



## 2020 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities Cancelled

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Charleston, WV — The West Virginia Humanities Council’s 2020 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities has been canceled due to public health concerns surrounding COVID-19. The annual event, which takes place in Charleston each fall, often in conjunction with the West Virginia Book Festival, was scheduled this year for October 22.

“During the early part of the COVID crisis, we held out hope that the situation would be well-contained by fall, and unfortunately this optimism has not been sustained by national events,” says Council Program Officer Kyle Warmack. “The appeal of an event like McCreight is very much rooted in being ‘in the room’” with renowned speakers such as past lecturers Denise McKiernan, Joyce Carol Oates, and Ken Burns. “We don’t feel a virtual alternative would bear the prestige or enjoyment the McCreight name deserves,” Warmack continues.

The Board of Directors of the West Virginia Humanities Council established the annual McCreight Lecture in the Humanities to honor the leadership of Betsy Keadle McCreight, who died in 1985. McCreight was a founding board member, serving the Council as treasurer, vice president, and president. She believed that the humanities were at the heart of a democratic society, a necessary source of wisdom and vision.

Presented each October, the McCreight Lecture affords West Virginians the opportunity to hear internationally respected scholars and public intellectuals speak on a variety of humanities topics. Past McCreight Lecturers have included Henry Louis Gates, Sylvia Nasar, Eric Foner, Joseph Ellis, Elaine Pagels, Gordon Wood, James McPherson, Edmund Morris and Annette Gordon-Reed.

“We’re confident that the McCreight Lecture will return next year to an enthusiastic crowd,” states Council Executive Director Eric Waggoner. “It’s one of the finest events of its kind in the entire state, and we see this precautionary measure as a temporary, but necessary, postponement.”

For more information visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) or contact Kyle Warmack at 304-346-8500 or [warmack@wvhumanities.org](mailto: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.*