Dear Friends,

Last year was a remarkable year for North Carolina Humanities.

As North Carolinians, we came together to meet the many challenges of 2021, finding new ways to connect and reach beyond what we knew as "normal" before the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year, North Carolina Humanities continued to work with our board, staff, and partners to establish innovative ways of learning, sharing, and discovery, all to create a brighter path forward.

In February 2021, North Carolina Humanities, formerly known as North Carolina Humanities Council, introduced a new mission, vision, and identity to affirm and bring clarity to our purpose and statewide pursuits.

Prioritizing accessibility and safety, in April we expanded our virtual programs, offering new conversations and presentations where we talked about and considered important, timely issues. Serving as a critical funding resource for local museums, libraries, and cultural organizations, in September we distributed $1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Humanities Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to North Carolina nonprofits who used the funds to support their operational costs and restart or create new humanities programs to reconnect communities. Expanding our reading initiatives, in December we announced a new partnership program with NASCAR Cup Series driver Erik Jones and his foundation to promote childhood literacy and reading North Carolina authors and books.

Looking to the future, North Carolina Humanities will celebrate 50 years of unique service in 2022. We are honored to serve as the leading nonprofit organization charged with advancing public access to and support for the humanities in North Carolina. We look forward to celebrating and reflecting with you in the coming year.

With gratitude,

Sherry Paula Watkins, Executive Director
Board of Trustees

Dr. Nancy A. Gutierrez, Chair (Charlotte)
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Staff

Sherry Paula Watkins, Executive Director
Megan Byrd, Executive Assistant
Melissa Giblin, Director of North Carolina Center for the Book
Rusty Reynolds, Finance and Operations Administrator
Melanie Moore Richeson, Development and Communications Manager
Caitlin Patton Stanley, Director of Grants and Compliance
Mission

To connect North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community.

Vision

A North Carolina enriched by the humanities and equipped with empathy, understanding, and respect.

Values

Curiosity
Diversity of Ideas
Empowerment
Inclusion
Knowledge
Respect
Programs

North Carolina Humanities connects communities through shared reading experiences that open minds and create opportunities for dialogue. Our reading programs aim to help North Carolinians better understand themselves and empathize with others’ stories and experiences.

The North Carolina Center for the Book is a collection of North Carolina Humanities' literature and reading programs that celebrate books, reading, and libraries. The North Carolina Center for the Book is the state affiliate of the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and is supported in part by the State Library of North Carolina.

ROUTE 1 READS

**Cardinal** by Tyree Daye

A road trip-inspired, themed reading list that annually explores various genres and is compiled by the network of 16 affiliate Centers for the Book in the Library of Congress located along Route 1.

**The Edge of Anything** by Nora Shalaway Carpenter

A young readers reading list that is annually featured at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. The list is composed of books and authors from across the country to showcase our nation’s rich culture and heritage.

DISCOVER GREAT PLACES THROUGH READING

**WATERSHED MOMENTS**

**The Water Knife** by Paolo Bacigalupi

**Dry** by Jarrod and Neal Shusterman

This special initiative used the lens of journalism and the humanities to examine significant environmental issues impacting North Carolina and beyond. The initiative included a Statewide Read book club featuring *The Water Knife* and *Dry*. In partnership with Working Films, a virtual statewide tour of "Revisioning Recovery: Uncovering the Roots of Disaster", a film series exploring environmental disasters and their impact on communities, was screened in five North Carolina communities. Programming was made possible in part by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
NC Humanities has proudly partnered with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service for over a decade to bring nationally-touring Smithsonian exhibits to North Carolina. In 2021 the exhibit Water/Ways toured at Macon County Public Library (Franklin), Wake Forest Historical Museum (Wake Forest), NC Estuarium (Washington), Wrightsville Beach Museum (Wrightsville Beach), Alamance Community College (Graham), and Yancey County Public Library (Burnsville). Each venue developed complementary exhibits and programs about what water means culturally, socially, and spiritually in their own communities.

READ FOR THE LEAD

North Carolina Humanities is partnering with NASCAR Cup Series driver Erik Jones and his charitable foundation, the Erik Jones Foundation, to promote childhood literacy. NC Humanities is helping select a North Carolina-centric book for Jones to read out loud during his #READwithErik Facebook events which reach thousands of people across the country. After each read-out-loud event, NC Humanities is supplying free reading resources and books as well as conducting exclusive interviews with the featured book’s author.

JOHN TYLER CALDWELL AWARD FOR THE HUMANITIES

This award honors distinguished individuals who have strengthened the educational, cultural, and civic life of North Carolinians through their life’s work. Alex Albright was presented the 2021 award for his statewide impact and dedication to creative writing, teaching, and humanities advocacy.

HARLAN JOEL GRADIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE PUBLIC HUMANITIES

This award celebrates impactful community-based projects. Veterans for Peace, Chapter 157 was presented this award for their 2017 project. They created an interactive belltower where the community was invited to add inscriptions about their experiences with war and share their visions of how we can “beat swords into plowshares.”

WATER/WAYS

NC Humanities has proudly partnered with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service for over a decade to bring nationally-touring Smithsonian exhibits to North Carolina. In 2021 the exhibit Water/Ways toured at Macon County Public Library (Franklin), Wake Forest Historical Museum (Wake Forest), NC Estuarium (Washington), Wrightsville Beach Museum (Wrightsville Beach), Alamance Community College (Graham), and Yancey County Public Library (Burnsville). Each venue developed complementary exhibits and programs about what water means culturally, socially, and spiritually in their own communities.
North Carolina Humanities has been a leading cultural funder in North Carolina since our founding in 1972. Our grants are designed to solicit and respond to local needs and interests. We offer three types of cultural funding project grants to libraries, museums, historical societies, and other cultural and educational nonprofit organizations that use the humanities to deepen human connections; broaden perspectives; equip communities with empathy, understanding, and respect; and inspire community across differences. For a full list of our 2021 grantees, please visit www.nchumanities.org.

In addition to our regular grants, NC Humanities awarded $1.2 million dollars to 90 North Carolina cultural organizations. Funding supported things such as staff salaries, rent, securing and protecting property and collections, digitizing humanities resources and making them available online, humanities projects highlighting North Carolina’s COVID-19 experience, and more. Funding for American Rescue Plan Humanities Grants was provided to NC Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
$1.48 Million Awarded

62 Different Towns and Cities Aided

111 Organizations Served

63 Jobs Created

204 Jobs Preserved

“The humanities are helping us teach community history to people in a fun, safe, socially-distanced way.”

– McDowell County Historical Society, 2021 American Rescue Plan Humanities Grantee
Thank you to our donors!

$1,000 +
(Anonymous)
Christina Chia
Nancy A. Gutierrez
Jessica M. Hardin
Jenni and Ryan Henderson
Anne and Chris Lam
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(Anonymous)
Willis P. Whichard
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- In memory of Lynn Jones Ennis

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Fred and Susan Chappell
John A. Childrey
- In honor of James W. Clark, Jr.
Marvin Cole
Thank you to our donors!

$200 - $10
Burning Coal Theatre Company
Bobbie Contino
Michael Corbitt
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Harriet H. Davis
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Wayne Diggs
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William J. Gibney
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North Carolina Humanities would also like to thank those who have generously given gifts of in-kind support. We have attempted to ensure the accuracy of this report. If we have misrepresented or omitted a contribution, please contact our office.
Thank you to our sponsors and partners!

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

FEDERATION OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CENTER FOR THE BOOK

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUMS COUNCIL

NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY REVIEW

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUMS COUNCIL

NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

OUR STATE CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

WRRRL NC WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SLNC STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Smithsonian Institution

Sea Grant North Carolina
These extracted audited financial statements represent North Carolina Humanities' fiscal year 2021 which is November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021. Full audits are available upon request. Please call our office for more information.

**EXPENSES**

- Grants to Nonprofits ............... $1,479,618
- Program Services .................... $229,136
- NC Center for the Book Activities .... $67,033
- Museum on Main Street ............... $29,236
- Watershed Moments .................. $25,128
- John Tyler Caldwell Award .......... $14,069
- Management ........................... $360,948
- Public Relations ...................... $46,114
- Fundraising ........................... $81,863
- Lobbying ............................... $8,218

**REVENUE**

- NEH Grant ............... $2,156,508
- Other Gifts ............... $29,117
- Other Revenue ..... $253,475

**Financials**
North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, opinions, or recommendations expressed by our partners and participants do not necessarily represent those of North Carolina Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities. Note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some projects and grant funding may have been altered, cancelled, or returned. Institutional support for North Carolina Humanities is provided in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous individuals across North Carolina. This report reflects financials from North Carolina Humanities' fiscal year 2021 (November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021) and programs from calendar year 2021.

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