



# WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
August 18, 2021

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### **HUMANITIES COUNCIL PROVIDES OVER \$550K 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 awarded over \$550,000 in American Rescue Plan 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 American Rescue Plan Act of March 15, 2021, the Council's ARP Act Emergency Relief Grants will help pay operational and programming costs for West Virginia cultural institutions that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're honored to be able to direct over half a million dollars in COVID-19 relief funding to cultural institutions throughout the state," says Council executive director Eric Waggoner. "These institutions work tirelessly to preserve and support West Virginia's vibrant cultural life and living traditions, most with a small but dedicated staff. The pandemic's impact on our state's cultural economy has been severe, particularly in local communities, with many institutions having to close their doors even until today. This funding will help ensure mission continuity, future emergency preparedness, and innovative programming for the organizations, large and small, that make up West Virginia's rich cultural ecosystem."

The Humanities Council's ARP Act Emergency Relief Grants have been awarded to historical and archeological associations, museums, preservation societies, heritage and cultural centers, and many other organizations. Most relief funds have been committed to operational costs; some will help organizations convert programming to digital or outdoor formats, and a small percentage will fund programming associated with the pandemic. Says Waggoner, "We're once again humbled to be able to assist West Virginia's many excellent cultural organizations, and their employees, as we move through this difficult time together."

The Council awarded 34 ARP Act Emergency Relief Grants:

Adaland Mansion Development, Barbour County  
Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., Preston County  
Augusta Heritage Center, Randolph County  
Brooke County Library Foundation, Brooke County  
Carter G. Woodson Memorial Foundation, Inc. Cabell County  
Clio Foundation, Cabell County  
Craik-Patton House, Kanawha County  
Fort Edwards Foundation, Hampshire County  
Fort Randolph Committee, Mason County  
Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center, Marion County  
Friends of Ashby's Fort, Inc., Mineral County

Friends of Blackwater, Tucker County  
Greenbrier Historical Society, Greenbrier County  
Hardy County Tour and Crafts Association, Hardy County  
Harrison County West Virginia Historical Society, Harrison County  
Historic Beverly Preservation, Randolph County  
Jack Caffrey Arts & Cultural Center, McDowell County  
Marshall County Historical Society, Marshall County  
Museum of American Glass in West Virginia, Lewis County  
Positive People Association, Cabell County  
Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation, Marion County  
Randolph County Historical Society, Randolph County  
Snow Sports Museum of West Virginia, Tucker County  
Taylor County Historical & Genealogical Society, Taylor County  
Thanks! Plain and Simple, Kanawha County  
Voices From the Earth, Inc., Tucker County  
WALS Foundation, Ohio County  
Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center, Hancock County  
West Virginia Archeological Society, Kanawha County  
West Virginia Association of Museums, Monongalia County  
West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, Mingo County  
West Virginia Music Hall of Fame, Kanawha County  
West Virginia Public Broadcasting Foundation, Inc., Kanawha County  
Weston Historic Landmark Commission, Lewis County

For more information about the West Virginia Humanities Council grants program contact grants administrator Erin Riebe at (304) 346-8500 or via email at [riebe@wvhumanities.org](mailto:riebe@wvhumanities.org). Grant guidelines and applications are also available on the Humanities Council website, [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).

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*The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit corporation, 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.*