





2023 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

Diverse 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.

## 2023 IN REVIEW

#### **Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear Friends.

I believe the humanities are for everyone. From the coast to the mountains, in rural towns and urban areas, North Carolinians are engaging with the humanities now more than ever to help them make sense of themselves and the communities of which they are a part.

In 2023, North Carolina Humanities continued to create, facilitate, and fund humanities programs in nearly all 100 counties across the state. We are fortunate to collaborate with so many wonderful organizations and individuals to advance the public humanities and connect North Carolinians with the people, places, and stories of North Carolina.

Through our grantmaking in 2023, North Carolina Humanities funded many projects in partnership with community centers, museums, libraries, historical associations, and other cultural nonprofits that encourage community participation, spark dialogue, and explore different experiences and perspectives. Connecting North Carolinians with the international resources of the Smithsonian, North Carolina Humanities hosted the exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, helping audiences around the state discover the stories of rural America. As a Library of Congress affiliate, we also highlighted our state's rich literary landscape and authors through multiple book-based programs that engaged readers across the country. In August, we brought two North Carolina-centric books to the attention of thousands by participating in the National Book Festival and in October, we received a national Schwartz Prize for our North Carolina Reads statewide book club's outstanding impact across the state.

All this work and more is made possible with your help. Thank you for the many ways that you engage with and support North Carolina Humanities throughout the year. We look forward to connecting more in 2024.

With gratitude,

#### **Sherry Paula Watkins**

**Executive Director** 

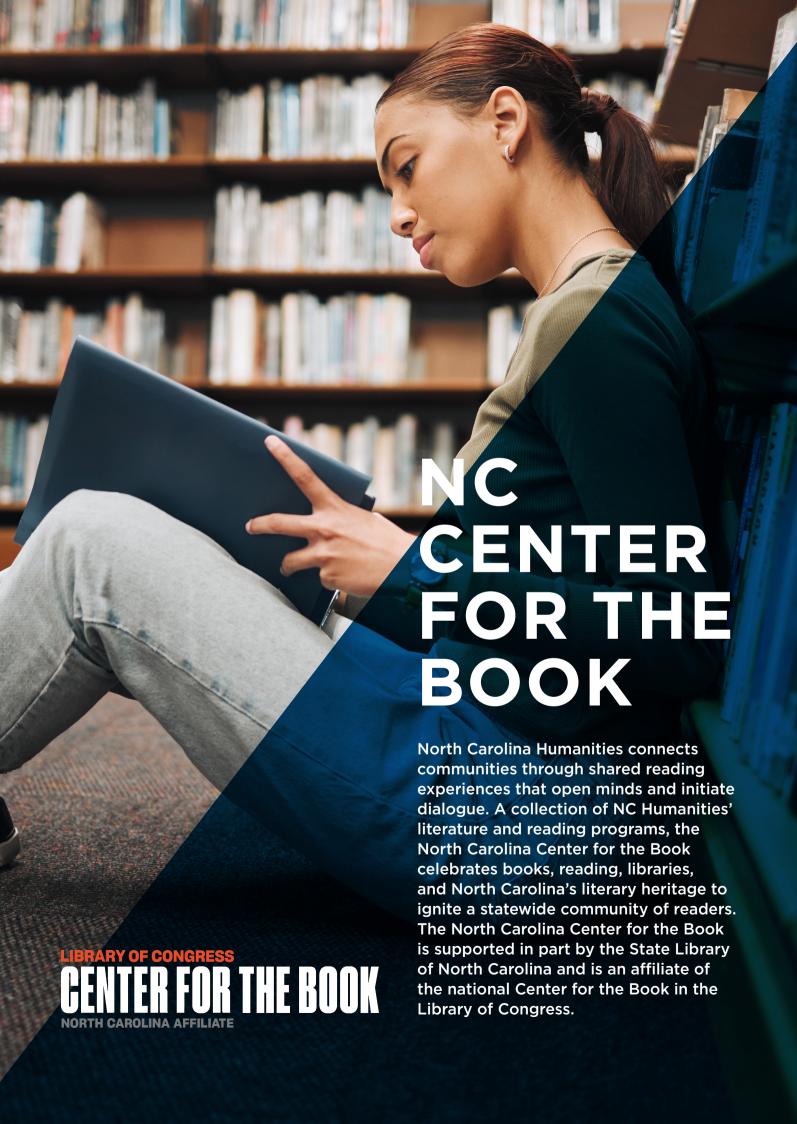


#### Five-year strategic plan

2022-2027

Read our five-year Strategic Plan, which will guide the organization through 2027.





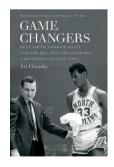


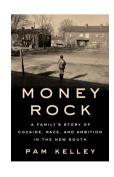
### **North Carolina Reads**

Join the club! North Carolina Reads is NC Humanities' free, virtual, statewide book club. Every year, five books are selected that explore issues of racial, social, and gender equity and the history and culture of North Carolina. NC Humanities hosts book discussions with the authors and a topic expert to explore these books and their themes. Libraries, community groups, and individuals across North Carolina read along with NC Humanities and are encouraged to take what they learn back to their community to host their own conversations.

To expand book accessibility in underserved communities, NC Humanities provided over 3,690 free books and reading resources in North Carolina Reads Book Boxes to North Carolina community groups and individual readers throughout the state. North Carolina Reads is unique because readers keep their books from the book box after the series is complete as a way to further literacy and conversations about North Carolina stories.









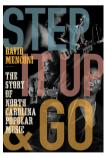




We learned a lot about the hidden history of North Carolina, Just by reading the books, I learned a lot about the struggles of different races and classes.

#### **Northwest Regional Library-Mount Airy Public Library**

**MOUNT AIRY** 



#### **FEBRUARY** Carolina Built

#### **MARCH**

Game Changers: Dean Smith, Charlie Scott, and the Era that Transformed a Southern College Town

#### **APRIL**

Money Rock: A Family's Story of Cocaine, Race, and Ambition in the New South

Under a Gilded Moon

Step It Up and Go: The Story of North Carolina Popular Music, from Blind Boy Fuller and Doc Watson to Nina Simone and Superchunk

### **North Carolina Reads Impact**



60%

OF GROUP BOOK
BOXES SENT TO
RURAL COMMUNITIES

240+
INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED
BOOK BOXES

BOOK BOXES
DISTRIBUTED TO

106
CITIES ACROSS
THE STATE IN

60
COUNTIES

3,690+



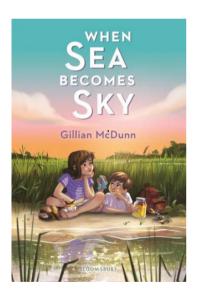
## North Carolina Reads Wins National Schwartz Prize

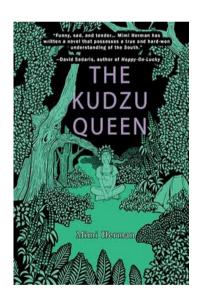
North Carolina Reads received a prestigious national Schwartz Prize from the Federation of State Humanities Councils for its ability to help readers consider their role in helping to form a more just and inclusive society. The award to NC Humanities was uniquely given in memory of Marilyn Hatza, the late Director of Grants and Community Engagement at Maryland Humanities.

#### **Great Reads from Great Places**

NC Humanities selected one book for adult readers and one book for young readers to feature at the Library of Congress National Book Festival. The selections were then added to the Great Reads from Great Places reading list that is composed of books and authors from each state and territory affiliate Center for the Book to showcase the rich culture and heritage of our country.

In 2023. NC Humanities distributed free resources including 600 copies of When Sea Becomes Sky to 30 libraries, schools, and community groups to advance childhood literacy. NC Humanities also held an online conversation about the adult selection The Kudzu Queen with author Mimi Herman and English professor Marc Cohen. Mimi joined NC Humanities at the National Book Festival, where she met with festival attendees and fans alike.







The books and book discussion allowed me to continue building relationships with children at the public library. I was also able to learn there's interest in more kids' book club discussions.

#### **Catawba County** Library

**NEWTON** 







# CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA

2022-2023 TOUR

NC Humanities presented this Smithsonian exhibition 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 communities 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. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

#### **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



We've worked with North Carolina Humanities for almost 30 years now. Our first partnership was way back in 1992 when we featured an exhibit from the Smithsonian called "Seeds of Change." What NC Humanities does for the state of North Carolina can't be measured. Bringing exhibits to smaller museums and rural areas across the state is just a treasure.





### **Community and Individual Resilience in NC**

With special attention to opportunities for educators, NC Humanities is partnering with three organizations to uplift the needs and stories of marginalized communities, explore our role in democracy, and build bridges of understanding between those of different backgrounds and perspectives. In September 2023, NC Humanities received a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through their \$2.8-million "United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture" initiative to partner with local organizations.

#### Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice

#### **Pauli Murray Social Justice Teaching Fellows**

NC Humanities is partnering with the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice to 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. Dr. Pauli Murray who 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.

**Grant Award: \$10,000** 

#### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Carolina Public Humanities

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

NC Humanities is partnering with Carolina Public Humanities to host several interactive series about the experiences and cultural contributions of diverse groups in North Carolina. Led by humanities scholars and local community members, each session will allow for sincere relationship-building amongst participants through the exploration of personal story. 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 foster greater connection across differences.

**Grant Award: \$25,000** 

#### University of North Carolina General Administration - PBS North Carolina

#### **Insurrection 1898**

NC Humanities is partnering with PBS North Carolina to create and distribute educational and professional development resources for 8th-12th grade students and teachers in support of the documentary film, *Insurrection 1898. 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.

**Grant Award: \$25,000** 



## North Carolina Stories Luncheon with Clyde Edgerton

NC Humanities held its North Carolina Stories Luncheon in celebration of the many voices and stories that make up North Carolina. This convening of humanities enthusiasts and friends in Charlotte included stories about NC Humanities, book giveaways, music, and more. The afternoon's program culminated with the very special presentation of the 2023 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities to author, activist, and musician Clyde Edgerton. As a lifelong storyteller, Clyde closed out the program with a memorable musical performance. Clyde Edgerton is the author of ten novels, a book of advice, a memoir, short stories, and essays. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and five of his novels have been New York Times Notable Books. He is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers and is the Thomas S. Kenan III Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at UNC Wilmington. Thank you to our luncheon sponsors: the Charlotte Museum of History; the North Carolina Literary Review; the North Carolina Writers' Network: the Schiele Museum.





# COMMUNITY GRANTS

\$393,000+ TOTAL GRANTED



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

Award: \$19,999

#### Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center

Asheville

The Farm at Black Mountain College **Award: \$20,000** 

### Center for Cultural Preservation

Hendersonville

Oral History Preservation Expansion

Award: \$20,000

### Charlotte Museum of History

Charlotte

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

Award: \$20,000

#### **Elon University**

Elon

Stories of Alamance County: Spaces of Faith and Spiritual Diversity

Award: \$19,700

### **Greensboro History Museum**

Greensboro

NC Democracy: History for Teachers and Students **Award: \$7,600** 

#### **Greenville Museum of Art**

Greenville

The Home I Never Knew: Ni de Aqui, Ni de Alla

Award: \$19,535

#### **Guilford College**

Greensboro

Guilford's Freedom Trails: An Interactive Learning Experience on the Underground Railroads

Award: \$20,000

#### **Hidden Voices**

Cedar Grove

R to the Power of 3 **Award: \$13,310** 



#### **Invisible Histories Project**

Birmingham, AL

2024 Queer History South Conference (held in NC)

Award: \$20,000

#### ISLA - Immersion for Spanish Language Acquisition

Durham

Los Sábados

Award: \$20,000

#### Johnston County Heritage Center

Smithfield

Local History in the Classroom

Award: \$20,000

### Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

Wilmington

United States Colored Troops (USCT) Lecture and Conversation Series

Award: \$19,050

#### **The Mitford Museum**

Hudson

GetLit! Literary Weekend 2024

Award: \$19.050

#### **Community Engagements 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

Award: \$3,465

Carolina Mountair

#### Carolina Mountains Literary Festival

Burnsville

Carolina Mountains Literary Festival

Award: \$3,500

### Carolina Theatre of Durham

Durham

Confronting Change: Exhibit and Programming

Award: \$3,500

### **Center for Racial Equity** in Education

Charlotte

Jeanes Arts & Education Initiative

Award: \$3,500

### Charlotte Museum of History

Charlotte

Film Screening and Community Talk-Back of "Blurring the Color Line: Chinese in the Segregated South"

Award: \$3,500

#### Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte

Cornelius

Spanish Language Day **Award: \$3,500** 

Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte

Cornelius

Candles Day

Award: \$3,500

#### **Cultivator**

Murfreesboro

Roanoke-Chowan Literary Festival

Award: \$3,500

### **Destination Cleveland County**

Shelby

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

Award: \$3,500

#### **East Carolina University**

Greenville

Engaging Communities with Indigenous North Carolina Literature

Award: \$3,496

### **Elizabeth City State University**

Elizabeth City

Claiming Freedom in Northeastern North Carolina

Award: \$2,886

#### **FREEDOM ORG**

**Rocky Mount** 

Freedom Hill Youth Media Camp

Award: \$3,500

## Friends of The City of Raleigh Museum

Raleigh

Timely Connections Lecture Series

Award: \$3,500

#### **High Point University**

**High Point** 

High Point Medieval and Early Modern Physic Garden

Award: \$3,500

### Levine Museum of the New South

Charlotte

Community Conversations

Award: \$3,500

#### **MUSE Winston-Salem**

Winston-Salem

Camel City Couture: Threading Our Way

Through Winston-Salem Fashion History

Award: \$3,500

#### Outer Banks Lighthouse Society

Morehead City

Augustin Fresnel Living History Presentation

Award: \$1,657

#### **Community Engagements Grants**

#### Person County Museum of History

Roxboro

Community Voices: Person County Oral History Project

Award: \$3,500

#### **Preservation Zebulon**

Zebulon

Zebulon Historic Homes

Tour 2023

Award: \$3,500

#### Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium

Gastonia

2024 Summer Teachers Institute

Award: \$3,500

#### The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History

Chapel Hill

Community Cinema 2024

Award: \$2,520

#### **Traditional Voices Group**

Burnsville

Exploring Regional Expressions of the Blues

Award: \$2,010

#### **Triad Cultural Arts**

Winston-Salem

Community Engagement Visioning Sessions

Award: \$3,000

### University of North Carolina at Asheville

Asheville

Blue Ridge Pride LGBTQIA Archive Oral History Training Workshop in Sylva

Award: \$2,884

### Western Carolina University

Cullowhee

The Cowee 19: Intersections of Memory and Landscape

Award: \$3.500





#### **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

Award: \$2,000

#### Stokes County Arts Council

Danbury

Preserving Traditional Folkways in Stokes County

Award: \$1,000

## PARTNERS & DONORS

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

### **Major Sponsors**

































#### **\$1,000+ Donations**

- + Christina Chia
- + Jessica Hardin
- + Ryan Henderson
- + Les & Rebecca High
- + Brian & Raizel Kahn
- + Tasse A. Little
- + Sally & Russell Robinson
- + Kathy & Bill White
- + Laura Williams
- + Todd Wright

#### **\$999-\$200 Donations**

- + William L. Andrews
- + Anonymous
- + The Barkleys In memory of Alice Barkley
- + Karl & Catherine Barkley
  In memory of Alice Barkley
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- + Adam Bernstein
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- + Ed Sheary In honor of NC Humanities staff
- + Arwin D. Smallwood *In* memory of Bart F. Smallwood
- + Benjamin F. Speller, Jr.
- + Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Steele, Jr In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Steele, Sr.
- + Cecelia Thompson
- + Amanda Tilley
- + Mike & Leslie Wakeford
- + Sherry Paula Watkins

#### **\$200-\$10 Donations**

- + Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams
- + Anonymous
- + Wendal Berry
- + Jeri Fitzgerald Board In honor of Clyde Edgerton
- + Kathrvn Bottoms
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- + Mary Chester Wasko In memory of Cathy Cortina
- + Willis & Leona Whichard *In memory of* Lynn Jones Ennis
- + James Williams, Jr.
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Executive Director



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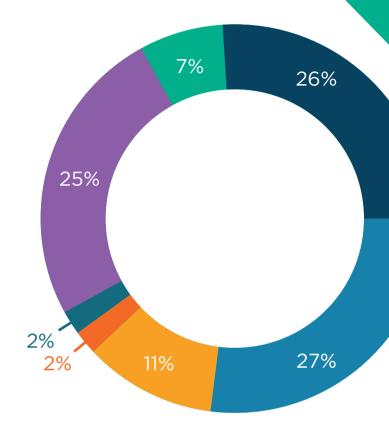
Director of Grants and Compliance



## **FINANCIALS**

### **Expenses**

•		
Grants to Nonprofits	\$	372,201
Program Services	\$	391,217
NC Center for the Book	\$	157,032
Museum on Main Street	\$	34,754
Management	\$	357,406
Fundraising	\$	96,428
Lobbying	\$	22,567
Total Expenses \$1,431,609		1,431,605



#### Revenue

Total Revenue	\$ 1,332,412	
Other Revenue	\$	62,007
Other Gifts	\$	68,455
NEH Grant	\$	1,201,950

<sup>\*</sup>These financials reflect North Carolina Humanities' fiscal year 2023 (November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023)



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: 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 2023 (November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023) and program activity from calendar year 2023.

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