



50  
*years*

# RHODE ISLAND HUMANITIES

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# HUMANITIES BY AND FOR ALL RHODE ISLANDERS

**108,832**  
**PEOPLE REACHED**

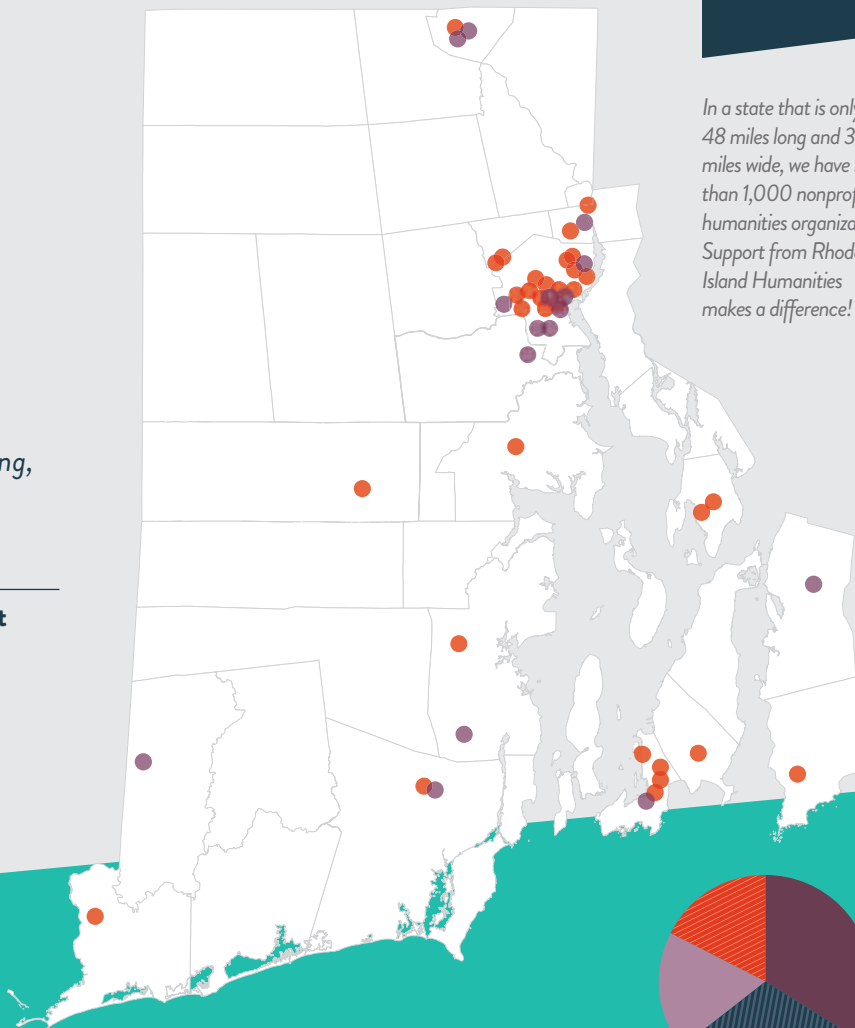
*by our grantees and  
through our programs*

**198**  
**ACTIVITIES HELD**

*by our grantees and  
through our programming,  
in-person and virtual*

## Community Engagement Across Rhode Island

- Grant Awards
- Strategic Initiatives



**64%**  
**OF ANNUAL  
SPENDING**

*in 2022 went  
directly to grants  
and strategic  
partnerships*

*In a state that is only  
48 miles long and 37  
miles wide, we have more  
than 1,000 nonprofit  
humanities organizations.  
Support from Rhode  
Island Humanities  
makes a difference!*

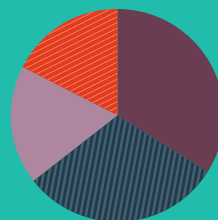
*Diverse sources of public  
and private funding  
ensure our ability to adapt,  
respond, and collaborate  
to reach more people,  
provide resources, and  
enhance the cultural  
ecosystem statewide.*

## FY22 Revenue

- 68%** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); general support
- 12%** Gifts, Sponsorships & Program Income
- 8%** NEH COVID-19 Relief Funding (ARPA)
- 7.5%** Foundation & Other Grants
- 4.5%** NEH Special Funding (A More Perfect Union)

## FY22 Expenses

- 34%** Grantmaking
- 30.5%** Strategic Initiatives
- 18%** Fundraising
- 17.5%** Organizational Support





*Interface (1973), one of our very first grant awards, set the stage for Providence's renaissance. It brought together architects, planners, and artists to envision restoring Providence as a city of rivers. This grant, seen below and on the cover, is the inspiration for our 50th anniversary archive storytelling project. Stay tuned!*

# 50 years



## WISDOM & VISION

Since 1973, Rhode Island Humanities has sought to fulfill the promise made in our founding legislation: *democracy demands wisdom and vision*. For 50 years, we have helped to ensure that the voices of all Rhode Islanders are encouraged and amplified.

- ▶ We've proven that we can reach organizations all over the state, especially small organizations. We know from our grantees that this support makes a difference!
- ▶ We are known for supporting collaboration and partnerships that address problems and challenges and that establish statewide platforms, including *Catalyzing Newport*, *Rhode Tour*, and *XIX: Shall Not Be Denied*.
- ▶ We have connected the humanities to their importance for civic participation through the *Culture Is Key* initiative and the *2022 RI Civic Health Index*. Both projects examine cultural participation as an indicator of civic health, and explore the civic importance of the work of cultural organizations.
- ▶ We have become a learning and growing organization—willing to look deeply at our practices and to change.

**In 2023 and beyond, we are focused on:**

**CONTRIBUTING** to the development of an inclusive culture of belonging for all people in Rhode Island, while actively encouraging Rhode Islanders to engage with the complexity of the state's history, current challenges, and future possibilities.

**COMMITTING** to amplifying many voices to explore historical and contemporary issues, as well as celebrating multifaceted perspectives and approaches. We seek to inspire participation in community, promote conversation and difficult dialogues, and establish the basis for shared understanding that also acknowledges differences.

**CONTINUALLY** learning and implementing changes to remove inequities in our practices by inspiring collaboration through building trust and expanding access, while listening to and being driven by the needs of Rhode Island's cultural community.



Rhode Island's own late Senator Claiborne Pell co-founded the National Endowment for the Humanities and urged the creation of Humanities Councils in all states and jurisdictions.

“*Rhode Island Humanities reaches a multitude of constituencies and empowers them to write their own stories as the state's history—not on the margins, not in parallel, but at the core of Rhode Island's life and legacy. Supporting Rhode Island Humanities is, therefore, the most meaningful way to advocate for the voices that shape who we are. It affirms the purpose inherent in activating diverse and inclusive cultures to determine the future we deserve.*”

TOUBA GHADDESI, 50th Anniversary co-chair

1,900  
GRANTS

\$9.6M  
AWARDED

800+  
GRANTEES

## Join us in celebrating 50 Years of Humanities: past, present and future!

**ENGAGE** with stories about waterways and Rhode Island's history from 50 years of grantmaking on social media and Rhode Tour. **PARTICIPATE** in addressing the questions raised by the 2022 *Civic Health Index*—*How can we move forward together?* **SUPPORT** Rhode Island's future by making a gift in the \$50,000 for 50 Years campaign. And **CELEBRATE** the humanities in your community!

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Becca Bertrand, co-chair  
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Cherry Arnold  
Tiffini Bowers

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Doug Popovich  
Julia Renaud  
Jeannette E. Riley, PhD  
Rebecca Riley  
Tom Roberts  
Josh Stenger, PhD



# GRANTMAKING

In 2022, we awarded 32 grants in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement—ensuring that vibrant humanities organizations and practitioners not only have monetary support, but are connected to a network of peers in rural and urban communities across Rhode Island.

## ► PUBLIC PROJECT GRANTS

### MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

AMOS HOUSE, \$12,000 to *Therapeutic Enrichment Activities to Support Recovery*

CAPEVERDEAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, \$12,000 to *Recuperating History through Dance: A Rhode Island Story of Cape Verde*

COMMUNITY LIBRARIES OF PROVIDENCE, \$6,600 to *Providence Seed Library*

DOWNCITY DESIGN, \$5,000 to *Broad Street Cultural Heritage Design Studios*

FIRSTWORKS, \$12,000 to *Raise Your Voice: Widening the Circle through Narratives and Dance*

LITTLE COMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, \$12,000 to *The Secrets of Cellar Holes: Blending Public Archaeology and Local History in Little Compton*

MANTON AVENUE PROJECT, \$12,000 to *Imagining the “New Normal”: Playwriting for Youth in Olneyville, Community Tour and Public Programs*

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION, \$9,240 to *Rogers High School International Studies & Leadership Program*

QUEER.ARCHIVE.WORK, \$12,000 to *Queer/Trans Zinefest (QTZ) 2022*

RHODE ISLAND BLACK STORYTELLERS, \$12,000 to *FULLY Ourselves: A Story of Black Tennis*

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, \$5,000 to *Providence Commemorative Works Project: Phase 1*

RIVERZEDGE ARTS, \$8,400 to *Woonsocket Social Flatlands Wayfinding Markers*

SCHOOL ONE, \$8,100 to *Write Rhode Island*

STAGES OF FREEDOM, \$12,000 to *Black Ink on White Paper: The African-American Press in Rhode Island*

### MINI GRANT AWARDS

BRISTOL HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY, \$2,000 to *A Timeline of Bristol’s Enslaved Population*

THE EMPOWERMENT FACTORY, \$2,000 to *Creative Squad After-School Programming for Underserved Elementary Youth*

FRIENDS OF LINDEN PLACE, \$2,000 to *Skip Finley Presents “Whaling Captains of Color”*

MOUNT HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, \$2,000 to *Pokanoket Heritage Day Event Support*

NEWPORT ART MUSEUM, \$2,000 to *¡Qué Vivan los Muertos! A Day of the Dead Celebration*

NEWPORT RESTORATION FOUNDATION, \$2,000 to *Whitehorse Days*

PROVIDENCE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM, \$2,000 to *Cultural Connections*

RHODE ISLAND COMPUTER MUSEUM, \$2,000 to *Mini Mad Men: Computer History in Miniatures*

THE SANDRA FEINSTEIN-GAMM THEATRE, \$2,000 to *Gamm Humanities Forum: On “Truth” and Tyranny*

SOUTH COUNTY HISTORY CENTER, \$2,000 to *Physical Exhibit: A New Perspective on “Economic Activities of the Narragansett Planters”*

WESTERLY ARMORY RESTORATION, \$1,000 to *Accessing the Armory’s Museum*

## ► DOCUMENTARY FILM GRANTS

### MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

RHODE ISLAND SLAVE HISTORY MEDALLIONS, \$5,000 to *Marking the Landscape of the Enslaved People of Rhode Island*

### MINI GRANT AWARDS

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, \$2,000 to *History or a Hindsight? The Haunting of New England*

## ► INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS

### MINI GRANT AWARDS

NICOLE C. LALIBERTÉ, \$2,000 to *Les Souvenirs de Jeunesse*

GABRIEL LONG, \$2,000 to *Superman: A Building and its City*

NANCY NEWBURY, \$2,000 to *Sarah Osborn and the First Integrated School in the United Colonies*

BEN SISTO, \$1,924 to *Rhode Island QSL Archive*

JEFFREY YOO WARREN, \$1,999 to *Seeing Providence Chinatown: a virtual reconstruction of an erased neighborhood*



“Creating opportunities for community members to engage in discourse about civic health is an exercise in civic engagement by itself, and by supporting these opportunities we make our communities stronger.”

JOSH SHORT, *The Wilbury Theatre Group*



**SINCE 2003**, *Rhode Island Humanities* has given **57 awards** and over **\$60,000** to community leaders, scholars, and cultural organizations at our annual *Celebration of the Humanities!*



## Civic Health Index

In 2022, the first-ever *Rhode Island Civic Health Index* under-scored cultural participation as a key indicator of civic health.

**10 Community Partners**—selected for their community leadership, as well as racial/ethnic, geographic, gender, and generational diversity—were integral to the creation and interpretation of the initial survey and the shaping of the report.

[rihumanities.org/ri-civic-health-index](https://rihumanities.org/ri-civic-health-index)

## RHODE TOUR

## Rhode Tour

Our focus on collaborative partnerships has supported multiple statewide platforms including *Rhode Tour*—a free app developed with Brown University and the Rhode Island Historical Society. In 2022 alone, over **45,000 users** accessed **36 tours** and **359 stories** of Rhode Island’s history and culture. Stay tuned for a special 50th Anniversary release later this year!

[rihumanities.org/rhode-tour](https://rihumanities.org/rhode-tour)

# 2022 CELEBRATION of the HUMANITIES

*For 20 years, Rhode Island Humanities has recognized lifetime and creative achievement, innovation, and public humanities scholarship through this annual event.*

### ▶ JOAN ABRAMS

*Educator, Civic Leader, Philanthropist, and Humanities Advocate*

HONORARY CHAIRS’ AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

### ▶ JOSH SHORT

*Founder and Artistic Director of the Wilbury Theatre Group*

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

*A collaboration of the Phillips Memorial Library + Commons at Providence College, Erik Chaput PhD, and Russell DeSimone*

PUBLIC HUMANITIES SCHOLAR AWARD

# 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.*

## **Gifts of \$1,000 & over**

Pell Circle Donors\*

## **INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS \$100 & over**

### **Onésimo Almeida & Leonor Simas-Almeida**

Nancy Anderson

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### **Joan & Richard Abrams\***

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### **Anonymous**

Anonymous (3)

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celebrating Joan Abrams

### **Cherry Arnold & Peter Goldberg**

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Melissa Wong



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The Rhode Island Humanities  
2022 Annual Campaign began  
on November 1, 2021 and  
concluded on October 31,  
2022. If you find any errors  
or omissions, we apologize and  
ask that you please notify us at:  
[sophia@rihumanities.org](mailto:sophia@rihumanities.org)

For listings of gifts under \$100,  
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[rihumanities.org](http://rihumanities.org)

