



From the Executive Director

A Vision Shared

Last September the West Virginia Humanities Council spent three days hosting a visiting team from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of our regular review and evaluation process. You'll read more about that visit elsewhere in this issue, but what I remember most vividly about that set of days is the seemingly endless procession of people—Council partners, scholars, grant recipients, writers, artisans, business leaders, representatives from state and national legislation, and private citizens from all around West Virginia—that came to our offices to speak to the NEH delegation about the work done by the Council everywhere in our beloved Mountain State.

None of our work succeeds without partnerships. The Council's stated mission is to promote a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia; and we take "statewide" to mean exactly that. Our goal is to offer or support one event, one showcase, one lecture, one exhibit, one humanities-centered project, somewhere in West Virginia, on every single day of the year. At the end of most days we're pleased to know we've met that challenge. But we know our success is largely thanks to the steadfast spirit of collaboration that enriches West Virginia's diverse and growing cultural ecosystem.

The Council was on the road frequently in 2019, visiting grantees, hosting workshops, delivering programs and events, and getting a close-up look at the vibrant work being done throughout the state. Last year the Council helped to produce radio journalism, living history presentations, scholarly research and publication projects, speakers series, and many other ventures. In 2020 we're planning a "listening tour" of the state, in order to learn from local communities

how we can be a more effective partner to our many constituencies. We'll also be branching out into public health-related initiatives, in order to bring our resources to bear on the quality of life for all West Virginians. There will be much good work to celebrate together, for certain. And as always, we'll look to our friends and supporters as we strive to deliver top-notch humanities programs to West Virginians statewide.

Speaking of partnerships: We have especially glad news to share in this season of new beginnings. On January 8, 2020, Kyle Warmack joined the West Virginia Humanities Council as our new Program Officer. A native of the San Francisco Bay area, Kyle earned his B.A. at the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television, embarking on a 12-year career in the film industry. Deciding thereafter to pursue his lifelong passion for history full-time, Kyle moved to West Virginia in 2017 as an AmeriCorps member serving with the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and the Clio Foundation. He later served with the South Charleston Interpretive Center, where in 2018 he designed a 4,600 square-foot, indoor/outdoor "pop up" exhibit entitled "Century Strong: 100 Years at the South Charleston Naval Ordnance Plant," which unveiled hundreds of never-before-published photographs of this former naval factory along with fresh historical research.

As Program Officer, Kyle Warmack will oversee and administer the Council's legacy programs such as the Little Lectures and *History Alive!* series, and coordinate with the National Endowment for the Humanities and other state and national institutions to design and deliver special programming through the Council. We welcome Kyle and his multidisciplinary background, and look forward to the contributions he'll make to our work as we strive to bring the world to West Virginia, and West Virginia to the world.

—Eric Waggoner



NEH delegation visits the MacFarland-Hubbard House

Michael Keller

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Mark Payne



Grant Categories

The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.

Major Grants support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures. Maximum award: \$20,000 Due: *Feb. 1, Sept. 1

Minigrants have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation. Due: *Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Oct. 1

Fellowships of \$3,000 support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars. Due: *Feb. 1

Media Grants support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series. Maximum award: \$20,000 Due: Sept. 1

Publication Grants are available to recognized nonprofit and academic presses and support only the production phase of a completed manuscript. Maximum award: \$20,000 Due: Sept. 1

Teacher Institute Grants are available to colleges and universities and the state Department of Education, and support summer seminars for secondary and elementary teachers. Maximum award: \$25,000 Due: Sept. 1

*Approaching deadline. Visit www.wvhumanities.org for applications and guidelines, email riebe@wvhumanities.org or call (304)346-8500.

Music Hall of Fame

The 2020 West Virginia Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony takes place on Saturday, April 4, at the Culture Center in Charleston at 7:30 p.m. The Hall of Fame honors unique Mountain State musicians who have made lasting contributions to American music. New honorees include Ethel Caffie-Austin, Honey & Sonny Davis (The Davis Twins), Larry Groce, Mayf Nutter, and The Hammons Family. A documentary vignette on each, produced with the support of a Humanities Council grant, will be shown. For more information, visit www.wvmusichalloffame.com.



Photo courtesy Todd Cerveris

2020 inductee Larry Groce

The West Virginia Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, is now accepting applications for its statewide Folklife Apprenticeship Program. The program offers up to a \$3,000 award to West Virginia master traditional artists or tradition bearers working with qualified apprentices on a year-long in-depth apprenticeship in their cultural expression or traditional art form. These apprenticeships, offered to masters of traditional music, dance, craft, foodways, storytelling, and more—in any cultural community in the Mountain State—facilitate the transmission of techniques and artistry of the forms as well as their histories and traditions. Applications, available at www.wvhumanities.org/folklifeapprenticeships or by calling State Folklorist Emily Hilliard at (304)346-8500, are due January 31, 2020.



Michael Keller

The Feud interviews

Visitors Welcome

The Council's home base, Charleston's historic MacFarland-Hubbard House, is a public venue, open daily to formal and informal visitors. Last year brought us guests from around the state and the nation. Our Holiday Open House allowed us to celebrate another season with our many members and friends, while our West Virginia Day Open House recorded its highest attendance ever. Musical and Folklife showcases, *History Alive!* presentations, and tours were offered year-round. The Film Posse, Ltd staged interviews for A&E's Hatfield and McCoy documentary *The Feud* in our main parlor, and a delegation from the NEH in Washington D.C. completed an on-site review of Council work and operations.

Seeking Characters: The West Virginia Humanities Council is accepting applications through February 1 from individuals interested in portraying historical figures for its popular *History Alive!* program. Portrayals of historically significant people no longer living, from any period of history, are eligible for consideration. The application materials are available at www.wvhumanities.org.

Exhibit Opening

An important chapter in Kanawha Valley history opens March 26 with a unique exhibit at the South Charleston Interpretive Center detailing the impact and influence of Union Carbide Corporation. From kids' camps to war-winning chemical products during World



Photo courtesy e-wv

Blaine Island, 1945

War II; from the industrialization of Blaine Island to the horrific tragedy at Hawks Nest Tunnel, "Chemical Valley: Union Carbide and the Shaping of the Kanawha" explores Carbide's century-long footprint in Charleston and beyond, and how its presence is felt to this day. For more information call the Interpretive Center at (304) 720-9847.

One Hundred Years of Women's Votes

The Council is honored to serve on the West Virginia Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment Planning Committee. Led by the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of State, the Committee constitutes a team of community, business, education, political and civic leaders working together to develop a list of events happening around the state in recognition of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Throughout the year-long celebration, members of the Committee will work to share the history and the role West Virginia women played in the passage of the 19th Amendment. Visit www.facebook.com/WVWomenVote100 for information, and <https://sos.wv.gov/news/Pages/01-03-2020-A.aspx> to access an updated list of 19th Amendment-related events statewide.



Little Lectures: The 2020 Little Lecture series kicks off Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston. Professor and musician Aaron Cary of Bethany College will be speaking on Appalachian black metal music and Native American heritage. The Little Lectures have been presented every year since 2001 and are one of the many ways the Humanities Council shares its historic property with the community. This year five lectures will be offered once monthly from March through July. Seating is limited and reservations are advised. Admission is \$10. Visit www.wvhumanities.org for information. A full schedule will be released in February.



Photo courtesy Appalshop

Documentary Filmmaking and Social Justice

With the support of a Humanities Council grant, Marshall University's English department will bring Appalshop's award-winning filmmaker Mimi Pickering (left) to campus in February. Pickering is one of the preeminent Appalachian documentarians, focusing on the interconnections between environmental concerns and social

justice. Following discussions with film studies students, Pickering will offer partial screenings and a talkback on February 4 at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center in Huntington. For more information email squirew@marshall.edu.

Program Committee Election

Please help choose citizen members for the Humanities Council Program Committee. Your vote gives the public a voice in our grants and program decisions. Vote for no more than two:

___ **Rebekah Karelis** is a project manager with the Wheeling-based construction company Adventures In Elegance, LLC, where she works to restore the area's historic buildings. She is a Program Committee incumbent and eligible for re-election.

___ **Roger May** is a Charleston-based photographer and writer. He created and directs the crowdsourced *Looking at Appalachia* project, which challenges the historical visual stereotypes of the region. He serves on the Steering Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association and is co-chair of the Communications Committee.

___ **Danielle Parker** has been the Executive Director of Preservation Alliance of West Virginia based in Elkins since 2011. She developed the Alliance's Historic Preservation Microloan Program and the Preserve WV AmeriCorps program.

___ **Crystal Wimer** is a native of Keyser and serves as the Executive Director of the Harrison County WV Historical Society. She was named a 2016 WV History Hero for her service with the organization. She is the interim president for the WV Association of Museums and serves on the conference programming committee for the Southeastern Association of Museums.

Return your ballot by mail to the West Virginia Humanities Council or access online at www.wvhumanities.org by March 1.

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The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.

In Memoriam: Mark Payne

With the passing of Mark Payne on September 29, 2019, the West Virginia Humanities Council lost a dear colleague and fellow traveler, and a committed ambassador for the humanities in all its forms.

Mark Payne's deep knowledge and love of West Virginia manifested in many ways. In 18 years as the Council's Program Officer Mark brought dozens of speakers series, lectures, traveling exhibits, and special programs to communities statewide, connecting West Virginia to national and international cultural life. He was a devoted supporter of West Virginia's own unique cultural life as well, and worked to preserve and present the history and living traditions of his beloved home state through Council-designed events, exhibits, and educational initiatives.

More than simply a steward of West Virginia culture, Mark was a practitioner of it. An accomplished musician with credits on more than two dozen recordings, Mark played three-finger-style banjo and rhythm guitar, sharing stages over the years with many of the Mountain State's renowned and revered musicians such as Elmer Bird, Wilson Douglas, Kim Johnson, Woody Simmons, Glen Smith, and Bobby Taylor. Over a 40-year career Mark performed at dozens of distinguished state and national venues including West Virginia's Mountain Stage, the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the American Old Time Music Festival, the Augusta Heritage Center, and at the state memorial service for U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd. He was a core member of old-time bands Gandydancer and the High Ridge Ramblers, and the traditional bluegrass group Goldrush.

For years Mark was the Council's dry humor, wry smile, and unerring nonsense detector. He was the same Mark in any context, whether mixing with the general public, state and national legislators, renowned scholars, or musical legends. And if the air ever began to feel a bit too stuffy, Mark would invariably be the one to crack a window with a well-timed joke.

There have been, and will be, other Program Officers at the Council. But there will never be another Mark Payne. He was *sui generis*: a true outlier, and a true outlaw. That we were all able to be together in the same space, however briefly, is one of life's small graces.

Godspeed, Mark. Safe travel.



Michael Keller