

# *West Virginia* *Humanities Council*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **HUMANITIES COUNCIL PROVIDES OVER \$420K IN EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS TO WEST VIRGINIA CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The West Virginia Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has provided over \$420,000 in CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants to West Virginia cultural institutions to help ensure staff retention and program delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Made possible by the NEH as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of March 27, 2020, the Council's CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants will help to pay staff salaries, utility bills, mortgage and rent, and other operational costs for West Virginia cultural institutions that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"West Virginia's rich, diverse cultural life is one of our state's most valuable qualities," says Council executive director Eric Waggoner. "Organizations all around West Virginia work every day, most with a modest and dedicated staff, to support, grow, and contribute to that cultural ecosystem, and to represent us to the world. These grants will help organizations large and small to survive the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, retain employees, and continue to deliver on their missions."

The Humanities Council's CARES Act Emergency Relief Grants have been awarded to historical and archeological associations, museums, performance spaces, preservation societies, community festivals, heritage centers, libraries, research centers, and many other organizations. Most relief funds have been committed to operational costs; a small percentage will help organizations convert in-person programs to digital formats.

"We're grateful and honored to be able to help sustain these institutions," says Waggoner, "many of which were preparing to open for new seasons just when the pandemic hit. The timing absolutely could not have been worse, and the impact on West Virginia's cultural life and economy has been far-reaching and significant. We're humbled to be able to assist West Virginia's many excellent cultural organizations, and their employees, as we go through this difficult moment together."

#### **Congressional District 1**

Brooke	Brooke County Library Foundation
Gilmer	Glenville State College
Harrison	The VTC Legacy Fund, Inc.

Harrison	Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society
Marion	Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation
Marshall	Marshall County Historical Society
Marshall	Strand Theatre Preservation Society
Mineral	Friends of Ashby's Fort, Inc.
Monongalia	Morgantown Theatre Company
Ohio	Wheeling Symphony Society, Inc.
Ohio	WALS Foundation
Preston	Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.
Preston	Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc.
Tucker	Voices From the Earth, Inc.
Wood	Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association, Inc.
Wood	Smoot Theatre Corporation

### **Congressional District 2**

Hardy	Lost River Projects, Inc.
Jefferson	Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission
Jefferson	Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
Jefferson	Contemporary American Theater Festival, Inc.
Jefferson	Historic Shepherdstown Commission
Jefferson	Shepherd University Foundation
Jefferson	Shepherdstown Public Library
Jefferson	Shepherd University Foundation
Kanawha	West Virginia Music Hall of Fame
Kanawha	Friends of Blackwater
Kanawha	Thanks! Plain and Simple, Inc.
Kanawha	Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of WV
Kanawha	The Charleston Ballet
Kanawha	West Virginia Archeological Society
Kanawha	Rural Appalachian Improvement League
Kanawha	The Education Alliance
Kanawha	West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Inc.
Kanawha	West Virginia Land Trust
Randolph	Historic Beverly Preservation
Randolph	Augusta Heritage Center
Upshur	West Virginia Strawberry Festival
Upshur	Upshur County Public Library

### **Congressional District 3**

Cabell	Huntington Museum of Art
Cabell	Clio Foundation
Cabell	Marshall University Research Corporation O/B/O
Fayette	Mount Hope Heritage and Hope Inc.

Greenbrier	Carnegie Hall
Mason	Fort Randolph Committee
Mason	Point Pleasant River Museum Foundation
Mingo	West Virginia Mine Wars Museum
Nicholas	The Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce
Pocahontas	Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation
Wayne	Heritage Farm Museum and Village

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*The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is supported by the NEH, the State of West Virginia, and 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.*