Our mission is to connect North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community.
OUR VISION
A North Carolina enriched by the humanities and equipped with empathy, understanding, and respect.

OUR VALUES
We believe in...

Curiosity
Strong desire to always learn more, know more, and question more is important for growth and lifelong happiness.

Diversity of Ideas
Diversity of ideas and perspectives is essential to a thriving society. We are all different, and we each bring unique contributions to the table.

Empowerment
The humanities can power change and fuel meaningful community conversations and experiences that lead to a greater understanding of our similarities and differences.

Inclusion
Each and every person is worthy of equitable access to opportunities and resources.

Knowledge
Knowledge builds community. When we learn together, we become better neighbors and help North Carolina continue to be a great place for all.

Respect
Everyone is important and worthy of politeness and dignity.
We are continuously grateful to those who value the humanities and our work. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Title Sponsors

[Logos of various sponsors]
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2022 IN REVIEW

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

In 2022, North Carolina Humanities celebrated its 50th anniversary as the leading nonprofit organization charged with advancing public access to and support for the humanities in North Carolina. A lot of reflection occurred during the past year as we pondered where we have been and imagined where we will go.

During our 50th, we created, facilitated, and funded humanities programs to help North Carolinians consider new perspectives and think about the past, the present, and the future. Cultural encounters expand our understanding, empathy, and respect for each other’s stories and experiences — which is essential to a thriving society.

We proudly connected North Carolinians to new books and ideas in both virtual and in-person spaces to discuss their thoughts and aspirations. We also made meaningful connections between local North Carolina libraries, museums, historical societies, and others and the resources of our national affiliate partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress.

Eagerly looking to the future, NC Humanities will continue to amplify voices and stories of diverse and marginalized groups, encourage grass-roots community involvement, and nurture curious minds.

Thank you for joining us in caring, reflecting, imagining and thinking, and for doing the work of the humanities year round.

With gratitude,

Sherry Paula Watkins
Executive Director

Five-year strategic plan
2022-2027

NC Humanities publicly launched a five-year Strategic Plan, which will guide the organization through 2027.
# 50th Anniversary Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td><strong>Celebrating 50 Years</strong>&lt;br&gt;Our year-long 50th anniversary celebration begins! Special programs and events take place virtually and in Charlotte throughout the year to celebrate and build on the legacy of NC Humanities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td><strong>Virtual Book Clubs</strong>&lt;br&gt;North Carolina Reads launches as one of the only statewide book clubs in North Carolina. Virtual and in-person book club discussions take place through June and serve as an essential program resource for local, community-based groups and regional libraries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td><strong>National Book Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thousands of book lovers from across the country attend the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. NC Humanities selects one adult and one young adult North Carolina-related book to be featured at the festival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td><strong>Jazz Reception</strong>&lt;br&gt;Community artists, educators, cultural leaders, and friends attend a joyful jazz reception with music performed by board trustees and others in Charlotte, celebrating the importance of community and our mission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td><strong>Celebration Event</strong>&lt;br&gt;NC Humanities holds its 50th Anniversary Celebration, highlighting past and current work while committing to 50 more years of lifelong learning! The event culminates with a memorable presentation of the 2022 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities to journalist and documentarian Steve Crump.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NC Humanities connects communities through shared reading experiences that open minds and initiate dialogue. Our reading programs aim to help North Carolinians better understand themselves and empathize with others’ stories and experiences.

A collection of NC Humanities’ literature and reading programs, the NC Center for the Book celebrates books, reading, libraries, and North Carolina’s literary heritage to ignite a statewide community of readers.

The NC Center for the Book is supported in part by the State Library of NC and is an affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.
North Carolina Reads

Our statewide book club explored issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina. The selected books pose critical questions about how North Carolinians view their role in helping to form a more just and inclusive society. From February through June, NC Humanities hosted monthly book club discussion events where participants heard from book authors and subject matter experts. Libraries, community groups, and individuals across the state were encouraged to read along and host their own community programs in tandem with NC Humanities’ events. NC Humanities also offered a limited number of complimentary Book Boxes to readers which included a selection of the book titles and curated discussion resources. Book Box recipients were allowed to keep their books as encouragement to spark conversations and further literacy.

North Carolina Reads was made possible in part by “A More Perfect Union,” a special grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

3,206 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

FEBRUARY
Soul City

MARCH
The Last Ballad

APRIL
Even As We Breathe

MAY
Pauli Murray

JUN
Driving With The Devil

SOUL CITY
Race, Equality, and the Lost Dream of American Buddhism
Thomas Hail

WILEY CASH
The Last Ballad

EVEN AS WE BREATHE
Jakerie S. Dabney

Pauli
Pauli Murray

Driving With The Devil
Jett & Reed

a more perfect UNION
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
Read for the Lead

Our read-out-loud initiative and author interview series in partnership with NASCAR Cup Series driver Erik Jones and his charitable foundation, the Erik Jones Foundation, promoted childhood literacy, reading resources, and North Carolina-based authors and books. NC Humanities helped select the authors and books for Jones to read during his #READwithErik Facebook events. After each event, NC Humanities supplied free reading resources and books as well as conducted exclusive interviews with the featured book’s author.
Route 1 Reads

Our road trip-inspired, themed reading list explored various genres and was compiled by the network of 16 affiliate Centers for the Book in the Library of Congress located along Route 1. In 2022, Songbirds and Stray Dogs by Meagan Lucas was selected. Both Lucas and fellow North Carolina-based author Ron Rash participated in a virtual discussion of their writing processes, books and Appalachian literature. Bookmarks, an independent bookstore based in Winston-Salem, supported this event by giving away gift cards to their online and in-store book catalog.
Great Reads from Great Places

This multi-generational reading list, featured annually at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., showcases our nation’s rich culture and heritage. In 2022, *How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O’Connor, a book for young readers, and *The Tobacco Wives* by Adele Myers, an adult selection, were featured. To encourage youth literacy, NC Humanities provided free kits for teachers and school librarians which included curriculum guides, copies of *How To Steal a Dog*, and more. In September, NC Humanities hosted a virtual conversation where Myers and historian Beth Nevarez discussed *The Tobacco Wives*, and women’s roles in mid-century Southern society, and fashion.

“

This first-ever program encouraged caregivers to read with children as a family unit. We provided one book per family and asked them to read the book prior to the in-person book club. At the book club, we played a trivia game and provided families with a meal. This program supported the library’s mission of creating readers and supporting a lifelong love of reading.

Iredell County Public Library

GREAT READS FROM GREAT PLACES
BOOK KIT RECIPIENT

Barbara O’Connor
AUTHOR

Adele Myers
AUTHOR
Let’s Talk About It

In 2022, NC Humanities said goodbye to this in-person library book discussion series. The program began in 2001 with assistance from the State Library of North Carolina and was halted in March 2020 due to in-person safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of and supported Let’s Talk About It over the last 20+ years. Although the program has ended, its spirit will live on in a new generation of NC Humanities offerings.
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**Crossroads: Change in Rural America**  
**2022-2023 TOUR**

NC Humanities presented this Smithsonian exhibit exploring the history of rural America and how rural communities leverage their cultural uniqueness as an opportunity for growth and development.

With program support and grant funding from NC Humanities, the six selected venues developed complementary exhibits showcasing local history, people, and stories, and offered programs and events to prompt discussion about the innovations, challenges, persistence, and cultural heritage that make their community unique and essential to the fabric of North Carolina.

*Crossroads: Change in Rural America* is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, state humanities councils and local exhibit host institutions.

- **Iredell Museums**  
  Statesville  
  SEPT 1 – OCT 13, 2022

- **Joyner Library at East Carolina University**  
  Greenville  
  OCT 20 – NOV 30, 2022

- **Granville County Historical Society and Museum**  
  Oxford  
  DEC 6, 2022 - JAN 19, 2023

- **Museum of the Albemarle**  
  Elizabeth City  
  JAN 25 – MAR 8, 2023

- **Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University**  
  Cullowhee  
  MAR 15 – APR 25, 2023

- **Onslow County Museum**  
  Richlands  
  MAY 6 – JUN 10, 2023

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Smithsonian
Teacher Workshops

NC Humanities partnered with the UNC Chapel Hill affiliate Carolina K-12 to host an interactive, two-day teacher workshop for 31 educators in summer 2022. The workshop built on the themes found in the North Carolina Reads books and introduced other activities to help teachers critically examine our nation’s history for students. This was made possible in part by “A More Perfect Union,” a special grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
COMMUNITY GRANTS

NC Humanities has been a leading humanities funder in North Carolina since our founding in 1972. NC Humanities funds public humanities programs that help North Carolinians make sense of themselves, their neighbors, and their communities by considering new perspectives and thinking critically about the past, the present, and the future. We annually offer three types of cultural project grants to libraries, museums, historical societies, and other cultural and educational nonprofit organizations.

$195,371 TOTAL GRANTED
Large Grants

Boston-Thurmond Community Network
Winston-Salem
Connecting Our Past: the History and Culture of Boston-Thurmond
Award: $16,815

Kidzu Children’s Museum
Chapel Hill
Let’s Talk About It: Practicing Civil Discourse with Young Children and Families
Award: $11,847

Chowan Discovery Group
Washington, D.C.
Building a Mixed-Race Community: The People and Buildings of the Winton Triangle
Award: $11,246

East Carolina University
Greenville
Veteran to Scholar Boot Camp
Award: $5,574

Iredell County Public Library
Statesville
Green Street Cemetery GPR Survey
Award: $20,000

Immersion for Spanish Language Acquisition
Durham
Los Sábados
Award: $18,909

The American Friends of Lafayette
Gaithersburg, MD
The Bicentennial Commemoration of Lafayette’s 1824-1825 Farewell Tour Visits to Cities and Towns in NC
Award: $11,000

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Charlotte
CharlOz: Charlotte celebrates the evolution of America’s fairy tale - The Wizard of Oz
Award: $20,000

Western North Carolina Historical Association
Asheville
Implementation of the First Exhibit in the New Interpretive Framework
Award: $20,000
Community Engagements Grants

**Arts of the Pamlico**
Washington
A 1913 Review for All
Award: $3,500

**Chamber Music Raleigh**
Raleigh
Ornamenting And Embellishing Baroque Music: How and Why It Was Done, and How To Use It Today
Award: $3,500

**Charlotte Center for Literary Arts**
Charlotte
Artists Reckoning with Home
Award: $3,500

**Elon University**
Elon
Power and Place Intergenerational Storytelling Community Engagement Initiative
Award: $3,500

**Fayetteville Technical Community College**
Fayetteville
Voices From Selma
Award: $3,500

**FIND Outdoors**
Pisgah Forest
An Introduction to the Southeastern Woodlands Native Americans at the Cradle of Forestry
Award: $3,500

**Friends of The City of Raleigh Museum**
Raleigh
Timely Connections - Symposiums
Award: $3,500

**Jane Austen Summer Program**
Chapel Hill
Jane Austen & Co.: Historical STEAM
Award: $3,500

**Longleaf Productions**
Greensboro
Connecting with Rosenwald Schools
Award: $3,464

**North Carolina History Theater**
New Bern
Honour, The Musical
Award: $1,375

**Polk Memorial Support Fund**
Pineville
Inalienable Rights: Living History through the Eyes of the Enslaved
Award: $3,200

**Pure Life Theatre Company**
Raleigh
The Face of Emmett Till Project
Award: $3,500

**Southern Guitar Festival and Competition**
Charlotte
Harmonizing Humanity: Acoustic Cultural Identity, Women in Music, and Experimental Instruments
Award: $3,150

**Traditional Voices Group**
Burnsville
African Roots of American Popular Music: Two Seminars with Robert Jones and Matt Watroba
Award: $2,600

**Transylvania Heritage Museum**
Brevard
Mountain Legacies: Exploring Appalachian Culture
Award: $3,500

**Western Carolina University**
Cullowhee
Spring Literary Festival
Award: $3,500
Community Research Grants

East Carolina University
Greenville
Teaching North Carolina Literature
Award: $2,000

University of North Carolina Wilmington
Wilmington
Historical Preservation in 3D: Documenting the Past with Emerging Technologies, a Pilot Project
Award: $1,691

Museum On Main Street
Iredell Museums
Statesville
Sep-Oct 2022
Award: $2,000

Granville County Historical Society Incorporated
Oxford
Dec 2022–Jan 2023
Award: $2,000

“Our work with NC Humanities came out of a desire to tell stories of local residents. There are many older residents who have wonderful knowledge of what it was like to grow up in the neighborhood. A lot of these stories haven’t been well documented, which is true of many Black communities throughout the United States. North Carolina Humanities is helping us pull out important stories and themes, which we are translating to other forms such as a documentary, exhibit and neighborhood murals.
THE TEAM

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Caitlin Patton Stanley
Director of Grants and Compliance
## FINANCIALS

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Grants to Nonprofits</td>
<td>$ 182,774</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>NC Center for the Book</td>
<td>$ 108,869</td>
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<td>Museum on Main Street</td>
<td>$ 53,322</td>
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<td>A More Perfect Union NEH Programs</td>
<td>$ 93,909</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>$ 345,915</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$ 155,597</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>$ 8,530</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,302,970</strong></td>
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### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEH Grant</td>
<td>$ 1,236,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Gifts</td>
<td>$ 51,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$(229,148)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,058,987</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report reflects financials from North Carolina Humanities’ fiscal year 2022 (November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022) and programs from calendar year 2022.
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 2022 (November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022) and programs from calendar year 2022.

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