [for] people of all backgrounds and wherever located."
- Humanities Council work on civic health:
 - Grantmaking
 - Participation in coalitions
 - Strategic Initiatives: recent *Culture Is Key* report
- Funded in part by "A More Perfect Union" Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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a more perfect
UNION NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

National Conference on Citizenship

- Congressionally commissioned
- Established a common framework for the Civic Health Index in 2006, and has since produced over 90 Indexes in partnership with cities and states across the country.



National Conference on Citizenship

Local partners...including you!



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What will be in the RI Civic Health Index?

- The National Conference on Citizenship partners with the US Census to collect data on the following civic health-related topics. All Civic Health Indexes include this data for the particular place for the Index:
 - Volunteering and Giving
 - Interactions with family, friends, and neighbors
 - Political Involvement
 - Group Memberships
 - Voting and Registration
- We can add any additional data we'd like to tell a story that reflects civic health in Rhode Island, according to Rhode Islanders.
- The Humanities Council has been working to collect other relevant existing data sources. Community Partners will help to guide this work, and to collect new data for the Index.



What will the Civic Health Index development process be?

- **National Conference on Citizenship** and **RI Council for the Humanities** collect existing relevant data sources to assess Rhode Island's civic health.
- **Community Partners** attend three 2-hour meetings on Zoom:
 - **Meeting #1:** Introduction to existing data sources, discussion of the story the data tells, and the stories that Community Partners would like to be included
 - **RI Council for the Humanities** drafts survey to collect additional data from Rhode Islanders, directed by Community Partner input
 - **Meeting #2:** Community Partners review the survey draft and give input
 - **RI Council for the Humanities** circulates survey in Rhode Island, collects and analyzes responses
 - **Meeting #3:** Community Partners review survey responses, advise on interpretation and overall narrative for Civic Health Index
- **RI Council for the Humanities** drafts Civic Health Index, **National Conference on Citizenship** and **Community Partners** provide feedback.



Who are Community Partners?

- Community Partners are **individual Rhode Islanders** who have **strong connections within their communities** (geographic, religious, educational, racial/ethnic, gender and sexual identity, cultural, etc.), and have taken a **formal or informal leadership role** within those communities.
- Community Partners will **shape the development of the Civic Health Index** based on their own experiences and insights. As a Community Partner, you can ensure that the Index reflects the stories and truths you hold about Rhode Island, and about how your communities participate in civic life in the state.
- Community Partners will be **paid a fee of \$750, upfront, in full.**



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Who is eligible to be a Community Partner?

- Community Partners must:
 - be at least **14 years of age**.
 - live in **Rhode Island**.
 - have written and verbal **proficiency in English**.
 - **have Internet connection** (either via WiFi or cell service) during required Zoom meetings.



What are the responsibilities of Community Partners?

All Community Partners will contribute a total of around 10 hours of their time to the project from March-June 2022:

- Attending and participating in three two-hour Zoom meetings (6 hours):
 - Wednesday, March 16, 2022** from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm EST
 - Wednesday, March 30, 2022** from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm EST
 - Friday, May 6, 2022** from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm EST
- Review and offer feedback on a draft of the Civic Health Index in June 2022, as well as respond to any other Index-related communications (~4 hours).

During the three meetings, Community Partners will work closely with Humanities Council staff and other partners to offer perspectives on the existing civic health-related data for Rhode Island; to advise on the development of a survey to collect supplemental civic health-related data; and to shape the story told in the Index.

Please note that all meetings will be held virtually via Zoom, and will be conducted in English.



How will Community Partners be selected?

Up to 10 Community Partners will be selected based on:

- their eligibility for participation;
- their ability to fully participate in the process as outlined;
- connections to communities in Rhode Island;
- their interest in civic life in Rhode Island.

The Civic Health Index team seeks to work with a group of Community Partners that represents the **full diversity of Rhode Island across all metrics** (age, gender, sexual identity, race/ethnicity, geography, religion, education, etc.). The composition of the Community Partner cohort will include:

- At least 3 members age 25 and under
- At least 5 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-identifying members
- At least 5 members from outside the urban centers of Providence and Newport
- Gender diversity among the group



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How do I become a Community Partner? What if I know somehow who would be a great Community Partner?

- If **you** would like to become a Community Partner:
 - Fill out the Statement of Interest form on the Council's website, rihumanities.org, by **Monday, Feb. 28 at 11:59 pm.**
 - You will receive notification on **Friday, March 4.**
- If you would like to **nominate someone** to be a Community Partner:
 - Fill out the Community Partner Nomination form on the Council's website, rihumanities.org, by **Monday, Feb. 21 at 11:59 pm.**
 - Your nominee will need to fill out the Statement of Interest form by **Monday, Feb. 28 at 11:59 pm.**

Please spread the word in your communities!



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What does the Statement of Interest Form ask?

- Basic **demographic information**.
- **Eligibility check**, including confirmation that you can be present at all three required meetings.
- **Two narrative questions:**
 - What communities do you feel connected to in Rhode Island? How long have you been connected to these communities? How are you involved in your communities?
 - Why is Rhode Island's civic health important to you? Why do you want to serve as a Community Partner for the Civic Health Index?



What if I need help?

- You will receive information about this opportunity and summarizing this session in a follow-up email.
- **Drop-in Support Session / Friday, Feb. 18 from 1:00-3:00 pm EST on Zoom:**
Please stop by and ask any questions you have! We will be happy to see you. You can register at www.rihumanities.org.
- With any other questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to civichealthindex@rihumanities.org, and we will get back to you as quickly as we can.



Contact Us!

Email us at:

- civichealthindex@rihumanities.org



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Thank you!

Questions?



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