



West Virginia Folklife Program Receives American Folklife Center's Parsons Fund Award

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Charleston— The West Virginia Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, is pleased to announce that it has received a 2018 Gerald E. and Corinne L. Parsons Fund Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The award will support research in the Folklife Center's collection of sound recordings, photographs, field notes, and ephemera related to West Virginia, focusing particularly on archival content pertaining to African Americans and other cultural communities whose presence and contributions are often marginalized in historical and vernacular culture narratives of the Mountain State. This research will inform ongoing and future work of the West Virginia Folklife Program and culminate in a series of multimedia blog posts for the American Folklife Center and West Virginia Folklife Program.

The Gerald E. and Corinne L. Parsons Fund was founded by American Folklife Center reference librarian Gerry Parsons (1940-1995) in honor of his parents. Parsons Fund Awards provide support to bring people to the Library of Congress to make use of primary ethnographic materials housed at the Center and elsewhere at the Library. This year, Parsons Fund Awards were awarded to three projects: Folklorists Ann Ferrell (Western Kentucky University) and Diane Goldstein (Indiana University) for research in support of a book-length project exploring key moments in the field of folklore from the 1960s through the mid-1980s; Charlotte Rogers (University of Virginia) for research in support of a book project on creative cultural expressions inspired by and in response to hurricanes and other storms in the Caribbean region; and West Virginia state folklorist Emily Hilliard for the West Virginia Folklife research project. For more information on the 2018 American Folklife Center awards, visit <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2018/05/american-folklife-center-announces-2018-fellowships-awards-recipients/>.

The West Virginia Folklife Program is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Folk & Traditional Arts Program. West Virginia Folklife is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, presentation, and support of West Virginia's vibrant cultural heritage and living traditions.

For more information on the West Virginia Folklife Program, visit <https://wvfolklife.org/> or contact Emily Hilliard at hilliard@wvhumanities.org or (304)346-8500.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council is a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors whose members are drawn from all parts of West Virginia. It is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and by contributions from the private sector. The purposes of the West Virginia Humanities Council are educational, and its mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.