

# 2022 cThumanities ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



*Connecting people to the history,  
literature, and culture of Connecticut.*

**A YEAR OF**  
**TRANSFORMATION**

# WELCOME



**Dr. Jason Mancini**, Executive Director  
jmancini@cthumanities.org



**Helen Higgins**, Board Chair  
info@cthumanities.org

## Dear Friends of the Humanities,

We are pleased to share our fiscal year 2022 report. We are building upon the success of previous years and reflected here is our continued commitment to advancing equity of access to the public humanities for the people of Connecticut.

We are very grateful to Governor Lamont and the Connecticut General Assembly for investing in the public humanities and culture through our wide-reaching granting programs. We also thank our state's congressional delegation for championing robust budget allocations to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The public funding provided by the state and NEH allowed us to regrant operating and programming funds that sustained – and in many cases transformed – CT's cultural organizations as they continued to recover from the pandemic and meet the needs of their communities. CT's elected leaders have demonstrated a commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people they serve and put their trust in CT Humanities to ensure transparent and equitable access to funds.

And thank you, especially, to all the individuals and foundations whose generous contributions and involvement also sustain our work. With your help, we amplify our state support to ensure that we continue to stimulate the creation of high-quality, dynamic programming with wide-reaching engagement. In the next few years, we aim to substantially expand private investment for all CTH's initiatives, developing a more fully balanced and sustainable foundation for CT's cultural sector.

[The Public/private partnership](#) between CTH and our state's Department of Economic and Community Development/CT Office of the Arts this year has proven these partnerships can be powerful collaborations. Reaching across historic borders between the arts and the humanities means we are working together in alignment not only to provide funding equity, but also to develop a fuller understanding of the cultural sector through [data collection, analysis, and sharing](#). By surveying our grantees, we are learning that such a partnership has had a major impact on our cultural organizations and the health, economy, and vibrancy of our state.

At our core, CTH champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. CTH funds access to the humanities for the public, providing grants and programs that nurture the wisdom that exists in our state's communities. We make possible literature programs and documentary films, public discussions about government, race, and the environment, educational opportunities for the underserved, and websites that guide students through the complete history of Connecticut.

As we look toward the [250th anniversary of our nation](#), it remains vital that all people can access the power of the humanities, arts, and culture to transform and enrich their lives and be active participants in our democracy. We welcome your engagement and conversation. Please share your thoughts with us.

Sincerely,



## Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commitment



CT Forum's *The Fight for Racial Justice*, held at the The Bushnell, Hartford, in February 2022 featured a panel of powerful and unique voices in conversation about the history of the fight for racial justice and the structural inequities embedded in our society today. Panelists Baratunde Thurston, Cathy Park Hong, Julian Castro, and moderator Melissa Harris-Perry discussed key issues such as policing, voting rights, civil rights, criminal justice reform, education, and more.

To build an equitable funding culture, we are committed to inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility as we support partners in generating humanities content that represents the breadth of Connecticut's people and the range of their stories. Connecticut's long and complicated history still influences us today. CT Humanities is a beneficiary of that complicated history as well as a contributor.

We celebrate the state's centuries of achievement, even as we acknowledge the disparate impact of that history. As a humanities funder, CT Humanities belongs to a philanthropic ecosystem built on inequity and privilege that influences decisions about staff, board, programs, and management. We are committed to confronting bias, racism, and inequality in serving this state.

Adopted by the CTH Board of Directors on 2/24/22

# BOOK VOYAGERS

Connecting with new audiences, in new places, and in new ways.




Craig Grossi and Fred the dog speak at Manross Memorial Library in Bristol. During recent Book Voyagers visits, audiences included veterans writing group members and sailors.

Supported by National Endowment for the Humanities, foundation, and private donor dollars, programs reached veteran/military and Asian American Pacific Islander populations, celebrated Juneteenth as an official state holiday, and captivated “Off the Beaten Path” summer readers. [Visit our website](#) to learn more and view a gallery of Book Voyagers programs.

A Marine Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, author Craig Grossi shared his message of stubborn positivity and the challenges he faced transitioning to civilian life. His books *Craig & Fred* and *Second Chances* talk about Fred, the dog he rescued while serving in Afghanistan.

Over 1,500 people attended programs during his three-day visit that included stops at the Manross Branch Library (Bristol), Middletown’s Military Museum, and the New London Naval Sub-base.

 **Book  
Voyagers**  
143 Programs 42 Sites

31 2,500+ 5,383



TOWNS

BOOKS

PARTICIPANTS



CT SCHOOL  
ALLIANCE  
DISTRICTS

OPPORTUNITY  
SCHOOLS

100%



Connecticut Center  
for the Book 2021  
CT Book Awards

See clips from the finalists and  
watch the event on our YouTube  
channel.



# DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Expanding and diversifying the content and resources available to the public.

Funding from The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts for Teach It brought new functionality to increase access to information, improve website navigation, and support bilingual education activities (Spanish).



The new and diverse educational activities added this year include: Indigenous Students and CT's Mission Schools, Eugenics in CT: Legislating Genetic Purity in the Nutmeg State, Asian American History in the Civil War Era: CT's Connection to the Trade in Indentured Chinese Workers, and The Black Panthers and the May Day Rally in New Haven.



Writers from such organizations as the Connecticut's Women's Hall of Fame, the Barnes Museum, the libraries at the University of Connecticut, and the Fairfield Slavery Project at Fairfield University added many new articles on [ConnecticutHistory.org](http://ConnecticutHistory.org).



**975,000+**

Unique Digital Portal Visitors  
from **50** States & **220** Countries and Territories



**30+**

Teach It Resources



**40+**

Articles on [ConnecticutHistory.org](http://ConnecticutHistory.org)

# GRANTMAKING

Our equitable, transparent, and peer-reviewed funding process makes CT Humanities a trusted entity to award public and private dollars.

**832 CTH Grants totaling \$20,957,578.86** were awarded in FY2022

856.9% increase from FY21  
344 first time grantees in FY22

## FY22 CT Humanities Fund

90 grants | \$864,785

Competitive project-based funding to support the state's humanities organizations.

## FY22 CT Cultural Fund (CCF)

647 grants | \$19,045,534

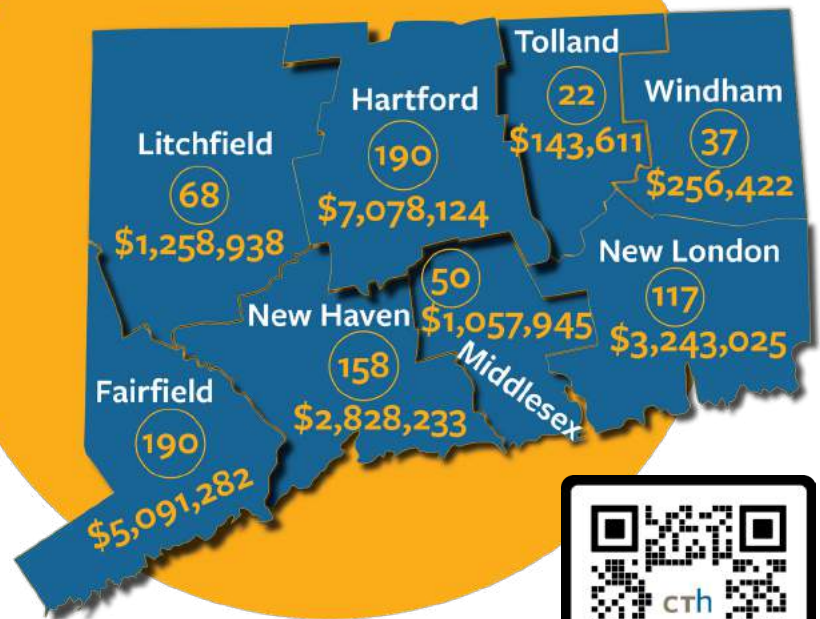
General operating support for the state's museums, arts, humanities, and cultural sector and for partnerships to support their work.

## Other FY22 Grant Lines

95 grants | \$1,047,259.86

Special initiative grant lines such as the Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan ([SHARP](#)), [Capacity Grants](#) and [2021 CT Summer at the Museum Grants](#) that provided free access to museums for CT children and an accompanying adult.

## Award Totals by County



Find an interactive map and complete list of grants awarded on our website – with the QR code.



# INCREASING ACCESS

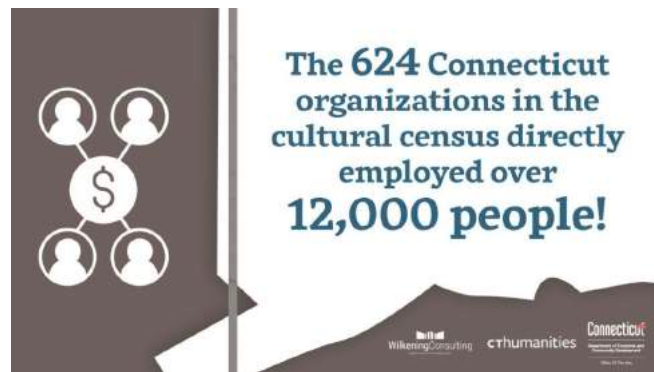
We revised our [funding priorities](#) and extended grant eligibility to Connecticut's state and federally acknowledged tribes. We updated granting webpages to make them easier to use, simplified the application process for CCF Operating Support Grants to ensure a large pool of applicants, and optimized the CT Summer at the Museum Grant applications to minimize the burden on applicant organizations. We also created the Sponsorship application to provide an avenue to funding for organizations that may not currently have the capacity for the traditional grant.

## CT Cultural Census

Using information provided by CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grantees as part of our [2021 CT Cultural Census](#), we created data stories to share about the cultural, humanities, and arts sector in Connecticut and to give a sense of how the pandemic has affected our state. These data stories serve as a snapshot of the past two years.



[Organizational comparison sheets](#) were created to help cultural nonprofits understand what is typical for organizations of their type, size, and/or staffing levels. They help inform decision making.



### Hear Directly From Grantees!

We collected testimonials from recipients of [CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants](#) and [CTH SHARP Capacity Grants](#).

Visit our website to hear what they had to say about the impact their funding had on their organizations and communities.

**“Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”**

"The innovative way the CT Cultural Fund has been offered and administered made assistance truly accessible to all (even the small and understaffed). Cultural organizations that research, share, and teach African American, Native American, and local history are few and far between. And there are few resources available for CT teachers who must now teach these subjects. Organizations like ours will now be able to quickly build our capacity to meet growing demand. We enter 2022 with increased optimism and confidence."

~**Maisa L. Tisdale**, [The Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community](#)



# FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS

Transforming organizations and expanding operations and reach to create a strong, diverse humanities sector.

Partnership Grants, funded by a \$2,360,734 investment from the CT Cultural Fund, support Connecticut organizations and their projects in areas not currently served by CT Humanities and which have a strategic statewide, regional, or national impact in the humanities for the public.

## FY22 Funded Partners

**Connecticut Council for the Social Studies (CCSS):** Funding is being used to create social studies standards, offer professional development, provide funding for sustainable partnerships between cultural institutions and schools, and modernize the web presence for CCSS.

**Connecticut Democracy Center:** Funding supports expanding audiences and participation, deepening engagement opportunities, adding enhancements and resources, and increasing focus on equitable access for Connecticut History Day and CT Kid Governor.

**Connecticut Heritage Foundation:** Funding allows [Conservation ConneCTion](#) to run a Collections Assessment Grant program to provide small and mid-sized museums with a free assessment of their museum or archive collections.

**Connecticut Historical Society:** Support helps the CT Cultural Heritage Arts Program (CCHAP) increase its capacity to serve diverse cultural communities throughout the state with increased community-informed consultation, in-depth cultural instruction within communities, community-led projects and collaboration, and open access to a growing catalog of digital assets.

**Connecticut League of History Organizations:** Funding is provided to improve CLHO's capacity to serve Connecticut's museum ecosystem by expanding staff, conducting strategic planning, offering direct services to museums, expanding digital infrastructure through the Connecticut Collections project, and extending reach to the broader museum community.

**International Festival of Arts & Ideas:** Funding expands, diversifies, and broadens the content and reach of the Ideas series, the flagship humanities component of the Festival for more than 26 years.



**\$2.3+  
MILLION  
Investment**



**6  
STATEWIDE  
Partnerships**



**10  
NEW  
Staff Positions**

## PROJECTS

Collaborative projects convene groups and individuals concerning such topics as statewide digital collections, [oral histories](#), newspaper digitization, archaeology, civics dialogues, and more.



Connecticut's  
**SITES of CONSCIENCE**

### Connecticut's Sites of Conscience

With the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and representatives from sites across the state, CTH named five locations as [Connecticut's Sites of Conscience](#): [Freeman Houses](#) (Bridgeport), [Prudence Crandall Museum](#) (Canterbury), [Old Newgate Prison](#) (East Granby), [Connecticut's Old State House](#) (Hartford), and [Pequot Hill](#) (Mystic – Mashantucket (Western) Pequot and Eastern Pequot Tribal Nations with site interpretation at the [Mashantucket Pequot Museum](#)). The sites highlight the legacy, relevance, and persistence of issues that have influenced our state and nation and continue to drive public discourse.



# BOARD AND STAFF

## Board of Directors, 2021-2022

Lewis J. Wallace, Jr., Chair  
Elaine McDonald, Vice Chair\*  
Robert Svensk, Secretary  
Melinda D. Cruanes, CPA, Treasurer  
Helen Higgins, Member at Large  
Regen O'Malley, Esq., Member at Large  
Rebekah Beaulieu, Ph.D.  
Nicholas Bellantoni, Ph.D.  
Katherine Donovan, CPA  
Catherine Keene Fields  
Ramin Ganeshram  
Sandy Grande, Ph.D.  
Heidi Green  
Jennifer McKenna, CPA  
Frank Mitchell, Ph.D.\*  
Valeriano Ramos Jr.  
Rorie Rueckert  
Myron Stachiw  
Ruth G. Torres  
Jonathan Weiner, Esq.  
Walter W. Woodward, Ph.D.\*

\*Gubernatorial Appointee

## Staff

Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

Diane Berube  
*Business Manager*

Aimee Cotton Bogush  
*Manager of Marketing,  
Communications, & Engagement*

Adrianna Chesnut  
*Administrative Assistant for  
Grants & Finance*

Lisa Comstock  
*Director of Operations & Director,  
CT Center for the Book*

Mike Kemezis  
*Manager of Partnerships &  
Projects*

Gregg Mangan, Ph.D.  
*Director of Digital Humanities*

Susan Muro  
*Advancement Manager &  
Program Officer*

Sheldyn E. Oliver  
*Executive Assistant*



**6  
New CTH Staff  
Members Hired**

Lian Partridge  
*Grants & Programs Assistant*

Cyndi Tolosa  
*Development Officer*

Becky Vitkauskas, MSLIS  
*Grants & Programs Assistant*

Scott Wands  
*Director of Grants & Programs*

Emma Wiley  
*Digital Humanities Assistant*



[MeshEd summer enrichment](#)  
program participants visit  
the Middlesex County  
Historical Society,  
(August 2021).

## OUR 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 of Connecticut's residents.

# THANK YOU

**CT Humanities is deeply grateful to the support received from individuals statewide. Your gifts help sustain us in our work as we support and further the humanities in all of our communities.**

## Individual Gifts Received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022

Anonymous  
Jeffrey Andersen  
Nicholas Bellantoni  
Maryellen Beveridge  
Antay Bilgutay  
Russell Blair & Ambler Cantey  
Aimee Cotton Bogush  
John & Susan Boland  
Anne Borg  
Maria Brandriff  
Susan Bullock  
Catherine Burns  
Edith Carlson  
Ellen Carter  
Frank Chiaramonte  
Hope Childs  
Carolyn Cicchetti  
Naomi & Michael Cohen  
Linda & Henry Cohn  
Lisa Comstock  
Alan & Betty Coykendall  
Melinda Cruanes  
Gerald Degenhardt  
Booker DeVaughn  
Katherine Donovan  
Judith duPont  
Anita Ellis  
Claire Ewing  
Fairfield Museum & History Center  
Eleanor & James Ferguson  
Catherine Fields  
Constance Fraser  
Ramin Ganeshram  
Dr. Susan P. Gilgore  
Ruth Glasser  
William Glick  
Sandy Grande  
Heidi Green  
Dr. Briann Greenfield  
Betty Hale  
Paul Hart  
Leah Hartman  
Helen Higgins  
Peter Hinks  
John Hoffman  
David Holdridge  
Robert & Carla Horwitz

Dick & Beverly Hughes  
Lee Jacobus  
John Jove  
Carla Kazanjian  
Hali Keeler  
Mollie Keller  
David Klein  
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Kosto  
Lee Kuckro  
Marcia Lattimore  
Marta Jo Lawrence  
Tedd Levy  
Peter Loffredo  
Kathryn Lord  
Glen MacLeod  
Virginia & Anthony Macro  
Elizabeth Mahan  
Jason Mancini  
Gregg Mangan  
Leta Marks  
Elaine McDonald  
Jennifer McKenna  
Debra Mecky  
Julie Menders  
Brenda Milkofsky  
Frank Mitchell  
Gay Myers  
Regen O'Malley  
Laurie Pasteryak  
Mitchell Pearlman  
Glenn Pianka  
Raphael Podolsky  
Eileen & Elliott Pollack  
Katherine Raia  
Valeriano Ramos Jr.  
Cynthia Reik  
Tim & Jane Reinsch  
Daniel Peter Rex  
Jean Haddon Reynolds  
Rifkin Household  
Catherine Riordan &  
Kurt Raschi  
Barbara Roberts  
Lawrence Roberts  
Suzanne Roberts  
Nancy Rogalsky  
Donald Rogers

Rorie Rueckert  
Thomas Sartor  
Patricia Schaefer  
Laurie Schaefer  
Christine Skeeles Schloss, Ph.D.  
Tom Shachtman  
Deborah Shapiro  
Jean & Biff Shaw  
Martha Simpson  
Caroline Sloat  
Robert & Sharon Smith  
Brian Smith  
Blyse Soby  
Myron & Nancy Stachiw  
Ken Staffey  
Nancy Steenburg  
Robert Svensk  
James Tilney  
Humphrey Tonkin & Jane Edwards  
Ruth Garby Torres  
Lew Wallace  
Jonathan Weiner  
Nancy & Jim Weiss  
Elinor Wilber  
Katherine Willson  
Walter Woodward  
Claire Zhalov

**In Honor of**  
CTH Staff  
Helen Higgins  
Rorie Rueckert  
Scott Wands & Lian Partridge

**In Memory of**  
Bruce Fraser (3)  
Bruce Greene  
Hercules Posey  
George Roberts

*We make every effort to list names correctly, but we do make mistakes. Please call (860) 986-6704 to notify us of any errors.*



To learn more about making a gift to CT Humanities, please call 860-986-6704, email [ctolosa@cthumanities.org](mailto:ctolosa@cthumanities.org), or visit us online at [CTHumanities.org/give](https://CTHumanities.org/give).



# FINANCIALS

## Major Support

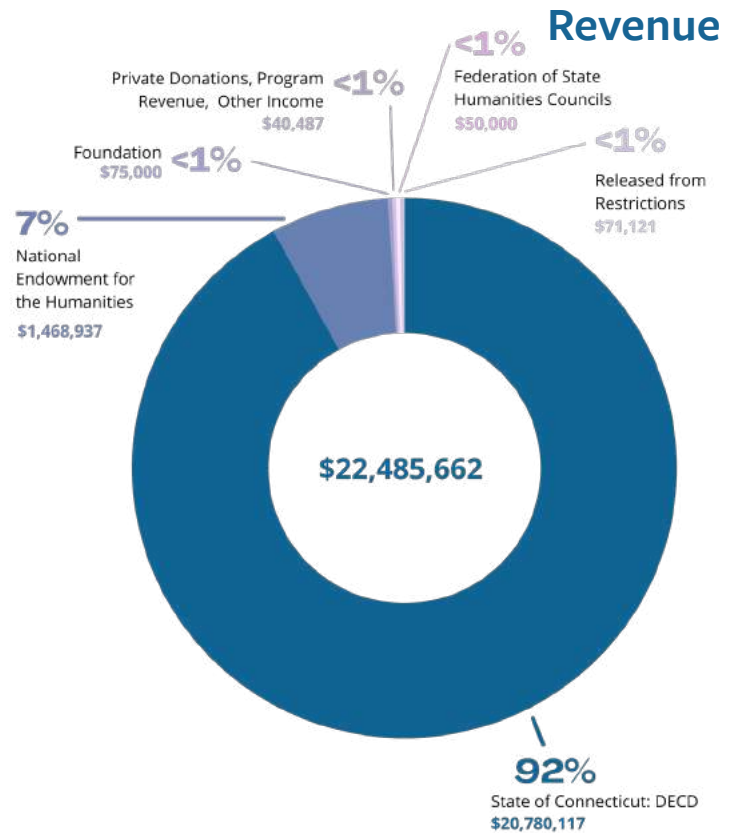
**State of Connecticut:** Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), DECD/CT Cultural Fund, DECD/American Rescue Plan

**Federal:** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP)

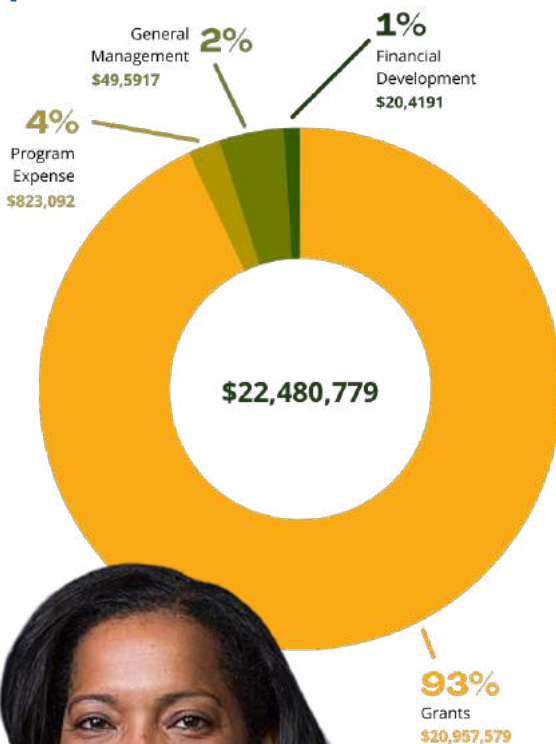
## Additional Program Support

**National Endowment for the Humanities/Office of Federal/State Partnership:** A More Perfect Union

**The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts:** Teach It and Book Voyagers



## Expenses



Since 1995, the Connecticut General Assembly has provided funding to Connecticut Humanities to deliver "...grants and support services for institutions in the humanities, including but not limited to libraries, museums and historical and cultural societies and associations."

## Totals since 1996

	\$42,198,787
CTH Grant Dollars Awarded with State of Connecticut Funding	
	\$19,857,220
Additional Dollars Raised from Corporate and Foundation Grants or In-Kind Contributions	
	\$34,999,837
Additional Dollars Contributed by Grantee Organizations	
	\$97,055,845
Total Dollars Invested in Cultural Programs by CTH and Our Grantees	

## Culture-rich communities ensure our well-being.

At our visit with Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-5) during Museum Advocacy Day, sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums, Rep. Hayes spoke passionately about the importance of supporting museums because they "facilitate taking learning into the community." She emphasized, "making sure our communities are culture-rich is part of ensuring our well-being."

# CThumanities

100 Riverview Center, Suite 290  
Middletown, CT 06457  
www.cthumanities.org, (860) 785-9640



CTH's Book Voyagers presented Bao Phi, a Vietnamese-American spoken word artist, writer, and community activist. Phi is seen here with families and children at the Connecticut Historical Society (Hartford, June 2022).

Phi's books *Hello, Mandarin Duck!* and *A Different Pond* provide a window into Vietnamese culture and how learning about history and being willing to see things from a new perspective can help create a brighter, more empathetic, and peaceful future.

**COVER:** Attendees at Bao Phi's Book Voyager's program at Connecticut Historical Society (Hartford, June 2022). This program was supported by a special initiative to broaden audiences.

*Photos by The Terrible Child*

*Designed by The Narrative Project*