

Awarded Grants FY 2023

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

Data updated as of November 29, 2023



North Carolina
humanities

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

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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.

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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

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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.

Arts Davidson County (Lexington)

Lexington Book Festival 2024

Grant Award: \$3,465

In March 2024, this newly established festival will provide Davidson County readers the chance to interact with diverse North Carolina authors who write for readers of all ages and expertise. The Festival will also work with local schools to arrange in-school visits and workshops with Festival authors.

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.

Carolina Theatre of Durham (Durham)

Confronting Change: Exhibit and Programming

Grant Award: \$3,500

Carolina Theatre of Durham played a central role in Civil Rights protests of the late 1950s as it remained one of the last segregated public facilities in Durham. The "Confronting Change" exhibit shares stories of the efforts to desegregate the theater. To commemorate the exhibit's 10th anniversary in April 2024, the theater will host public events featuring key community members who will explore topics and themes from the exhibit and their meaning in today's social and cultural context.

Center for Racial Equity in Education (Charlotte)

Jeanes Arts & Education Initiative

Grant Award: \$3,500

Although the North Carolina State Constitution established public education for all students as a right in 1868, deliberate underfunding of Black schools and racial disenfranchisement made it nearly impossible for African Americans to exercise that right. In 1907, Pennsylvania Quaker Anna T. Jeanes bequeathed \$1 million to support Black education in the South. Her gift supported 36 Black women educators in North Carolina—more than in any other state—who served rural African American communities from 1907 to 1968. These "Jeanes Teachers" could be thought of as community organizers who not only oversaw instruction, but also raised funds for education, rallied parents, and provided crucial social services. Through interactive digital content, learning modules, historical exhibitions, physical art, and dramatic performances, this commemorative project will honor the

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legacies of the “Jeanes Teachers” by telling their inspiring histories and preserving their imprint on North Carolina’s educational heritage.

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.

Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte (Cornelius)

Candles Day

Grant Award: \$3,500

This grant will support a Charlotte-based festival featuring traditional decorations, music, and cultural displays where Latin American community members will share personal stories and memories about this holiday to foster connections and empathy. The Day of the Candles celebrates love, peace, unity, and a wonderful spirit of light based on Colombian tradition. It is celebrated on December 7th in Colombia and other Latin American countries, particularly to kick off Christmas.

Cultivator (Murfreesboro)

Roanoke-Chowan Literary Festival

Grant Award: \$3,500

The Roanoke-Chowan Literary Festival will be held in March 2024 and will shine a spotlight on writers with roots and connections in Northeastern, NC. The Festival is named in commemoration of the Roanoke-Chowan Group that was active in Northeastern, NC from the late 1940s through the late 1970s. The Festival will invite high school students from surrounding counties to attend and present their writings as a way to inspire young authors into the writing profession.

Destination Cleveland County (Shelby)

Born of the Broad River: The Life and Career of Earl Scruggs 1924-1945 in his Own Words Exhibit

Grant Award: \$3,500

This original exhibit will unite the narrative of Earl Scruggs and Cleveland County history together in a new engaging way for audiences. The exhibit will investigate the period of Earl’s life from birth until twenty-one, making use of never-before-seen source material in the crafting of its narrative

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including over 17,000 words of Earl's own remembrances. The exhibit will be on view at the Earl Scruggs Center.

East Carolina University (Greenville)

Engaging Communities with Indigenous North Carolina Literature

Grant Award: \$3,496

This project will highlight and promote the historic 2023 issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* (NCLR), the first issue (in 32 years of publication) to feature Native American literature of North Carolina. This funding will support a reading and conversation event at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, in Cherokee, NC, featuring NCLR contributors Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) novelist, Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle, EBCI poet, Dr. Mary Leuna Christenson, and others.

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) (Elizabeth City)

Claiming Freedom in Northeastern North Carolina

Grant Award: \$2,886

ECSU has embraced a responsibility for documenting, interpreting, researching, and telling the stories of African American communities of northeastern North Carolina. This funding will support several on-campus events where scholars will engage with students and the public to encourage an understanding and appreciation for the stories of African American freedom claimers and seekers in the area, as well as for the humanities-based methods and works that help us understand those stories.

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.

Friends of The City of Raleigh Museum (Raleigh)

Timely Connections Lecture Series

Grant Award: \$3,500

Building on previous NC Humanities investments, this grant will support the museum's "Timely Connections" lectures and symposiums that provide educational and accessible programming and feature guest speakers who share their knowledge and expertise. In 2024, "Timely Connections" will feature bi-monthly lecturers between February and May, along with two symposiums - the seventh annual African American History Symposium and a Civil War symposium.

High Point University (High Point)

High Point Medieval and Early Modern Physic Garden

Grant Award: \$3,500

Medicinal plants have been used by people of all classes across time to alleviate suffering, treat illness, and even punish transgressions. This project will create living history programs to foster a deeper understanding of medieval medical and horticultural history. An existing greenhouse on

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High Point University's (HPU) campus will house this living laboratory for students, community members, and plant aficionados to explore one thousand years of plant-based medical practice in a model medieval, medicinal garden. The plants will be cared for by HPU students who will also conduct public tours of the garden and lead workshops about the plants.

Levine Museum of the New South (Charlotte)

Community Conversations

Grant Award: \$3,500

By bringing diverse communities together, this program series will spark conversations on the root causes of issues such as homelessness, incarceration, and civil rights. A moderator and humanities expert will give a brief overview of a topic, then encourage group dialogue that empowers participants to take action and promote positive change. The first of four programs will take place in December 2023 at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library - West Blvd. branch and will focus on preserving neighborhood stories and history.

MUSE Winston-Salem (Winston-Salem)

Camel City Couture: Threading Our Way Through Winston-Salem Fashion History

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.

Person County Museum of History (Roxboro)

Community Voices: Person County Oral History Project

Grant Award: \$3,500

This grant will support the collection of oral histories from county residents with an emphasis on stories from veterans and those who possess deep knowledge of the community. These interviews will be transcribed and made available to the public through the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center.

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

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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.

Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium (Gastonia)

2024 Summer Teachers Institute

Grant Award: \$3,500

This grant will support a Summer Teachers Institute that will empower classroom educators to implement cross-curricular, place-based education for their students based on the works of Henry David Thoreau. Teachers will explore Thoreau's experiential nature-based educational philosophy, visit local learning resources, and examine the museum's wide array of nature-based and place-based programming, all while building collaborative community connections and participating in meaningful and fun excursions.

The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History (Chapel Hill)

Community Cinema 2024

Grant Award: \$2,520

This grant will support a public showing of and conversation about "A Journey Towards Integration", a documentary created by Judith Van Wyk in the late 1990s about the desegregation of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in the 1960s. Nineteen original Betacam recordings of the film along, with raw footage that has never been seen before, will also be digitized by the Jackson Center and later shared during two summer teachers institutes in which educators will develop lesson plans centered on the materials.

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.

Triad Cultural Arts (Winston-Salem)

Community Engagement Visioning Sessions

Grant Award: \$3,000

Shotgun House Legacy Site is a collection of homes that are situated in Happy Hill, Winston-Salem's first planned African American community. An exhibit team comprising of college students and faculty from Winston-Salem State University, graphic designers, historians, and others, will design a collaborative, visitor-centered site interpretation plan that invites visitors to become active participants in the site's narrative.

University of North Carolina at Asheville (Asheville)

Blue Ridge Pride LGBTQIA Archive Oral History Training Workshop in Sylva

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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.

Western Carolina University (Cullowhee)

The Cowee 19: Intersections of Memory and Landscape

Grant Award: \$3,500

In 1882, nineteen Black convict laborers died while constructing the Cowee Railroad Tunnel in Jackson County. Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center will create an exhibit and free public programming about the Cowee Tunnel disaster that also addresses America's history of systemic racism in the criminal justice system. Nineteenth century maps of North Carolina augmented by genealogical research will show the statewide nature of the convict labor system, thus uncovering a more personal history.

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.

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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

Onslow County Museum (Richlands)

May – June 2023 tour dates

Grant Award: \$2,000

OTHER GRANTS:

NC Humanities is partnering with the following organizations to present activities for students, educators, and statewide audiences to engage with history and stories of community and individual resilience.

Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies (Raleigh)

National History Day

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support the expansion of North Carolina's National History Day program. Funding from this grant will increase access to the program in our state's rural communities by facilitating the start-up of a new region in the Sandhills area in partnership with UNC Pembroke and will support professional development for educators in one of North Carolina's 78 rural counties. Grant funds will also support the purchase of materials and exhibit boards for students at Title I schools. Finally, this funding will support the purchase and distribution of teaching and instructional materials to help provide teachers with the resources needed to lead their students through the National History Day program.

Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice (Durham)

Pauli Murray Social Justice Teaching Fellows

Grant Award: \$10,000

This grant will support middle and high school educators from Durham, Wake, and Orange counties in a six-month fellowship program. Pauli Murray Social Justice Teaching Fellows will learn to empower students to examine the legacies, contemporary impacts, and future possibilities of movements for human and civil rights. This work will ultimately be rooted in the life and legacy of Rev.

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Dr. Pauli Murray who was raised in Durham. Dr. Murray crafted a broad vision of civil rights, gender equity, and human rights as a Black Southerner, and a gender non-conforming member of the LGBTQIA+ community. Fellowships will offer educators a professional opportunity to increase their knowledge and pedagogical skills, as well as connect with civic leaders and form a collaborative network of supportive colleagues around the state.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Carolina Public Humanities (Chapel Hill)

Finding Common Ground: Using the Humanities to Foster Safer & More Connected Communities

Grant Award: \$25,000

This grant will support two 3-part interactive series about the experiences and cultural contributions of historically marginalized groups in North Carolina. Led by local Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQIA+, and immigrant community members in the Greenville and Durham areas and moderated by North Carolina history experts, each session will allow for sincere relationship-building amongst participants. Participants will hone their abilities to productively empathize with people of different identities, to unpack their own multi-layered identities, to decode popular representations of historically marginalized groups, and to create action plans to foster greater connection across differences. The series will take place in Durham in fall 2023 and in Greenville in spring 2024.

University of North Carolina General Administration - PBS North Carolina (Chapel Hill)

Insurrection 1898 Education and Professional Development Resources

Grant Award: \$25,000

This grant will support the creation and distribution of educational and professional development resources for 8th – 12th grade students and teachers in support of the documentary film, *Insurrection 1898*. The documentary has a national release date of fall 2024. *Insurrection 1898* tells the story of a coup d'état in Wilmington, in which Black political and economic power was destroyed through a coordinated campaign of violence that led to the death of as many as 150 Black residents. The events in Wilmington offer a powerful lens through which to examine broader concepts of race, politics, and democracy in America. A hybrid workshop for 300 educators on utilizing educational materials will also take place in 2024.

**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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