



cThumanities

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2019-2020

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Connecticut Children's

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The Common Fund

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Katherine Donovan

Whittlesey PC

Stephanie Fielding

Mohegan Linguist

Heidi Green

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Foundation of Connecticut

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& Editor

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Director, CT Center for the
Book and Manager, IT Services

Gregg Mangan, Ph.D.

Manager of Digital Humanities

Susan Muro

Grants & Program Officer

Scott Wands

Manager of Grants & Programs

*The humanities provide the means to lead
examined lives and to connect powerfully
with one another.*

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of the Humanities:

I am pleased to share the success of our fiscal year 2019-2020 with you. Our Executive Director, Dr. Jason R. Mancini, and his team led Connecticut Humanities successfully through a year of societal, psychological, and physiological distress. Even while working from home, the team kept focus on our 4 key roles.

- **Advocating:** Advancing the importance of the humanities, such as through our Center for the Book where we promote the written and spoken word throughout the state and foster a love of reading for the people of Connecticut.
- **Funding:** Distributing well over \$1,000,000 in grants to support Connecticut's historical organizations, museums, and societies, libraries, educational organizations, and art museums and organizations in strengthening Connecticut's cultural infrastructure.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthening, supporting, and sustaining humanities organizations, projects, and programs through best practices, peer networks, resources, and targeted grant support such as through our StEPs-CT program which helps museums, historical societies, and other cultural organizations build professionalism and ensure their programs and collections remain vibrant community resources.
- **Public Humanities Portal:** Using digital and other accessible platforms to distribute information and content that informs the work of, and expands the reach of, heritage and cultural organizations in the state such as through our classroom program, Teach It, which enables Connecticut's teachers to bring Connecticut history into the classroom through a series of inquiry-based activities.

Connecticut Humanities is well-positioned as the state-wide entity connected to academic content creators and to the content deliverers of museums, libraries, and schools. We have over 40 years of experience in investigating and articulating what successful organizations do. Connecticut Humanities recognizes the changing demographics of Connecticut and the importance of telling the full story of all of Connecticut's peoples through various venues and platforms. We are deeply committed to supporting the field of humanities in all its forms. It is through humanities we determine what we believe. It is through humanities that we each find our place in the world and set our own path forward.

We are excited about the future of humanities in our state. We are enthusiastic about the leadership role we play in delivering excellent humanities content to the people of Connecticut. We believe our strategic plan and the initiatives we execute will result in new and exciting content for you.

Sincerely,



Lew Wallace
Board Chair 2020-2021



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends and Colleagues:

I feel a deep sense of rootedness in Connecticut – to its places, its people, and its ideas. My earliest memories and “teachers” are here – finding a 4,000-year-old arrowhead at an archaeological site in East Haddam, exploring the ramparts at Fort Griswold in Groton, a visit to see dinosaurs at Yale’s Peabody Museum in New Haven, touring a whaleship at Mystic Seaport, and learning from Mohegan Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon at the tribal museum.

These places and people are not static embodiments of the past, but imbued with ideas and experiences themselves, that continue to inform and shape how I interact with the world. As a lifelong Connecticut resident with my own family, I recognize how important it is to have access to these “Connecticut Grown” resources.

And that is why I am so passionate about CT Humanities. Through our grants, partnerships, and online content, we provide access to Connecticut Grown resources for all of our citizens. As Connecticut’s only statewide humanities council, we support, strengthen, and advocate for the organizations and communities that tell our stories, connect our past with our future, and put ideas into action.

It is through the humanities that we can understand what “Yankee ingenuity” really means, why it is Connecticut grown, and how that might inspire a Connecticut renaissance. It is through the humanities that we connect the meaning of “Constitution State” to four centuries of robust civic engagement, representative government, and individual rights and why that matters now more than ever. And it is through the humanities that we can consider what “Two Connecticut’s” means from the vantage points of geography, race, and economics.

The place between Boston and New York is an oft unheralded treasure. CT Humanities begs to differ. Connecticut has much to share with the world and we will do our part to make it so.

Sincerely,



Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.



In January of 2018, Connecticut Humanities welcomed Dr. Jason Mancini as executive director. Jason’s long career on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation and at the Pequot Museum, interest and expertise in Native American studies, maritime heritage, archaeology, cultural geography, and history, and commitment to public humanities and institutional collaboration are well suited to guiding CT Humanities into the future.

Jason holds a B.A. in history from Fairfield University and M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Connecticut. He is co-founder of the Akomawt Educational Initiative and has been a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Brown University, Social Studies Instructor for Sea Education Association, Visiting Professor of Anthropology at Connecticut College, and an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Anthropology at UConn and at the University of Hartford.

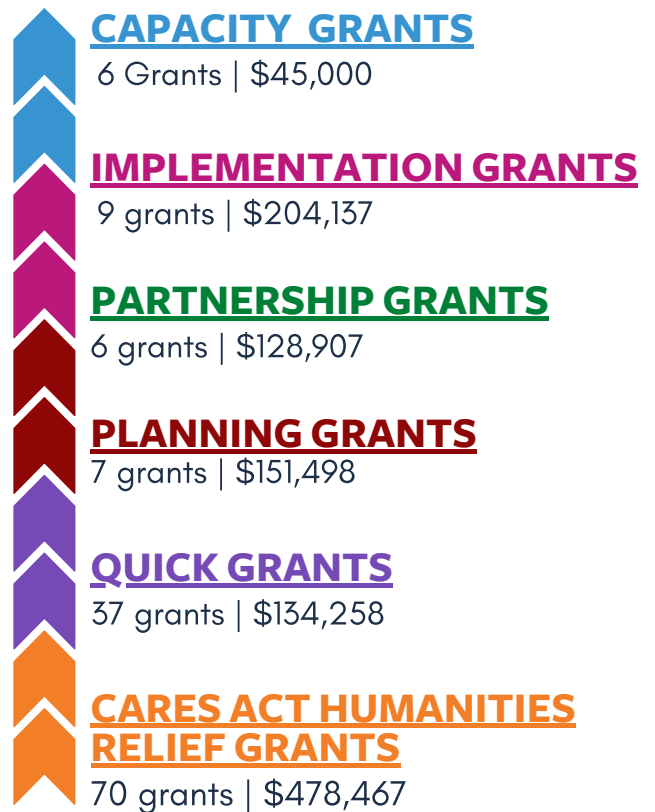
GRANTING PROGRAM

CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES FUND

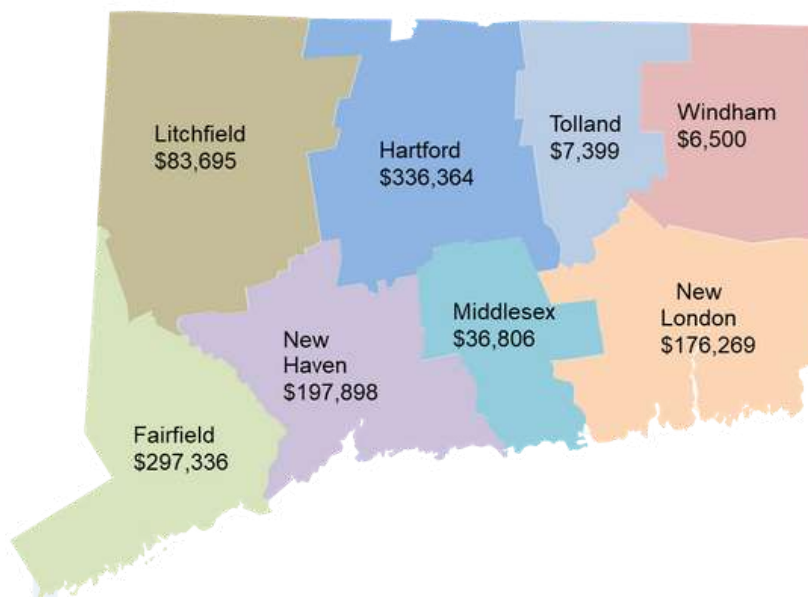
Major funding for the Connecticut Humanities fund is provided by the State of Connecticut with additional support from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for Hartford Area grants and the National Endowment for the Humanities for CARES Act Humanities Relief grants.

“Our goal is to make our programming available to the widest variety of people regardless of income. We cannot do this without the financial support, planning advice, and encouragement of Connecticut Humanities. Their commitment to education and exploration is what keeps us viable and vibrant.”

*Ramin Ganeshram,
Executive Director, The Westport Historical Society*



\$1,142,267 AWARDED IN 134 GRANTS TO 105 CULTURAL NONPROFITS IN CONNECTICUT



*CT Humanities also funded an additional 7 relief grants with \$80,000 of FY21 State of Connecticut Funds.



CAPACITY GRANTS

Capacity Grants help humanities organizations better understand their audiences, assets, and operations.

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Implementation Grants support the execution of humanities projects including exhibitions, public programs, and interpretive digital media projects.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Partnership Grants fund collaborative projects that help CTH achieve its statewide strategic goals and objectives in areas that CTH does not currently address.

PLANNING GRANTS

Planning Grants may be awarded to research and develop exhibitions, public programs, and interpretive digital media projects.

QUICK GRANTS

Quick Grants help organizations deliver small-scale humanities programs that have big impacts on their communities.

CARES ACT HUMANITIES RELIEF GRANTS

CARES Act Humanities Relief Grants provided critically needed operating support to humanities organizations serving their communities' needs during the coronavirus pandemic





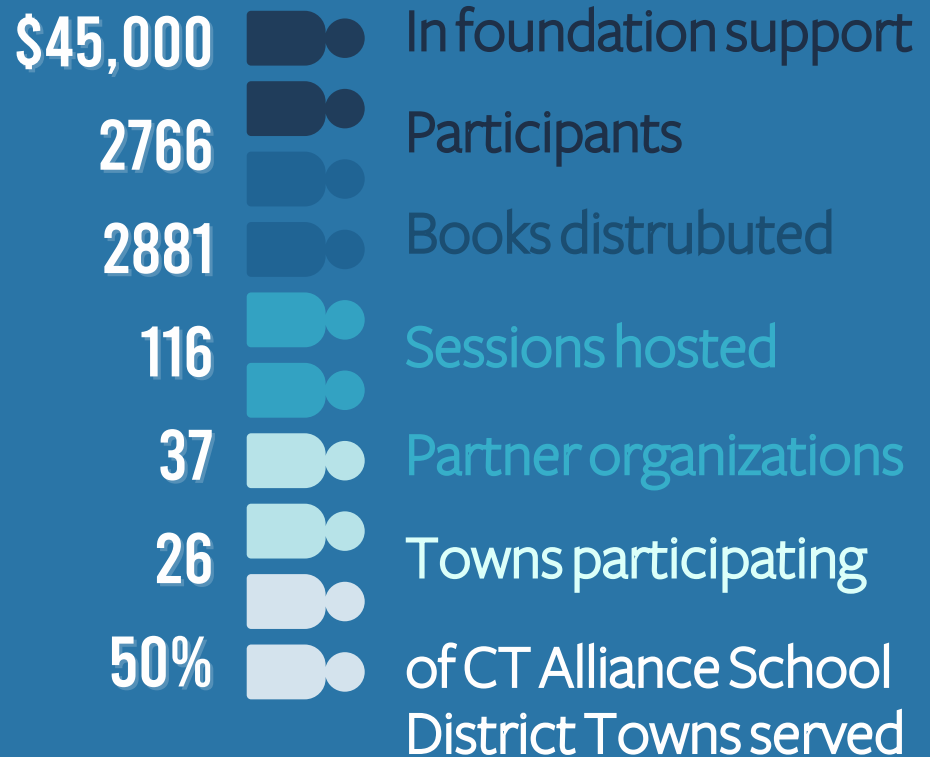
CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The state affiliate of the Library of Congress, the [Connecticut Center for the Book](#) promotes literary arts and literacy through the state.

[THE CONNECTICUT BOOK AWARDS](#) recognize the best publications about Connecticut and by Connecticut authors and illustrators in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young readers.

New this year was the “Spirit of Connecticut” Award, in memory of Bruce Fraser. Fraser, director of Connecticut Humanities for 28 years, was a proponent of Connecticut’s sense of place. He was interested in how places evoke memory and emotions, how people have such ferocious identification and loyalty to their surroundings and how the very landscape influences its inhabitants.

[BOOK VOYAGERS](#) supports young readers and their families as they develop reading skills and comprehension. Programs include book discussions, storytelling, theater performances, writing and drawing workshops, special events and more! Sessions are interactive and all participants receive books to foster literature-rich home environments.



Note: Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent mid-March state shutdown, 32 in-person Book Voyagers sessions were cancelled. Although several sessions were delivered virtually, the pandemic significantly impacted all Book Voyagers statistics for FY20.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Connecticut Humanities uses a variety of online platforms to interact with nearly one million users per year across the state and the globe. Through these programs, CTH helps users make more personal connections with the history of their state and promotes user engagement with Connecticut's libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and cultural organizations – creating a more engaged and informed public.

CONNTOURS is CTH's mobile app that serves as a mobile-friendly guide to the unique and interesting places that comprise the Connecticut landscape. ConnTours offers statewide driving tours which explore topics such as sites connected to notable women, Connecticut's role in the American Revolution, its unique architectural landmarks, and its complicated relationship to slavery. With continued growth, ConnTours saw more than 3,000 unique visits in FY20, enhancing the state's heritage tourism sector, part of the \$9 billion tourism industry in Connecticut.

CONNECTICUTHISTORY.ORG launched in 2012 as a new dynamic, multi-layered digital history project, publishing daily original articles and materials aggregated by both heritage partners and trusted resources from around the Web. With approximately 1,500 articles covering Connecticut history topics from pre-European settlement up to the present day, the project has grown into a trusted source of historical content and resources, particularly for students and teachers, and boasts an international audience of over 800,000 unique visits.

TEACH IT was formed in collaboration with the Connecticut League of History Organizations and the State Department of Education. With inquiry-based activities that reinforce the learning principles found in the state social studies frameworks, Teach It fosters a greater appreciation among students for the role their own communities played in the stories they learn every day. FY20 saw 8,750 unique visitors, a 25% increase over FY19.



teach it
bringing Connecticut history to the classroom



PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

PARTNERSHIPS

Connecticut Humanities funded partnerships and sponsorships help extend programs, leverage resources, lift stories, and broaden audiences. In FY20 these included:

CONNECTICUT COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE/
CONNECTICUT DIGITAL ARCHIVE

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRACY CENTER/
HISTORY DAY

CONNECTICUT DEMOCRACY CENTER/
CONNECTICUT'S KID GOVERNOR®

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF HISTORY
ORGANIZATIONS

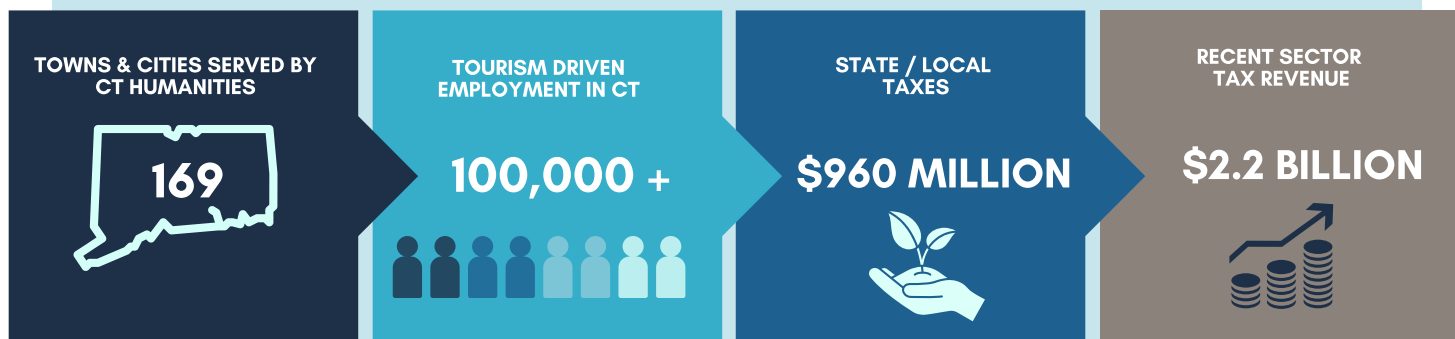
CONNECTICUT STORYTELLING CENTER

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE
ARCHAEOLOGIST

CONNECTICUT STATE HISTORIAN/
TODAY IN CONNECTICUT HISTORY

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS
AND IDEAS

Connecticut's humanities organizations add a richness to our communities and enhance the quality of life in our state, making Connecticut a vibrant place to live and work.



SPONSORSHIPS

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC

Fake: Searching for the Truth in the Age of
Misinformation Documentary

FRIENDS OF THE JANET CARLSON LIBRARY

The Connecticut Authors Trail

NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UCONN

Connecticut Scholastic Writing Awards

HAWAIIAN MISSION HOUSES
HISTORIC SITE AND ARCHIVES

Bicentennial Hawaiian Cultural and History
Theater Program on Tour in New England

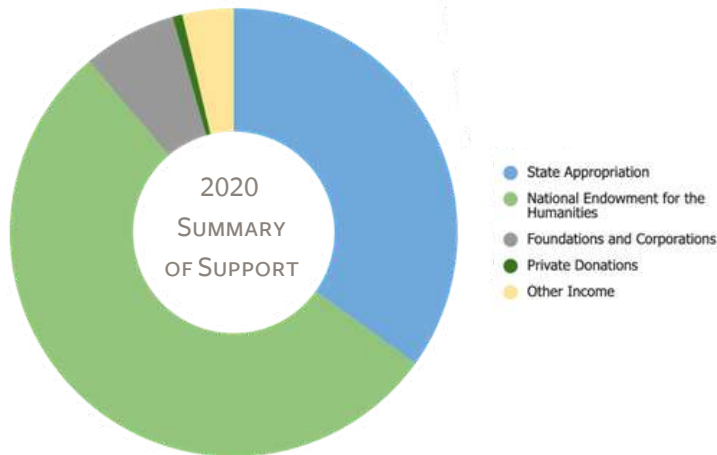
PROGRAM PARTNER

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES
OF CONSCIENCE

CT Sites of Conscience project with
programming to be launched in FY21 in
collaboration with organizational partners.

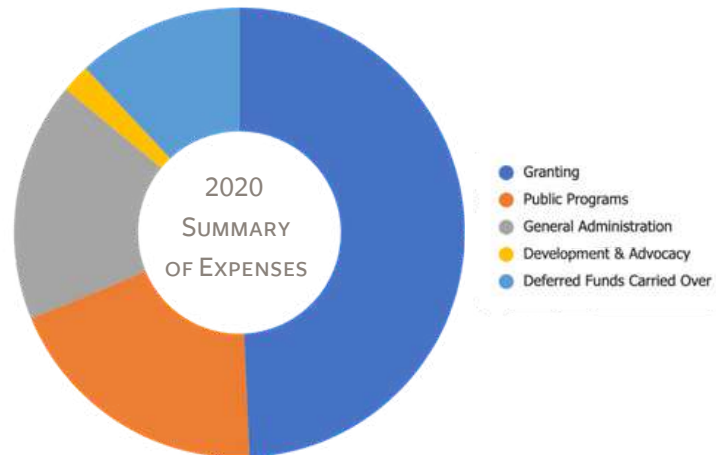
FINANCIALS

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



FUNDING

State of Connecticut	\$ 867,317
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$ 1,310,924
Corporate and Foundation and Other Grants	\$ 164,543
Earned Income and Annual Fund Gifts	\$ 43,420
Deferred Funds Carried Over	\$ 64,517
Total	\$ 2,450,721



EXPENDITURES

Granting	\$ 1,208,126
Public Programs	\$ 476,738
General Administration	\$ 422,374
Development & Advocacy	\$ 50,105
Deferred Funds Carried Over	\$ 293,378
Total	\$ 2,450,721

MAJOR SUPPORT

National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Connecticut - Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES FUND

Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA)
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
National Endowment for the Humanities/CARES Act

DEMOCRACY AND THE INFORMED CITIZEN/CT SITES OF CONSCIENCE

Federation of State Humanities Councils through a grant made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

BOOK VOYAGERS

Katherine Raia
The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts
The Stocker Foundation

CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR THE BOOK SPONSORS

Svensk & Company
Whittlesey PC

CONNTOURS

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/DECD

SINCE 1996

\$19,241,257

CTH GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED WITH
STATE OF CONNECTICUT FUNDING

\$18,908,646

ADDITIONAL DOLLARS RAISED FROM
CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GRANTS
OR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$32,525,585

ADDITIONAL DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED
BY GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

\$70,675,488

TOTAL DOLLARS INVESTED IN CULTURAL
PROGRAMS BY CTH AND OUR GRANTEES

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

CTH is deeply grateful to the support from individual donors. Your contributions help sustain us in our work to support and further the humanities statewide.

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2019 AND JUNE 30, 2020

Anonymous (12)
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence J. Andrus
Marilyn Asal
Ivan Backer
Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC
R. Beach
Christopher & Diane Berube
C.D. Blinn
Aimee Cotton Bogush
John Boland
Jay & Allison Bombara
Maria Brandriff
Susan M. Bullock
Eleanor N. Caplan
Hope Childs
Carolyn Cicchetti
Naomi & Michael Cohen
Henry & Linda Cohn
Lisa Comstock
Margaret D. Cooley
Alan & Betty Coykendall
Melinda D. Cruanes
Joanne M. Delle Cave
Judith G duPont
Helmer N. Ekstrom
Robert J. Ellis
Fairfield Museum & History Center
Gerald E. Farrell, Jr.
Eleanor & James Ferguson
Malcom & Ingely Forbes
Constance Fraser
Linda R. Gabianelli
Dr. Susan P. Gilgore
Heidi Green
Betty Hale
Rose Ann Hardy
Leah Hartman
Donald Harvey
Katherine A. Hermes
Helen Higgins
Peter P. Hinks
Robert & Carla Horwitz
Marcia B. Howard
Richard & Beverly Hughescobus

Michael Jehle, Fairfield Museum
John Jove
Carla E. Kazanjian
David Klein
Dr. & Mrs. Kosto
Jim & Barbara Lacey
Marcia A. Lattimore
Marta Jo Lawrence
Gene Leach
Peter T. Loffredo
Kat Lyons
Glen MacLeod
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony & Virginia Macro
Leta Marks
Elaine McDonald
Debra Mecky
John L. Miller
Frank Mitchell
Carol B. Moakley
Aimee Monroy Smith
Susan Muro
Gay Myers
Roy & Nancy Normen
Regen O'Malley
Mitchell Pearlman
Olde New England Salvage Co.
Raphael Podolsky
Elliot & Eileen Pollack
Katherine Raia
Hugh Macgill & Nancy Rankin
Tim & Jane Reinsch
Daniel Peter Rex
Jean Reynolds
Lawrence & Carmelita Rifkin
Catherine M. Riordan
Lawrence Roberts
Susanne F. Roberts
James K. Robertson, Jr.
Donald W. Rogers
Robert H. Roggeveen
Rorie Rueckert
Dawn Estabrooks Salerno
Thomas Sartor
Laurie Schaefer

Patricia M. Schaefer
Leon Seitelman
Deborah D. Shapiro
Jean & Biff Shaw
Charline & Tony Shaw
Sara L. Bernstein &
Joseph M. Shortall
Laura & Paul Smith
Robert H. & Sharon W. Smith
Myron Stachiw &
Nancy Mabry Stachiw
Ken Staffey
Joanne Starr
Shepard & Marlene Stone
Daniel Strahinich
John F. Sutton
Svensk & Company Inc.
Robert & Annie Svensk
The Lane Construction Corp.
James Tilney
Margaret Anne Tockarshewsky
Humphrey Tonkin & Jane Edwards
Lewis J. Wallace
Laurie Weinstein
Nancy Weiss
David G. Westmoreland
Katherine H. Willson
Marilyn Wilson
Walter Woodward

IN MEMORY OF

Jonathan Ferreira
Bruce Fraser (11)
Sharon Jacobus
Esther J. Mancarella
Richard Starr

IN HONOR OF

Barbara Gibson
CTH Staff
Jennifer Jainer
Elizabeth Normen
Scott Wands

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020, CTH embarked on strategic planning for 2020-2023. Through this process, CTH's work is organized around four key pillars: Grant Making, Capacity Building, Public Humanities Digital Portal, and Advocacy.

As Connecticut's only statewide organization focused broadly on supporting access to and providing funding for public humanities, we aspire to strengthen communities and society in the long term to ensure:

- Strong, viable, sustainable history and heritage organizations that play pivotal roles in promoting the educational, cultural, and economic vitality of Connecticut;
- Humanities programming that is widely accessible to diverse and new audiences, young and old, who will see themselves reflected and respected in the state's heritage and history;
- Citizens who appreciate and seek out the enriching and even "humanizing" value of engagement with the humanities in their everyday lives; and
- Citizens who are aware of the distinctive history and heritage of Connecticut and who understand why and how our past informs our present and future.

FOUR KEY PILLARS

GRANT MAKING

Seeds and supports public humanities programs, projects and partnerships.

ADVOCACY

Provides voice/messaging to the public about the meaning and value of humanities.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES DIGITAL PORTAL

Provides access to digital content, innovative and inspiring projects, and tools and resources for the 21st century.

CAPACITY "LAB"

Strengthens, supports and sustains organizations, projects, and programs through best practices, peer networks and grants.

PHOTOGRAPHY

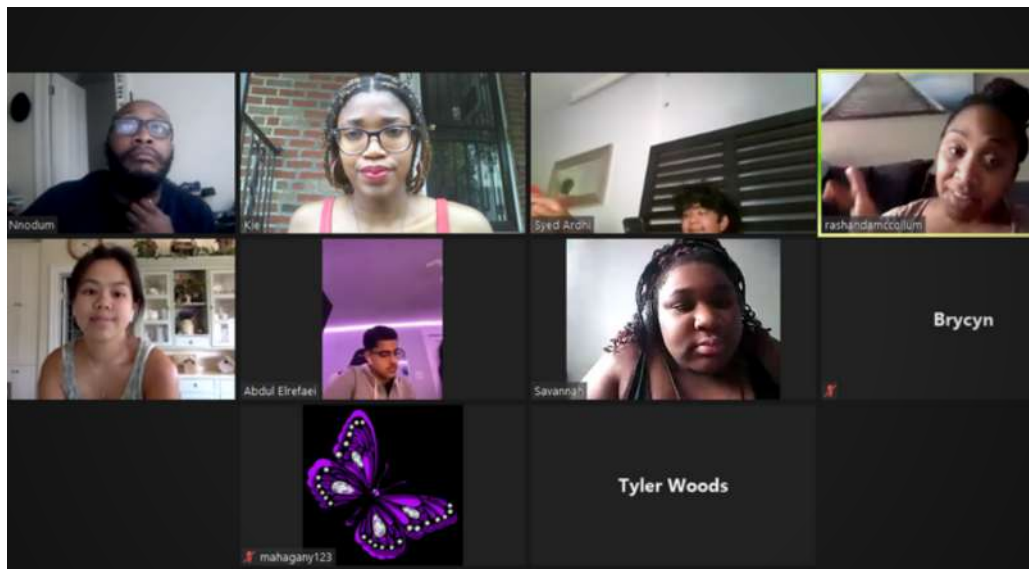
Cover, Top Left: Connecticut State Troubadour, Nekita Waller, gave an energetic outdoor summer performance highlighting our state's history at Rockville Public Library (Vernon, Summer 2019) Cover, Top Right: Perusing historical information presented on Elizabeth Park Conservancy's new kiosk, the result of research supported by CT Humanities in early 2020 (Elizabeth Park Conservancy, Sept. 2020) Cover, Bottom Left: Connecticut's Kid Governor, Myra Stanfield, and members of her cabinet with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (State Capitol, February 2020) Cover, Bottom Right: Families celebrating Diwali with stories, traditional clothing, music, and dance at a Book Voyagers program (Hartford Public Library, Fall 2019)

Inside Cover, Left: Safe Reopening at the New England Air Museum made possible by CARES Act Grant (Windsor Locks, Summer 2020) Inside Cover, Center: New London Maritime Society Visitor to the Harbor Lighthouse (Summer 2020) Inside Cover, Right: James Merrill House's 14th Annual Merrill Lecture by Mary Jo Salter at the La Grua Center (Stonington, September 2019)

Page 6, Top: Three of the finalists in fiction at the 2019 CT Book Awards (Hartford Public Library, October 2019) Page 6, Middle: Families at Regional Multicultural Magnet School engage in an activity during *Tales from Around the World with a Twist*, a Book Voyagers series facilitated by librarian and storyteller Gail Zeiba (New London, Winter 2019) Page 6, Bottom: Students excited to discuss *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes with storyteller Andre Keitt (Hartford Boys & Girls Club, Fall 2019)

Page 7, Top: The Glass House, a stop on a tour in the ConnTours app (New Canaan, Fall 2019) Page 7, Middle: Primary documents, high-quality essays, and short reflections for all 169 towns (Screenshot, ConnecticutHistory.org) Page 7, Bottom: Students at William J. Johnston Middle School using Teach It (Colchester) Page 12: Students for Educational Justice's member meeting held over Zoom during quarantine (New Haven, June 2020)

Back Cover, Top Left: Students participating in the Mansfield-Storrs Connecticut History Day Contest (UConn, February 2019) Back Cover, Top Right: Volunteers at the Ellington Historical Society finish the clean up of an outbuilding for the new farm exhibit (Winter 2020) Back Cover, Bottom Left: Visitors at *From Corsets to Suffrage: Victorian Women Trailblazers* exhibit, photo Lockwood-Mathews Museum courtesy of Sarah Grote Photography (Norwalk, Fall 2019) Back Cover, Bottom Right: Ridgefield Historical Society's Votes for Women Committee (Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center, September 2019)



MISSION STATEMENT

Connecticut Humanities champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. Through grant funding and capacity building we strive to ensure the public humanities will continue to inspire storytelling, lifelong learning, informed public dialogue, and civic engagement in ways that strengthen communities and enhance quality of life for all Connecticut's citizens.

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CThumanities

Engaging, Informing, Empowering Connecticut





cthumanities.org

