



**West Virginia Humanities Council**  
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## **A STATEMENT ON COVID-19 FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

**March 16, 2020**

The West Virginia Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, considers public health and safety top priorities for its staff, board, program partners and participants, and grantees, as well as all humanity.

As we continue to monitor updates regarding COVID-19's health and infrastructural impact in West Virginia, the Council is following both federal and state guidance in our attempt to help minimize exposure to and spread of the virus. This situation, like all public health crises, will have an endpoint. In the meantime, we at the Council are determined to do our part for the public good.

Council offices are open as of today, Monday March 16, and will remain so until further notice. At this time we anticipate no interruption in regular office operations. We do ask patience in communications response time, as some staff may be working remotely.

For now, we ask Council partners and grantees who are hosting scheduled public events in their venues throughout March and April to monitor the situation in their home communities, and to follow the public health recommendations from [the Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources](#) as they determine whether scheduled events should be postponed or cancelled. Wherever possible, we encourage our partners and grantees to postpone scheduled events, rather than cancelling. We ask our partners and grantees to communicate information regarding any event postponements or cancellations to the public directly, as well as to the Council.

We encourage members of the public to direct any inquiries regarding the status of Council-supported event programming in their home communities to the sponsoring organization directly, or to the event venue as a secondary option.

The health and peace of mind of our professional and public community will guide our decision-making in the coming weeks. All official statements regarding COVID-19's impact on direct Council operations will be communicated to our members, partners, and grantees via email, across all Council social media platforms, and on our website, [wvhumanities.org](#). Any changes to our in-house programming schedule will be communicated across those same platforms, and will also be noted on our [online calendar of events](#).

If you have questions, please reach out to Council staff via email at [wvhuman@wvhumanities.org](mailto:wvhuman@wvhumanities.org), or at 304-346-8500.