

North Carolina  
**humanities** | 50 *Years*

**2022**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



Our mission is to connect North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community.

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# 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.

## ▲ **Knowledge**

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

## ▲ **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.

## ▲ **Respect**

Everyone is important and worthy of politeness and dignity.

# PARTNERS & DONORS

We are continuously grateful to those who value the humanities and our work. Thank you for your partnership and support.

## Title Sponsors



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE HUMANITIES



Federation of  
State Humanities  
Councils

CAROLINA  
PUBLIC  
HUMANITIES



Smithsonian



NC RURAL CENTER



NORTH CAROLINA  
MUSEUMS COUNCIL  
*Building Better Museums Together*





## \$1,000+ Donations

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- + Harriet Davis; *In memory of Benson Wilcox*
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- + Tasse Little
- + Sally and Russell Robinson
- + WBTV; *In honor of Steve Crump*
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- + Todd Wright

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- + Laura Williams
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- + Sandra Thomas *In honor of Steve Crump*
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- + Marie Warlick
- + Autumn Weil
- + J. Franklin Welker
- + Harrietta Wilson
- + Marian L. Withers

# 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.

READ THE PLAN



# 50th Anniversary Highlights

Jan



## Celebrating 50 Years

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.

Feb



## Virtual Book Clubs

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.

Jul



## National Book Festival

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.

Sep



## Jazz Reception

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.

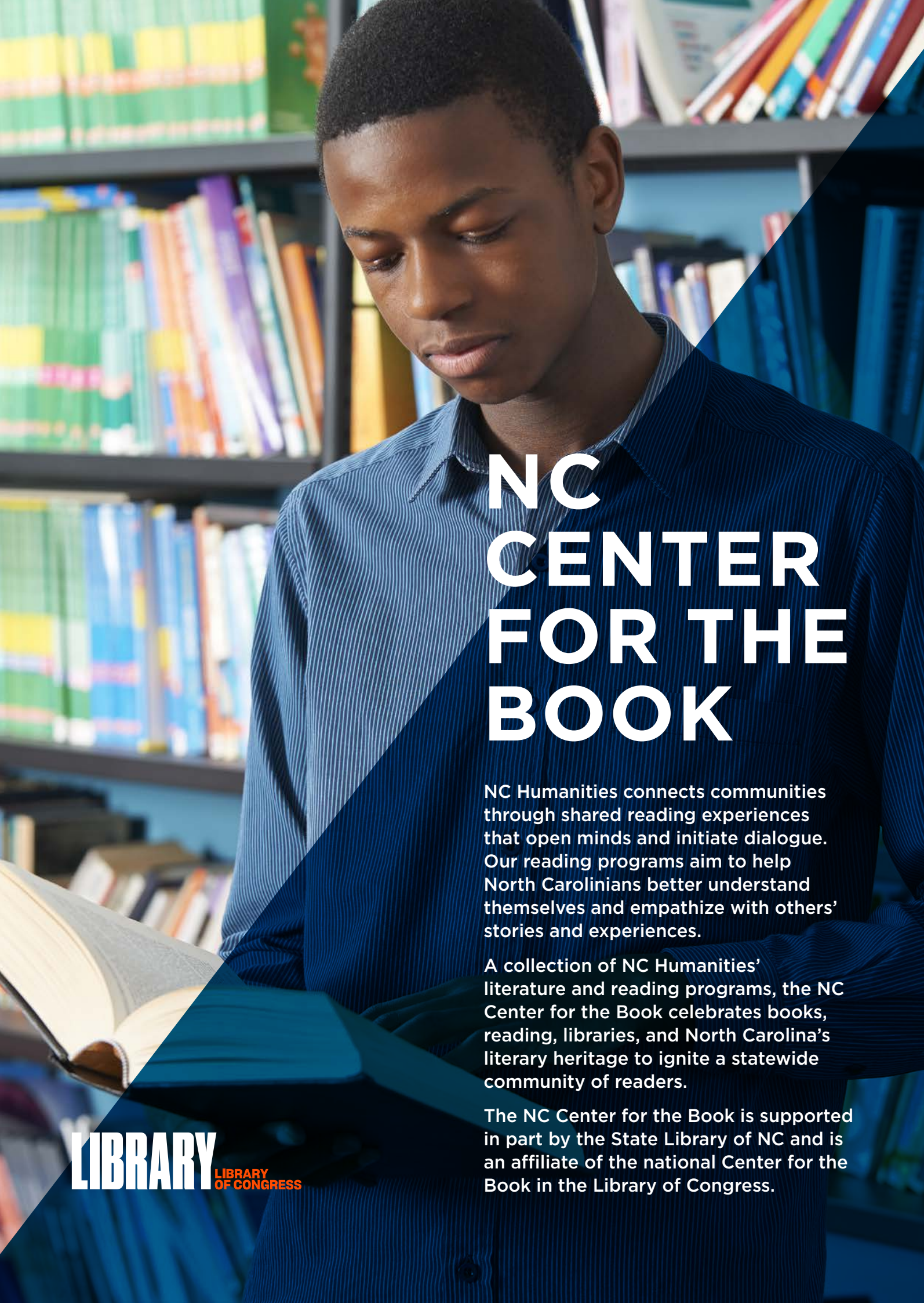
Oct



## Celebration Event

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.





# NC CENTER FOR THE BOOK

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.

**LIBRARY**  
LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS



## North Carolina Reads

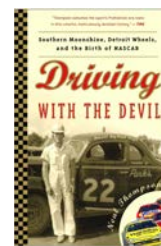
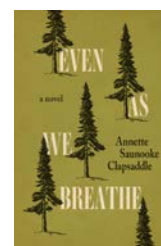
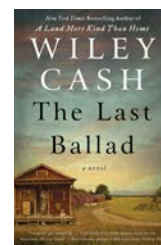
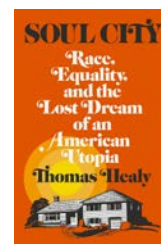
Our statewide book club explored issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina. The selected books pose critical questions about how North Carolinians view their role in helping to form a more just and inclusive society. From February through June, NC Humanities 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*

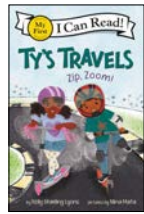
**JUN**  
*Driving With The Devil*

## Read for the Lead

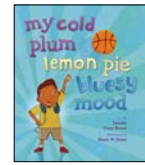
Our read-out-loud initiative and author interview series in partnership with NASCAR Cup Series driver Erik Jones and his charitable foundation, the Erik Jones Foundation, promoted childhood literacy, reading resources, and North Carolina-based authors and books. NC Humanities helped select the authors 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.



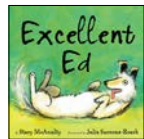
#READwithErik



**Jan**  
*Ty's Travels:  
Zip, Zoom!*



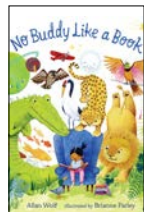
**Jul**  
*My Cold Plum  
Lemon Pie  
Bluesy Mood*



**Feb**  
*Excellent Ed*



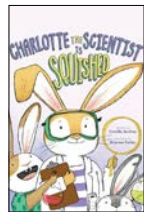
**Aug**  
*Take Your Pet  
to School Day*



**Mar**  
*No Buddy  
Like a Book*



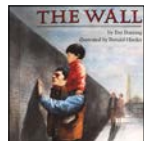
**Sep**  
*How to  
Steal a Dog*



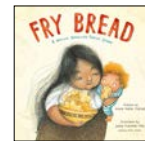
**Apr**  
*Charlotte  
the Scientist  
is Squished*



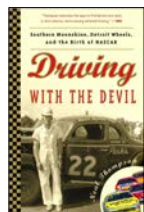
**Oct**  
*The Bake  
Shop Ghost*



**May**  
*The Wall*



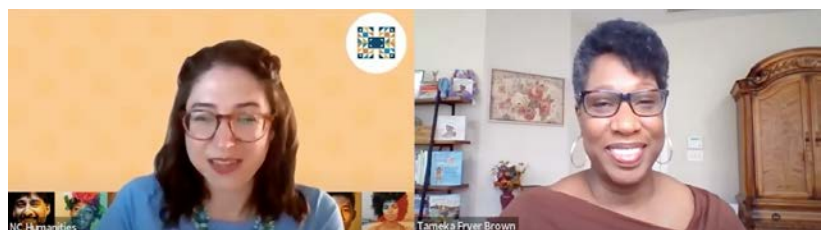
**Nov**  
*Fry Bread*



**Jun**  
*Driving with  
the Devil*



**Dec**  
*The Knights  
Before  
Christmas*



Interview with Tameka Fryer Brown, author of *My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood*



# Songbirds & Stray Dogs

a novel by  
**Meagan Lucas**

## 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.



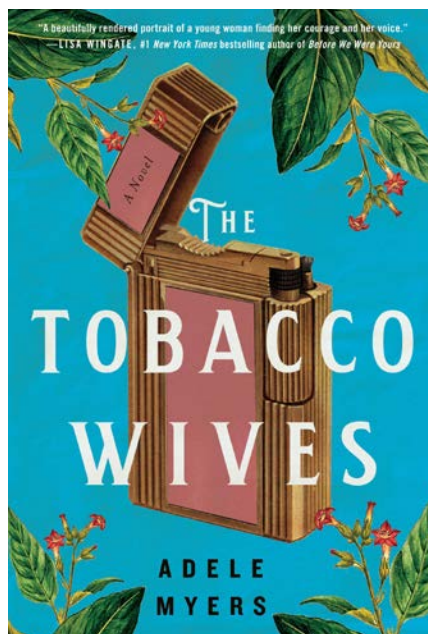
Megan Lucas  
AUTHOR



Ron Rash  
AUTHOR

## 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.



Barbara O'Connor  
AUTHOR



Adele Myers  
AUTHOR



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





## 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



 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.

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# \$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

CharOz: 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**

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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.**

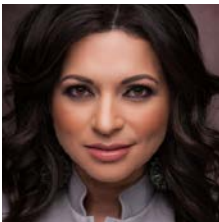
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## Boston-Thurmond Community Network

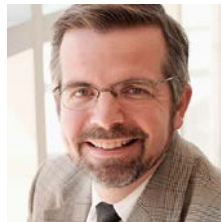
2022 LARGE GRANT RECIPIENT

# THE TEAM

## Board of Trustees



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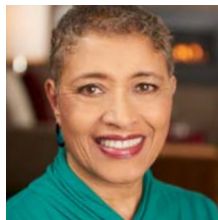
**Chris Lam\***  
Charlotte



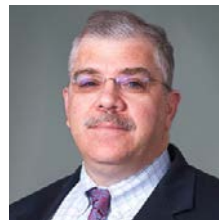
**Tasse Little\***  
Charlotte



**Rebecca Reyes**  
Durham



**Diane Robertson\***  
Carrboro



**Tom Steele**  
Burlington



**Rick Thames**  
Charlotte



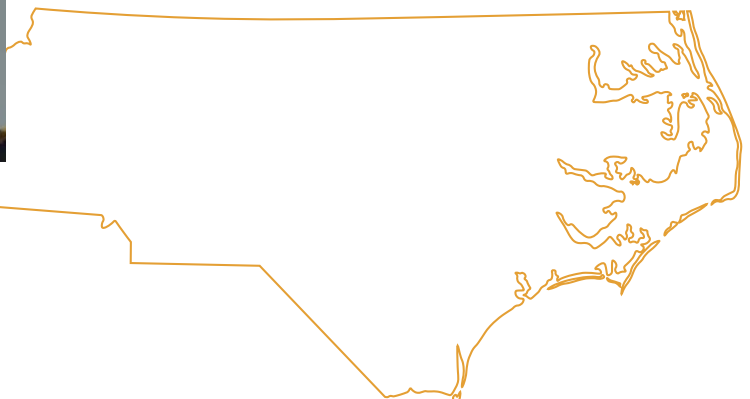
**Cecelia Thompson\***  
Greensboro



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**Todd Wright**  
Boone



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Patton  
Stanley**

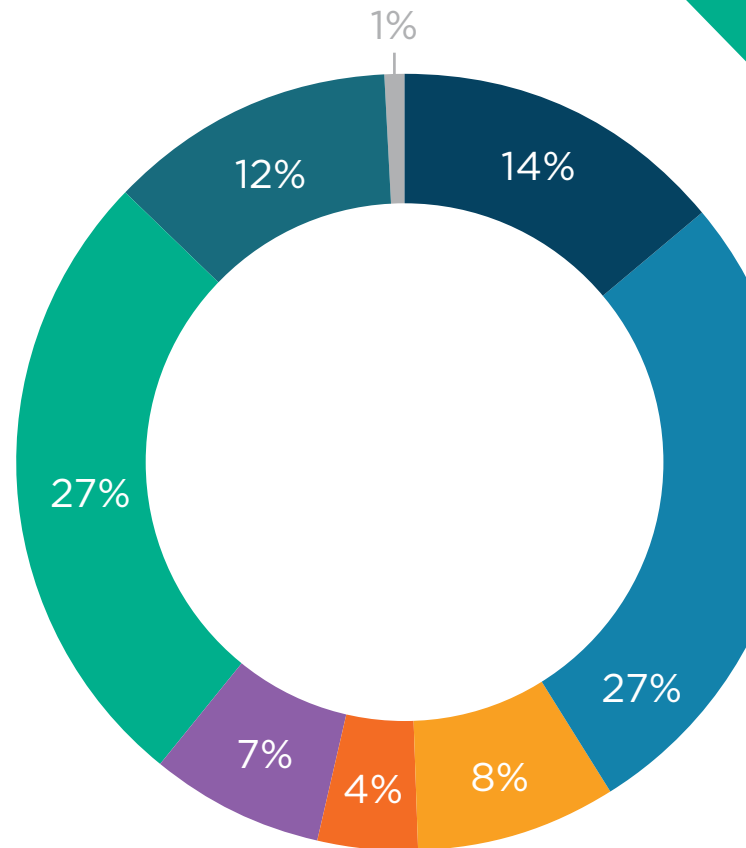
Director of Grants  
and Compliance



# FINANCIALS

## Expenses

Grants to Nonprofits	\$ 182,774
Program Services	\$ 354,054
NC Center for the Book	\$ 108,869
Museum on Main Street	\$ 53,322
A More Perfect Union NEH Programs	\$ 93,909
Management	\$ 345,915
Fundraising	\$ 155,597
Lobbying	\$ 8,530
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,302,970</b>



## Revenue

NEH Grant	\$ 1,236,724
Other Gifts	\$ 51,411
Investments	\$ (229,148)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,987</b>

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  
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