

Awarded Grants FY 2024

Grants Awarded during Fiscal Year 2024: November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024* | Updated on November 26, 2024



North Carolina
humanities

LARGE PROJECT GRANTS

Large Project Grants provide up to \$20,000 to organizations to support the implementation of large-scale and long-term public humanities projects. North Carolina Humanities awards Large Project Grants once a year.

Alliance for Heritage Conservation (Chapel Hill)

Amplifying Native Voices in North Carolina History

Grant Award: \$20,000

The state of North Carolina has a large and diverse American Indian population. This grant will support the development, evaluation, and dissemination of curriculum focused on amplifying Native American voices, experiences, cultures, and contributions. Alongside this curriculum developed by collaborators from UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Pembroke, educator workshops will bring K-12 teachers to the Museum of the Southeast American Indian to get hands-on experience with this content, hear from fellow teachers and experts, and participate in field trips to places of Lumbee cultural importance.

Bookmarks (Winston-Salem)

Bookmarks 20th Anniversary Festival of Books & Authors

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support Bookmarks' 20th anniversary Festival of Books & Authors in September 2025, ensuring the festival remains free and welcoming to all. The Bookmarks Festival celebrates the power that stories have to connect us and create a sense of belonging. It is the largest annual celebration of the literary arts in North Carolina, bringing an estimated 20,000 attendees to Winston-Salem from 20+ states and 60% of North Carolina counties.

Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte (Charlotte)

History of Hispanic Immigrants in Mecklenburg County

Grant Award: \$20,000

As of 2024, Mecklenburg County has a population of 170,000 Hispanics. The journey of Hispanic people to Charlotte started 483 years ago with voyages of Spanish explorers through what would become the territories of the Carolinas. Presently, the Hispanic community represents 15% of the county's population. To further the stories and cultures of this community, this project will capture oral histories and visual testimonies which will later be preserved and distributed through a comprehensive essay and website.

Davidson College (Davidson)

Dúta Bahisere Kus Rá?here/We Know Corn Together

Grant Award: \$20,000

Davidson College is located on ancestral Catawba homeland. To further Davidson community members' understanding of and support for Catawba history and culture, this grant will support a series of lecture events featuring Indigenous authors, artists, scholars, and chefs. In addition, Davidson students, staff, and faculty will research the history of settler colonialism in this region, conduct experiments and research projects under Catawba direction at their farm and woodlands, and grow kus (corn) at the Catawba and Davidson College farms.

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FREEDOM ORG (Tarboro)

Basketball Heaven Student Production Program

Grant Award: \$19,750

FREEDOM ORG is a 3-year documentary production program that connects students ages 13-16 to North Carolina's rich Black history and concepts of environmental justice through documentary filmmaking. The program uses film as a device for students to travel through Kinston, past and present, while increasing their research, creative development, and technical skill sets. It allows students to work on a film from start to finish, giving them their first film credit, and preparing them to enter the industry as filmmakers upon graduation. This grant will support student's participation in the impact campaign for the Sundance-supported, feature-length documentary, *Basketball Heaven*, which follows director and producer Resita Cox as she journeys back home to the land of basketball, bringing audiences the story of Kinston, a small town with a big stat: it is the single greatest producer of NBA players in the world. The goal of this film and its impact campaign is to enhance and develop a deeper understanding of local, state and national history for working students and film audiences.

Friends of The City of Raleigh Museum (Raleigh)

African American Cultural Programming

Grant Award: \$10,000

This grant will support community programming centered around African American culture and history. Such programs include "The Doctor Is In", a two-day program on 19th-century Black medical practices featuring a lecture and living history demonstrations presented in partnership with the Country Doctor Museum; and "Emancipation Day", a two-day program featuring lectures, a historical trolley tour, a Civil War reenactment presented by Tryon Palace's 35th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops, and two performances that will explore the intersection of abolitionism and culture. This grant will also support the 2025 African American Symposium, "Joy Cometh in the Morning! The Emancipation Experience in North Carolina".

Gaston County Museum of Art & History (Dallas)

African American History in Gaston, a Community Curated Exhibit

Grant Award: \$19,996

Using 11 previously collected oral history stories relating to African American history in Gaston County from 25 individuals, this grant funding will support the production of a community-curated exhibit created with direct input from the community members who gave their oral histories. This grant will also support the development of a curriculum guide for K-12 schools, educational programs that tie to the exhibit themes, and an exhibition book highlighting the exhibit and the individuals whose oral histories inspired its creation. Oral histories were collected thanks to a 2022 one-time grant program funded by the American Historical Association and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Independent Picture House (Charlotte)

Community Impact Film Series

Grant Award: \$10,575

This grant will support the continuation of the Community Impact Film Series which seeks to inform audiences of the issues surrounding mental health, women's health, immigration, and homelessness through film. Directly after the film screening, a panel of humanities experts will lead audiences in discussions about the issues depicted in the films and how they may affect community

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members and inform their personal experiences. Ultimately, this program aims to enhance human connections among people of different backgrounds to work toward meaningful goals and solutions.

Jane Austen Collaborative (Chapel Hill)

Medicine, Food, and Domestic Life in Regency England and Colonial North Carolina

Grant Award: \$20,000

In many ways, Austen's 1813 *Sense and Sensibility* acts as a bridge between 18th and 19th century moral aesthetics. As such, this grant will support plenaries, workshops, discussions, and readings that will explore domesticity, medicine, and military conflict in colonial North Carolina and Austen's world. Many of these activities will take place at Tryon Palace in New Bern, North Carolina. This unique location will invite visitors to consider the tensions rooted in class, national identity, and religion felt between North Carolina settlers and their British colonial rulers. Such tensions inform and parallel Austen's historical moment and the conflicts in her writing. New Bern's coastal location opens further opportunities for exploring the slave trade and piracy.

John C. Campbell Folk School (Brasstown)

Walking Tour and Wayfinding Project

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support the creation of a self-guided walking tour of and informational signage for the Folk School's campus to better contextualize the school's historical sites, studios, landscape, and garden for public audiences. Started in 1925, the Folk School is the oldest Folk School in the country and plays a key part of preservation of far-western North Carolina history. Visitors will be able to see a map and/or read signage at various stops throughout the tour, and for fuller information, will be able to scan a QR code on the map/signage. Each webpage will also include written, visual, or audio histories from the school's archives.

Neighborhood Data Works (Durham)

Reckoning With Racial Covenants in Durham

Grant Award: \$20,000

This project will raise awareness of and foster community engagement around the history of racial covenant clauses in Durham County property deeds. These clauses were documented oaths that aimed to restrict non-white Durham citizens from owning residential properties, accessing public amenities, or even resting in certain cemeteries. In-person discussions and workshops will allow for greater exploration of the emotional impact of engaging with the covenants. Additionally, a traveling exhibit will be created to further narrate the story of racial covenants.

Odyssey for Democracy (Washington)

Black Oral Histories of Beaufort County

Grant Award: \$5,000

This project will document the untold stories of members of the African American Washington, North Carolina community and surrounding eastern North Carolina areas. Their stories will be shared through support and collaboration with the Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum, The P.S. Jones African American Education Museum, the Brown Library History Center, the Beaufort County Arts Council, the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies at UNC Charlotte, and NPR's StoryCorps, where they will be archived in the Library of Congress.

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S.M.A.R.T BUS (Raleigh)

Preserving Our Voices

Grant Award: \$18,970

Through intergenerational interactions, students will create a docuseries titled *Preserving Our Voices: Documenting African American Experiences Under Jim Crow Laws* as part of an ongoing project that is aimed at preserving the narratives of elderly African Americans who lived through this era through oral storytelling. The documentaries will be the culmination of research, planning, and interviews conducted by students ages 11-18. Additionally, students will create historical fiction children's books based on the interviews, exploring storytelling and narrative construction. The project will also include community engagement activities such as screenings, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions to raise awareness and promote empathy and respect for diverse experiences.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (Asheville)

A Life Reimagined: The George Masa Story

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support the documentary film about the groundbreaking life of Japanese immigrant George Masa. Based on the soon-to-be-published biography of Masa by director Paul Bonesteel and writer Janet McCue, the film will bring to PBS audiences the results of years of research by Bonesteel and other writers, historians, researchers, photographers, and naturalists. Masa was a passionate artist and advocate for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian Trail. He came to the mountains of Western North Carolina in 1915, reimagining his life, and leaving a legacy of photography, trail building, conservation, and inspiration in this region. Filmed in Western North Carolina, Japan and other locations, the story dives deep into Masa's life. Through the challenges he faced as an artist, an immigrant, and businessman, audiences will see a deeper and richer possibility for themselves.

The Industrial Commons (Morganton)

Raising Cultural Diversity Awareness in Rural Communities

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support the Industrial Commons' program, Hometown Walkabout, aimed at raising awareness of cultural and racial diversity through arts- and place-based tours and facilitated conversations. This grant will help organizations and individuals with financial constraints participate in the program at a free or lower cost. The program aims to strengthen trust, respect, and understanding of diverse racial and cultural populations through increased knowledge of Burke County history, origin stories of local ethnic groups, and the lived experiences, challenges and triumphs of community members in these groups.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill)

Celebrating and Reflecting on 50 Years of Women's and Gender Studies in North Carolina

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support a series of events, workshops, and public performances throughout the 2025-2026 academic year to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Women's and Gender Studies Department at UNC Chapel Hill. Engaging public audiences and humanities experts alike, this diverse set of events will explore the histories, legacies, and challenges of women's and gender studies, reflecting upon where the field has come from and where it is headed. Events will call attention to the deep roots of women's and gender studies in the state and the continued significance of research, teaching, advocacy, and ongoing dialogue.

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill)

Celebrating Diversity: Combatting Refugee Isolation Through Cross-Cultural Storytelling

Grant Award: \$14,858

This project seeks to address the issue of cultural isolation and language barriers for Middle Eastern and Muslim refugees in the Triangle area. Journal articles and professionals in organizations that support refugees claim the primary focus of support is on the economic needs of their clients and “the resettlement process is devoid of cultural interventions.” (Diya Abdo, Every Campus a Refuge) Through this 12-month series of field trips to cultural heritage institutions and local historical sites, participants will encounter local North Carolina culture and heritage to increase their understanding of their new home’s traditions and grow their sense of belonging. Each field excursion will include on-site translation and a bilingual handout/booklet to help increase language exposure and give participants something to revisit. These activities will reinforce a sense of pride in their own culture and help them feel welcomed and valued in North Carolina.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill)

Legacies of Lynching: An Inaugural Gathering

Grant Award: \$20,000

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) has documented over 4,000 lynchings of Black Americans that occurred between the close of Reconstruction and 1950. EJI identified 55 county sites of lynching in North Carolina. Following the work of EJI, 10 North Carolina county-based coalitions from Alamance, Buncombe, Chatham, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Orange, New Hanover, Rowan, Wake, and Warren Counties have taken significant steps towards documenting lynchings in their local communities and honoring their victims. As such, this grant will help support a gathering of leaders, university scholars, undergraduate students, and lifelong learners for a first-of-its-kind statewide convening to discuss and learn about the history of racial injustice, lynching, and descendant community-led public history work.

Unmanageable (Nashville, TN-based nonprofit. Events to occur in Durham, NC.)

Biscuits & Banjos Festival

Grant Award: \$19,800

This grant will support the new Biscuits & Banjos festival in April 2025 in Durham. The festival, curated by GRAMMY & Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Rhiannon Giddens of Greensboro, is dedicated to the reclamation and exploration of Black music, art, and culture. The two-day festival will include panels, workshops, walking tours and more that will allow participants to exchange ideas, celebrate traditions, and trace the musical and geographical connections of old time, country, Americana, folk and blues to highlight their often-forgotten Black origins.

Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem)

Documenting the Historic Odd Fellows Cemetery in Winston Salem

Grant Award: \$20,000

This grant will support Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveying at Odd Fellows Cemetery. GPR surveying will aid in the research of the entire 12-acre African American cemetery. Research components also include mapping the locations of headstones and plots, using tablets to document headstone information, and developing a database to support the ongoing documentation of interred individuals. Building capacity, the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Research Group (CHARG) at Wake Forest University will conduct the GPR surveying in partnership with New South

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Associates, who will help train CHARG staff so that they can later offer their services to other African American cemeteries in the area.

Women AdvaNce (Durham)

Mapping the Women's Movement

Grant Award: \$20,000

To document the memory of women involved in advocacy work, this project will collect the oral histories of 30 women fighting for equal, just, and inclusive treatment of people of marginalized gender, racial, and LGBTQ+ identities, in North Carolina. These oral histories will be facilitated with guidance from the Southern Oral History Program at UNC Chapel Hill and will later be preserved in the archives at UNC Chapel Hill's Wilson Library. The oral histories will also be accessible online in a digital exhibition. These oral histories will add to the public knowledge and history around activism in North Carolina.

SMALL PROJECT GRANTS

Small Project Grants provide up to \$5,000 to organizations to support the implementation of their public humanities projects. North Carolina Humanities awards Small Project Grants twice per year.

Alliance for Historic Hillsborough (Hillsborough)

Telling the Full Story Community Conversation Series + More

Grant Award: \$4,950

This project seeks to bring the histories and experiences of African American and Indigenous residents to light, primarily relying on these people to share their thoughts through oral histories. A learning and conversational series, a collaborative public lecture with other local organizations, and the documentation of oral histories with elders in the community will provide a deeper educational experience and offer attendees the opportunity to share and reflect on their own experiences.

Appalachian State University (Boone)

Conversations about Ancient Art & Visual Culture and Contemporary Contexts

Grant Award: \$5,000

Grant funding will support a discussion series for public and campus audiences about the damage caused by long-term political conflict and colonialism through the lens of visual arts. One key example is the lamassu - ancient Assyrian guardian figures that protected cities in ancient Mesopotamia, such as the city of Nineveh in Iraq, destroyed by ISIS in 2015, and recreated in 2018 as contemporary art by Michael Rakowitz. Rakowitz and other art historians will lead discussions and roundtable events about ancient art and architecture in contemporary contexts. Conversations will empower rural North Carolinians to see themselves as part of larger international issues and debates.

Appalachian State University (Boone)

Bridging the Divide between Classical Music and Folk Traditions: Béla Bartók's Legacy

Grant Award: \$5,000

High Country Humanities will design and deliver high-impact humanities programming on Béla Bartók (1881-1945), the Hungarian composer who helped bridge the divide between classical and folk

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music. A vocal opponent of the distinction between “high” and “low” cultures in Nazi-occupied Europe, Bartók was exiled to the United States during World War II. He spent his final summer in North Carolina, where he composed his famous “Asheville Concerto” in 1945. Celebrating the eightieth anniversary of this piece, humanities experts will offer free public talks, discussions, and guided listening workshops to make classical music more accessible and relevant to broad audiences in rural North Carolina.

Campaign for Southern Equality (Asheville)

Trans Kids, Our Kids: Companion Materials & Discussion Series

Grant Award: \$5,000

A 2021 survey by the Trevor Project found that 46% of LGBTQ+ youth in North Carolina seriously considered suicide in the past year; 74% experienced anxiety; and 77% have experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation/gender identity. This project aims to address these challenges through the creation of supplemental materials and a community conversation series based on the book *Trans Kids, Our Kids: Stories and Resources from the Frontlines of the Movement for Transgender Youth*. *Trans Kids, Our Kids* features the voices of 50+ trans youth and the adults who support them, including their families, as well as doctors, lawyers, advocates, and faith leaders from 19 different states. This grant will help support the creation of a reading guide for high school youth as well as a series of community conversations hosted with LGBTQ+ youth organizations in North Carolina that will be grounded in the text. These activities will leverage real-life stories to foster critical reflection and understanding for the human condition—while challenging assumptions about gender, identity, and societal norms.

Carolina Migrant Network (Charlotte)

Latin American History Through Cinema

Grant Award: \$3,500

Utilizing popular Latin American cinema, this community class will offer Latinx individuals, either immigrants or US-born, an opportunity to understand their stories and their communities’ growth in the US. The class will engage critically in discussions to explore how cinema produces and circulates different versions of Latin American history. The class will use films about key moments and central figures of recent and twentieth-century Latin America history. Films will be treated as cultural constructions, and by analyzing them, participants will gain insight into the context of production and the historical events depicted.

Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) Foundation (Sanford)

Academic and Cultural Enrichment Series (ACES) at CCCC: “The Ongoing Fight for Freedom” Presentation

Grant Award: \$500

The ACES program at CCCC creates a lifelong learning environment where students and community members can experience artistic and cultural events together, resulting in conversation and more well-rounded people. This grant will support bringing the presentation, “The Ongoing Fight for Freedom: Stories of NC Black Veterans,” to the community. It is a one-man presentation and performance elevating Black freedom fighters and veterans with North Carolina connections – known and unknown, on and off the traditional battlefield – who have engaged in over 400 years of a struggle for freedom, liberty, and equality. Their sacrifices, resistance, and resilience have contributed to American democracy, even as they were denied the full rights of citizens. Through listening to their stories in this production, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of our nation’s

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history and will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue across racial and cultural issues and to celebrate black veterans.

Clay County Historical & Arts Council (Hayesville)

Equipment for Old Jail Museum Video Series

Grant Award: \$2,000

This project will help preserve the history of the area through a series of created videos featuring members of the community who have experiences related to the exhibits in the museum. Exhibits such as the first telephone system in Clay County will be videoed with two grandchildren of the person who owned and operated it in the early 1930's. These videos will be kept as a record for the present generation and those who follow. This grant will help with the purchase of upgraded video equipment to better capture these stories.

Friends of Weymouth (Southern Pines)

"Better Than They Found It" and "The Carpenters: A Weymouth Family" Tours, 2025

Grant Award: \$5,000

Home to the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame and as the former residence of author James Boyd, the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities honors North Carolina writers and the Boyd family legacy. This grant will support the development of docent-led and self-guided tours to explore these legacies. The tours will illuminate the Boyd's roles in literature, conservation, journalism, and equestrian culture, using artifacts like their antique silver service and personal items to connect visitors to this rich history. Additionally, a tour for third-grade students, aligned with North Carolina's social studies curriculum, will offer students an interactive way to engage with local history and see how the Boyd's work shaped their community.

Jane Austen Summer Program (Chapel Hill)

Jane Austen and the Brontës

Grant Award: \$5,000

Building on previous NC Humanities grant support, this series will explore Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, and Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and *Emma*. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of the lives of these authors, how these works were influenced by the culture in which they were written, how these writers are relevant to contemporary discussions on gender and the vocation of writing and publishing, and more. The project will also create digital resources for future use in classrooms, book clubs, and other spaces of literary discussion, and additional public library workshops and a statewide letter-writing contest for middle and high school students will be held.

Preservation Zebulon (Zebulon)

Zebulon Historic Homes Tour 2025

Grant Award: \$4,859

To capture, retain, and highlight its rural history, this grant will support the Historic Homes Tour, scheduled for April 12, 2025. The tour will take place in a newly established historic district of Zebulon and will help transferees buying these homes and area residents engage more with the history and identity of Zebulon. Grant funding will also support the creation of printed materials including a 12-page brochure describing each historic house on tour with a photo, description of the architectural style, information on early owners, and a map of the tour area. To further tell the story of Zebulon's creation and history, the tour will also include information about the former Wakelon

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school site, which taught White students, and the Shepherd school, which was for Black students in Zebulon. Preservation Zebulon launched its Historic Homes Tour in 2022 with support from NC Humanities.

Show N Tell Ministries (Garner)

Invisible Warriors

Grant Award: \$5,000

This grant will support the creation of a documentary film about the experiences of Global War On Terror veterans. The film is designed to support veterans seeking assistance, or veterans who could benefit from assistance, with Post-Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other disorders. The film will show real people talking about real problems and encouraging their comrades to be brave enough to seek help. The film will also help the public to gain insight on how they can play a role in the well-being of our military veterans. The film will be screened at local churches, community centers, museums, and on local television stations. It will be broadcast statewide on Memorial Day on PBS-North Carolina.

Southern Highland Craft Guild (Asheville)

Making and Thinking 2025: Building Community

Grant Award: \$4,000

This grant will support the second annual Making and Thinking Conference in 2025. The conference aims to expand public consciousness about craft artists and processes both past and future, and to challenge regional stereotypes by elevating underrepresented voices in Appalachian and American History. The conference will include presentations and demonstrations by a diverse selection of PhD candidates, professors, emerging scholars, artists, and musicians.

The Royal City Collaboration Corp (Matthews)

Connected Conversations: Art, Technology, and Cultural Identity

Grant Award: \$5,000

This four-part lecture series will explore how technological advances shape our cultural heritage, artistic expression, and social connections. By focusing on digital tools and new media, the project aims to increase awareness of how technology influences culture while fostering meaningful discussions. The series will be accessible to all, with a special emphasis on engaging BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) individuals and low-income residents, ensuring that underserved communities are at the heart of this cultural dialogue.

The Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation (Swansboro)

Scotland in Our Backyard

Grant Award: \$3,500

This project aims to uplift Scottish heritage and its rich traditions that have contributed to North Carolina's overall cultural fabric. This grant will support the creation of six YouTube videos designed for elementary school students and their educators. These videos will explore a diverse array of Scottish cultural expressions, including the Scots Gaelic language, traditional music, dance, and folklore. By showcasing the intricate relationship between these elements, the project will highlight the significance of cultural preservation and its role in maintaining cultural identity and storytelling.

The Stagville Memorial Project (Durham)

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Making A Way Out of No Way Exhibit

Grant Award: \$5,000

Grant funding will support the development of narratives from previously collected data on descendants of Stagville Plantation, which will be displayed in through a digital exhibit in visually compelling and engaging ways. Narratives will be written by graduate students from UNC Chapel Hill's MSIS/MLIS programs and students from NC Central University's graduate history program. Prior to Durham's incorporation in 1869, the surrounding area was home to Stagville Plantation; a 30,000-acre slave labor camp which enslaved over 3,000 people from the mid 1700's up until 1865. After emancipation, approximately 900 newly freed people went on to establish many of the historically Black neighborhoods that are still in existence today. This exhibit will explore the contributions to the community and culture of Durham made by descendants of those formerly enslaved on Stagville Plantation.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill)

Odysseys of Wisdom: Bridging Generations through Homer's Epic

Grant Award: \$4,900

This project addresses the challenge of fostering intergenerational dialogue and community engagement using Homer's *Odyssey* as a focal point. It will create a shared space for individuals from diverse age groups to explore timeless themes including heroism, justice, fate, and the nature of the human condition, and their relevance for contemporary life. A series of community-based activities, including lectures, reading groups, and a dramatic reading event followed by humanistic discussion, will allow participants to explore the text and bring their personal life experiences to the discussions.

Western Carolina University (Cullowhee)

Stranger No More: George Masa and His Art

Grant Award: \$5,000

Western Carolina University's (WCU) Mountain Heritage Center's (MHC) upcoming exhibition will introduce the life and photography of George Masa to a new generation. Displays will include Masa's camera and tripod, and photographic prints. WCU students and Masa scholars will work with MHC staff to generate a community-curated narrative. To date, there has never been an exhibition of this scale for George Masa. The timing of the exhibition aligns with the release of new scholarship about Masa's unique voice including the NC Humanities-support documentary *A Life Reimagined: The George Masa Story*. MHC will coordinate screenings of the documentary, panel discussions, and hikes to popular Masa photograph locations to reinforce Masa's enduring impact on tourism, conservation, and recreation.

Winston-Salem Symphony Association (Winston-Salem)

200 Years of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Grant Award: \$4,290

This project series aims to demystify classical music and make it more accessible and relevant to people from all walks of life. A film screening will demonstrate the worldwide and ongoing impact of the music; a panel will address how the piece relates to politics, disability, and local history; and a series of online videos will share historical insights with the masses. The finale of the 9th Symphony, with its famous "Ode to Joy," is a musical landmark. With its symbolism of universal brotherhood and peace, it will serve as a catalyst for discussions on social inclusion and cultural diversity.

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PROJECT PLANNING GRANTS

Project Planning Grants provide up to \$2,000 to organizations to support preparations for their upcoming humanities projects including research activities, planning meetings, data collection and more. NC Humanities awards Project Planning Grants throughout the year.

Appalachian State University (Boone)

Books Without Borders: Exploring Censorship and Reading in Schools

Grant Award: \$2,000

In collaboration with the Franklin School of Innovation, a Title-I public charter school in Asheville, North Carolina, banned book curriculum for grades 9-12 will be developed. The initiative aims to celebrate marginalized voices, particularly BIPOC and LGBTQ authors, and enhance literacy and critical thinking skills. The curriculum will be grounded in culturally sustaining pedagogy, which underscores the importance of students reading literature that reflects their own experiences. Integrating this content into existing curriculum will provide students an opportunity to engage with the intersection of literature, policy, and censorship.

Chapel Hill Historical Society (Chapel Hill)

Franklin Street - Then and Now

Grant Award: \$950

Grant funding will support planning and development for an upcoming physical and virtual exhibit, co-sponsored by the Chapel Hill Historical Society and the Orange County Historical Museum. The exhibit will present stories of the businesses, individuals, and events that have helped to create Franklin Street's unique identity. The exhibit will explore the different ways in which Black and White people experienced life on Franklin Street, from the perspectives of business owners, workers, and students, and how these experiences influence our notions of community.

Show N Tell Ministries (Garner)

Invisible Warriors

Grant Award: \$2,000

Grant funding will support interviews, research, and the collection of file footage for a future documentary about Global War on Terror veterans. Specifically, the documentary will focus on veteran suicide rates and other contemporary issues faced by our nation's veterans.

Visual Art Exchange (Raleigh)

Quiet Cartographies

Grant Award: \$2,000

During the research phase of this project, artist R. Stein Wexler will pilot "Quiet Cartographies" a community-led story mapping effort. Over the course of six weeks, visitors to the exhibition will be invited to collectively map local stories that they think need to be told, where they need to be told, and start ideating ways in which to tell them. A series of workshops, gatherings, and "open house" hours will encourage community members and culture bearers to contribute to the "Quiet Cartographies" research pilot.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Charlotte)

North Carolina African American Cemeteries Network

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Grant Award: \$2,000

There is momentum and interest surrounding the identification, preservation, and conservation of African American burial grounds across the United States, and more locally, in North Carolina. As such, this grant will support a county-by-county assessment of known African American cemeteries, historical societies, heritage professionals, and community organizations who could be part of the North Carolina African American Cemetery Network. This grant will also support the creation of planning and informational materials regarding the network.

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET: VOICES & VOTES: DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA TOUR 2024-2025

Six venues have been selected to host NC Humanities' tour of *Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*. *Voices & Votes* is a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition made possible in North Carolina by NC Humanities. The exhibition explores democracy, citizenship, and voting. Optional grant funding (up to \$5,000) 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.

Iredell County Public Library (Statesville)

April - May 2024 tour dates

Grant Award: \$4,991

Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center (Fayetteville)

July - September 2024 tour dates

Grant Award: \$3,188

Alamance Community College (Graham)

September - October 2024 tour dates

Grant Award: \$5,000

Appalachian State University (Boone)

October - December 2024 tour dates

Grant Award: \$3,844

**Note: Some grant projects may be altered, cancelled, or return funding. Project descriptions are shortened for length and clarity and reflect the project's proposed activity at time of grant submission. All funded activity takes place in North Carolina unless otherwise noted. For questions, please call our office at (704) 687-1520.*

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