



Humanities Council to Hold Public Meetings at Berkeley Springs Ice House

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Contact: Erin Riebe or Emily Hilliard
304.346.8500
riebe@wvhumanities.org
hilliard@wvhumanities.org

Charleston – The West Virginia Humanities Council will hold two informational meetings on Tuesday, March 21, at the Ice House, located at Independence and Mercer Streets in Berkeley Springs. Both meetings are free and open to the public.

At 5:30 p.m. Humanities Council grants administrator Erin Riebe will speak about the types of grants available through the Council, and will also review grant guidelines and the application process. The Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

A variety of matching grants are offered by the Humanities Council year-round to nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, and other institutions in West Virginia that support educational programming in the humanities. A sample of eligible projects includes exhibits, lectures, conferences, documentaries, publications, teacher workshops, interpretive signage and display panels, school projects, and reenactments. The Humanities Council also offers fellowships to teachers, faculty, and independent scholars for humanities-related research and writing projects, and travel assistance grants for representatives of organizations that focus on enriching humanities education within their communities.

State folklorist Emily Hilliard's presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. following the grants program with a public interest meeting about the West Virginia Folklife Program. Hilliard is conducting a statewide fieldwork survey to assess and document current folklife activity in West Virginia. "Folklife traditions are community-based creative expressions," Hilliard said. "Those can include traditional music and dance, foodways, material culture, faith-based expressions, occupational lore, and more."

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At the meeting, Hilliard will give a brief presentation on folklife and then take feedback from the public on local traditions, traditional artists, and tradition bearers in their community. 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.

Registration for the meeting is appreciated, but not required. To register, or for more information, call the Humanities Council at 304.346.8500, or email Erin Riebe at riebe@wvhumanities.org.

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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.