PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Erin Riebe, 304-346-8500
riebe@wvhumanities.org

HUMANITIES COUNCIL PROVIDES OVER $420K IN EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS TO WEST VIRGINIA CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The West Virginia Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has provided over $420,000 in CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants to West Virginia cultural institutions to help ensure staff retention and program delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Made possible by the NEH as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of March 27, 2020, the Council’s CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants will help to pay staff salaries, utility bills, mortgage and rent, and other operational costs for West Virginia cultural institutions that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“West Virginia’s rich, diverse cultural life is one of our state’s most valuable qualities,” says Council executive director Eric Waggoner. “Organizations all around West Virginia work every day, most with a modest and dedicated staff, to support, grow, and contribute to that cultural ecosystem, and to represent us to the world. These grants will help organizations large and small to survive the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, retain employees, and continue to deliver on their missions.”

The Humanities Council’s CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants have been awarded to historical and archeological associations, museums, performance spaces, preservation societies, community festivals, heritage centers, libraries, research centers, and many other organizations. Most relief funds have been committed to operational costs; a small percentage will help organizations convert in-person programs to digital formats.

“We’re grateful and honored to be able to help sustain these institutions,” says Waggoner, “many of which were preparing to open for new seasons just when the pandemic hit. The timing absolutely could not have been worse, and the impact on West Virginia’s cultural life and economy has been far-reaching and significant. We’re humbled to be able to assist West Virginia’s many excellent cultural organizations, and their employees, as we go through this difficult moment together.”

Congressional District 1

Brooke    Brooke County Library Foundation
Gilmer    Glenville State College
Harrison  The VTC Legacy Fund, Inc.
Harrison  Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society
Marion   Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation
Marshall Marshall County Historical Society
Marshall Strand Theatre Preservation Society
Mineral  Friends of Ashby's Fort, Inc.
Monongalia Morgantown Theatre Company
Ohio    Wheeling Symphony Society, Inc.
Ohio    WALS Foundation
Preston  Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.
Preston  Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc.
Tucker   Voices From the Earth, Inc.
Wood    Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association, Inc.
Wood    Smoot Theatre Corporation

**Congressional District 2**

Hardy    Lost River Projects, Inc.
Jefferson Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
Jefferson Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
Jefferson Contemporary American Theater Festival, Inc.
Jefferson Historic Shepherdstown Commission
Jefferson Shepherd University Foundation
Jefferson Shepherdstown Public Library
Jefferson Shepherd University Foundation
Kanawha  West Virginia Music Hall of Fame
Kanawha  Friends of Blackwater
Kanawha  Thanks! Plain and Simple, Inc.
Kanawha  Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of WV
Kanawha  The Charleston Ballet
Kanawha  West Virginia Archeological Society
Kanawha  Rural Appalachian Improvement League
Kanawha  The Education Alliance
Kanawha  West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Inc.
Kanawha  West Virginia Land Trust
Randolph Historic Beverly Preservation
Randolph Augusta Heritage Center
Upshur    West Virginia Strawberry Festival
Upshur    Upshur County Public Library

**Congressional District 3**

Cabell    Huntington Museum of Art
Cabell    Clio Foundation
Cabell    Marshall University Research Corporation O/B/O
Fayette  Mount Hope Heritage and Hope Inc.
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*The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and 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.*