Join us for the 2022 Celebration - focusing on the intersection of the humanities and civic health through time-honored awards to local leaders and a new keynote address from nationally recognized journalist, bridge-builder, and author Mónica Guzmán. Learn more about each of the 2022 Celebration honorees and the keynote speaker at: rihumanities.org/get-involved/celebrate.

HONORING:

JOAN ABRAMS
JOSH SHORT
HAUS OF GLITTER AND "THE HISTORICAL FANTASY OF ESEK HOPKINS"
THE DORR REBELLION PROJECT WEBSITE

Keynote Address by Mónica Guzmán
2022 HONOREE AND SPEAKER INFORMATION

HONORARY CHAIRS’ AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

Joan Abrams, educator, civic leader, philanthropist, and humanities advocate

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates career achievements that demonstrate humanities excellence, reflect the Council’s mission and core values, and enrich public life in Rhode Island. Joan Abrams is a longtime Bristol resident and graduate of Simmons University and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She has served for decades in volunteer and professional capacities leaving an indelible mark on the state’s humanities, environmental, and educational sectors in innumerable ways. Abrams has served organizations including Save the Bay, Festival Ballet, Blithewold, the Newport Art Museum and the Humanities Council. She was a dedicated professor and administrator at Simmons College and served on the Board of Governors of Higher Education for the three RI state colleges and university. Abrams served on the national Board of Directors of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and on the board of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for three terms, April 2019-March 2022 and 2011-2017, serving as chair from 2015-2016. In 2010, she was named Rhode Island’s Philanthropic Citizen of the Year. Her dedication to Rhode Island has contributed immeasurably to the cultural richness and environmental resources of the state.

TOM ROBERTS PRIZE FOR CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

Josh Short, Founder and Artistic Director of the Wilbury Theatre Group

The Tom Roberts Prize celebrates creativity in topics, disciplines, and formats that extend the fields of the humanities. This year’s Prize honors Josh Short, Founder and Artistic Director of the Wilbury Theatre Group, who has built a dynamic company that breathes life into the twin ideas that theatre must be for everyone and theatre must make you think. For a dozen years, Short has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to producing theatre that reflects our shared human ability to examine and express our thoughts, feelings and values, bringing stories to the stage from the widest swath of sources imaginable: classic texts, recent creations, world premiers, and works-in-progress. Short led The Wilbury Group’s efforts to establish FRINGEPVD: The Providence Fringe Festival with 50 handpicked artists in five venues throughout Providence, carrying on the fringe tradition of theatre produced outside the bounds of traditional institutions to make it the largest fringe theatre festival in New England. At the height of the pandemic, Short collaborated with other cultural and service organizations in the theatre’s Olneyville neighborhood to ensure that the stories of Rhode Islanders in one of the hardest hit zip codes were told through “Capture the Block: Stories from Ward 15,” supported in part through the Humanities Council’s “Culture Is Key” initiative. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Short lives in southern Rhode Island with his family.

INNOVATION IN THE HUMANITIES AWARD

Haus of Glitter and “The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins”

This year’s Award is presented to the Haus of Glitter and their activist dance opera “The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins” recognizing their innovative implementation of the humanities to achieve a specific goal. “The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins” is a singularly moving, transformative, and effective collective exploration and intervention into Rhode Island’s history of slavery and race. This effort was part of the Haus of Glitter’s Artist Residency to live in, heal with, and reimagine the former Esek Hopkins Homestead in Providence, built in 1756, and home to Admiral Esek Hopkins who captained the slave ship Sally, one of the deadliest and cruel voyages with enslaved people in Rhode Island’s history as a major center of the Triangle Trade. “The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins,” performed on the grounds of the Homestead in Summer 2021, imagines what life would be like today if colonization or slavery never happened by telling the story of a single Black person lost on the voyage and imagining her story, family, emotions, and legacy. Haus of Glitter creates work that centers historical and artistic investigation on Queer/Feminist Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) wisdom, healing, and liberation. Through their performance-based pedagogy, Haus of Glitter opened new pathways for public humanities practices as well as conversations about race, memory, and healing in the state. This activist dance opera provides a model for historical intervention, community ritual, and intergenerational curriculum that holds the potential to transform how place and commemoration are approached through an intersectional lens. The Haus of Glitter residency was made possible by a two-year PARKIST Artist Residency with The City of Providence Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism and the Parks Department. The purpose was to enable artist groups to animate little-used historic properties.
PUBLIC HUMANITIES SCHOLAR AWARD

The Dorr Rebellion Project Website

The Public Humanities Scholar Award recognizes outstanding public humanities work in teaching and scholarship that advances the civic and cultural life of Rhode Island. The 2022 honoree is The Dorr Rebellion Project Website, a collaboration of the Phillips Memorial Library+Commons at Providence College, Erik Chaput, PhD, and Russell DeSimone, launched in September 2011 and continues to grow and develop with the aim to establish an authoritative online educational resource on the Dorr Rebellion and to engage in new forms of discourse. The Thomas Wilson Dorr Rebellion of 1841-43 challenged the bounds of American democracy, constitutionalism, and multiculturalism and is considered the most significant constitutional and political event to occur in Rhode Island history. Though largely unknown outside the Ocean State, the Dorr Rebellion continues to be relevant and instructive today. This educational website, developed through a collaboration of Providence College’s Digital Publishing Services (Phillips Memorial Library), faculty, and community scholars, provides an introduction to the topic through a short-form documentary, image gallery, local constitutions, correspondence, supporting curricular materials, and links to regional resources. Partners include: The John Hay Library at Brown University, Finding Aid to the Thomas Wilson Dorr Papers, Brown Archival & Manuscript Collections, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and Rhode Island School of Design Museum. The project illustrates the power of collaboration to ensure that humanities resources related to the history of civic health are publicly accessible.

More about Keynote Speaker Mónica Guzmán

Mónica Guzmán is an award-winning journalist, bridge-builder, and the author of “I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times.” Guzmán also serves as director of digital and storytelling at Braver Angels, the nation’s largest cross-partisan grassroots organization working to depolarize America. She is host of a live interview series at the Pacific Northwest’s independent news outlet Crosscut and is cofounder of the award-winning Seattle newsletter The Evergrey. She was a 2019 fellow at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, where she studied social and political division, and a 2016 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, where she researched how journalists can rethink their roles to better meet the needs of a participatory public. She was named one of the 50 most influential women in Seattle and served twice as a juror for the Pulitzer Prizes. A Mexican immigrant, Latina, and dual US/Mexico citizen, she lives in Seattle with her husband and two children.

“Monica Guzman brings bad news and good news. The bad news is there is no answer for the problems of our polarized, toxic politics. The good news is, we don’t need answers. We need more questions. In this perceptive, wise, accessible book, Guzman shows us how to ask more humane questions of our fellow Americans. She shows us that by seeking truly to understand rather than judge, every one of us can improve our country’s civic culture. Curiosity cures. Read this book, then live it.”—Eric Liu, CEO, Citizen University, and author, “You’re More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen’s Guide to Making Change Happen”
2022 CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES
A VIRTUAL EVENT & AWARD PRESENTATION
with a keynote address by Mónica Guzmán
Airs September 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM EST

Honoring:
Joan Abrams, Honorary Chairs’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities
Josh Short, Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities
Haus of Glitter and *The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins*, Innovation in the Humanities Award
The Dorr Rebellion Project Website, Public Humanities Scholar Award

Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

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<td><strong>Friend $100</strong></td>
<td>2 tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22; 1 copy of book</td>
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<td><strong>Partner $300</strong></td>
<td>2 tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22; Listing in program book only (if made by August 5 deadline); 1 copy of book</td>
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<td><strong>Humanist $500</strong></td>
<td>2 tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22; Listing in program book &amp; on invite (if made by August 5 deadline) &amp; on website; 1 copy of book</td>
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<td><strong>Catalyst $1,000</strong></td>
<td>4 tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22; listing/logo in program book &amp; on invite (if made by August 5 deadline) &amp; on website; 2 copies of book; Invitations to Council gatherings ’22 - ’23</td>
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<td><strong>Visionary $2,500</strong></td>
<td>6 tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22; Half page ad in program; listing/logo in social media; 2 copies of book; recognition as underwriters of the Roundtable Conversation with honorees</td>
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<td><strong>Champion $5,000</strong></td>
<td>Unlimited tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22 and all other benefits + 4 copies of book; Full page ad in program; listing/logo on social media; recognition as underwriters of the Roundtable Conversation with honorees</td>
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<td><strong>Cornerstone $10,000</strong></td>
<td>Unlimited tickets for virtual Celebration airing September 22 and all other benefits + 4 copies of book; Full page ad in program; listing/logo on social media; recognition as underwriters of the keynote</td>
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Yes! I/we will support the Celebration of the Humanities with...

A SPONSORSHIP at the following level:

- Cornerstone $10,000
- Champion $5,000
- Visionary $2,500
- Catalyst $1,000
- Humanist $500
- Partner $300
- Friend $100

Individual TICKETS - Free:

- Individual Ticket (number _________)
  1 free registration for the Virtual Event.

Additional Donation

I/we would like to make a gift of $_______ to support the Celebration of the Humanities and the Council’s ongoing work.

Total: $_______

An individual ticket to the virtual Celebration of the Humanities on September 22 is free. All sponsors will receive a copy of Mónica Guzmán’s book I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times. Make sure to fill in your mailing address in the form below in order to claim your copy. Sponsors at $1,000+ will receive multiple copies, see form for details. Opportunities for logo/listing and ads are available from the $300+ level of sponsorship.

Note: When filling out the form, email is required for registration. A mailing address is required for sponsors in order to ship the book.