



***For Immediate Release***  
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Headline: The West Virginia Humanities Council is friendraising because West Virginia—its People, its History, its Future—is worth investing in.

The West Virginia Humanities Council is hosting a friendraising reception on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at Carnegie Hall, located at 611 Church Street in Lewisburg West Virginia, to introduce the Council’s new executive director, **Eric Waggoner**. Refreshments will be provided, and admission to the event is free. Please RSVP to Victoria Paul at [v.paul@wvhumanities.org](mailto:v.paul@wvhumanities.org) or by calling (304) 346-8500.

In addition to **meeting the Humanities Council’s new executive director**, guests will enjoy an **old-time fiddling presentation** by Jen Iskow and Annie Stroud. Jen and Annie will demonstrate some of the tunes they learned studying with master traditional artists as participants in the first class of the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program, the newest project of the Folklife Program at the Humanities Council.

Following the musical presentation, guests are invited to visit “**Arts from the Ashes: The History of Carnegie Hall**,” a permanent installation on the second floor of Carnegie Hall funded in part by the Humanities Council. Also, thanks to Council grant funding, Carnegie Hall is the new permanent home of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame exhibit, “**The Art of Music in West Virginia**.” The exhibit, located in the main floor gallery, features a rotating selection of memorabilia and recordings from artists who have made their mark on the musical landscape of West Virginia.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Founded in 1974, the Humanities Council works to promote a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia. The Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, and presentation of West Virginia's vibrant cultural heritage. For more information, visit the Council's website at [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) or call (304) 346-8500.