Charleston, WV — Since 2001 the Humanities Council has presented the annual Little Lecture Series at its historic MacFarland-Hubbard House headquarters in Charleston. The 2020 series starts on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m. with the presentation “The Role of Ancestry, Heritage, and Nature in Appalachian Black Metal Music” by Aaron Carey.

Carey, an accomplished classical, jazz, and metal guitarist, has been a faculty member of Bethany College’s department of music since 2005. His experience playing black metal music runs deep, having played in West Virginia-based bands like Nechochwen, Angelrust, Coldfells, and Infirmary for over 20 years. His talk will explore the cultural foundations of this oft-stereotyped musical genre, and how Appalachian roots have influenced the region’s black metal scene both sonically and lyrically.

On April 26, Dr. Cicero Fain III, professor of history at the College of Southern Maryland, presents “Black Huntington and the Rise of the African American Middle Class.” May 31 brings J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works’ Nancy Bruns to the MacFarland-Hubbard House to speak on “The History of Salt in the Kanawha Valley.” Dr. Billy Joe Peyton, professor of history at West Virginia State University, will expound on local delights on June 21 in “East Enders: Architectural Heirlooms in Charleston’s Oldest Neighborhood.” The series concludes on July 19 with Kenzie New, director of the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum in Matewan, discussing “Reclaiming History: The West Virginia Mine Wars and Memory.”

The Little Lecture series are one of the many ways the West Virginia Humanities Council shares its historic property with the community. Beginning with Carey’s lecture on March 29, the series is presented once each month through July in the parlor of the Council’s Charleston headquarters in the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House at 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East. Admission to the lecture is $10 and includes refreshments after the program. Seating is limited and people interested in attending should confirm that seats are available by calling 304-346-8500 no later than noon on Thursday, March 26.

For more information visit www.wvhumanities.org or contact Kyle Warmack at 304-346-8500 or warmack@wvhumanities.org.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit institution, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. With the support of the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and contributions from the private sector, the Council’s mission is to support a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.