**Awarded Grants FY 2023**

Grants Awarded November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023*

Data updated as of October 5, 2023

**LARGE GRANTS**

Large Grants provide up to $20,000 to support public humanities projects of a wide or extended scope.

**Appalachian State University** (Boone)

Connecting Local and Global Rural Cultures

Grant Award: $19,999

In a series of free workshops, seminars, and panel discussions held downtown and in off-campus spaces, humanities experts will help the public consider diverse, rural cultures. The series will include sessions such as “Marc Chagall and Shtetl Life: Interactive Public Seminar on Jewish Diaspora Paintings”, and a “Portraying Indigenous Peoples” workshop for the production of Horn in the West.

**Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center** (Asheville)

The Farm at Black Mountain College

Grant Award: $20,000

Built from a decade’s worth of original archival research, this exhibition will follow renegade students, faculty, families, farmers, and community partners as they start and sustain a campus farm in the 1930s, build a better farm in the ‘40s, and watch it all collapse in the ‘50s. Through historic materials and oral history recordings, the exhibition will explore contemporary and timeless issues of agriculture, sustainability, and community. An illustrated print publication and additional public programming will be developed in conjunction with the exhibition, thus extending these themes to a wider audience.

**Center for Cultural Preservation** (Hendersonville)

Oral History Preservation Expansion

Grant Award: $20,000

This grant will help preserve 500+ recorded oral histories by creating a searchable, publicly accessible database. Working with local historians, the Black History Research Group, the Henderson County Genealogical & History Group, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, six documentary shorts on Cherokee, Africa American and Scots-Irish history will also be created to further the stories of resilience and the power of interconnectedness shared by community elders.

**Charlotte Museum of History** (Charlotte)

Exhibit Exploring the History & Continued Relevance of the National Negro Opera Company

Grant Award: $20,000

This new exhibition will tell the story of the National Negro Opera Company and its founder Mary Cardwell Dawson. It is the story of how a woman from the piedmont of North Carolina carved out a space for herself and a talented group of performers in a world where separate was anything but equal. This exhibit intends to break down perceived barriers surrounding opera as a genre, and to create dialogue around issues of segregation and access in the civil rights era, and opera’s impact on fashion throughout the last 80 years.

**Elon University** (Elon)

Stories of Alamance County: Spaces of Faith and Spiritual Diversity

Grant Award: $19,700
This project will build bridges of dialogue across racial, religious, geographic, and generational division and will create spaces of understanding, healing, and action. The project will expand upon the oral and written histories from African American community members collected thanks in part to previous NC Humanities funding. Students and community elders will exchange their experiences during site visits to various places of worship, neighborhood walking tours, community book clubs, and more. These activities will result in sharable digital stories that will be shown at public screenings and dialogue events.

**Greensboro History Museum (Greensboro)**
NC Democracy: History for Teachers and Students
Grant Award: $7,600
Building on themes from the NC Humanities previously funded NC Democracy exhibition, this grant supports a series of teacher workshops and piloting a Traveling Trunks of Democracy program, geared towards 4th and 5th grade students. Trunks will contain hands-on activities, lesson plans, and resources that will give students the tools they need to engage with the political history of North Carolina.

**Greenville Museum of Art (Greenville)**
The Home I Never Knew: Ni de Aqui, Ni de Alla
Grant Award: $19,535
The impact of representation is powerful and transformative. This exhibition will create a space for Latino/a/x individuals to see aspects of their own lives through the art on display, the contextual stories throughout the exhibition and the catalog, and the public arts and humanities-based programs. Visitors, especially those outside the Latino/a/x community, will be able to connect with the artists' message and experiences. Re-claiming the idea of “ni de aqui, ni de alla,” or “not from here, nor there,” the exhibit will highlight the range of individual and shared experiences associated with being both “from here” AND “from there,” belonging or not belonging, and feeling mentally, emotionally, or culturally from elsewhere.

**Guilford College (Greensboro)**
Guilford’s Freedom Trails: An Interactive Learning Experience on the Underground Railroads
Grant Award: $20,000
This project will deepen 9th and 10th grade students’ understanding of the Underground Railroad in Guilford County. A walking tour of the Underground Railroad Trail in Guilford College Woods will be followed by a humanities-based discussion. Led by humanities experts from Guilford College, the tour will provide historical context and multiple perspectives.

**Hidden Voices (Cedar Grove)**
R to the Power of 3
Grant Award: $13,310
Using ethnography, story-sharing, portraiture, and community conversation circles, this project will explore rural reentry through the lens of reclamation, redemption, and restoration. These programs will help expand and shift the dominant narrative around incarceration and reentry, and will enhance mutual understanding and respect between returnees, family members, faith and civic leaders, and service providers.

**Invisible Histories Project (Birmingham, AL)**
2024 Queer History South Conference
Grant Award: $20,000
The South is home to the largest population of LGBTQ people (Funders for LGBTQ Issues, 2018). This conference brings together scholars, historians, archivists, educators, and those working to preserve Southern LGBTQ history in both formal and informal ways. Panels, workshops, and other presentations will focus on best practices for archiving, researching, preserving, recording, teaching, and exhibiting Southern LGBTQ history.

ISLA - Immersion for Spanish Language Acquisition (Durham)
Los Sábados
Grant Award: $20,000
This free, weekly educational heritage language and cultural immersion program provides Latine children in PreK through 12th grade with a culturally responsive education that reflects their backgrounds and experiences. ISLA uses a whole-child model that prioritizes the full scope of a child’s developmental needs to ensure that every student reaches their full potential. Programming helps build cross-cultural understanding, improve access to education, and promote Latine representation in leadership. This 2023 funding builds upon previous NC Humanities Large Grant investments.

Johnston County Heritage Center (Smithfield)
Local History in the Classroom
Grant Award: $20,000
Collaborating with history teachers in Johnston County’s Career and Technical Leadership Academy and with public school K-12 social studies specialists, this project will result in online lesson plans that include primary source materials related to Johnston County. Traveling exhibits showcasing local history will also be developed. These materials can be used by teachers and students either at home or in classrooms and will be geared towards 3rd graders who learn about their local community, 4th and 8th graders who study North Carolina history, and high school students who study world and U.S. history.

Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum (Wilmington)
United States Colored Troops (USCT) Lecture and Conversation Series
Grant Award: $19,050
During this conversation series, several scholars will uplift the narratives and experiences of African Americans in the region. Brunswick county native Dr. Sherwin Bryant will explain new research into the lives of enslaved people in the region. Scholar and USCT reenactor Joel Cook will explore the lives of USCT soldiers. Wilmington native Steve Nunez will look at how the militant fight by the USCT informs the fight for social justice today. Lastly, Brunswick county native Tyanna West will look at Gullah Geechee heritage. Each lecture will include time for community dialogue and a customized lesson plan for teachers.

The Mitford Museum (Hudson)
GetLit! Literary Weekend 2024
Grant Award: $19,050
This event will offer readings, discussions, workshops, and more with authors from, living in, or writing about North Carolina. Funding will support the author’s engagement activities and travel. All students and teachers in Caldwell County are welcome to attend GetLit! at no cost.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS
Community Engagement Grants provide up to $3,500 to cultural organizations to support the implementation of public humanities projects.

**Carolina Mountains Literary Festival** (Burnsville)
Carolina Mountains Literary Festival
Grant Award: $3,500
This grant will support the annual Carolina Mountains Literary Festival, which serves as an inclusive environment to instill the joy of reading, learning, thinking, and conversation within diverse, regional populations and writers.

**Charlotte Museum of History** (Charlotte)
Film Screening and Community Talk-Back of “Blurring the Color Line: Chinese in the Segregated South”
Grant Award: $3,500
This grant will help bring filmmaker Crystal Kwok, and producers Daniel Wu and Guston Smith, to the Charlotte Museum of History to participate in a screening and community discussion of this documentary. The discussion will delve into the history of Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals in historically segregated spaces. Content guides will also be created to help facilitate this discussion.

**Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte** (Cornelius)
Spanish Language Day
Grant Award: $3,500
In-person and virtual events will celebrate and raise appreciation for the 21 Spanish-speaking nationalities living in Mecklenburg County. The Day of the Spanish Language originated in Spain in 1926. In 1964, the celebration was adopted by all Spanish-speaking countries. Established in 2010 by the United Nations, Spanish Language Day is observed annually in April. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language after Chinese.

**FREEDOM ORG** (Rocky Mount)
Freedom Hill Youth Media Camp
Grant Award: $3,500
This grant will support a 4-week documentary production program connecting students to Princeville’s Black history through conducting interviews, learning oral history skills, exploring archives, and learning the basics of documentary filmmaking. The program will result in a short documentary about Princeville’s annual Homecoming Celebration. The Freedom Hill Youth Media Camp works to decolonize the film industry and create a direct pathway for young Black people to become filmmakers.

**MUSE Winston-Salem** (Winston-Salem)
Camel City Couture: Threading Our Way Through Winston-Salem Fashion History
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Grant Award: $3,500
This exhibit and program series will chronicle the dynamic history of fashion in Winston-Salem – today known as the City of Arts & Innovation – and bring to light the many figures who contributed to the culture of fashion in and around the city. Oral histories, a mobile exhibit, and multiple public programs will provide an opportunity to explore the community’s shared past, while also gaining insight into how diversity, and social division, are related to the city’s culture of clothing, style, and design.

**Outer Banks Lighthouse Society (Morehead City)**
Augustin Fresnel Living History Presentation
Grant Award: $1,657
This grant will help bring a living history presentation about Augustin Fresnel’s role in lighthouse history to Ocracoke Island. Fresnel, a Frenchman, worked for years to perfect a type of lens that would magnify light so that it can be seen as far as 21 miles, thus making navigating treacherous waters less hazardous. This presentation will illuminate Fresnel’s work and the history of the lighthouse that has served the mariners who have traversed the waters near Ocracoke Island.

**Preservation Zebulon (Zebulon)**
Zebulon Historic Homes Tour 2023
Grant Award: $3,500
Preservation Zebulon’s Historic Homes Tour was launched in 2022 with grant support from NC Humanities to capture, retain, and highlight Zebulon’s rural history. In 2023, NC Humanities grant funding will support the 2023 Historic Homes Tour and the creation of an educational brochure. The brochure will describe each historic house on tour with a photo, description of the architectural style, information on early owners, and a map of the tour area. The brochure will be a keepsake that will educate the community about the area’s cultural heritage and history.

**Traditional Voices Group (Burnsville)**
Exploring Regional Expressions of the Blues
Grant Award: $2,010
The annual RiddleFest concerts and seminars celebrate the memory of Yancey County native Lesley Riddle, an African American musician and songwriter who greatly influenced early country music. RiddleFest 2023 will include multiple seminars and an evening concert from Jontavious Willis, an emerging African American singer-songwriter. In the seminars, Willis will explore the African American roots of the blues and the regional expressions of it that emerged in the early 20th century. He will also explain from his own experience as a songwriter how the blues is evolving in the 21st century.

**University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville)**
Blue Ridge Pride LGBTQIA Archive Oral History Training Workshop in Sylva
Grant Award: $2,884
To increase the public’s engagement with LGBTQ+ voices and stories, this grant will support a community workshop to train volunteers how to conduct oral history interviews and digitize materials. Workshop participants will encounter diverse LGBTQ+ voices, make new connections, practice care-work best practices, and more. The workshop will also include interaction with archival materials, a screening of two short films, and listening stations with curated video playlists based upon various topics including religion, coming out, transgender healthcare, and more.
COMMUNITY RESEARCH GRANTS
Community Research Grants provide up to $2,000 to support the incubation or development of a public humanities project.

Duke University (Durham)
“Out to Stay:” Researching and Remembering the 1986 Durham Anti-Discrimination Proclamation
Grant Award: $2,000
In 1986, Durham Mayor Wib Gulley issued an anti-discrimination proclamation for the city that, for the first time, included sexual orientation as a protected identity. As a result, Mayor Gulley faced a recall campaign which ultimately failed. In collaboration with the Durham County Library and the Museum of Durham History, the Hart Leadership Program at Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy will conduct community-based research about this event. Researchers will investigate existing archives to develop a checklist of objects for public interpretation and collect new oral histories from key participants, including LGBTQ+ activists, then-progressive clergy, politicians, and recall leaders who have since changed their views. Oral histories will become public record at the North Carolina Collection at Durham County Library.

Stokes County Arts Council (Danbury)
Preserving Traditional Folkways in Stokes County
Grant Award: $1,000
Funding will support community-based research on how best to preserve local culture and folkways, with the long-term goal of starting a traditional folk school for the community. Various humanities experts will help the community assess what resources are needed to begin preservation and will help prioritize what topic areas to first focus on. Funding will also help launch the Appalachian Craft Series, which will support local artisans teaching community members about their craft.

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET: CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA TOUR 2022-2023
Six venues are selected to host NC Humanities’ tour of Crossroads: Change in Rural America: a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit made possible in North Carolina by NC Humanities. The exhibit explores the history of rural America and how rural communities are leveraging their cultural uniqueness as an opportunity for growth and development. Optional grant funding (up to $2,000) allows each venue to develop complementary exhibits about local histories and cultures, offer public programs, and facilitate educational initiatives. Venues receive their grant funding towards the start of their tour dates.

Western Carolina University (Cullowhee)
March - April 2023 tour dates
Grant Award: $718
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Onslow County Museum (Richlands)
May – June 2023 tour dates
Grant Award: $2,000

*Note: Some grant projects may be altered, cancelled, or return funding. For questions, please call our office at (704) 687-1520.

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