

## Strategic Plan for Connecticut Humanities, 2020-2023

### Our Mission

*CT Humanities champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society, and through grant funding and capacity building strives 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.*

### Our Motivation

Humanities are the story of human experience. The humanities help us understand the human condition. The humanities help us feel human. The humanities connect us with each other, with our shared past, with the ideas that will help us shape a shared future in a world we inhabit together.

CT Humanities strives to make a difference not only for the organizations we serve and support directly but also, through and with those organizations, in the life of every citizen of Connecticut. At CT Humanities, our mission is motivated by our core beliefs:

- The humanities help us explore and examine what life means and help us contextualize and understand the world around us.
- Humanities enrich lives by expanding minds, bringing families and communities together, fostering critical thinking, and increasing understanding of history and cultural heritage.
- Robust public humanities, shared through vibrant history and heritage organizations, directly and substantially enhance quality of life.
- Public access to and engagement of the humanities is essential to a thoughtful, informed, connected, innovative, and just society.
- The vitality of public humanities organizations is the key to connecting our past with our future.
- Cultivating an environment of innovation, inspiration, connection, and communication across humanities disciplines for Connecticut strengthens communities across Connecticut.

### Our Vision for Our Future

In fulfilling our mission as Connecticut's only statewide organization focused broadly on supporting access to and providing funding for public humanities, CT Humanities ultimately is motivated by the impact we seek to have on both individuals and institutions, and by how we aspire to strengthen communities and society in the long term:

- 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—in both schools and public life—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 and appreciate the distinctive history and heritage of Connecticut and who understand why and how our past informs our present and future.

## Our Strategic Goals

1. Provide knowledge, expertise, and leadership as a hub and disseminator for the humanities.
2. Take innovative approaches to helping humanities organizations across the state achieve their strategic goals.
3. Build partnerships that develop new and diverse audiences and connect the public humanities with community-engaged scholarship in ways that make CTH a national model.
4. Assert a coherent vision for, and a compelling case for supporting, the humanities in Connecticut.
5. Establish plans, processes and accountabilities to maximize organizational effectiveness and long-term financial sustainability.

