

»» ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Guide



cthumanities

HUMANITIES AS THE NORTH STAR

In the mid-twentieth century, more Americans were thinking about science, space, and exploration than ever before. The founding of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1950 reflected the priorities of a post-WWII America, as it was established to: promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and secure the national defense.

Over a decade later, the National Commission on the Humanities came together to conduct a study on the state of the humanities in the United States. Its report, delivered on April 30, 1964, found that “the state of the humanities today creates a crisis for national leadership.” At a time when funding flowed freely for science through the NSF, the commission proposed establishing a National Humanities Foundation to invest in culture in the United States. They concluded, “The advancement of science must not be accomplished by the impoverishment of anything else.”

On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law. The act established the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts as separate, independent federal agencies. It also established the state and jurisdictional humanities councils.

The Connecticut Humanities Council (now CT Humanities or CTH) was founded in 1974 to partner with the NEH in bringing the humanities to the public, whether through programming or grants to humanities organizations. CT Humanities has since become an important cultural leader in Connecticut through our vision, partnership, funding, and convening.

As we near our 50th anniversary in January 2024, we are looking back in order to plan ahead. The report published sixty years ago by the National Commission on the Humanities stated, “Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.” As we approach another anniversary—our nation’s 250th in 2026—our democracy is in crisis. As CTH administers the work of our state’s 250th commission, this prescient language is at the forefront of our minds: we must cultivate wisdom.

Wisdom is rooted in the humanities. Humanities disciplines such as history, anthropology, philosophy, literature, cultural studies, and political science invite understanding, reflection, analysis, curiosity, and contemplation about what it means to be human.

Humanities may seem intangible, but they are all around us—in our lives, our homes, our communities. Every idea we have, every question we answer, every feeling we express, every relationship we make, and every event we experience is a manifestation of the humanities. The accumulation of all of this over time constitutes the wisdom we seek. And, in the United States of America, it is what will guide us toward a more perfect union.

As we imagine CT Humanities’ next 50 years and our nation’s next 250, we will partner with arts, civics, and cultural organizations across Connecticut to nurture all of these things, so that our democracy will endure and we will thrive.

Sincerely,  



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



Helen Higgins, Board Chair
info@cthumanities.org

2023: OUR IMPACT



955 grants awarded

\$21,958,069 in grant funding



754 organizations received grants



9 funded partnerships



1,152,229 digital portal logins

26 Teach It resources created



55 new articles on ConnecticutHistory.org



2,187 Book Voyagers children's books distributed



OUR MISSION: CT 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.

Above: Hands-on program at Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, one of over 120 CT Summer at the Museum grantees in 2023

Front cover photos of our grantees and partners, clockwise from top left: Discourse at The CT Forum; flax breaking at the Wilton Historical Society; touring with staff of Discovering Amistad; student finalists at the National History Day contest after advancing from CT History Day



A young visitor reviewing an exhibit at the Mystic Seaport Museum (CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant)



Connecticut Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell at Capital Community College's Hartford Heritage Project Pennington Lecture (CTH Quick Grant)



Central Connecticut State University's Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center staff with Hispanic Heritage Month speakers (CTH Quick Grant)

CT HUMANITIES GRANT FUNDING

We are proud to serve as a guide and principal grantmaker for over 700 cultural organizations to support strong humanities projects. These projects that sustain and strengthen operations and tell stories to spotlight people, places, and events in an inclusive, diverse, and equitable manner.

CT Cultural Fund: Over the past two years, in partnership with the Connecticut Office of the Arts, these grants have helped 732 of the state's museums, cultural, humanities, and arts organizations with critical general operating support funds.

CT Humanities Fund: Our robust offering of competitive grant lines includes Planning, Implementation, Capacity, Sponsorships, and Quick Grants.

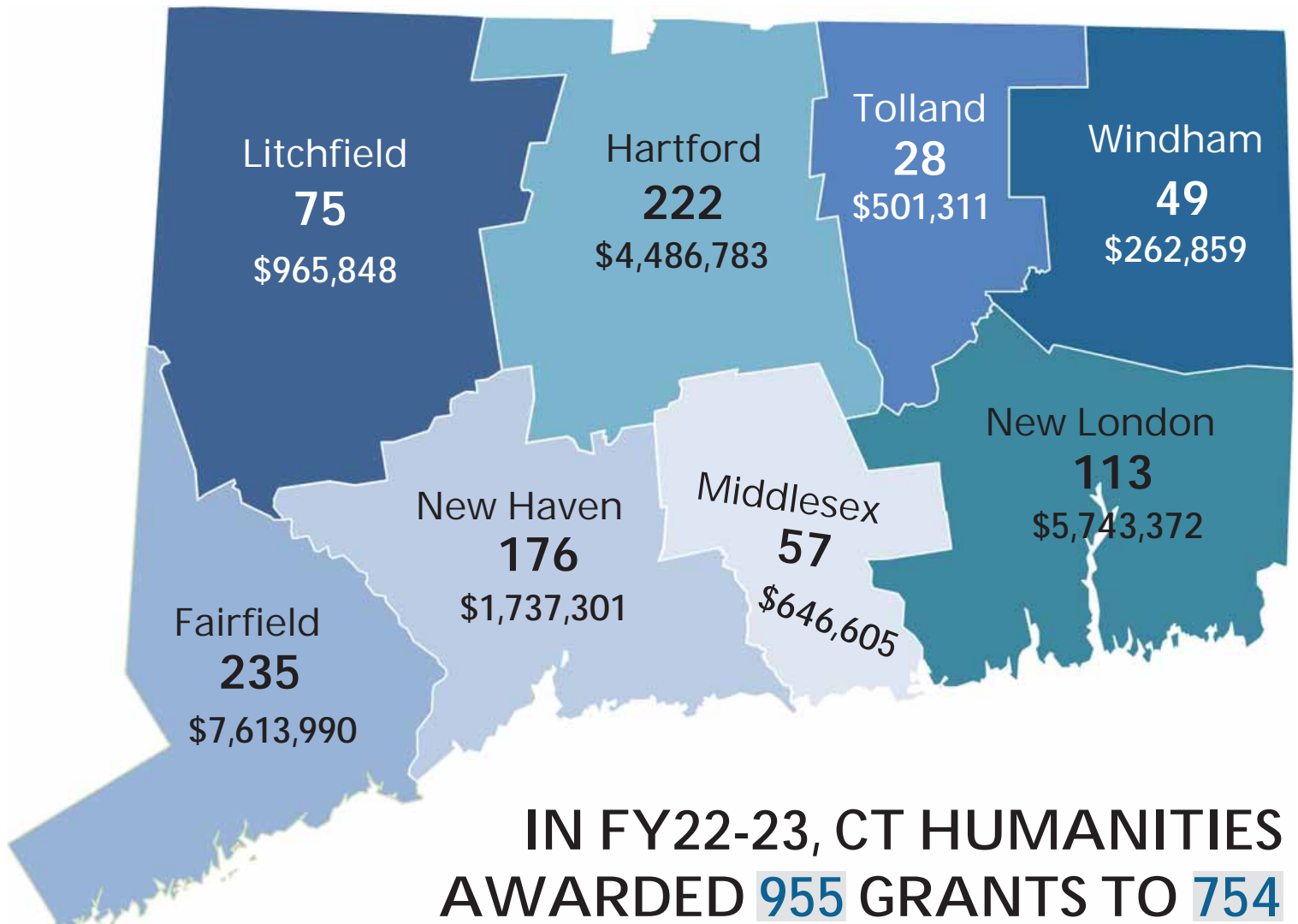
CT Summer at the Museum: CT Humanities administers this state program, which provides free entry for children and an accompanying adult, to over 120 cultural organizations.

Good to Great 2.0: Funded by the state and administered by CT Humanities in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Good to Great program provides capital project funding for non-profit arts, cultural, and historic organizations.



“CT Humanities has been a life preserver during the COVID storms. They have kept organizations in contact, have kept the funding flowing, and been an advocate for the work we do.”

– Connecticut Landmarks



IN FY22-23, CT HUMANITIES AWARDED 955 GRANTS TO 754 GROUPS TOTALING \$21,958,069

- 10% of our grants went to organizations led by or serving Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- 12% of our FY22-23 grantees were first-time recipients.

- CT Cultural Fund Grants: 732 - \$9,124,800
- CT Humanities Fund Grants: 101 - \$1,276,999
- CT Summer at the Museum Grants: 122 - \$11,556,270
- Good to Great 2.0 Grants: 34 - \$7,065,933*

**Good to Great is a program funded by Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development and administered by CT Humanities.*



Funding of Connecticut's cultural sector is a vitally important investment, as museums such as the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum preserve cultural legacies and heritages for future generations, serve as economic drivers (generating jobs, producing tax revenue, and attracting tourism), create a welcoming sense of place, and educate humanities students of all ages.



– Anne Guernsey, Webb Deane Stevens Museum





Our Partnerships and Projects

Our Partnership Grants support organizations and projects which have a strategic statewide, regional, or national impact in the humanities for the public. Through partnership funding, we seek to create a collaborative relationship with grantees that will result in resource sharing, co-creation, or co-direction of content.



In the past two years, CT Humanities has invested \$2.9 million+ in nine funded partnerships, supported by the CT Cultural Fund. Through this work, our state humanities landscape now features expanded access, more inclusive content, new contributors, and organizations that better represent all of Connecticut.

Connecticut Museum of Culture and History (Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program):

Serves diverse cultural communities through community-informed consultation, in-depth cultural instruction, and open access to a growing catalog of digital assets.

Connecticut League of History Organizations:

Provides support to cultural organizations to advance professionalism of the cultural field through programming and advocacy.

Connecticut Democracy Center: Offers Connecticut History Day and Connecticut Kid's Governor programs to bring history and civics education to a wider student audience.

Connecticut Council for the Social Studies: Created new social standards in support of inclusive curriculum mandates that were passed by the state.

International Festival of Arts & Ideas: Inspires audiences with the Ideas lecture series by expanding streaming options to events and developing connections to diverse audiences.

Connecticut Heritage Foundation and Conservation

ConnEction: Performed fifty collections assessments (which provided consultation and advice from museum and archival professionals) for small cultural institutions.

Connecticut Digital Archive (UConn Library):

Works with public libraries to build digital collections of their local histories and encourage individuals and community groups to contribute to the common memory of their town.

Engaged, Public, Oral, and Community Histories

Initiative: Builds capacity to support oral history projects and collections statewide.

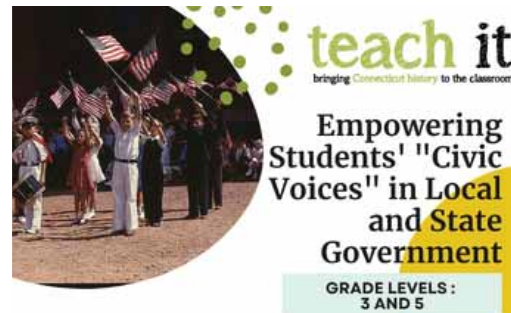
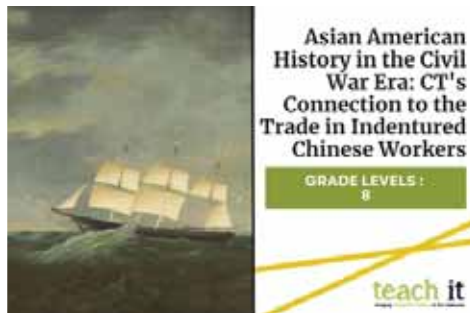
Connecticut Explored Magazine: Tells engaging stories about state history and gives smaller institutions an avenue to tell their stories.

Other key CT Humanities projects include:

- **Working Groups:** Eight groups of professionals meet quarterly about oral histories, digital humanities, museum education, and more.
- **Intellectual Property Webinar and Workshops**
- **Sites of Conscience:** In partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, CT Humanities named five Sites of Conscience that connect past struggles to current movements for human rights: Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community, Prudence Crandall Museum, Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, Connecticut's Old State House, and Pequot Hill.



Our funded partner, Connecticut Explored, gathered historical and cultural leaders for a statewide Game Changers history initiative



TEACHITCT.ORG: HISTORY TOOLS FOR EDUCATORS

Driven by a desire to help the state's educators foster a greater appreciation for Connecticut's role in national historical narratives, Teach It is a program created by CT Humanities .

We created 26 new Teach It activities this year, and over 20,000 unique visitors accessed our tools online.

Teach It activities walk students through all four steps in the Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks:

- Developing questions and planning inquiry
- Apply disciplinary concepts and tools
- Evaluating sources and using evidence
- Communicating conclusions and taking informed actions



Connecticut's Helen Keller, one of our top downloads

CT HISTORY, THE TOLD & UNTOLD

ConnecticutHistory.org saw its highest use ever in this year, with 1.16 million unique visitors accessing weekly stories on people, traditions, innovations, and events that make up our rich history.



A popular download: the 29th (Colored) Regiment CT Civil War Volunteer Infantry



Danbury Library's 'Ming Lo Loves the Mountain' program

BOOK VOYAGERS

Book Voyagers is designed to promote the joy of reading and encourage families to create literature-rich homes. Thanks to support from the Scripps Foundation and Katherine Raia, we bring facilitators and books into some of Connecticut's lowest-performing school districts.

This year, 6,289 children and adults attended 131 programs in 35 towns, and 2,187 children's books were distributed. Through Book Voyagers, Marine veteran and author Craig Grossi shared his message of stubborn positivity with 1,600 sailors at SUBASE New London.



Gov. Ned Lamont, America 250 | CT Chair Denise Merrill, and Commission members at the America 250 | CT press announcement in 2022

AMERICA 250 CONNECTICUT

CT Humanities is the non-profit organization recognized by the State of Connecticut to

coordinate and lead the state's plans for commemorative, educational, and civics-based initiatives leading up to and during 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The America 250 | CT Commission's work falls under four themes:

Tell Inclusive Stories

For much of our history, the United States has excluded people — women, free and enslaved African Americans, Indigenous people, immigrants, people with disabilities, the poor, and many others — from full participation and representation in the nation's political, economic, and cultural life.

Power of Place

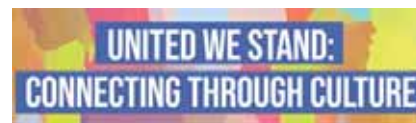
Our state has eight counties, 169 towns and cities, five recognized tribes, and countless communities with unique identities and contributions.

Doing History

Using the digital humanities, cross-sector convenings, and engagement with social studies teachers, we will build a collaborative environment and provide access to cultural experiences for all state residents.

For the Common Good

The 250th anniversary offers an opportunity to reconsider the origins of our government, democratic institutions, and broader civic life.



Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, we will be forming partnerships between state universities and federally and state-recognized tribes to counteract Indigenous erasure in Connecticut, highlight the violence of colonization, and use the humanities to begin the process of recognition and repair within the state.

Expanding History Day to Tribal Students

We received funding to work with local tribes to encourage tribal student participation in Connecticut History Day with our partner, Connecticut Democracy Center.

CT Humanities Turning 50!

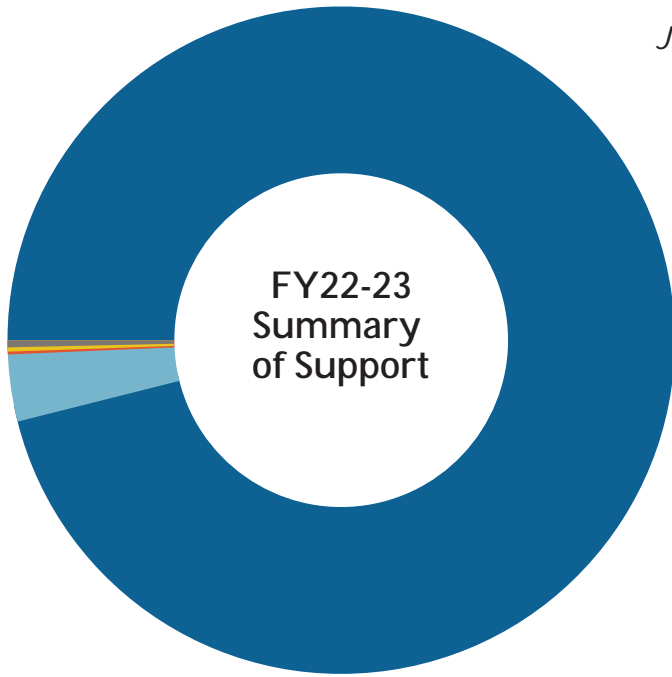
Founded in 1974, CT Humanities celebrates our golden anniversary next year! We'd love to hear how our work has influenced you, your organization, and your communities. Email us at news@cthumanities.org to share:

- Stories or news clippings about CTH people, programs, and projects
- Photos and videos that show CTH history or our impact
- Short video testimonials on the impact of humanities support

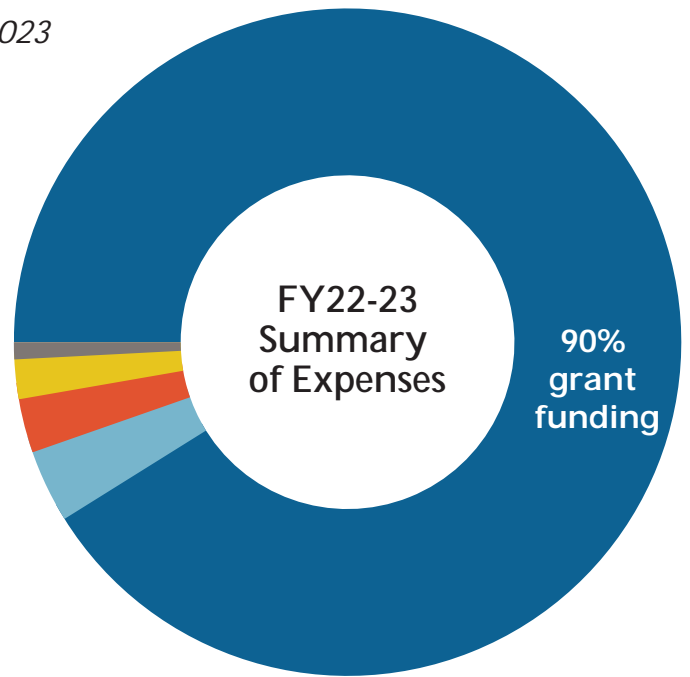




July 1, 2022
to
June 30, 2023



- State Support
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Foundations & Corporations
- Private Donations
- Deferred Funds Carried Over



- Granting
- Public Programs
- General Administration
- Development & Advocacy
- America's 250th

FUNDING

State of Connecticut	\$ 23,128,792
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$ 780,406
Foundations & Corporations	\$ 32,500
Earned Income & Annual Fund Gifts	\$ 49,370
Deferred Funds Carried Over	\$ 82,705
Total	\$ 24,073,773

EXPENDITURES

Granting	\$ 21,882,595
Public Programs	\$ 847,612
General Administration	\$ 627,705
Development & Advocacy	\$ 459,972
America's 250th	\$ 198,365
Total	\$ 24,016,249

GRATITUDE TO OUR MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES



Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office



Thank You!

CT Humanities gratefully acknowledges the support from individuals, organizations, and funders that help us further the advancement of the humanities.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7.1.22 & 6.30.23

Anonymous (Elizabeth York
and Gary Carter)
Jeffrey Andersen
Ivan A. Backer
Stephen Bartkus
Randall Beach
Nicholas Bellantoni
Maryellen Beveridge
Russell J. Blair & Ambler Cantey
C. Duane Blinn
Bogush Family
John and Susan Boland
Anne W. Borg
Maria Poirier Brandriff
Ellen M. Brown
Richard V. W. Buel Jr.
Susan M. Bullock
Bruce and Suzana Burchsted
Edith Carlson
Ellen Carter
Frank Chiaramonte
Hope Childs
David Claiborn
Bruce Clouette
Margaret D. Cooley
Betty and Alan Coykendall
Melinda D. Cruanes
Drs. Booker and Elena DeVaughn
Katherine Donovan
Anita C. Ellis
Louis and Kathleen Esposito
Eleanor and James Ferguson
Monique Mattei Ferraro
Walter Fiederowicz
Catherine Keene Fields
Constance Fraser
Ramin Ganeshram
Susan P. Gilgore Ph.D.
Ruth Glasser
Akeia de Barros Gomes
Sandy Grande Ph.D.
Heidi Green
Briann Greenfield
Raechel Guest
Jean Reynolds Haddon
Betty Hale

Paul Hart
Leah Hartman
Helen Higgins
John Hoffman
Robert and Carla Horwitz
Marcia Howard
Lee Jacobus
Michael A. Jehle
Diane Jellerette
Bernard Kavaler
Carla Kazanjian
David Klein
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kosto
Marcia A Lattimore
Marta Jo Lawrence
Eugene E. Leach
Peter T. Loffredo
Kathryn Lord
Glen MacLeod
Anthony and Virginia Macro
Elizabeth Mahan
Beth Mancini, Ken McBride,
and Kevin McBride
Jason Mancini and Lisa Vino
Gregg Mangan
Leta W. Marks
Paul McCraven
Elaine B. McDonald
Jennifer McKenna
Debra Mecky
Brenda Milkofsky
Frank Mitchell
Carol Moakley
Susan Muro
Gay Myers
Cornelius O'Leary
Regen O'Malley
Stuart Parnes
Jeff Partridge
Mitchell and Susan Pearlman
Glenn S. Pianka
Raphael Podolsky
Hanna Przada, AIA
Jon E. Purmont
Katherine Raia
Valeriano Ramos Jr.
Tim and Jane Reinsch
Daniel Peter Rex
Barbara Roberts

Nancy Rogalsky
Donald W. Rogers
Rorie Rueckert
Adrienne Saint-Pierre
Dawn E. Salerno
Philip Samponaro
Thomas Sartor
Laurie and Richard Schaefer
Leon and Brenda Seitelman
Tom Shachtman
Deborah D. Shapiro
Charline and Tony Shaw
Martha Simpson
Caroline Sloat
Robert and Sharon Smith
Brian Smith
Myron O. Stachiw
Nancy Steenburg
Robert and Annie Svensk
Elaine Thomas Williams
James W. Tilney
Cyndi Tolosa and Alex Dubois
Humphrey Tonkin
Ruth Garby Torres
Lew Wallace
Jonathan Weiner Esq.
Laurie Weinstein
David G. Westmoreland
Katherine H. Willson

IN HONOR OF:

CTH Staff
Dr. Jason Mancini
Elaine B. McDonald
Dr. Walter W. Woodward

IN MEMORY OF:

Andrew J. Catapano
Bruce Fraser (3)
Estelle Glasser
Hercules Posey
Rosemary Rex

ORGANIZATION GIFTS

Stop & Shop Community
Bag Program
United Way of Central &
Northeastern Connecticut

We make every effort to list names correctly, but mistakes happen. Please call 860.986.6704 to notify us of any errors.

To learn about giving to CT Humanities, please call 860.986.6704,
email ctolosa@cthumanities.org, or visit cthumanities.org/give



OUR STAFF

- **Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- **Dana Barcellos-Allen**
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
- **Diane Berube**
BUSINESS MANAGER
- **Adrianna Chesnut**
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR
GRANTS & FINANCE
- **Lisa Comstock**
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
ADMINISTRATION
- **Mike Kemezis**
MANAGER OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND PROJECTS
- **Gregg Mangan, Ph.D.**
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL
HUMANITIES
- **Susan Muro**
ADVANCEMENT MANAGER AND
PROGRAM OFFICER
- **Sheldyn Oliver**
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- **Lian Partridge**
GRANTS MANAGER
- **Khalil Quotap**
CT DIGITAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR
- **Cyndi Tolosa**
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- **Becky Vitkauskas**
GRANTS ASSISTANT
- **Scott Wands**
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GRANTS
AND PROGRAMS
- **Emma Wiley**
DIGITAL HUMANITIES ASSISTANT

*Thanks to Aimee Cotton Bogush,
our former manager of marketing,
communication, and engagement.*

CT Humanities Commitment to IDEA

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.

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Helen Higgins, *Chair*
- Frank Mitchell, Ph.D. *,
Vice Chair
- Rorie Rueckert, *Secretary*
- Melinda D. Cruanes, CPA,
Treasurer
- Valeriano Ramos Jr.,
Member at Large
- Jonathan Weiner, Esq.,
Member at Large
- Nicholas Bellantoni, Ph.D.
- David Claiborn
- Akeia de Barros Gomes, Ph.D.
- Katherine Donovan, CPA
- Catherine Keene Fields*
- Ramin Ganeshram
- Sandy Grande, Ph.D.
- Jacques Lamarre
- Elaine McDonald*
- Kariann McDougall,
CPA, MSA
- Jennifer McKenna, CPA
- Regen O'Malley, Esq.
- Hanna Przada, AIA
- Andrea V. Rapacz
- Myron Stachiw
- Robert Svensk
- Ruth G. Torres

**Gubernatorial Appointee*



*Our Board of Directors often
holds their meetings at
historical or cultural sites,
like the Connecticut River
Museum, above, and Henry
Whitfield State Museum, left*

CThumanities

100 Riverview Center, Suite 290
Middletown, CT 06457



cthumanities.org
860.785.9640
info@cthumanities.org
[@cthumanities](https://www.instagram.com/cthumanities)



Representatives of Connecticut's five recognized tribes in a panel discussion led by the State Department of Education at the 2023 Connecticut Council for the Social Studies summer institute (CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant)