

50 Years of Public Humanities: A Poster Retrospective

Drawn from our archive, this selection of posters represents the broad, rich diversity of public humanities projects funded by RI Humanities over the last 50 years. In dialogue with each other, the posters reveal both continuity and change in key themes and topics in the Ocean State. Seen together here for the first time, they also show evolutions in how we think about, talk about, and collectively explore our complex histories and cultures.

The posters are arranged here by decade, in loose groupings suggestive of how they once appeared: taped on a lamppost, hung in a store window, pinned to a coffee shop bulletin board. These imaginative, evocative styles celebrate the tremendous impact of Rhode Island's world-class arts and graphic design communities on the state's visual culture. Even with the increasing prevalence of digital formats, the printed poster persists as a tangible and enticing way to connect.

1. Project Title: *Interface: Providence*

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island School of Design
Grant Awarded in 1973

The first grant made by RI Humanities, *Interface: Providence* was a visionary urban planning proposal for downtown redevelopment that sought to capitalize on unique local qualities that others argued were fatal liabilities. Its compelling vision of a livable city rallied for the changes that later resulted in moving railroad tracks, uncovering the Cove that is now Waterplace Park, and uncovering and moving Downtown Providence's rivers. Through community presentations, publications, panel discussions, and forums, *Interface: Providence* set in motion significant citizen activism that transformed the capital city and created a template for sustainable economic revitalization through place making.

Text adapted from Nancy Austin, "Telling Our Story," 40th Anniversary of the RI Council for the Humanities (2013).

2. Project Title: *Godfather Death*

Grant Recipient: The Incredibly Far Off Broadway Ensemble Theatre
Grant Awarded in 1978

After producing this 15-minute film version of the Brothers Grimm folk tale *Godfather Death*, the Incredibly Far Off Broadway Ensemble Theatre arranged showings and discussions of the film at libraries around the state. Accompanying each showing was a companion piece of essays on the symbols in the story; the psychological importance of folk tales; the fear of death; and the Brothers Grimm and their position within the Romantic movement. Filmmaker Mark Sottnick went on to make a series of films based on classic children's tales narrated by actors

such as Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Holly Hunter, Robin Williams, Danny Glover, and Meg Ryan.

3. Project Title: The Wake of '38

Grant Recipient: Channel 36 (RI PBS / WSBE) and South Kingstown High School

Grant Awarded in 1977

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the hurricane of 1938, students from South Kingstown High School collected 100 oral histories related to the hurricane and its impacts. The interviews were supplemented by a photographic record of documents of the era, remaining evidence of the hurricane, and portraits of the interviewees. A public forum hosted in South County showcased these items, as well as a discussion program. This project was eventually turned into an Emmy Award-winning documentary television program produced by Channel 36 (RI PBS / WSBE).

4. Project Title: Image and Reality: The Nitty Gritty of Black Beauty

Grant Recipient: Afro-American Studies Program (Rites and Reason Theatre), Brown University

Grant Awarded in 1976

Founded in response to Black student walk-outs in 1968, Brown's Afro-American Studies Department (now the Department of Africana Studies) established the Rites and Reason Theatre in 1970 "to express the cultural, social, and ideological concerns of the African Diaspora." Under the founding leadership of Professor George Houston Bass, Professor Rhett Jones, and Managing Director Karen Allen Baxter, Rites and Reason developed a unique Research-to-Performance Method (RPM) for the research-driven development of new creative works. For "Image and Reality," Rites and Reason organized a series of lecture presentations from humanities scholars on public policy decisions related to Black life, then commissioned new plays derived from the lectures. Following the presentation and the play, scholars and local discussion leaders engaged in community forums on the policy issues.

5. Project Title: The Other Side of Prejudice: A Challenge to the Status Quo / 5 more film forums

Grant Recipient: Urban League of Rhode Island

Grant Awarded in 1977

This film forum and workshop series was designed to assist Rhode Islanders in gaining insight into their own thoughts and feelings about the "devastating virus of prejudice." While the discourses around the issues listed on the poster have evolved in the following 46 years, they all remain relevant and urgent, demonstrating the pervasiveness and complexity of prejudice.

6. Project Title: Art and the Law

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island School of Design
Grant Awarded in 1978

In this series of six lectures and discussions organized and hosted by the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), an attorney, a philosopher, and an art historian examined the interface of art and the law, including: the moral rights of artists in relation to the creation of control of their work; the nature of contractual agreements between artists, agents, galleries and museums; copyright of both products and processes in art, taxation, obscenity and censorship; and the relationships between art and government.

7. Project Title: Symposium: Science and Society

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island College
Grant Awarded in 1976

Organized and hosted by Rhode Island College, this symposium series featured internationally recognized authorities C.P. Snow and Rene Dubois with the goal of providing Rhode Islanders with a basis for informed thinking about the nature of science and its significance to American society.

8. Project Title: Historical Archaeology in a Natural Laboratory: Linking the Present to the Past

Grant Recipient: Brown University

Grant Awarded in 1981

The George B. Parker Woodland, a 515-acre tract located in Foster and Coventry with numerous well-preserved archeological remains, served as the “natural laboratory” for this project, which connected audiences with the methods, practices and concepts of historical archaeology. Organized by Brown University’s Department of Anthropology, public activities included the preparation of a field guide keyed to on-site displays along trails in the Woodland; the formulation of instructional kits aimed at providing audiences with information about performing documentary research or recognizing cultural modifications to the natural landscape; and the presentation of two public lecture series.

9. Project Title: Victorian Bibliomania: The Illuminated Book in 19th Century Britain

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island School of Design

Grant Awarded in 1986

This exhibit and public program series at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum—which included a workshop, symposium, and performance—examined the history of the book, sacred texts, secular literature, architecture and design, manuals on hand illumination, and historical chronicles and heraldry. The project also received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, RI Humanities’ affiliated federal agency, for a catalogue to accompany the exhibition.

10. Project Title: South County Roots: The Cultural Heritage of Black and Native Americans

Grant Recipient: Hazard School, South Kingstown

Grant Awarded in 1982

This series of four public forums on Black and Native American cultures took as its premise that these cultures play a fundamental role in the heritage of South Kingstown, and sought to raise critical issues dealing with intolerance, prejudice, and bigotry. The forums explored topics including “The Plantation System,” “The Black Family in Literature,” “European Influences on Indian Communities,” “A New England Profile,” and “The New England Indian and the Western Image,” and were supplemented with Black and Native American programs at the since-closed Hazard School.

11. Project Title: Humanistic Perspectives of High Technology

Grant Recipient: Community College of Rhode Island
Grant Awarded in 1981

In a series highly relevant to today's discourses around ethics, labor, and technology, Community College of Rhode Island organized a series of five public lectures and presentations by technological experts and humanists on the impacts and nature of rapid development. Program topics included "Robotics, Computers, and Dislocations in the Labor Force"; "Privacy, Public Policy, and High Technology"; "Genetic Engineering"; "The Arts and High Technology" and "The Mirror of Technology: Man's Changing Image of Himself."

12. Project Title: Rhode Island's Islands

Grant Recipients: Jamestown Philomenian Library & Jamestown Historical Society
Grant Awarded in 1985

For this project, an oral historian, a photographer, two historians, and a cultural anthropologist sought to explore and explain the cultural and social life of three major Rhode Island islands: Jamestown (or Conanicut Island), Prudence Island, and Block Island. As part of "Rhode Island's Islands," the team created an eight-page publication in newspaper format reflecting the oral histories and photographs collected, and two public discussion programs exploring topical questions related to life on the three islands.

13. Project Title: Black Women and Class

Grant Recipient: Langston Hughes Center for the Arts
Grant Awarded in 1987

This reading and discussion series focused on four classic works by Black women writers: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor, *Sula* by Toni Morrison, and *Brown Girl, Brownstones* by Paule Marshall. This brilliant syllabus continues to offer a variety of perspectives on how blackness, femaleness, and socioeconomic class intersect, reinforce, and/or subvert each other in the lives of Black women.

14. Project Title: Rhode Island Lighthouses - Past, Present & Future

Grant Recipients: Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Grant Awarded in 1985

In celebration of a rich legacy, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management created a traveling exhibit and speaking program on the history of lighthouses in Rhode Island. The exhibit then found a permanent home at the Beavertail Lighthouse. The impact of the program persists in the structures we enjoy today—the State Historic Preservation Office submitted a

thematic nomination of 14 lighthouse complexes to the National Register of Historic Places, which entered them on the Register in 1987.

15. Project Title: Liberty of Conscience and the Growth of Religious Diversity in Early America, 1636-1786

Grant Recipient: John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

Grant Awarded in 1985

In honor of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the state of Rhode Island, the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University dove into its collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century books relevant to state and national religious history. The result was a special exhibition at the Library complete with three published catalogues, two receptions, and a featured lecturer.

16. Project Title: Manners, Mansions, & Madness: Reading Rhode Island

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island Department of State Library Services

Grant Awarded in 1986

This public library program focused on five literary works related to Rhode Island in celebration of the state's 350th anniversary in 1986. The series provided 50 public lectures by 10 humanities scholars followed by small group discussions on the following texts: *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton; *Airs of Providence* by Jean McGarry; *At the Mountain of Madness and Other Tales of Terror* by H.P. Lovecraft; *The Octette Bridge Club* by P.J. Barry; and *Our Own Kind* by Edward McSorley.

17. Project Title: Storms, Shipwrecks, and Rescues and Waterways as Inspiration: A Supplement to "What A Difference A Bay Makes"

Grant Recipients: Rhode Island Historical Society and the Department of State Library Services

Grant Awarded in 1991

This program series explored the many roles Narragansett Bay has played in the history of the region—as its front yard, highway, workplace, playground, and source of inspiration—as well as roles to come. Throughout 12 programs at various sites in the Bay region, community members discussed the infamous Hurricanes of '38 and '54 and shipwrecks of the American Revolution, as well as encountered a costumed interpreter portraying Ida Lewis, the Bay's most famous lighthouse keeper. These events supplemented the project, "What a Difference a Bay Makes," a two-year series of public humanities programs supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, RI Humanities' affiliated federal agency.

18. Project Title: The Jamestown Bridge, 1940 - 1990: From "The Bridge to Nowhere" to Obsolescence

Grant Recipient: Jamestown Historical Society

Grant Awarded in 1990

For this project, the Jamestown Historical Society examined the story of the Jamestown Bridge: how it came to be built and what part it played in the social, economic, and political history of Conanicut Island and the state of Rhode Island. The multifaceted, multimedia program included an exhibit at the Jamestown Museum and accompanying catalogue, a film with images of the Bridge's construction and interviews with construction workers, and lecture programs for all ages.

19. Project Title: Bartlett Society Small Press/Fine Printing Book Fair

Grant Recipient: The John Russell Bartlett Society and Brown University

Grant Awarded in 1996

In 1996, the John Russell Bartlett Society, self-described as "a group of Rhode Island book collectors, book crafts-people, and book readers who meet periodically for the purpose of engaging in good talk about books as objects," hosted their Sixth Bi-annual Small Press / Fine Printing Book Fair. The Fair featured the wares of 25 presses, and celebrated the art and craft of the book.

20. Project Title: 140 Years of Baking Powder History

Grant Recipient: East Providence Historical Society
Grant Awarded in 1993

In honor of the 140th anniversary of the Rumford Chemical Company, the East Providence Historical Society undertook a program series on the company's impact on the development of the Rumford community and its lasting effects on land use, socio-economics, water resources, education, ethnic neighborhoods, and political participation. Events included a "Rumford Memories Roundtable," a gathering of some 30 former employees of the Company; lectures on baking powder and the history of Rumford Chemical Company; a museum display at the John Hunt House; and a commemorative reproduction of a 1908 Rumford recipe booklet.

21. Project Title: Action Speaks 1998: America at the Millenium

Grant Recipient: AS220
Grant Awarded in 1998

On the brink of Y2K, AS220 hosted the fourth year of *Action Speaks*, a topical forum series on questions of vital public interest hosted in-person and via live radio broadcast. Chosen discussion topics suggest a mood of existential reflection as Rhode Island grappled with the meaning of the 21st century, and the second millennium: "What is an American?"; "America the Puritanical?"; "Privacy and Punishment in America"; and "Rugged Individualism or Collective Responsibility?"

22. Project Title: Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in WWII

Grant Recipient: Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island
Grant Awarded in 1992

In honor of Black History Month, the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum, the RI Black Heritage Society, and the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of RI organized two public events centered on the film *The Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in World War II*. The documentary tells the story of Black American soldiers who liberated Nazi concentration camps only to return home to continued racism and oppression. Following the screening, liberator and veteran Paul Parks, Holocaust survivor Stephan Ross, and URI History Professor Robert Weisbord engaged audiences in a panel discussion.

**23. Project Title: Women's Weeks '95: Elizabeth Fox-Genovese -
Thirty Years of Feminism: Promises and Problems**

Grant Recipient: Providence College
Grant Awarded in 1995

As part of "Women's Weeks '95," Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Elizabeth Fox-Genovese presented a critical exploration of the issues that had affected the feminist movement to date, and

those to come. The career of Fox-Genovese exemplified many of these cultural ebbs and flows. A prominent Marxist scholar early in her career and founder of the Institute for Women's Studies at Emory University, she later became a leader in the conservative women's movement following a conversion to Roman Catholicism.

24. Project Title: Walt Whitman 1819, 1892, 1992: Readings and Discussions

Grant Recipient: Providence Athenaeum

Grant Awarded in 1992

This series of programs celebrated the centennial of the death of Walt Whitman, described as a sage, a healer, and the first maker of modern American poems. Organizers presented four seminars in varying locations around the state that focused on themes from passages in Whitman's poems and journals: "Democracy"; "War"; "Sexuality"; and "Mysticism." At each session, panelists and scholars read excerpts from Whitman's work and discussed salient points, ending with a public discussion.

25. Project Title: Miss Pixie's Late Nite Club House

Organizer: Perishable Theatre

Year: n.d. (c. 1990)

This poster for the Perishable Theatre's production of *Miss Pixie's Late Nite Clubhouse* conveys the PeeWee Herman-style playfulness and whimsy of a late-night underground cabaret. Sponsored by RI Humanities, the production featured guests such as Cardida Svich, the "Smartest Woman in the World," funnyman Alex Dressler, the "Federal Hillbully Sweetheart" Jodie Halotube, and a very small, very plastic version of "My Baby."

26. Project Title: Fourth "Our Essence" Festival of Latin American Cinema

Grant Recipient: Pukara-Fortitude, Inc.

Grant Awarded in 1995

The fourth annual "Our Essence Festival of Latin American Cinema in New England," a week-long juried film festival exhibiting and recognizing Latin American film in New England, featured films based on the work of Gabriel García Márquez; humanities-based forums; and screenings of seven Latin-American films. While this specific film festival no longer seems to be in operation, Rhode Islanders can still celebrate Latin American cinema at the Providence Latin American Film Festival (PLAFF), held annually during Hispanic Heritage Month

27. Project Title: Portuguese / African Encounters 2002 Congress

Grant Recipient: Brown University

Grant Awarded in 2002

Hosted by Brown University, the *Portuguese / African Encounters International Congress* convened 75 international participants to examine the relationship between Portugal and Africa, the global effects of this encounter, and the current state of Lusophone African studies. The Congress also featured a literary symposium, an interdisciplinary social science conference, an ambassadors roundtable, an exhibit of the work of acclaimed Mozambican artist Malangatana Ngwenya, and a film series. Congress co-organizer and Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Onésimo T. Almeida received the Chair's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities from RI Humanities in 2021.

28. Project Title: Langston Hughes Centennial Birthday Celebration

Grant Recipient: Providence Public Library

Grant Awarded in 2001

In honor of the centennial of the birth of Langston Hughes—the poet, writer, and voice of the Harlem Renaissance—the Providence Public Library presented a lecture and exhibit series that examined his career and his impact on Rhode Island. The non-profit Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading continues to celebrate this legacy by organizing an annual community event, located in 2023 at the Providence Public Library's Donald J. Farish Auditorium.

29. Project Title: On the Road to Freedom - African American Heritage

RI Humanities Program Initiative

2008

In 2008, RI Humanities organized “On the Road to Freedom,” a program initiative that included grants to organizations and individuals involved in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of RI’s African-American heritage; programming focused on Rhode Island’s African-American history and culture; and statewide partnerships for public events and exhibitions highlighting African-American contributions to Rhode Island’s cultural heritage. The initiative’s programs explored stories integral to the state, such as the history of the slave trade and emancipation; pacifism and military heroism; pioneering artists and the creation of nationally recognized cultural and educational institutions; the realization of the American Dream; and legacies of racism and oppression. One such program was Mixed Magic Theatre’s “The Original American Icon” (Poster #37), exploring the life of legendary orator, publisher, and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.\

30. Project Title: Front Line, First Person: Iraq War Stories

Grant Recipient: Brown University
Grant Awarded in 2007

This two-day conference at Brown's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs brought together veterans, bloggers, filmmakers, political representatives, authors, journalists, and scholars to discuss issues of the Iraq War—at that time, in its fourth year. The conference highlighted the stories of veterans and their power to inform the broader U.S. public, as well as questions about the potential for such stories to be deployed as political tools for civil-military relations, decision-making and understanding.

31. Project Title: Sissieretta Jones, "The Black Patti": A Voice of Providence

Grant Recipient: Professor Carol Landau
Grant Awarded in 2003

Prof. Carol Landau, Clinical Professor Emerita of Medicine, Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown, conducted independent research into the life story of the world-famous Providence performer Sissieretta Jones (1869-1933) for a culminating presentation and discussion with Providence middle school students and their parents. The event highlighted psychological resilience by examining Jones' successes and disappointments as well as the coping skills she used during difficult times, and provided an in-depth exploration of local history as well as women's and racial issues.

32. Project Title: University of Rhode Island 2001 Honors Colloquium: A Just and Sustainable Future: Overcoming Barriers in Action

Grant Recipient: University of Rhode Island
Grant Awarded in 2001

This colloquium on sustainability focused on the vital questions of how humanity can continue to thrive on Earth given human behaviors that are not infinitely sustainable. As the climate crisis continues to unfold to devastating effect 22 years later, the subject of this colloquium, and any actions inspired by it, have never been more urgent.

33. Project Title: Industrial Evolution: Voices of Pawtucket's Workers

Grant Recipient: Slater Mill Historic Site
Grant Awarded in 2005

Slater Mill Historic Site, home of the first successful water-powered cotton-spinning mill in the U.S., organized this multimedia exhibit exploring the transformations of industrialism in Pawtucket. Artifacts, oral histories, and photographs introduced 32 individual workers and their

experiences in the workplace—a fitting contribution to the rich history of industrialized labor in the Blackstone River Valley.

34. Project Title: We Shall Not Be Moved! / ¡No Nos Moveran!

Grant Recipient: Olneyville Neighborhood Association

Grant Awarded in 2008

This bilingual program series from the Olneyville Neighborhood Association aimed to increase audience awareness of historical issues regarding Rhode Island housing and to connect this history to contemporary issues, including gentrification and displacement. Grantees organized two exhibitions, one at Providence City Hall and one at Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE); a public panel discussion at DARE; and a public screening of a documentary film at AS220 followed by discussion. Thanks to its engaging, dynamic design and screen-printed fabrication, this metallic-inked poster is a classic example of Providence poster culture.

35. Project Title: The Warren Mills Project

Grant Recipient: Warren Preservation Society

Grant Awarded in 2009

In an East Bay exploration of the statewide phenomenon of deindustrialization, the Warren Preservation Society created public displays and events devoted to the history of Warren’s mills, the community of workers who settled in Warren, and the impact that closing and redeveloping the mills had on contemporary communities. Research conducted at state archives and other sites, along with interviews with descendants of Warren Mill workers, culminated in a digital document made available to libraries, schools and museums; an exhibition; and a lecture series.

36. Project Title: Hemingway's Ghost (and Other Horrors of the Literary World): A Literary Chautauqua

Grant Recipient: Westerly Public Library

Grant Awarded in 2002

This lighthearted Halloween program from the Westerly Public Library is an excellent example of the Chautauqua format popularized in the 19th century: a live performance meant to educate and entertain. In “Hemingway’s Ghost,” scholar Betty Jean Steinshouer literally changed hats as she carried on an imagined conversation among renowned female authors Willa Cather, Gertrude Stein, and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings about writer, Nobel Prize winner, and alleged horror Ernest Hemingway.

37. Project Title: The Original American Icon

Grant Recipient: Mixed Magic Theatre and Cultural Events
Grant Awarded in 2008

As part of RI Humanities' initiative "On the Road to Freedom" (Poster #29), Mixed Magic Theatre presented a Readers Theatre production of "The Original American Icon Part I." Adapted and directed by Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, this production re-interpreted *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by the legendary orator, publisher, and abolitionist. Mixed Magic Theatre received the Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities from RI Humanities in 2021.

38. Project Title: Rithy Panh Film Festival

Grant Recipient: Cambodian Society of Rhode Island
Grant Awarded in 2002

This festival featured films by Cambodia's celebrated film director Rithy Pahn as well as discussions with Pahn himself, who attended the festival. His work chronicles life as it was before the rise of the Khmer Rouge and during the four-year Holocaust that killed up to 1.7 million people, as well as Cambodians' experiences in refugee camps and the breakdown of social mores in the early years of the country's fragile reconstruction.

39. Project Title: Urban Agriculture Revival: Green Zones: From the War Garden to Your Garden

Grant Recipient: Sarah Zurier
Grant Awarded in 2008

In this individual research project, scholar Sarah Zurier examined the history of Rhode Island's wartime gardens. The project, done in partnership with Southside Community Land Trust, culminated in a public garden, PowerPoint presentation, and a public forum discussing the patriotism, propaganda, and politics of small-scale agriculture.

40. Project Title: The Deborah McCrea Memorial Lecture Series - African American Contributions to American Culture through Literature

Grant Recipient: William S. Hopkins Historical Society of the Congdon Street Baptist Church
Grant Awarded in 2002

The Congdon Street Baptist Church, the oldest Black church in Rhode Island, organized this five-part lecture series investigating the intellectual and artistic contributions of African Americans throughout history in spite of the challenges and obstacles they faced. Topics

included slavery, religion, literature, Revolutionary War soldiers, and migration during Reconstruction.

41. Project Title: The Portuguese in Little Compton: Exhibition & Special Events

Grant Recipient: Little Compton Historical Society

Grant Awarded in 2007

Little Compton is home to a historic and thriving Portuguese community established during waves of late-19th century migration. The celebration of this legacy from the Little Compton Historical Society took a number of forms: the collection of oral histories; the creation and presentation of an exhibit; the production of a DVD; and special events, including the “Dia da Familia” festivities advertised on this poster. Come for the kale soup cook-off, stay for the Portuguese water dog demonstrations!

42. Project Title: The Library Show

Grant Recipient: AS220

Grant Awarded in 2007

As explained in the original website text for this exhibition, “For almost 40 years, Providence’s Firehouse 11 served the Washington Park community as a library. Then in early 2006, the library closed with just a few days’ notice due to water damage to the roof. Since then, the people of Washington Park have been struggling to get along without regular library services.” *The Library Show* organizers took this opportunity to celebrate the importance of the public library, transforming the gallery Firehouse 13 into a public library branch “complete with books, movies, music, and lots of events.” And, as indicated on the poster, the project directors also released a benefit album, *the library album*.

43. Project Title: Year of the City: The Providence Project

Grant Recipient: Providence Public Library

Grant Awarded in 2018

This cross-cutting series of programs throughout 2019 explored Providence’s cultural landscapes, both built and imagined. Comprised of over 50 events organized by a partnership of institutions and individuals, “Year of the City” focused on the places, communities, ideas, and organizations that have shaped and transformed the state’s capital and largest urban center.

44. Project Title: Rhode Island in the Civil War

Grant Recipient: Rhode Island College

Grant Awarded in 2011

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, this conference explored a variety of forms of academic and popular remembrance. Scholars, reenactors and musicians, local historical societies and museums, students, and the general public together explored how Rhode Islanders remembered, and still remember, the Civil War. In addition, Rhode Island College partnered with the RI Historical Society to bring two related exhibits to the Adams Public Library in Central Falls, and offered elementary- and secondary-level lesson plans to accompany the exhibits.

45. Project Title: Ravenous: The Enduring Legacy of Poe

Grant Recipient: Providence Athenaeum

Grant Awarded in 2019

Renowned nineteenth-century poet Edgar Allan Poe visited Providence in 1848 to pursue a doomed courtship with local poet, critic, Spiritualist, and cultural figure Sarah Helen Whitman. According to the Providence Athenaeum, Poe visited their collections during this time, as well as “survived a half-hearted suicide attempt and shortly after sat for a daguerrotype portrait.” This program series for adults and students shed light on Poe’s complex connections to Providence, the social circles of his literary contemporaries, and the lasting cultural legacy of his work.

46. Project Title: Silvered: Tracing Gorham at Mashapaug Pond

Organizers: UPP Arts

Year: 2016

“Silvered” combined archival film, documentary photography, oral history, and soundscape to invoke the experience of working at the Gorham Silver Factory and witnessing the disappearance of the factory site at Mashapaug Pond in Providence. At dusk, the multimedia visual and sound installation by Erik Carlson and Erik Gould was projected onto a steel sculpture floating on the pond designed by Holly Ewald and fabricated at The Steel Yard by Tim Ferland. This program was supported through the RI Humanities program series, “What is the 21st Century Essay?”

which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize with funding from the Pulitzer Campfires Initiative. The statewide series included performances, salons, conferences, multimedia interpretations, and publications that explored the changing nature of journalism and the humanities with a focus on environmental issues and their urgency and relevance to our health, communities, and economy.

47. Project Title: Becoming Creative

Grant Recipient: Micah Salkind

Grant Awarded in 2010

This individual research project investigated the ways that changing arts investment and branding strategies have had an impact on the founding, and flourishing, of Providence's nonprofit arts organizations and underground arts collectives. The project culminated with a public panel discussion integrating the research findings with relevant media and visually engaging primary sources.

48. Project Title: Perishable Humanities Bridge: Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Grant Recipient: Perishable Theatre

Grant Awarded in 2010

To offer historical and cultural contexts and connections for their 2010 theatrical season, Perishable Theatre developed "Humanities Bridge," a supplemental series of humanities programming. Events included public conversations and scholarly responses to plays produced in Perishable Theatre's International Women's Playwriting Festival (Poster #66), and print and podcast versions of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask's glam-rock musical about a genderqueer East German singer.

49. Project Title: Through Our Eyes: An Indigenous View of Mashapaug Pond

Grant Recipient: Environmental Council of Rhode Island Education Fund

Grant Awarded in 2010

This poster celebrates the culmination of a series of grant-supported art and humanities workshops: the release of the book *Through Our Eyes: An Indigenous View of Mashapaug Pond*, edited by Dawn Dove and Holly Ewald. These intergenerational workshops for Narragansett families facilitated and captured memories and stories about the former Narragansett community displaced from Mashapaug Pond in Providence in the 1950s. The Tomaquag Museum partnered with artist Holly Ewald to coordinate and promote the workshop series; locate and present pertinent artifacts in the Museum's holdings; and coordinate with scholar Bill Simmons and Narragansett tribal elders.

50. Project Title: AJAX: A Community Conversation About Returning Veterans

Grant Recipient: Salve Regina University

Grant Awarded in 2014

In the aftermath of the Iraq War and midst of the War in Afghanistan, Salve Regina University organized a touring production and post-play discussions of *Aias (Ajax)*, an ancient Greek play exploring the emotional trauma of war. Community conversations took place in each Rhode Island county, and brought together recent veterans, future soldiers, faculty, students, and a larger community for discussions about how best to assist soldiers returning from multiple tours of duty. This project was also supported with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities initiative *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*.

51. Project Title: The Rite of Spring Turns 100 in RI

Grant Recipient: FirstWorks

Grant Awarded in 2013

The avant-garde ballet *The Rite of Spring*, with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, provoked riots in the streets upon its Paris premiere in 1913. FirstWorks celebrated the premiere's 100th anniversary with an event series exploring the historical and contemporary moments when art pushes society into new modes of thinking, hearing and seeing. *The Rite of Spring Turns 100 in RI* culminated in a production of the Joffrey Ballet's commemorative reconstruction of *The Rite of Spring*.

52. Project Title: Books Beneath the Beams

Grant Recipient: The Steel Yard

Grant Awarded in 2011

This outdoor summer event at the Steel Yard connected the public with four featured authors: Jane Hamilton, Ann Hood, Tom Perrotta, and Anita Shreve. Activities included a series of readings, a scholar-led discussion among writers, and a public conversation with the authors on their own questions and ideas.

53. Project Title: AS220 Queer Arts Festival

Organizer: AS220

Year: 2019

Sponsored by RI Humanities as part of PVDFest 2019, this week-long festival of pay-what-you-can and all-ages programming featured documentary screenings by Magic Lantern Cinema in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising; panel discussions on queer activism in Rhode Island; musical performances by local artists; a dance party, and more. The

artistry celebrated in the festival is also on display in the fabrication of the metallic, screen-printed poster.

54. Project Title: Out-of-School-Time Playwriting for Young People in Olneyville (Farm to Table Plays)

Grant Recipient: Manton Avenue Project

Grant Awarded in 2017

Since 2004, the Manton Avenue Project (MAP) in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood has worked with local elementary- and middle-school students to develop and stage original plays using humanities themes as frameworks and local experts as guides. For this project, undertaken in partnership with Farm Fresh RI, 10 young playwrights each worked with an adult mentor to write plays exploring the themes of local farms and local food.

55. Project Title: Life Before and After Stonewall: Rhode Island LGBTQ Oral History Project

Grant Recipients: Mathewson Street United Methodist Church / HeadsUp Inc.

Grant Awarded in 2010

This multifaceted project originated with the collection of 60 oral histories from older (55+) members of the LGBTQ community in Rhode Island to ascertain if and/or how the Stonewall Rebellion impacted their lives. This research served as the basis for an original theatrical production, *The Journey Out*, by Frank V. Toti, Jr., that included 15 of these stories; the establishment of a Rhode Island LGBTQ Special Collection at the University of Rhode Island (URI) archives; and the development of a high-school civics curriculum. Additionally, project director Steven Pennell curated the exhibition advertised on this poster, "Coming Out: The Art and Politics of Gender and Sexuality" at URI's Feinstein Providence campus.

56. Project Title: ReSeeding the City: Ethnobotany in the Urban

Grant Recipient: Providence Biennial for Contemporary Art

Grant awarded in 2019

Curated by Judith Tolnick Champa, this dual forum and exhibition project focused on the entwined lives of humans, plants, and other life forms existing in New England's urban spaces. Presentations and installations highlighted the diverse perspectives, philosophies, and sciences through which we can better see and understand our day-to-day environment. Featuring a colloquium at Brown's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, "ReSeeding the City" included work by 21 artists from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

57. Project Title: On This Land: A celebratory performance weaving history, music, and poetry

Grant Recipient: Newman Congregational Church UCC

Grant Awarded in 2018

Founded in 1643 by Rev. Samuel Newman, the Newman Congregational Church was one of the earliest places of colonial settlement on the land known as Sowams. In commemoration of the church's 375th Anniversary, this celebration highlighted the history and heritage of both colonial settlers and the Wampanoag Tribe. Remarks by author and historian Linda Coombs (Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head), Rebecca Smith of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, and Nancy Godfray of Newman Congregational Church were followed by an original dance, spoken word, and musical performance by Indigenous artists and culture bearers, the Newman Church Choir, and the Aurea Ensemble.

58. Project Title: Curious Magic: The Magic Lantern Slides of the Museum of Natural History

Grant Recipient: Museum of Natural History and Planetarium

Grant Awarded in 2012

Organized in partnership with the Magic Lantern Cinema, "Curious Magic" at the Museum of Natural History and Planetarium at Providence's Roger Williams Park incorporated experimental film and live music to provide a contemporary interpretation of the Victorian period's fascination with natural history. The two multi-media screenings, based around the museum's extensive collection of glass magic lantern slides, were presented in conjunction with the Museum's *Curiouser: New Encounters with the Victorian Natural History Collection* exhibit.

59. Project Title: Open Sesame: Collaboration in the Athenaeum's Collections

Grant Recipient: Providence Athenaeum

Grant Awarded in 2015

In a demonstration of the richness and relevance of archives, "Open Sesame" invited a diverse group of artists and scholars into the Special Collections of the Providence Athenaeum: novelist and poet Colin Channer; architectural historian Ijlal Muzaffar; theater artists Rebecca Noon and Jed Hancock-Brainerd; artist and photographer Annu Palakunnathu Matthew; musician and cultural leader Consuelo Sherba; and sculptor and community collective founder Will Reeves. After exploring the collection, each member of the group created an original work for the Athenaeum and presented at a public salon about their process and/or the work created in response. The results were excitingly varied, from musical compositions to short story anthologies, and drew hundreds of salon participants from a wide range of Rhode Island communities.

60. Project Title: Providence Children’s Film Festival

Grant Recipient: Providence Children’s Film Festival
Grant Awarded in 2013

Founded in 2009, the Providence Children’s Film Festival celebrates high-quality independent and international family films with year-round screenings and programming. For the fourth festival in downtown Providence in 2013, workshops, filmmaker presentations, and hands-on drop-in activities enriched audience experience as children learned to think actively about film as a medium to tell important stories, understand new concepts, and delight the imagination.

61. Project Title: Freedom Project Brain Cafés Series and Documentation

Grant Recipient: Everett
Grant Awarded in 2014

Created by Everett Company Stage & School in 2011, the signature multidisciplinary *Brain Café* series invites audiences to engage with humanities scholars, artists, and community experts on critical, urgent topics in the public sphere. For this *Brain Café* series, Everett focused on issues related to mass incarceration, resulting in a staging of “Hip Hop Saved My Life,” which examines the role of hip hop in the fight for social justice, as well as a performance of works in progress.

62. Project Title: Barrington Public Library’s Open Classroom on the Middle East

Grant Recipient: Barrington Public Library
Grant Awarded in 2012

This 10-week community survey course on Middle Eastern history, religious practices, arts and culture, and economic and political development brought together 80+ students of all ages. In a pilot program of the “the open classroom” model, participants met for weekly lectures and discussions led by local university scholars; explored recommended readings; and interacted through an online discussion board.

63. Project Title: We Talk About Architecture, Architecture Talks Back

Grant Recipient: Community College of Rhode Island
Grant Awarded in 2011

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Warwick campus is home to an iconic Brutalist megastructure: the Knight Campus Building. As the building approached its 40th anniversary, CCRI convened a panel of architecture scholars and experts for a panel discussion about the building, its particular history, its place within architectural history, and about how the built

environment affects those who utilize it. This talk took place in coordination with an exhibition of artwork inspired by the Knight Campus Building at the CCRI Knight Campus Art Gallery.

64. Project Title: Raise Your Voice: Examining Culture, Clash, Community, Change

Grant Recipient: Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence
Grant Awarded in 2011

As part of their mission to “prevent, interrupt, and heal violence and uplift community,” the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence created *Raise Your Voice*, an interdisciplinary classroom program for fostering an understanding of the guiding principles of non-violence. For this project, the Institute continued their work with teachers trained in the program; advanced their work on program replication and adaptation; and organized a culminating forum replete with spoken word, performances, student art, a town hall meeting, food, and fun.

65. Project Title: The Human Library: What's Your Prejudice?

Grant Recipient: Community Libraries of Providence
Grant Awarded in 2012

Originating in Denmark in 2000, “The Human Library” is a program format in which community members participate as “books” that can share their stories, present points of view, and answer any questions from “borrowers.” In this presentation at the Rochambeau public library branch, Rhode Islanders representing a diverse array of identities volunteered to share their experiences with over 200 attendees. During the event, library docents facilitated 20-minute conversations between “books” and their “borrowers,” an exercise in community-building and civic understanding.

66. Project Title: 15th Perishable Theatre’s International Women’s Playwriting Festival

Grant Recipient: Perishable Theatre
Grant Awarded in 2010

To offer historical and cultural contexts and connections for their 2010 theatrical season, Perishable Theatre developed “Humanities Bridge,” a supplemental series of humanities programming. Events included public conversations and scholarly responses to plays produced in Perishable Theatre’s International Women’s Playwriting Festival, and print and podcast versions of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask’s glam-rock musical about a genderqueer East German singer (Poster #48).

67. Project Title: The I WAS THERE Project

Grant Recipient: Vartan Gregorian PTO

Grant Awarded in 2010

In 2009, Vartan Gregorian Elementary School in Providence created “I WAS THERE,” an history-based, intergenerational theater project that aimed to bridge and strengthen community ties in the diverse Fox Point neighborhood where the school is located. Fourth through sixth-grade classes conducted oral histories with their families and participating community members, which culminated in a performance showcasing segments of these stories. In this expansion of the project, Vartan Gregorian offered professional development for teachers; the creation of lessons and student experiences on the theme of “Factory Work and Jewelry” and the development of a three-day teachers institute on methods to disseminate the model across the school system.

68. Project Title: Rediscovered: Glass Negatives from the Providence Public Library’s Special Collection printed at the AS220 Darkroom

Grant Recipient: AS220

Grant Awarded in 2010

As the owners of the only publicly accessible black-and-white darkroom in Rhode Island at the time, AS220 collaborated with the Providence Public Library’s Special Glass Negative Collection of historic glass plates to print and display photographs from the collection. The resulting exhibition of photographic prints—many of which had never before been seen publicly—was accompanied by an online visual database of the collection and public programs featuring scholars and community members.

69. Project Title: Impacto Desproporcionado

Grant Recipient: Teatro ECAS

Grant Awarded in 2020

As reported by the *New York Times*, as of March 2021, “In Rhode Island, Latinos [had] 6.7 times the risk for hospitalization [for COVID-19] and 2.5 times the risk of death [from COVID-19], compared with white people.” In response to this “disproportionate impact,” Teatro ECAS, a Providence-based Latino theater, researched, developed, and staged *Impacto Desproporcionado*. This production documented and amplified the experiences of front line health care workers and Latinx essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing both documentation of and healing from a global, and hyperlocal, crisis.