

2021 **CT**humanities ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

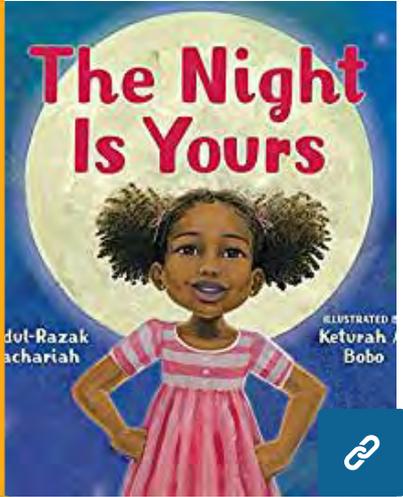


Abdul-Razak Mohammed Zachariah, Author of *The Night is Yours*, 2020 CT Book Award Winner, Book Voyagers Presenter
Photo by Eno Inyangete

A YEAR OF EXPANDING

ACCESS





For me, access means something like a welcoming. Through virtual frames, I was able to engage with children and adults as they welcomed me into their homes in a way that we otherwise wouldn't fathom for book reading. I was welcomed as a part of their home community and was able to share a story completely centered on the loving nature of community while doing so. Little readers and attentive adults all sat in their most comfortable corner or seat in their home as I welcomed them into a story world that hopefully felt safe. When people asked me why children in the story were playing hide-and-seek, I welcomed them to my memories of play and to my process of cutting down to the core moments of the narrative. So, access this year has been about welcoming and being welcomed as we tried to fashion a connected community from our comfy positions at home."

Abdul-Razak Mohammed Zachariah
author of *The Night is Yours*

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WELCOME

Dear Friends of the Humanities:

Over the past year, CT Humanities (CTH) learned the true meaning of the word access, a theme we were fueled by in constructing this year's annual report. Our many partners across the state and our staff worked tirelessly to provide access to all that the humanities encompass during this time in our world's history.

We do this report yearly, but not often do we get to step back in such a unique way and look at the full scope of our work. We have done this over the past two years and, now more than ever, it's clear to us just how CTHumanities touches every resident in the state. We are now better focused as we go forward to provide equitable access to the humanities.

We learned how the pandemic cut us off from being together in person, limiting the access that for some was already at unacceptable lows. The pandemic in many ways exposed how we can be better for all residents in our state not just through tough times, but when times seem brighter.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to disrupt life, CTH pivoted and helped our grantees and others in our community do the same. We transitioned from safely shuttering and maintaining to approaching how to wisely reopen with an eye on the lessons learned.

CTH creates access to the humanities for the public, providing grants and programs that nurture the wisdom that exists in our state's communities. We support literature programs and documentary films, public discussions about race and the environment, educational opportunities for the underserved, and websites that guide students through the complete history of Connecticut.

We tell a victorious story in this year's annual report. As we move forward into the new fiscal year, we look to strengthen our commitment to centering the importance of telling and accessing the full story of all of Connecticut's people through all that the humanities have to offer.

We compile this annual report with deep gratitude for your help in making the work possible. These pages provide only a glimpse of the reach of the humanities in Connecticut - besides these stories, there are many more. Without you, CTH could not boldly advance its mission to inspire storytelling, lifelong learning, informed public dialogue, and civic engagement in ways that strengthen communities and enhance the quality of life for all of Connecticut's residents. We thank you for your support.

As you read through the following pages, we ask you to consider CTH's mission and how it has touched you and your family's lives, and how together we can better build a future of access to all aspects of the humanities in this great state. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lew".

Lewis J. Wallace, Jr.
Board Chair

CThumanities LEARN

Supported through partnership grants, foundations, individual donors, and the state of Connecticut, our “Digital Portal” includes *ConnecticutHistory.org*, *Teach It*, and *ConnTours*. These resources expand the telling of and the access to stories that have been under-told or not told at all.

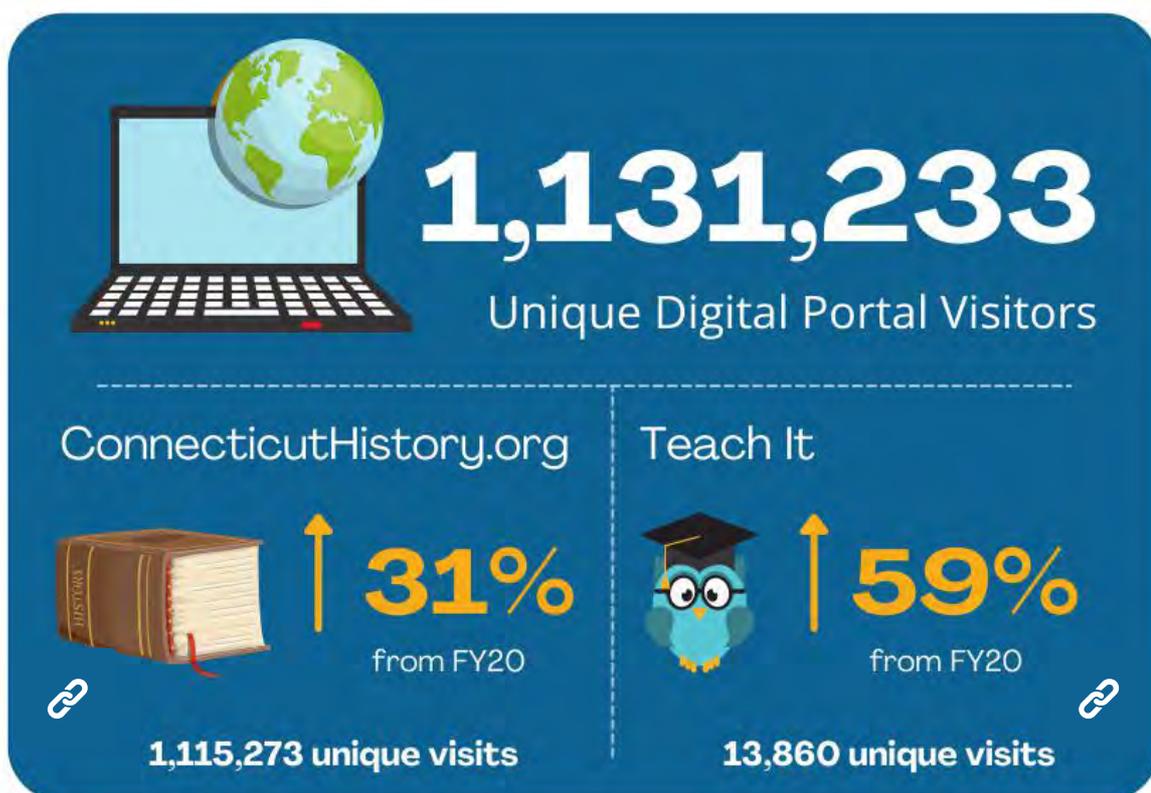
Access Story: Teach It



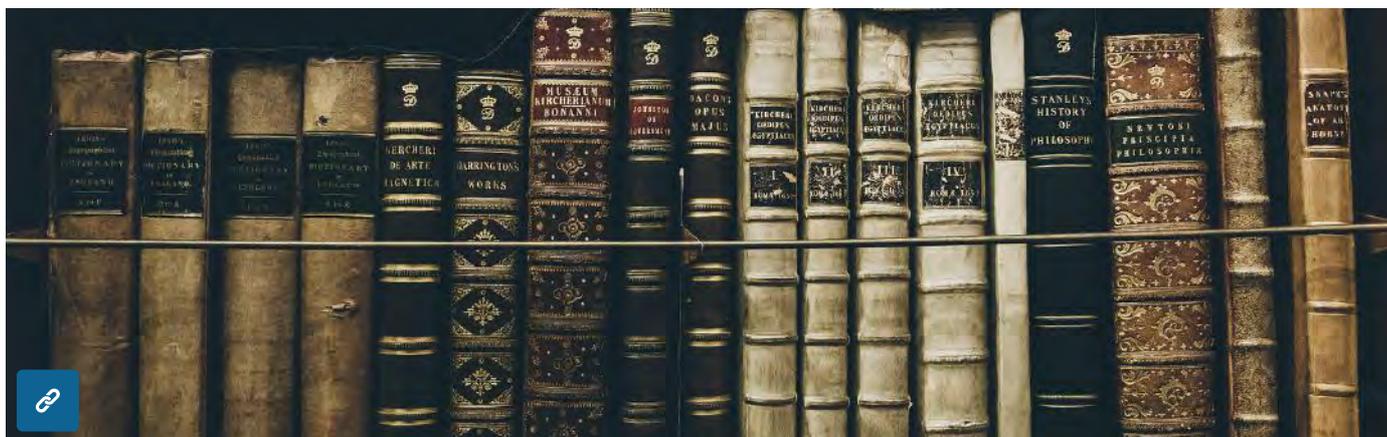
"There is an incredible amount of knowledge in our Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities in Connecticut. Much of this knowledge has the potential to transform the way Connecticut understands its history, present-day challenges, and future. I think access to these economies of knowledge and ensuring that these Indigenously-sourced materials are available to classroom educators is why our work on the *Teach It* content is so important. Generating material in collaboration with the CTH team that is accessible for K-12 teachers and immediately implementable is pivotal for nurturing a generation of learners in Connecticut who understand concepts of Indigeneity, tribal sovereignty, and Native survivance.

What made this collaboration for including Indigenously-focused *Teach It* materials possible is the network of connections CTH is growing in Native Connecticut. There are Indigenous educators, culture keepers, governmental leaders, and food warriors who are ready to take on projects such as these, but they are largely untapped because organizations do not know who to reach out to. CTH is expanding its connections in Indian Country, which invites in a myriad of rich Indigenous perspectives for a variety of programs that are important not just to the broader Connecticut public, but to Native communities themselves."

endawnis spears, co-founder and Director of Programming and Outreach, Akomawt Educational Initiative



The “Capacity Building” pillar is our vehicle for strengthening, supporting, and sustaining humanities professionals, organizations, and authors through Capacity Grants and partnerships with organizations such as the Connecticut League of History Organizations and the Connecticut Literary Festival. In the process, we address our own internal systems - programs, policies, and language - and are developing an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) statement and action steps as a result of anti-racism training facilitated by the National Conference of Community and Justice in Windsor.



Access Story: Connecticut League of History Organizations

The Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO) is our principal partner helping history and heritage organizations across the state with professional development and capacity-building programs. Throughout the pandemic, CLHO and CTH worked together to conduct needs assessment surveys and informational webinars with hundreds of participants.

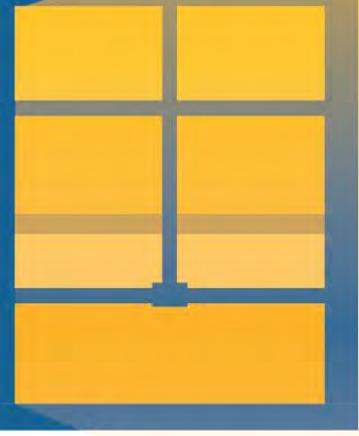
In 2021, CLHO offered a free, four-part virtual lecture series focused on interpreting different underrepresented histories: Indigenous, Latino, African American, and LGBTQ. Bringing in speakers from Connecticut, New England, and beyond, the *Keynotes of Change* webinars fostered and encouraged new approaches to tell Connecticut stories at museums and historic sites across the state. History organizations were encouraged to breathe new life into their research, interpretation, and programming; broaden their audiences to better reflect Connecticut’s diverse communities; and remain relevant in times of change.



"This lecture series represents one of many steps we are taking to make CLHO a more diverse and inclusive organization: in terms of the work we do and how we do it, the way we are structured, and the makeup of both our leadership and our membership. By diversifying the programs we at CLHO offer, and by providing resources for our members and constituents, we intend to support and enhance the Connecticut history community's larger journey toward greater diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion—ourselves included."

Amrys Williams, Executive Director, CLHO

 The entire *Keynotes of Change* series is available for streaming on CLHO's YouTube channel.



CThumanities DREAM

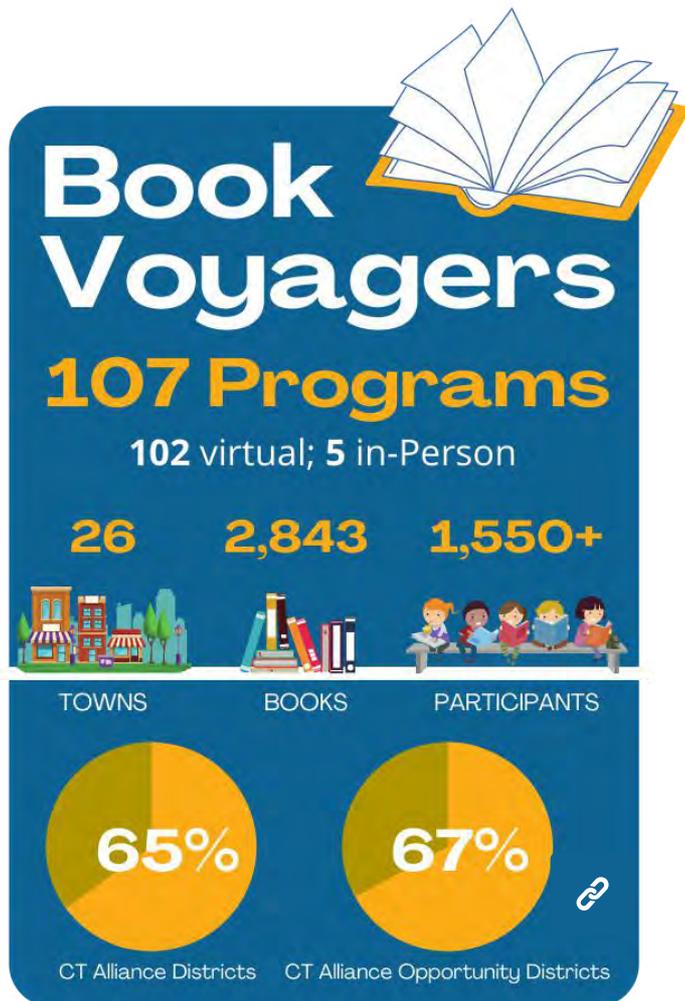
The “Grants and Programs” pillar includes outward grantmaking via the CT Humanities Fund, partnership-funded collaborations such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander initiative, and our own programs including the *Connecticut Center for the Book* and *Book Voyagers*. In addition, private donations and foundations have enabled work with program partners in the state on initiatives such as

[Why It Matters: Connecticut's Civic Reconstruction and Connecticut Sites of Conscience.](#)

Access Story: Book Voyagers

Virtual programming allowed children and families access to engaging learning experiences during the pandemic shutdown. It helped people stay connected and provided a virtual community when in-person options were not available. Our talented roster of facilitators, authors, storytellers, and workshop leaders creatively adapted to the “new norm” and found fun and exciting ways to make meaningful connections with participants. In June 2021, select sites began welcoming families back with outdoor, in-person programming.

Storyteller Andre Keitt facilitated the series *Rise with Resilience* for the Subase New London. With travel and heightened security concerns, this was only possible because we were able to host it virtually.



"CT Humanities has been more than responsive during the COVID-19 pandemic—they have been heroes! The challenge of pivoting to virtual programming has had a silver lining, that of permitting Subase New London Library to bring high-quality presenters and facilitators virtually who could not have reached us due to distance, cost, and the rigors of bringing guests on a Naval base—all made possible by CT Humanities.

Moreover, Len Cabral and Andre Keitt provide excellent role models for our diverse Navy community of children, promoting fun, literature-supportive activities with Black and Latinx voices and faces. Diversity is critical when encouraging reading - presenting respected persons of a variety of cultures and ethnicities. CT Humanities provides programming our children would not otherwise experience."

Marguerite Rauch, Supervisory Librarian, Subase New London

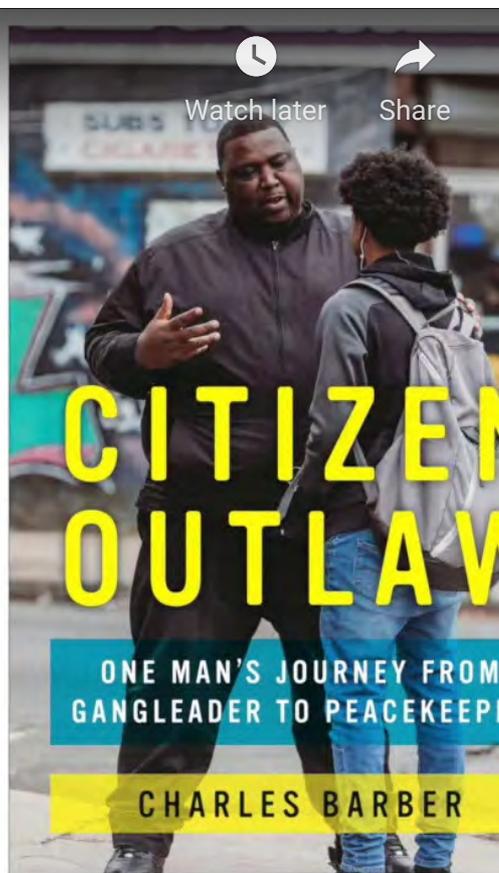
[Access Story: Connecticut Center for the Book](#)

Connecticut Center for the Book at CTH is the state affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Center promotes the written and spoken word throughout the state.

"As a historian, I think of access as a set of questions: Whose stories get told? And who gets to tell them? That is why I was so delighted when *Yale Needs Women*, my history of Yale's first women college students, won the 2020 Connecticut Book Award for Nonfiction. The award broadened the audience for this history, and in so doing expanded access for the women whose stories are at the heart of it. For far too long, the histories of coeducation at elite colleges like Yale had been seen, as one historian argued, as stories 'primarily about men: the decisions they made, the leadership they demonstrated.' (1) It was a destructive myth, implying that equity was achieved simply through the act of admitting women students and that the women themselves were bystanders.

In writing *Yale Needs Women*, I included the voices that had been omitted from these earlier histories: the voices of women, diverse across lines of race, class, sexuality, and politics. The Connecticut Book Award amplified those voices still further, as did the spate of virtual book talks that resulted from it. Equity never arrived with men's decision to let women in. It required women's activism to push institutions towards real change and to challenge a definition of equity that merely relocated the wall between those who had power and those who did not. It's a battle we're still fighting."

Anne Gardiner Perkins, author of *Yale Needs Women*

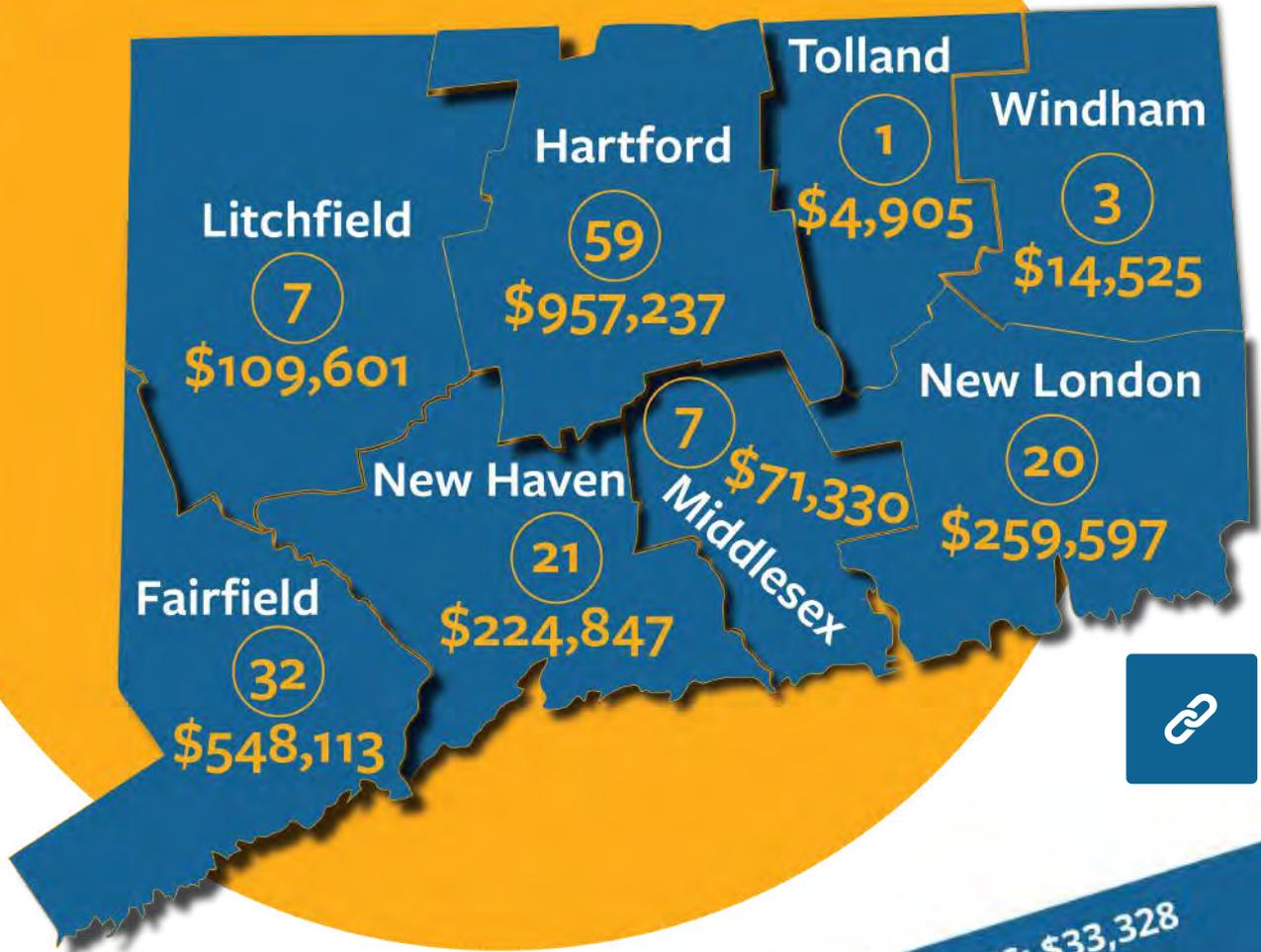


The entire series of excerpts from the 2020 CT Book Awards Finalists is available on the CT Humanities YouTube channel.

(1) Nancy Weiss Malkiel, *Keep the Damned Women Out: The Struggle for Coeducation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 28.

CT Humanities Fund

Award Totals by County



150 CTH GRANTS
AWARDED IN FY2021
\$2,190,154

91.7% increase from FY20
31 first-time grantees in FY21

CAPACITY GRANTS: \$33,328
IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS: \$70,000
COVID FUND FOR MUSEUMS: \$1.5M
PARTNERSHIP GRANTS: \$133,510
PLANNING GRANTS: \$47,968
QUICK GRANTS: \$240,348
CULTURAL RELIEF GRANTS: \$165,000

[Complete list of all grants awarded can be found on our website](#)



Access Stories: CT Humanities Cultural Relief Grants

New London Landmarks

"We decided to document the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on New Londoners by collecting submissions of photos, writing, videos, and pandemic-related visual art that reflect peoples' experiences. The resulting virtual exhibit, *New London Speaks: Voices from a Pandemic*, received over 70 submissions and over 1,400 views. We increased access by working with a professional diversity outreach coordinator to ensure that our call for submissions and publicity for the exhibit reached members of our community with whom we hadn't previously connected. In a year when access to events, places, family members, and friends was restricted, our CT Humanities-funded pandemic documentation project gave people a way to share their experiences."

Laura Natusch, Executive Director, New London Landmarks



Visiting Nana, Submitted to *Voices from a Pandemic* by William Kimball on Oct. 9, 2020



Thelonious Monk III (T.S. Monk) with a student at New Haven's Edgewood Creative Thinking Through STEAM Magnet School. T.S. Monk performed jazz workshops and shared stories about his father, jazz great, Thelonious Sphere Monk.

Monk Youth Jazz and STEAM Collective

"During the pandemic, many members of our organization found time to devote to Monk Youth Jazz in a different way. We held weekly Zoom meetings and began to brainstorm ways to bring virtual events to area students and the community at large. We expanded our volunteer base to include radio hosts, college professors and deans, entertainers, educators, engineers, college students, and more. We began planning 'Monk 103,' a virtual humanities event honoring the legacy of jazz great Thelonious Sphere Monk.

In April, we launched our virtual Saturday Academy (Grades 4-12) classes at no cost to families. Taught by a diverse team of career professionals among the best in their fields, the topics included multiculturalism and the law, pre-engineering, architecture, and design, human anatomy, dance, music, Black History via Monk, financial literacy, spoken word, and creative writing. Our diversity and representation are our strength and this 'pipeline to professions' program remind us that if you can see it, you can be it!"

Marcella Monk Flake, Executive Director, Monk Youth Jazz, and STEAM Collective

Partnerships and Sponsorships



New Year's Celebration at a Cambodian Buddhist Temple, Bristol, photo by Mike Keo

Access Story: Partnership with Connecticut Historical Society

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a long and rich history in the state and despite being one of the fastest-growing demographic groups, have not enjoyed visibility in the public sphere. The surge in Anti-Asian racism shows us it is critical that we confront this invisibility. Together with the research and teaching expertise of faculty in the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at UConn, the Connecticut Historical Society is connecting ongoing community dialogues, academic programming, and public education to reach a wider audience.

"Connecticut is so Asian American and yet when members of the state's Asian American population try to connect to this heritage, they don't really know where to go. Residents need access to these stories. This work will create a space for belongingness."

Mike Keo, Founder, #IAMNOTAVIRUS

With [new legislation](#) directing the CT State Department of Education to generate a more inclusive model K-8 curriculum, this initiative anticipates the enormous demands of creating the program of studies and training teachers by building public awareness and support from humanities institutions.

"The push behind the K-8 curriculum is to provide access to the past. More than just generating public access to the information, it creates a context for people to have their past recognized. Connecticut's Asian Americans live lives here and make meaning, there are systems of being that are practiced and lived out even if they are not recognized. Access implies a kind of belonging. Access to public recognition and respect has been denied to Asian Americans. Education can help provide access to the past and share that, to have it be a part of creating and informing the next generation about their voices and their belonging."

Jason Oliver Chang, Ph.D., Director, Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at UConn

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Connecticut Democracy Center/Connecticut's Kid Governor (R)
Connecticut Democracy Center/History Day
Connecticut Historical Society
Connecticut League of History Organizations
Connecticut Literary Festival
Connecticut State Historian/Today in Connecticut History
The International Festival of Arts and Ideas

CTH PROGRAM PARTNERS

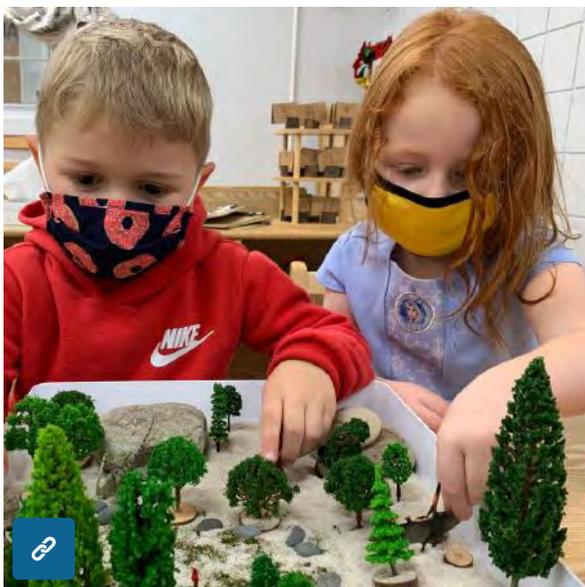
Connecticut Democracy Center
Democracy and Dialogues, Dodd Impact Center at UConn
Everyday Democracy
International Sites of Conscience
The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)

CTH FUNDED SPONSORSHIPS

Col. Daniel Putnam Association
CT Public/The Vote Documentary and Asian Americans Screening
The Legacy Foundation of Hartford
New England Museum Association
Shoreline Arts Alliance

Relationships are key to our “Advocacy” pillar. Sustained by our operating support grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and private donations, it is here that we gather data and stories and share the impact of the humanities and the cultural sector as a whole. We are grateful to our network of partners and colleagues across the state who help us keep the value of non-profit humanities and cultural organizations top of mind when supporters and influencers, particularly lawmakers and philanthropists, think of healthy, thriving communities.

Access Story: Advocating for Connecticut’s Museums

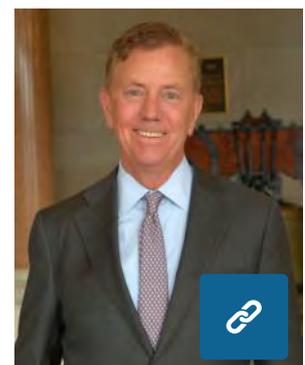


Children engaging in building small worlds at Imagine Nation, recipient of a COVID Relief Fund for Museums grant.

In response to the pandemic, the state allocated sizeable CARES Act relief funds to libraries, arts organizations, and small businesses. With museums left out of those figures, CT Humanities activated our network of partners to raise awareness of the catastrophic threat these institutions were facing due to COVID-19. As a direct result of this outreach, Governor Lamont, the Office of Policy Management, and the Department of Economic and Community Development allocated \$1.5M of CARES Act funding to CT Humanities for our [COVID Relief Fund for Museums](#). The fund awarded operating support to 50 larger non-profit museums to help them retain staff and enter 2021 better positioned to serve the public.



Connecticut’s museums are anchors in our communities. They give residents of all ages opportunities to engage with local history and culture and spaces for dialogue and connection. In addition, museums are part of the tourism and culture sector responsible for thousands of jobs. It is vital that we sustain Connecticut’s museums through this pandemic.”



Gov. Ned Lamont



Thank You!

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

Gifts Received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021

Anonymous (2)
Stuart Adelberg
Jeffrey Andersen
Douglas Arnold
Ivan Backer
Jacqueline Bagwell
Randall Beach
Rebekah Beaulieu
Diane Berube
Maryellen Beveridge
Antay Bilgutay
Russell Blair & Ambler Cantey
Aimee Cotton Bogush
Anne Borg
Maria Brandriff
Susan Bullock
Bruce & Suzana Burchsted
Gary Carter & Elizabeth York
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Jay Cobbledick
Michael & Naomi Cohen
Linda Cohn
Lisa Comstock
Margaret Cooley
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Melinda Cruanes
Gerald Degenhardt
Katherine Donovan
Ed Dorgan
Helmer & Joanne Ekstrom
Robert Ellis
Anita Ellis
Fairfield Museum & History Center
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Eleanor & James Ferguson
Walter Fiederowicz
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Catherine Fields
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Patricia Schaefer
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Caroline Sloat
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Brian Smith
Blyse Soby
Myron Stachiw
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Nancy Steenburg
John Sutton
Robert Svensk
James Tilney
Karen Torop
Kathryn Tufano
Lew Wallace
Jonathan Weiner
Laurie Weinstein
Nancy Weiss
Katherine Wilson

In Honor of
CTH Staff (2)
Elizabeth Shapiro
The Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum
Scott Wands (2)

In Memory of
Maryellen Beveridge
Bruce Fraser (4)
Mickey Glazer
Conley & Olivia Monk
Tefta Alyse Norton
Tom & Betty Pannell

Connecticut Humanities Mission

Connecticut Humanities champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. Through grant funding and capacity building, CTH 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 the quality of life for all Connecticut's residents.

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CThumanities FINANCIALS

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)
State of Connecticut – CARES Act
State of Connecticut – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Why It Matters

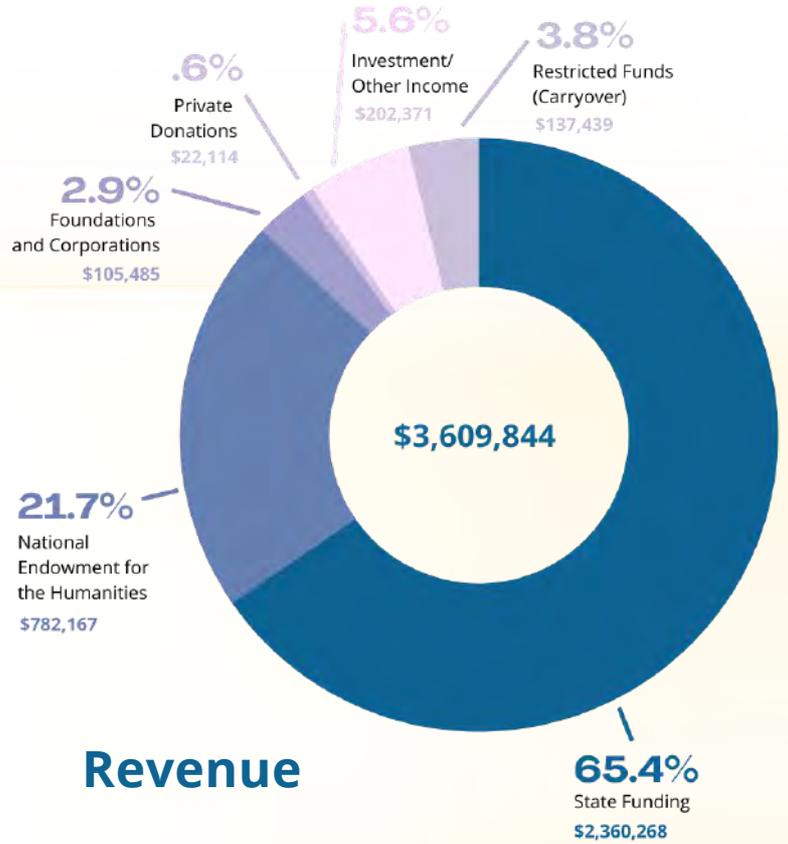
Federation of State Humanities Councils through a grant made possible by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Book Voyagers

Katherine Raia

Teach It

The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts



Revenue

Totals since 1996

\$21,346,411

CTH GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED WITH
STATE OF CONNECTICUT FUNDING

\$19,022,248

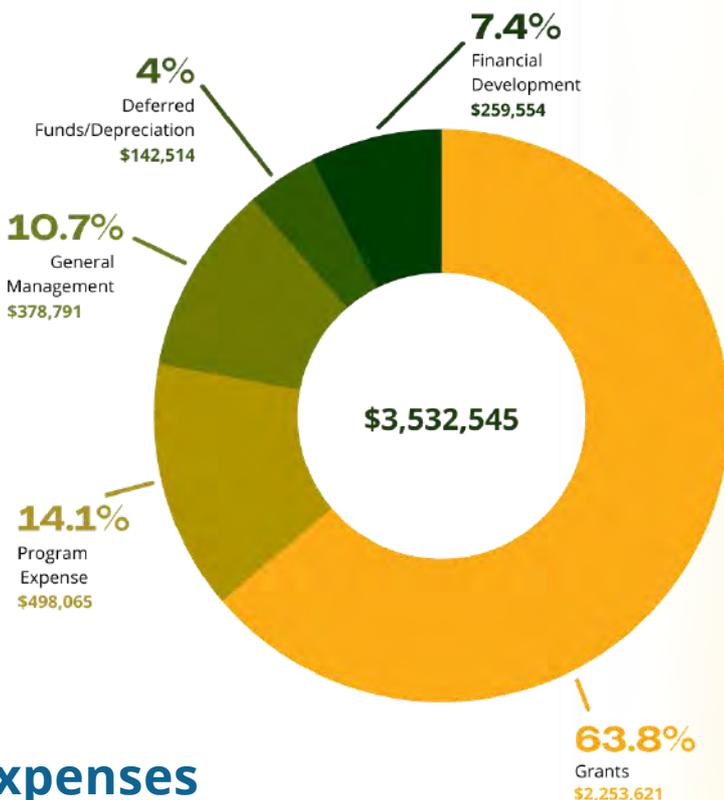
ADDITIONAL DOLLARS RAISED FROM CORPORATE
AND FOUNDATION GRANTS OR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$33,019,838

ADDITIONAL DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED BY GRANTEE
ORGANIZATIONS

\$73,388,497

TOTAL DOLLARS INVESTED IN CULTURAL PROGRAMS
BY CTH AND OUR GRANTEES



Expenses



IN CLOSING

Thank you for taking the time to read just some of what CT Humanities was proud to be a part of this past year. The years 2020 and 2021 were a time like no other. The pandemic presented a crisis for our society on a scale many of us have never before experienced.

Within both the challenges and opportunities, we paused to heal and assess our role in helping build a more equitable, accessible, and just society during the past two years. As we continually ground ourselves, we ask: 'How can we connect people in meaningful ways to the story of our state?'

CT Humanities took this past year to strengthen our vision going forward for Connecticut and we are excited to share it with you. Our values hold true. Our mission is solid. Our partnerships are powerful. As the world begins to heal and redefine normal, we are excited to show what we will be doing.

Over the next two years, CTH will invest \$30.7M in the health and vitality of all our communities. This funding, allocated by Governor Ned Lamont and the CT General Assembly, is a transformational opportunity for the state to open doors often left closed to so many.

To continue on our path to becoming a more diverse, increasingly vibrant, ever-thriving cultural sector, and an ever-present home for digital education resources, we will take the lessons of the past year with us. Equitable access to the arts and culture of our state will be the foremost driving force in our mission. CTH will provide support for upgrading technology, expanding digital programming, and strengthening the connection of K-12 students to the arts and humanities.

I am so grateful to the legislature, to Governor Lamont, and to the many people and organizations that have advocated over the past year for increased funding of our state's cultural sector. We will work closely with our partners at the Connecticut Office of the Arts to ensure communities across Connecticut will benefit from these resources. We are confident that this unprecedented level of support will make a dramatic and lasting impact on our state residents.

The founding charter for the National Endowment for the Humanities states, "Democracy demands wisdom and vision." In Connecticut, the key to that wisdom and vision are the diversity of cultures and expressions of our humanity as well as the many organizations providing pathways for residents of our state to connect to the richness. CTH seeks philanthropic people and organizations to share our vision and invest in this work with us during these next two years and beyond. Please reach out to me if you would like to join us in our efforts to nurture the telling of the fuller story of our state.

I hope this finds you and your family well and ready to experience all Connecticut has to offer. I look forward to staying in touch in the coming year.

Dr. Jason Mancini
Executive Director



Support Connecticut Humanities



“Movimiento Cultural Afro-Continental (MCAC) is the only Bomba group that exists in the state of Connecticut. All our artists are people of color who are passionately dedicated to elevating Afro Puerto Rican/Caribbean culture. In the few years that we have been in existence, we have elevated the Bomba in New Haven such that this form of music and dance is now recognized outside of the Puerto Rican/Latine circles. MCAC has been recognized as a cultural group that has supported social justice efforts by performing at rallies, linking the roots of Bomba (resistance) with current struggles for the dignity and humanity of people of color. Support from our CT Humanities Cultural Relief Grant helped MCAC in our mission and continuity of elevating our culture while creating racial tolerance and understanding.” **Kevin R. Diaz, Founder and Director of MCAC.**

cthumanities.org



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