



RHODE ISLAND  
HUMANITIES

## FY23 Grants by Congressional District

In FY23, RI Humanities awarded **41 grants—\$183,748 in total**—in support of public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement. At the core of our mission, grantmaking ensures vibrant humanities organizations and practitioners across the state have financial support, access to best practices in public humanities, and connections to Rhode Island’s vibrant cultural sector. Many grantees leverage support from RI Humanities to earn additional grants from private and public funders, including directly from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **DISTRICT 1**

#### **PUBLIC PROJECT GRANTS**

##### **MAJOR GRANT AWARDS**

CULTURAL SOCIETY, \$5,000.00 to *Preliminary Research for Museum of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI) History & Culture*

Supports the research, planning, and development of a mobile museum and exhibit highlighting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history and culture.

newportFILM, \$12,000.00 to *Community Impact Screenings*

Supports partnerships with local organizations for four documentary screenings and conversations with audiences reflective of and centered in the films. Topics include gender, sexuality, faith, loss, anti-colonialism, and environmentalism.

OASIS INTERNATIONAL, \$10,300.00 to *Oasis Spring Break Youth Program*

Supports youth participation in a spring break program that includes field trips and multi-day seminars on culture and American history, governance, and civic duty and responsibility.

RHODE ISLAND LATINO ARTS, \$12,000.00 to *Las Abuelas Cuentan | Our Elders As Storytellers*

Supports a bilingual and multigenerational project focusing on storytelling and writings on life experiences, memories, and cultural practices. The project will host bi-weekly pláticas (sharing circles) that include Latina elders and young counterparts, and will result in a living archive of the participants’ lives.

## **MINI GRANT AWARDS**

**BROWN UNIVERSITY, \$1,996.00 to *Reimagining New England Histories: Teacher Professional Development***  
Supports a one-day professional development session for K-12 educators to develop lessons foregrounding the experiences and contributions of Native Americans. The session will provide participants with access to current academic research and will allow educators to evaluate and create lesson plans that illuminate the historic and continuing contributions of Native peoples.

**FRIENDS OF LINDEN PLACE, \$1,514.00 to *Joseph Banigan, Samuel Pomeroy Colt, and the United States Rubber Company***

Supports a lecture and Q&A by author and historian Dr. Scott Molloy on Joseph Banigan, Samuel Pomeroy Colt, the United States Rubber Company, and Irish immigrants in Rhode Island. The public presentation will also include a visual display of Bristol's relationship with the rubber industry from partner organization Bristol Historical and Preservation Society.

**FRIENDS OF THE POKANOKET TRIBE, \$2,000.00 to *Pokanoket Heritage Day Support***

Supports the third annual celebration of Pokanoket and Indigenous history, contemporary culture, and impact on America.

**NEWPORT ART MUSEUM, \$2,000.00 to *¡Qué Vivan los Muertos! A Day of the Dead Celebration***

Supports three all-ages storytelling workshops related to the Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) holiday, the Museum's participation in Conexión Latina's Latino Festival, and a culminating community celebration at the Museum.

**NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, \$2,000.00 to *French in Newport Living History Weekend***

Supports French in Newport Living History Weekend programming, including living historians re-enacting social ceremonies and giving interviews; tours of the Museum of the American Revolution's replica of George Washington's tent; colonial baking demonstrations, and more.

**NORMAN BIRD SANCTUARY, \$1,600.00 to *Arts & Humanities Residency at Norman Bird Sanctuary***

Supports an interdisciplinary lecture series and affiliated residency in celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary. Arts & Humanities Resident Nina Elder will develop her place-based project, *Sedimental*; present a lecture; and invite the public to explore the complex relationships between humans and the environment.

**PRESERVE RHODE ISLAND, \$2,000.00 to *Jane's Walk Providence 2023***

Supports Jane's Walk in Providence, a global week-long festival of walking tours led by community members.

**PROVIDENCE ART CLUB, \$2,000.00 to *Building Bannister Panel Discussion***

Supports the "Building Bannister" panel discussion during the Fall 2023 Celebrating Bannister series, following the unveiling of a memorial to African-American artist Edward Mitchell Bannister. The live panel discussion, featuring a sculptor, historian, and Bannister collector, will be presented to a hybrid audience of in-person and virtual attendees.

RHODE ISLAND BLACK FILM FESTIVAL, \$2,000.00 to *6th Annual Rhode Island Black Film Festival: Black Culture in Film*

Funds support the sixth annual Rhode Island Black Film Festival, a four-day long festival of screenings, panels, roundtable discussions, and author events celebrating diversity in filmmaking.

RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR THE BOOK, \$2,000.00 to *Rhody Radio*

Supports episode partner stipends, transcription services, and marketing for Rhody Radio: RI Library Radio Online, an internet radio and podcast channel produced by RI library staff and their communities. Rhody Radio provides listeners with access to library programs, lectures, reading recommendations, and staff insights.

THE EMPOWERMENT FACTORY, \$2,000.00 to *Creative Squad After-School Programming for Underserved Elementary Youth*

Supports research, curriculum development, and design of a bilingual workbook for “Nature Drawing,” a distance-learning virtual after-school program.

WARREN PRESERVATION SOCIETY, \$2,000.00 to *Bristol County Enslaved History Project*

Funds support the research, planning, and public launch of a searchable database capturing information on all enslaved persons in the town of Warren between 1680 and 1808, which will be merged with existing comparable data from the town of Bristol.

## **DOCUMENTARY FILM & MEDIA GRANTS**

### **MAJOR GRANT AWARDS**

ARMENIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND, \$5,000.00 to *Armenian Chronicles: A Living History*  
Supports the script development of “Armenian Chronicles: A Living History”, a documentary about Armenian-American history, culture, and immigration through collected oral histories of families in Rhode Island, including the ongoing intergenerational impact of the Armenian genocide.

COMMUNITY LIBRARIES OF PROVIDENCE, \$4,961.00 to *Quikuchá*

Supports the research, planning, and development of *Quikuchá*, a 30-minute documentary film exploring stories of (in)migration in human and non-human forms of life in coastal areas of Rhode Island.

DOCUMENTARY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, \$5,000.00 to *“Call Us Fishermen,” A Documentary Film on Women in Commercial Fishing in Southeast New England*

Supports the creation of a film treatment and advisory panel for *Call Us Fishermen*, a feature-length film documenting women fishing commercially in Southern New England and their impact on the economy, culture, and regional identity of the industry.

## **INDIVIDUAL RESEACHERS**

### **MINI GRANT AWARDS**

JESSICA PEARSON, \$1,915.00 to *The Radical Space Where Dance and African American Identity Grew to its Fullest Potential*

Supports archival research and interviews centered on the cultural and community impacts of Black woman-owned dance studios. The research phase of the project will culminate in a public panel discussion with Dee Dee Handy Morris, owner of Dee Dee's Dance Center, and other Black dance studio owners and teachers from Rhode Island and New England.

MICHAEL SIMPSON , \$2,000.00 to *On This Day Rhode Island*

Funds support archival research for *On This Day Rhode Island*, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok accounts that post Rhode Island history facts. The research for the posts comes from newspaper archives, online databases, primary sources, and works of history.

BEN SISTO, \$2,000.00 to *Reinsulator*

Supports archival research on the history of insulators (a telecom device), the insulator collecting community, and publications celebrating and preserving insulators. The research will be shared via a public lecture and project website.

## **DISTRICT 2**

### **PUBLIC PROJECT GRANTS**

#### **MAJOR GRANT AWARDS**

ANARCHESTRA FOUNDATION, \$5,245.00 to *Exploding Sound: Lecture and Workshop Series*

Supports "Exploding Sound!", a lecture and workshop series for Pawtucket and Rhode Island K-12 students. The series will explore collaborative music-making through the context of liberatory political theory and the histories of outsider art and experimental music.

DESIGNxRI, \$12,000.00 to *DESIGNxREDEFINE (DxRe)*

Supports community conversations, story-capturing, and public installations and exhibits examining design's definitions and relationships to diverse communities.

FIRSTWORKS, \$12,000.00 to *FirstWorks "Hacking the Classics"*

Supports humanities-focused community engagement events around Rennie Harris Puremovement's *Rome & Jewels*, a reimagining of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Events include a roundtable conversation with scholars, a town hall conversation, and K-12 educational workshops.

GENERATION CITIZEN, \$11,637.50 to *Rhode Island Civic Learning Week*

Supports Rhode Island Civic Learning Week 2024, a free week-long civic education program including webinars, workshops, and panel discussions for students, educators, policymakers, and leaders in the public and private sector.

LITARTS RI, \$8,736.00 to *“Regenerating and Sustaining” with RI Creatives of Color*

Supports the work of the B/I/POC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) Advisory Committee and a community-building program series including monthly coffee hours for writers of color; a physical and digital resource binder containing information related to the creative process; and an introductory writing workshop for emerging writers of color.

MANTON AVENUE PROJECT, \$12,000.00 to *Imagining a Healthier Democracy: Devising Workshops using Legislative and Image Theatre*

Supports a series of workshops for elementary and middle school students exploring what makes a healthy democracy. The workshops will include legislative theater, songwriting, and the creation of a mural, and will culminate in a series of public performances and talk backs.

OPERATION STAND DOWN RHODE ISLAND, \$12,000.00 to *Providence Clemente Veterans Initiative*

Supports a free humanities course for Rhode Island veterans through the Providence Clemente Veterans Initiative. Classes and topics include philosophy, history, literature, and art history, guided by university professors and veteran facilitators.

#### **MINI GRANT AWARDS**

ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL CHURCH, \$2,000.00 to *The Wisdom of the African American Spirituals Tradition*

Supports a discussion program and interactive workshop with internationally recognized author, scholar, and singer Dr. Arthur Jones. Jones will explore the cultural, spiritual, and musical legacy of African American spirituals using recordings and group singing in an interactive community workshop.

GEAR PRODUCTIONS, \$2,000.00 to *We Go Way, Way Back*

Supports research on the history of work and play in South Kingstown in celebration of the Tricentennial of the town. The research will inform a musical theatre production for 3rd and 4th graders in the South Kingstown School District as well as a series of informational placards.

HOPE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, \$2,000.00 to *The Scituate Story Project*

Supports a program of teen storytelling workshops and a series of community open mic nights and story/poetry slams led by Mark Binder and Christopher Johnson.

KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, \$2,000.00 to *Witness Stones Project: Kingston, Rhode Island*

Supports the installation of two Witness Stones, brass-plated stone markers commemorating enslaved individuals in Kingston, and a public installation ceremony.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE, \$1,869.00 to *Rhode Island and the Politics of Slavery: The 1836 Debate Over the Gag Rule*

Supports research on the 1835-1836 antislavery gag rule debates in the Rhode Island General Assembly. The research will inform resources for teachers and students in grades 9-12, including a publicly available teaching article and a research bibliography, shared on CommonPlace and the Dorr Rebellion Project website.

QUEER.ARCHIVE.WORK, INC., \$2,000.00 to *Queer/Trans Zinefest (QTZ) 2023*

Supports Queer/Trans Zinefest (QTZ) 2023, an independent publishing zine festival celebrating the creations of queer, trans, and gender non-conforming writers, poets, cartoonists, independent publishers, and zine makers. The festival includes free programming such as an evening reading, workshops, panel discussions, and open studio days.

SOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM, INC., \$1,975.00 to *Summer Speaker Series*

Funds support a free series of lectures and presentations by local historians, authors, and traditional craftspeople to mark the Museum's 90th birthday. Series topics will include the connection of Rhode Island's textile mills to the slavery economy, encounters among the Narragansett people and Roger Williams, and the history of trap fishing in the state.

## **INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS**

### **MINI GRANT AWARDS**

MARTHA KOCH, \$2,000.00 to *Deep Mapping Providence's Artist-run Collectives and Land-use Regulations*

Supports archival research, interviews, and geospatial analysis exploring how Providence's arts collectives have interacted with government land-use codes and real-estate markets to shape the city's built environments over the last 30 years.

MATTHEW LAWRENCE, \$2,000.00 to *Scandalous Conduct / Senate Inquiry*

Funds support research on the Newport Naval scandal, and, specifically, research into the Senate Inquiry in 1921. The project builds on Lawrence's previous work on his FY20 mini grant *Scandalous Conduct / Newport 1919*.

SOPHIA RICHTER, \$2,000.00 to *Rhode Island Fisheries Oral History Project*

Supports the annotation and indexing of over three hundred community oral histories on the Rhode Island fishing industry. The printable index and digital annotated histories will be published and presented in collaboration with the South County Museum.

## **STATEWIDE**

### **DOCUMENTARY FILM & MEDIA GRANTS**

#### **MAJOR GRANT AWARDS**

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY, \$4,999.10 to *Rum, Slavery, and the American Revolution*

Supports the script development of "Rum, Slavery, and the American Revolution," a 90-minute documentary film exploring Rhode Island's leading role in the transatlantic rum and slave trade while simultaneously serving as an epicenter for abolitionist activity.

**MINI GRANT AWARDS**

TIKKUN OLAM PRODUCTIONS, \$2,000.00 to *Breakin' Away*

Supports research, planning, and development of a 10-minute proof-of-concept film on three Rhode Island-based BiPoC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) professional breakdancers who seek to represent the United States at the 2024 Summer Olympics.