





Weaving our Past, Present, & Future through the Humanities



cthumanities





2024: OUR IMPACT



206 grants awarded



903,526 visitors to digital humanities websites \$11,899,661 in grant funding



169 towns and cities and 5 Tribes served



174 organizations received grants



34 new articles on ConnecticutHistory.org, 7 Teach It activities created 10 funded partnerships



2,976
Book Voyagers
children's books
distributed







CT Humanities grantees, clockwise from top left: Mystic Seaport's summer visitors; Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition's panel on community building and healing; Southern Connecticut State University's archaeological reinterpretation of artifacts at the Henry Whitfield House; CT Public's Latino Listening Session

CT HUMANITIES AT 50

CT Humanities' 50th anniversary in 2024 is a milestone that we take pride in. On April 4 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, we were honored to be recognized by friends, grantees, partners, legislators, the chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and members of our congressional delegation for the tremendous impact of our work across the state.

With a focus on the cultural sector's educational, social, and economic impact, we continue to advocate for state investment in the CT Cultural Fund as well as federal investment in the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Our strength remains with our grant-making. In FY24, we administered nearly \$11.9 million to 174 cultural institutions. Of that, \$11 million went to 124 organizations for the Summer at the Museum program and \$811,914 from the CT Humanities Fund was granted to 82 organizations.

With our partners, we have also made humanities content and resources more accessible and more connected through the Connecticut Digital Archive, Connecticut Collections, and our platforms connecticuthistory.org and teachitct.org. CT Humanities Digital Humanities staff have been evaluating and updating content, preparing cultural organizations for digital preservation and access, and connecting our museums and cultural organizations to the recently adopted CT Social Studies frameworks.

After a year-long pause, we are proud to bring back the CT Center for the Book and our affiliation with the Library of Congress. We have recently completed an evaluation and feasibility study and look forward to continuing our Book Voyagers program and working with libraries, writers, and readers to celebrate our state's rich literary history, authors, their stories, and the power of the written word.

Finally, we are proud to both lead and administer the state's semiquincentennial commission, America 250 | CT. Through the themes *Telling Inclusive Stories*, *Doing History, Power of Place*, and *For the Common Good*, we are excited to engage all of Connecticut's residents, our diverse histories, and our common goals for the future as we commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Individually, CT Humanities programs aim to connect our organization with ideas, resources, and the value of public humanities. Together, they weave our people across Connecticut's 169 cities and towns and five tribal nations.

We begin our next 50 years from a position of strength and opportunity, and we do so with the many relationships we have cultivated, partnerships we have forged, and trust and respect we have earned.





Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.
Executive Director
CT Humanities

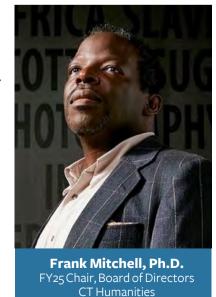


Photo by Lotta Studio

In 2024, Connecticut Humanities celebrated its 50th year

as a humanities and cultural funder, leader, and convener. The Connecticut Humanities Council was founded in 1974 as an independent, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We kicked off our anniversary year in April with an event at the Legislative Office building in Hartford. In May, our funded partner Connecticut Explored published "CT Humanities at 50" which highlights our achievements.



In June, CT Humanities hosted National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Shelly Lowe for site visits throughout the state. Her visit culminated in an Ideas Summit with our funded partner, the International Festival of Arts and Ideas. At the Summit, CT Humanities Executive Director Jason Mancini and Chair Lowe discussed the critical role the humanities play in tackling society's toughest contemporary challenges and highlighted new NEH initiatives that respond to some of our most pressing issues: strengthening our democracy, advancing equity for all, and addressing our changing climate.

We can't wait to continue our work for the next 50 years and beyond!



At our 50th event, from left: CT Humanities Board Members Ruth G. Torres (Schaghticoke) and Dr. Sandy Grande (Quechua), National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Shelly Lowe (Navajo), and Chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Rodney Butler







U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes. Photo by Quatina Frazer/Blu Alys Photography

"Now, therefore, I hereby proclaim CT Humanities to be a champion in fostering strong and sustainable efforts to connect residents of Connecticut with our history so we can forge a better tomorrow."

Congressional Proclamation from U.S. Representative
 Jahana Hayes, Connecticut's 5th District

"Thanks to CT Humanities, diverse cultural education in our state is thriving and continues to break new ground, building upon Connecticut's storied cultural identity to encourage curiosity and understanding for all. Through its work, we are reminded of not only the cultural and historical necessity of a robust humanities network, but also of the immense economic value. Access to culture is a necessary component in creating vibrant, exciting communities to both live and work in, and CT Humanities has worked since its inception to ensure that cultural institutions have a place in the economic conversation."

- From the April 5, 2024 Congressional Record, by U.S. Representative Joe Courtney of Connecticut's 2nd District



U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney. Photo by Quatina Frazer/Blu Alys Photography

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As a student of the humanities, I place immense importance on the role of education in providing different perspectives on history, culture, [and] society to develop a student's ability in critical thinking. Through its work, CT Humanities has made significant investments in education, culture, and the economic vitality of Connecticut.

- Congressional Proclamation from U.S. Representative Jim Himes, Connecticut's 4th District

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CT Humanities FY24 Board Chair Helen Higgins with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal

"CT Humanities has long been a champion of the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society.

By implementing and supporting strong, viable, and sustainable cultural organizations that play a pivotal role in promoting the educational, cultural, and economic vitality of Connecticut, and ensuring that their programming is widely accessible to diverse and new audiences across the State, CT Humanities continues to play a central role in the preservation of the humanities and the promotion of civic engagement."

 U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, recognizing the 50th anniversary of CT Humanities in Vol. 170, No. 48 issue of the Congressional Record

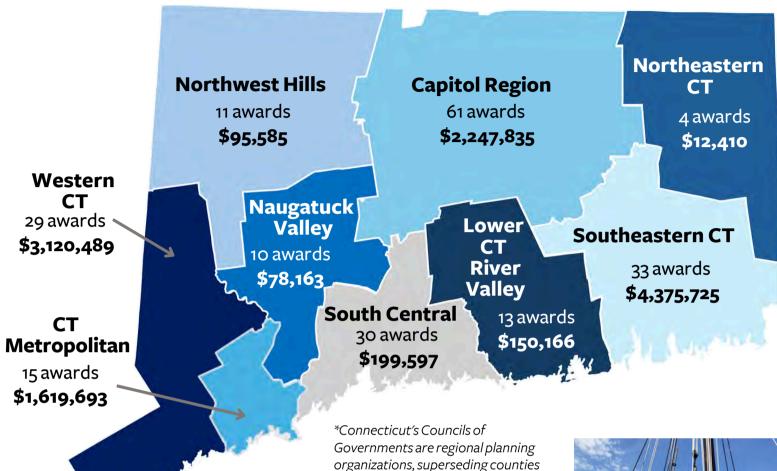
The summer 2024 issue of Connecticut Explored magazine featured a look back at CT Humanities' impact over 50 years, including leadership by former executive directors Marianne Barnaby, right, and the late Bruce Fraser, far right, with office dog Lucas



CT Humanities grants support strong humanities projects and the cultural organizations that offer them with a robust offering of competitive grant lines.







for funding and census purposes.

GRANT PROJECTS IN FY24 RANGED FROM:

- Expanding online accessibility for archive materials related to history of deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- · Restorying African, African American, Indigenous, and other non-European **people** who were part of the region's maritime trade life
- Filling educational and exposure gaps of formerly incarcerated individuals through cultural organization experiences



Connecicut River Museum, a CT Humanities grantee

In fiscal year 2024, CT Humanities provided:

206 for \$11.9M to 174 in funding

organizations

OUR FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS

CT Humanities funded partnerships are essential to our state's cultural infrastructure. They expand access to digital resources and educational programs and bring more inclusive stories from our past into our public spaces today.

Importantly, our partners convey the value of public arts and humanities to residents across the state. CT Humanities serves as a collaborative hub to combine the expertise and best practices of these partner organizations, expanding their reach to provide enhanced benefits across Connecticut.

Over the past three years, CT Humanities has invested nearly \$3 million in partnership support to 10 organizations, funded by the State of Connecticut and CT Cultural Fund.

State Social Studies Frameworks: In collaboration with Connecticut State Department of Education, CT Humanities helped fund the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies to write and publish the new state social studies standards.

Collections Assessment Grants: CT Humanities funded Conservation ConneCTion to provide critical assessments for 25 museums and archives. These assessments will enable small, local cultural organizations to preserve the history of Connecticut as well as begin to tell new stories.

Oral Histories: CT Humanities funds crucial oral history work by supporting the Engaged, Public, Oral, and Community Histories (EPOCH) initiative of the University of Connecticut history department. Through this partnership, and in collaboration with the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, we have made UConn's *Their Story* digital oral history platform available to any organization based in Connecticut.

- Connecticut Arts Alliance
- Connecticut Council for the **Social Studies**
- Connecticut Democracy Center
- Connecticut Digital Archive
- Connecticut Explored
- Connecticut Heritage Foundation with **Conservation ConneCTion**
- Connecticut League of Museums
- Connecticut Museum of **Culture and History**
- International Festival of Arts & Ideas
- University of Connecticut's **EPOCH (Engaged, Public, Oral, and Community Histories Initiative**)

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW OUR FUNDED PARTNERS BENEFIT **OUR STATE**







CT Humanities statewide partners at the Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington

'A Full Investment in the Health of the Cultural Sector'





CASE STUDIES: LONGSTANDING CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS SHARE CRITICAL IMPACT OF CT HUMANITIES FUNDING

FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM

Built in 1871, Old Lyme's Florence Griswold Museum embodies the artistic spirit of its legacy as the home of the Lyme Art Colony and home of American impressionism. The 12-acre site, which includes the home, the Krieble Gallery, and artist trails, highlights the intersection between art, history, and culture.

"CT Humanities has grown so much over time, but there is still the personal, grassroots, community feeling of the organization. It believes in marshaling its resources to the best and highest purpose."

- JEFF Andersen, emeritus director of Florence Griswold Museum

LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Litchfield Historical Society, established in 1865, is comprised of the Litchfield History Museum, the Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library (including collections and research center), the Tapping Reeve House and the Tapping Reeve Meadow. It is also home to the Litchfield Law School, America's first law school, which opened in 1784.

"Donors are not going to support you unless they believe the work you are doing is worthwhile. CT Humanities helped us do that worthwhile work."

- CATHY FIELDS, FORMER LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

Established in 2007 by the 103-year-old Fairfield Historical Society, Fairfield Museum and History Center is a 13,000-square-foot campus with galleries, a research library, education classroom, and meeting hall overlooking Fairfield's Town Green.

"CT Humanities has always been more than just a granting agency. They don't just write checks; they are advocates and supporters and have been real partners with us every step of the way. They find ways to lift us up collectively."

- MICHAEL JEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER



\$988,166 | 23 CTH GRANTS

CT Humanities funded: **online learning** exhibitions for **elementary school** educators | **interdisciplinary** "**alternative voices**" programming | exhibitions of American art that serve as a launch pad for telling **uniquely Connecticut stories** | scholarly lectures | reading groups | continuing **education**



\$880,936 | 52 CTH grants

CT Humanities funded: **strategic planning** | **educational symposiums** and **teacher trainings** | historic **building renovation** | **staffing** | exhibits on effects of **economic disparity**, the impact of humans on the **environment**, and cultural effects of migration | **educational pavilion and garden**



\$730,300 | 41 CTH GRANTS

CT Humanities funded: **strategic planning for growth** | exhibits on 17th-century Fairfield including witchcraft trials and the Pequot War | **stewardship and programming at historic sites** | programs on activism in the Fairfield and Bridgeport areas and navigating **news in the digital age** | **staffing**

DIGITAL HUMANITIES: EXPANDING ACCESS FOR ALL

CT Humanities serves as Connecticut's digital hub for people to access, contribute to, and critically examine our shared stories and experiences. We accomplish this through connecting and curating trusted educational content and resources, developing and facilitating innovative programs and projects, and partnering to support and advance our shared digital initiatives.

We strive to be:

- **Accessible:** Promoting open access to content, while prioritizing its widespread availability to all of Connecticut's people and communities.
- Inclusive: Fostering, amplifying, creating, and sharing content that represents the breadth of Connecticut's people and the range of their stories.
- Innovative: Being creative, flexible, and nimble in how we connect to audiences using content and technology.

ConnecticutHistory.org

Nearly 1 million people each year access weekly stories on people, traditions, innovations, and events that make up our state's rich history.



TeachItCT.org

Our Teach It program provides activities and resources to help educators incorporate Connecticut's history into their curriculum. Activities include accessible primary sources and connections to state heritage sites and institutions.





Distance learning meets history at CT Humanities grantee Keeler Tavern



Stratford Library Association, a CT Humanities grantee, notes that online events and on-site internet access for educational purposes are key pillars in their strategic plans to provide access to innovative services, information, and ideas.



CHAMPIONING CONNECTICUT LITERATURE

After a short hiatus, CT Humanities has renewed the CT Center for the Book, the state affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Susan Muro (pictured above, far left), will lead the Center and also manage Book Voyagers, now under the auspices of the Center, to align our literature programs.

The mission of the Affiliate Centers for the Book is to promote books, reading, libraries, and literacy. To follow that lead, CT Center for the Book will elevate Connecticut's unique and rich literary heritage, inspire lifelong learning through community, and support the popular pursuits of the public.

CT Humanities has conducted an evaluation and study on what CT Center for the Book should focus on in the future. In brief, the Center will:

- Maintain a platform to share events, information, and
- Enhance and strengthen relationships with Connecticut libraries and literary organizations
- Increase collaboration with the Library of Congress and
- Participate in the National Book Festival



BOOK VOYAGERS

One way that CT Humanities enhances education in Connecticut is through our Book Voyagers program, designed to promote the joy of reading and encourage families to create literature-rich homes. We bring facilitators and books into some of Connecticut's lowestperforming school districts, thanks to support from Scripps Foundation and private donors.

This year, 5,768 children and adults attended 138 Book Voyagers programs in 88 towns, libraries, and community organizations, and we distributed 2,976 children's books.

A Book Voyagers program in Vernon called StoryFaces by painter and storyteller Christopher Agostino



LEARN MORE

-AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

As the country approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, CT Humanities is serving as administrator for the America 250 | CT Commission.

We are highlighting not only Connecticut's role in the events leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution, but also illuminating stories of enslaved people, Indigenous populations, women, immigrants, and urban dwellers that haven't traditionally been part of the historical narrative. We are proud of the progress that's already been made as our commission, partners, and towns lay the groundwork for the anniversary:

- Hosted Day 3 of the Declaring Freedom Conference in March with a keynote by Governor Ned Lamont and panels about the four themes of America 250 | CT
- Engaged 30 municipalities to begin 250th planning
- Developed planning guides, event calendars, and resource databases
- Funded 28 grants for over \$2.3 million for 250th-related projects
- Received our first major gift for the 250th - \$100,000 from Dalio Philanthropies
- Produced new digital humanities content (7 stories) directly tied to America 250

We are expanding outreach for the 250th effort around the state including:

- Hosting convenings of community groups in cities
- Engaging with the public at fairs, festivals, and other gatherings
- Cultivating authors through direct calls to produce new and engaging 250th stories



Gov. Ned Lamont addresses attendees at the Declaring Freedom Conference, Day 3.



Members of the America 250 | CT Commission and state officials, including CT Senator Ceci Maher, above at Keeler Tavern, have been visiting notable sites across the state as we plan for the many ways we will commemorate America's 250th in 2026.

Thank you!

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

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023

AND JUNE 30, 2024 Anonymous Jeffrey Andersen Jacqueline Bagwell Dr. Beryl Irene Bailey Stephen Bartkus Randall Beach Nicholas and Angela Bellantoni Diane Berube MaryEllen Beveridge Antay Bilgutay and Paul Ditolla C. Duane Blinn Jay and Allison Bombara* Anne W. Borg Maria Poirier Brandriff Frazier Brinley* Susan M. Bullock Edith Carlson Ellen Carter Frank Chiaramonte Hope S. Childs Carolyn Cicchetti David Claiborn Bruce Clouette Dr. Jay Cobbledick Henry and Linda Cohn Margaret D. Cooley Betty and Alan Coykendall Melinda D. Cruanes Drs. Booker and Elena DeVaughn Katherine Donovan Helmer and Joanne Ekstrom Anita C. Ellis Jerry Farrell, Jr. Eleanor and James Ferguson Walter Fiederowicz* Dudley and Marcella Monk Flake Andrew Forsyth and Josh Goodbaum*

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BDO

Dalio Philanthropies

Fairfield Museum and History Center

Litchfield Arts Council

New Fairfield Historical Society

Schaghticoke Women's Traditional Council

IN HONOR OF:

Ali Al-Issa

Election Officials of Connecticut

Jacques Lamarre

Dr. Jason Mancini

Lian Partridge

Scott Wands

IN MEMORY OF: Bruce Fraser

Reginal S. Goggins

Carol Levy

Mr. and Mrs. Conley Monk Sr.

*FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE 1974 CIRCLE

We make every effort to acknowledge donor names correctly. If we have made an error, please call 860.986.6704.

Andrea V. Rapacz & Dylan F. Peltier*

Katherine Raia*

Daniel Peter Rex

Nancy Rogalsky

Catherine M. Riordan

Katy Reed

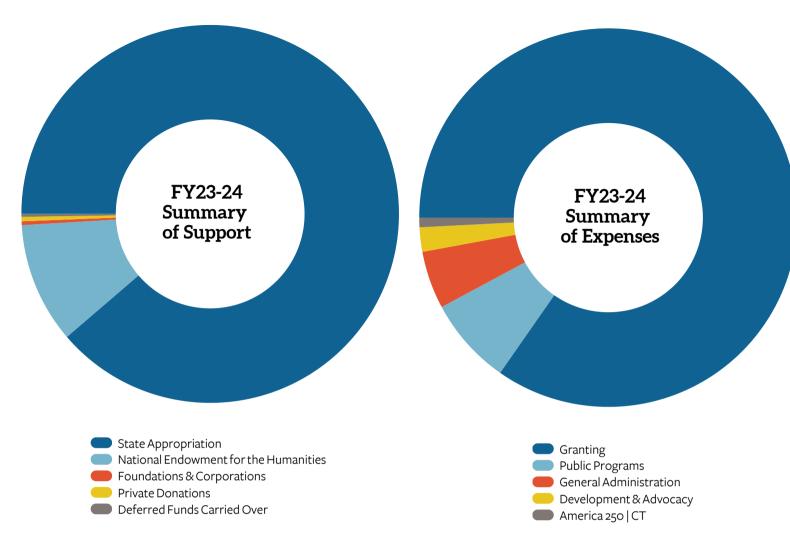
Valeriano Ramos Jr.

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



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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024



FUNDING		EXPENDITURES	
State of Connecticut National Endowment for the Humanities Foundations & Corporations Earned Income & Annual Fund Gifts Deferred Funds Carried Over	\$ 12,370,439 \$ 1,441,302 \$ 45,028 \$ 52,905 \$ 34,353	Granting Public Programs General Administration Development & Advocacy America 250 CT	\$ 11,818,473 \$ 1,042,647 \$ 688,018 \$ 290,278 \$ 114,127
Total	\$13,944,027	Total	\$ 13,953,543

GRATITUDE TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS









The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts

LOOKING AHEAD...

CT Humanities imagines a future in which all Connecticut residents feel connected through and understand the value of public humanities.

As of this writing, we are embarking on a strategic planning process that will be enacted in 2025. Through our programs, partnerships, funding, and organizational commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access, we will shape and sustain Connecticut's cultural infrastructure.

This means we will prioritize and cultivate meaningful relationships, build an equitable funding and programming culture, and develop policies and practices that connect our communities.

As we engage the governor's Economic Action Plan, we will recognize and promote our state's cultural organizations as small businesses; we will work with them to stimulate economic development, innovation, and our state's knowledge economy; and we will work cross-sector with our tourism, lodging, and restaurant colleagues to strengthen our main streets, downtowns, and cultural districts.

Lastly, as the founding language of the National **Endowment for the Humanities notes, "democracy** demands wisdom and vision in its citizens." This will remain our North Star.

As we reflect on the ideas and ideals of the formation of our nation, as well as our unfinished revolutions, we will lead the state in the planning of exhibits and events commemorating our independence, freedom, and civic responsibility that includes, represents, and connects all of our citizens.



CT Humanities grantee Time's Fool Company of Wethersfield, which offers free Shakespeare performances to the public



CT Humanities board and staff meeting at one of our grantee sites, West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center



100 Riverview Center, Suite 290, Middletown, CT 06457



cthumanities.org | 860.785.9640 info@cthumanities.org | @cthumanities









Our Mission: CT Humanities champions the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. Through grant funding and capacity building, CT Humanities 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 residents.

Front cover photos:

- Main: A young student at Hartford Artisans Weaving Center, a CT Humanities grantee, learning to fringe her hand-woven scarf. The Center's artisan program teaches weaving to anyone who is blind, visually-impaired, or age 55 and older
- Top left: Governor Thomas Meskill commemorating the establishment of the Connecticut Humanities Council in 1974
- Top center: CT Humanities FY25 Chair Dr. Frank Mitchell and Lee McFadden, site director of Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, testify before the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee at the Connecticut Capitol
- Top right: Public Art for Racial Justice Education (PARJE)'s Great Americans project at the Bruce Museum, a CT Humanities grantee

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