



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL *for the* HUMANITIES

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

HUMANITIES BY AND FOR ALL RHODE ISLANDERS

303,790

PEOPLE REACHED

*by Council grantees and
through Council programs*

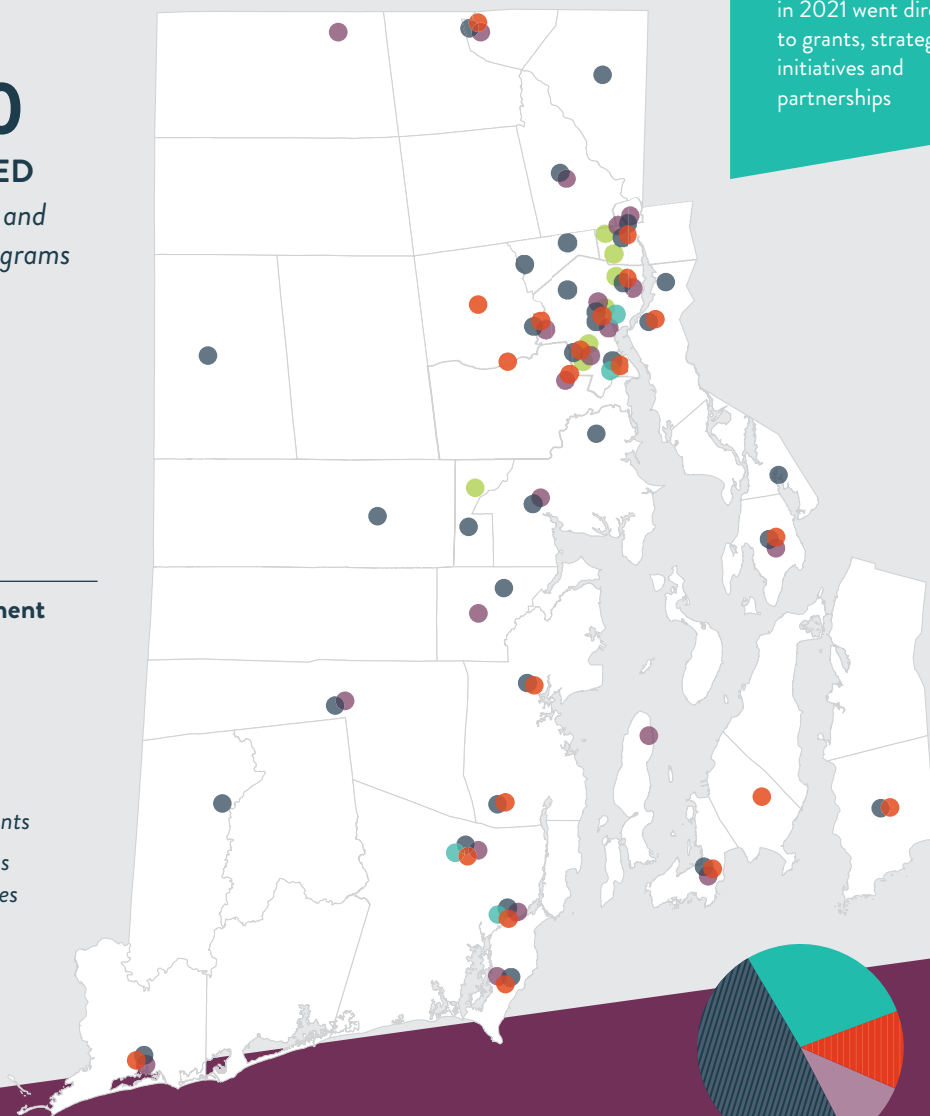
1,839

EVENTS HELD

*by Council grantees,
in-person or virtual*

Community Engagement Across Rhode Island

- Standard Grants
- CARES Act Grants
- RI CHARG Grants
- Why It Matters Grants
- Council Partnerships
& Strategic Initiatives



77%

**OF ANNUAL
SPENDING**

*in 2021 went directly
to grants, strategic
initiatives and
partnerships*

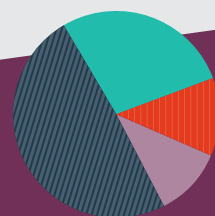
*Diverse sources of public
and private funding ensure
the Council's ability to
adapt, respond, and
collaborate to reach more
people, provide resources,
and enhance the cultural
ecosystem statewide.*

FY21 Revenue

- 48%** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (general support)
- 37%** NEH COVID-19 Relief Funding (CARES Act and ARPA)
- 10%** Gifts, Sponsorships & Program Income
- 5%** Foundation & Other Grants

FY21 Expenses

- 49%** Grantmaking
- 28%** Council Partnerships & Strategic Initiatives
- 12%** Management
- 11%** Fundraising



ENRICHING CIVIC LIFE THROUGH THE HUMANITIES

Culture Is Key

Strengthening Rhode Island's Civic Health through Cultural Participation

The *Culture Is Key* report, published in January 2022, focuses on the potential to help renew civic life through the practices of cultural organizations in communities. The report includes a summary and analysis of an 18-month inquiry into connections between civic health and the public activities of nonprofit cultural organizations. In working with pilot project teams, soliciting survey responses, and conducting in-depth interviews, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' goal has been to connect what cultural organizations do to indicators of civic health.

The report showcases how essential cultural organizations are for civic health and speaks directly to the critical role that culture, humanities, and arts play in healing fractures and strengthening common ground.

Key themes of impact, sustained community engagement, shared commitment with journalists, sector-wide challenges, and partnership each underscored the need to amplify and invest in culture, humanities, and arts. The insights and recommendations documented in the report help to make that case and serve as a strong foundation for the Humanities Council's ongoing civic health efforts in 2022-2023, including the development of the state's first ever Civic Health Index.

Funders: The Rhode Island Foundation, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

RI Expansion Arts Program

Rhode Island's Diversity is a Civic Strength

Partners: The Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

Rhode Tour

Compelling Stories that Connect Civic Engagement Now to the Richness of the Past

Partners: Brown University's Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage and the Rhode Island Historical Society



Read the full report at:
rihumanities.org

80%
SURVEYED
orient their work
towards impacting
RI's civic health



GRANTMAKING

In 2021, the Council awarded 112 grants in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement. Throughout this second year of the pandemic, the Council maintained its standard grantmaking program while also establishing entirely new grant opportunities to disburse federal relief funds and support civic engagement initiatives.

**\$760,000
AWARDED**

STANDARD GRANTS

PUBLIC PROJECT GRANTS

MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

GENERATION CITIZEN, \$11,707 to *Generation Citizen DEI Curricular Initiative*

LITTLE COMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, \$12,000 to *Everyone Was A Farmer: Permanent Exhibition*

MANTON AVENUE PROJECT, \$12,000 to *Map Adapts!: Plays By Young People to Create Connection and (Re)Imagine Past, Present, and Future*

NEWPORTFILM, \$11,997.50 to *newportFILM Virtual*

OPERATION STAND DOWN RHODE ISLAND, \$12,000 to *Providence Clemente Veterans Initiative*

SOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM, \$5,000 to *Ohh!: Oral History Hub Pilot*

TEATRO ECAS, \$7,400 to *ECAS En Casa*

UNITED THEATRE, \$10,000 to *The United Theatre Podcast Education Program*

WHAT CHEER WRITERS CLUB, \$9,099 to *Dear Rhode Island*

THE WOMXN PROJECT EDUCATION FUND, \$10,800 to *The Civics Project*

MINI GRANT AWARDS

ARTS IN COMMON, \$2,000 to *Bristol BookFest 2021*

CLOSE UP FOUNDATION, \$2,000 to *Inspiring Civic Action Programming For Rhode Island Youth*

COALITION CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (CC4ES), \$1,525 to *CC4ES Museum Of Silenced Histories: Community Storytelling Circle*

GALLERY NIGHT PROVIDENCE, \$2,000 to *Archiving Gallery Night Providence*

POPULAR PRAXIS, \$2,000 to *Voice To Empower: VOTE*

HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND, \$2,000 to *Three Sisters Sculpture Dedication*

MOUNT HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, \$2,000 to *Leggwork Productions Fall Bboy/Girl Dance Workshops*

PONAGANSET HIGH SCHOOL, \$2,000 to *Where The Rivers Meet*

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY, \$2,000 to *Queer Stories Project*

RIVERZEDGE ARTS, \$2,000 to *The Social Flatlands Project*

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, \$2,000 to *South County Voices In Covid: An Oral History Project*

SPECTRUM THEATRE ENSEMBLE, \$2,000 to *Neurodiversity New Play Festival (NNPF)*

STAGES OF FREEDOM, \$2,000 to *Digitizing "Disappearing Ink": A Black Rhode Island Bibliography*

UPP ARTS, \$2,000 to *Unpolished Echoes*

THE WILBURY THEATRE GROUP, \$2,000 to *Capture The Block: Community Healing Through Storytelling*

THE WILBURY THEATRE GROUP, \$2,000 to *Invoice For Emotional Labor*

DOCUMENTARY FILM GRANTS

MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL, \$12,000 to *Slatersville: America's First Mill Village*

FREQUENCY WRITERS, \$10,475 to *How We Remember*

RHODE ISLAND BLACK HERITAGE SOCIETY, \$11,700 to *Legacies of Slavery and Freedom: A Family Journey through the Atlantic World*

RHODE ISLAND LATINO ARTS, \$5,000 to *Nuestras Raíces/Aquí Me Quedo*

THE SANCTUARY THEATRE, INC., \$10,500 to *Project Saudade*

MINI GRANT AWARDS

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY, \$2,000 to *Rum: America's Spirit for Liberty*

SELENA MARS, \$1,500 to *Black Rep*

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS

MINI GRANT AWARDS

MEV MILLER, \$2,000 to *Wanderground: Archiving Lesbian Legacies, Words, Creativity in Rhode Island*

RELIEF GRANTS

► RI CHARG GRANTS

RI Culture, Humanities, and Arts Recovery Grants (RI CHARG) is a historic collaboration with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts to disburse American Rescue Plan relief funds. In total, the two councils distributed nearly \$1M across Rhode Island via 121 general operating support grants of \$8,000 each.

66 ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL

Aurea, Inc.
Blackstone Valley Historical Society
Bristol Historical & Preservation Society
Cambodian Society of Rhode Island
Cape Verdean Museum
Capeverdean American
Community Development
Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum
Cocumscussoc Association
Coggeshall Farm Museum
Davisville Free Library
Dirt Palace Public Projects
East Providence Historical Society
Everett
FirstWorks
Flickers, the Newport Film/Video
Society & Arts Collaborative
Foster Preservation Society
Friends of Hearthside, Inc.
Friends of Linden Place
Generation Citizen
Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum
Hera Educational Foundation, Inc.
Historic Warren Armory

Hmong Rhode Island Association
Langworthy Public Library
Little Compton Historical Society
Mixed Magic Theatre and
Cultural Events
Oasis International
Old Slater Mill Association
Pawtuxet Valley Preservation
and Historical Society
Preserve RI—Lippitt House Museum
Providence Children's Film Festival
Providence Children's Museum
Providence Latin American Film Festival
Puerto Rican Institute for Arts
& Advocacy
Quisqueya in Action
Rhode Island Black Storytellers
Rhode Island Bolivian
American Association
Rhode Island Brassworks
Rhode Island Center for the Book
Rhode Island Computer Museum
Rhode Island Historical Society—
Museum of Work and Culture
Rhode Island Irish Famine
Memorial Committee, Inc.
Rhode Island Kung Fu &
Lion Dance Club

Rhode Island Latino Arts
Rhode Island Slave History Medallions
Rhode Island State House
Restoration Committee
Rhode Island Urban Debate League
Riveredge Arts Project
RPM Voices of Rhode Island
South County History Center
South County Museum
Southside Cultural Center of RI
Stages of Freedom
Teatro ECAS
The Empowerment Factory
The Manton Avenue Project
The Wilbury Theatre Group
Tomaquag Museum
Trinity Repertory Company
Varnum Continentals, Inc.
Warren Preservation Society
Warwick Center for the Arts
WaterFire Providence
Westerly Armory Restoration, Inc.
Western Rhode Island Civic
Historical Society
What Cheer Writers Club

► CARES ACT-FUNDED GRANTS

Five grants totaling \$10,000 were awarded in support of individual scholars, film and media makers, and cultural producers—as well as non-profit organizations—in the production of accessible projects that connect audiences with the humanities in the age of social distancing.

AWARDS TO ORGANIZATIONS

KINGSTON CHAMBER MUSIC
FESTIVAL, \$2,000 to *Kingston Chamber
Music 2021 Festival Program Notes*

PROVIDENCE CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM, \$2,000 to *Representation
in Storytelling*

WHAT CHEER WRITERS CLUB,
\$2,000 to *Community Conversations
with RI Creatives of Color*

THE WOMXN PROJECT EDUCATION
FUND, \$2,000 to *Illuminating the Legacy
of Slavery in Rhode Island*

AWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS

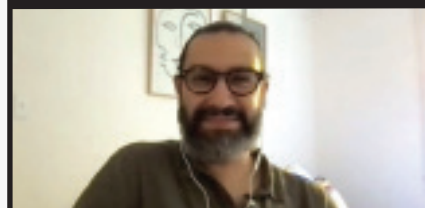
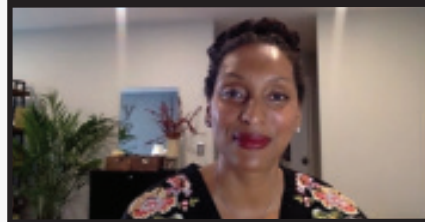
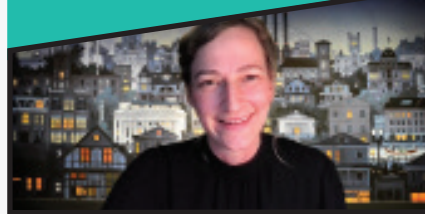
KATAYOUN ALIDADI, \$2,000 to
*Religious Services in the Age of Social
Distancing: Rhode Island Narratives
and Snapshots*

RI CHARG GRANTEEES

95% are small-to-midsize
organizations and/or
BIPOC-centered

25% are first-time
Council grantees

65% are based outside
Providence





*The XIX: Shall Not Be Denied: Why It Matters grantmaking initiative sparked more than 30 events and programs throughout the state serving Rhode Island communities facing historic and current barriers to voting and democratic participation. Additionally, the Council continued its partnership with the Rhode Island Department of State, which resulted in a bilingual traveling exhibit titled **Votes for Women–Inspiring Change** and a Why It Matters panel discussion with civic and creative leaders.*

DORCAS INTERNATIONAL, \$5,000 to Welcoming Rhode Island

MIXED MAGIC THEATRE & CULTURAL EVENTS, \$5,000 to We, They, and the People

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY, \$5,000 to What Now: Empowering Youth with Passion to Action

REFUGEE DREAM CENTER, \$5,000 to Your Voice, Your Vote: Democratic Participation among the Refugee Community

RI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, \$5,000 to Blocked at the Ballot: How Homelessness Creates Barriers to Civic Participation

STAGES OF FREEDOM, \$5,000 to Voting in the Age of Breonna

THUNDERMIST, \$5,000 to TransVoteRI

whycivicsmatters.org

Rhode Island’s Why It Matters initiative was part of a nationwide effort which took place across 40 states and three territories, resulting in more than 1,000 programs and resources to heighten engagement with voting and electoral participation through the humanities. The Mellon Foundation-supported initiative, with Humanities Councils across the nation, served more than 110,000 people and generated over 2.1 million virtual program views.

“Our voice matters. So even though we came from another country or are another race, or whatever it is, our voice matters.”

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, Why It Matters



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IMAGES & CREDITS

Our thanks to Erin X. Smithers, and all of our grantees and partners who have contributed photographs.

rihumanities.org



PHILANTHROPY THAT ACTIVELY SUPPORTS CONNECTIONS & PROMOTES CIVIC HEALTH

*We are grateful for the generous support of our donors, funders,
and sponsors. Thank you for making this work possible.*

INDIVIDUALS

\$100 & over

Joan & Richard Abrams*

Candy Adriance

Alexandra Agati

Muraina Akinfolarin

Dominique Alfandre

& Thomas Palmer

Onésimo Almeida &

Leonor Simas-Almeida

Nancy Anderson

Claire Andrade-Watkins

Anonymous (6)

Sister M. Therese Antone

Mary-Kim Arnold

& Matthew Derby

Cherry Arnold

in honor of Randy Byers'

dedication and service to

the Little Compton

Historical Society

Amy Barlow &

Peter Kammerer

Reenie & Robert Barrow

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Cheryl Foster *in honor of*

Elizabeth Francis for

unparalleled leadership

Jocelyn Foye

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on behalf of The Ira S. &

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& George Rice

Carol Terry & James Janeczek

Polly & Dave Jeffers

in celebration of the

humanities and RLJ's

birthday!

Barbara Jeffers

Rachael Jeffers

Galen & Jean Johnson

Nikki Juen

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Rick & Laura Kowal

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& Claire Buck

Seth Kurn & Barbara Harris

in honor of Elaine &

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Sarah B. Richardson

& Craig Richardson*

Jeannette E. Riley &

Kathleen M. Torrens

James P. Riley

**Rebecca Riley &
David Carden***

Tom Roberts

Randall Rosenbaum

*in honor of the staff of
the Rhode Island Council
for the Humanities*

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The Providence Athenæum

Providence Preservation

Society

Providence Public Library

Rhode Island Public Radio

Rhode Island College

Foundation

The Rhode Island

Historical Society

Rhode Island PBS

Foundation

Rhode Island State

Council on the Arts

RISD Museum

Roger Williams University

Salve Regina University

Stages of Freedom

**Taco/The White Family
Foundation**

Teatro ECAS

University of Rhode Island

Wheaton College

The Wilbury Theatre Group

SPECIAL GRANTS

The Council gratefully
acknowledges the
major support of:

**Andrew W. Mellon
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Federation of State

Humanities Councils

**National Endowment for
the Humanities**

Rhode Island Foundation

See next page for gifts under
\$100.

Gifts of \$1,000 & over
Pell Circle Donors*

**2021 CELEBRATION
OF THE HUMANITIES**

This annual event recognizes lifetime and creative achievement, innovation, and scholarship by extraordinary leaders, while raising vital funds for the Council's work. In 2021, the virtual Celebration brought together hundreds of supporters from across the state and around the world and included the first ever humanities conversation with honorees.

**300+
VIEWERS**

ONÉSIMO T. ALMEIDA, PHD

*Honorary Chairs' Award for Lifetime Achievement
in the Humanities*

MIXED MAGIC THEATRE

Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities

RHODE ISLAND COVID-19 ARCHIVE

*A partnership of the Providence Public Library
and the Rhode Island Historical Society
Innovation in the Humanities Award*

BECCI DAVIS

Public Humanities Scholar Award

INDIVIDUALS

under \$100

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 in honor of Judy Freeman
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Scott Edward Anderson
Anonymous (1)
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Lisa Tuckerman
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Valerie Tutson
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Jodie Vinson
Philip Weinstein
Kate Wodehouse

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under \$100

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