



*From the Executive Director*

## “It’ll slow down next month.”

It’s become a running joke here at the Council’s home office: Once we get on the other side of this event, that grant period, this busy season, etc., we’ll have time to relax a little.

Well, it doesn’t slow down, of course. It never does. And it never should.

The West Virginia Humanities Council seeks to integrate the humanities into the civic, cultural, and economic health of West Virginia. In 2022, our work supported civics education, community engagement among high school students, cultural tourism, oral histories of Black West Virginians, archival projects at local historical societies, K-12 teacher training, and public lectures, exhibits, and events everywhere in the Mountain State. On most days of the year, somewhere in West Virginia, a project we’ve developed or supported with a grant is up and running.

The challenges of the last few years have brought a lot of changes to the ways we do our work, as well as the way we think about its relation to the daily lives of West Virginians. Our goal remains what it’s been since our founding in 1974: We strive to create an excellent first-person experience in the humanities for the general public. We excel at that work in real spaces, in real time. The humanities are at their most impactful when they create opportunities for people to gather. But increasingly, we’ve put resources into work that’s accessible to audiences wherever they are, at any hour of the day.

In 2023, you can listen to Council podcasts and audio programs in your car or in your home. Through e-WV, the very best in West Virginia historical and cultural research is available to people worldwide, wherever they access the Internet. Our West Virginia Folklife Program has made the Council’s digital archive of materials related to our state’s living traditions available to the public at no cost, through the award-winning West Virginia Folklife Collection at WVU Libraries. As we look to a new year, we seek to continue making our programs as portable and

convenient as possible so that West Virginians can access our work wherever they live.

When we make our programs more accessible for in-state audiences, we also carry the story of West Virginia to readers around the globe. That’s what we mean when we say our charge is to “bring the world to West Virginia”—that is, to bring the very best in humanities programs to audiences here at home—and to “bring West Virginia to the world,” by carrying the true, complex, remarkable story of our state and its rich history and culture to audiences worldwide.

Wonderful to say, in one year, the Council will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We’re not



Michael Keller

*State Folklorist Jennie Williams documents an annual cemetery clean-up tradition in Raleigh County.*

the same staff that started it all. We’re not the staff that created many of its abiding legacy programs. And, as you’ll read inside, we’ve welcomed a few new faces lately. That’s a necessary part of the health of any long-standing organization. Like the staff who came before us, we’ll build on the excellence in our history, and we’ll add our own small contributions along the way.

With the help of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of West Virginia, and you, our steadfast friends, we’ll work hard to keep pace with our beloved state’s cultural needs and concerns so that the role of the humanities in public and civic health will remain vital and alive throughout West Virginia.

It’s going to be a good year. Let’s get to work.

—Eric Waggoner

Winter  
2022-2023

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New Faces



## Grant Categories

*The Humanities Council welcomes applications in the following grant categories.*

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

**Minigrants** have a budget of \$2,000 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation.  
Due: April 1, June 1, Oct. 1, Feb. 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, audio, 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: \$20,000  
Due: Sept. 1

*For more information, applications and guidelines visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org), email [riebe@wvhumanities.org](mailto:riebe@wvhumanities.org) or call 304-346-8500.*

**The Amicus Curiae Lecture Series** on Constitutional Democracy, sponsored by the Simon Perry Center and supported in part by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, brings scholars from throughout the United States to Marshall University for lectures on historical and contemporary issues related to the U.S. Constitution, politics, and government.

On March 2, Sonali Chakravarti, a professor of government from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and author of *Radical Enfranchisement in the Jury Room and Public Life*, will discuss how ordinary citizens engage with unusual political roles and responsibilities.

On April 6, John Stauffer, professor of English and of African and African American Studies at Harvard, will give a presentation about his book *GIANTS: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*. The lectures begin at 7 p.m. in Marshall's Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall and are live-streamed on the university website. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information or to view previous lectures, visit [www.marshall.edu/spc](http://www.marshall.edu/spc).



John Stauffer

State Folklorist Jennie Williams brought her camera and mandolin to Capon Bridge, Hampshire County, this past December for a music jam at the River House. The nonprofit music venue and café welcomes art and community-based events, and holds old-time and acoustic music jams every third Friday of the month. These events are hosted by Dakota Karper, owner of The Cat and the Fiddle music school in Capon Bridge. A multi-instrumentalist who studied old-time fiddle with Joe Herrmann of Paw Paw, Karper now studies clawhammer banjo through the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program. The Friday night sessions are for all skill levels, beginning with a "slow jam" for the first two hours and then transitioning into more advanced playing.

Learn more about:

**The River House:** [www.theriverhousewv.org](http://www.theriverhousewv.org)

**The Cat and the Fiddle:** [www.thecatandthefiddlewv.com](http://www.thecatandthefiddlewv.com)

**The West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program:**  
[wvfolklife.org/category/apprenticeships](http://wvfolklife.org/category/apprenticeships)



Old-time jam in Hampshire County

Jennie Williams

## Little Lectures



The 2023 Little Lectures series at the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House in Charleston kicks off March 26 at 2 p.m. with Ilene Evans presenting the life and accomplishments of Black aviator Rose Agnes Rolls Cousins of Fairmont. At age 16, Cousins enrolled at West Virginia Collegiate Institute (now West Virginia State University) where she persuaded instructors to let her join a new civilian aviation program in the lead-up to the United States' entry into World War II.

The first Black woman to become a pilot in the program,

Cousins went on to try out for the combat Air Force aviation program at Tuskegee Institute. She was denied entry on the basis



*Rose Agnes Rolls Cousins (see e-WV for more)*

of her gender. Cousins was inducted as an honorary member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen in the 1980s.

Additional Little Lectures are set for April 30, May 21, and June 25.

## Trunk of Tunes

One of the 42 grants the West Virginia Humanities Council awarded in 2022 went to the Trunk of Tunes program at the Frank and Jane

Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State University. These free lectures and demonstrations celebrated West Virginia's traditional musical heritage and featured some of our state's best old-time musicians. Vocalist Ginny Hawker (above left) gave a presentation on ballads and their importance in Appalachian culture.



## 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 three:*

\_\_\_ **Charlie Delauder**, Tyler County, is a retired teacher, former Mayor of Middlebourne, and a former member of the Council's Board of Directors.

\_\_\_ **Tamara Denmark**, Upshur County, is associate professor of history at West Virginia Wesleyan College, and coordinator of Wesleyan's study abroad program.

\_\_\_ **Savannah Guz**, Hancock County, is former president and executive director of the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center.

\_\_\_ **William King**, Randolph County, teaches creative writing and literature at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, where he also chairs the Humanities Division.

\_\_\_ **Ryan Krofcheck**, Pocahontas County, is a digital marketing specialist and major contributor to the state's folk arts through his project Opera House Story Sessions, which brings traditional musicians to Pocahontas County for performances and interviews.

\_\_\_ **Roger May**, Lincoln County, is an Alum Creek-based photographer and writer and operations director at Appalshop, a media, arts, and education center. He is a Program Committee incumbent and eligible for re-election.

\_\_\_ **Mark Swiger**, Ohio County, is a career educator and director of Energy Express, a child literacy, nutrition, and national service program of the West Virginia University Extension Service.

*Return your ballot by mail to the West Virginia Humanities Council or access online at [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) by March 7.*

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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.

## New Staff

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to the West Virginia Humanities Council. Heather Campbell-Shock, fiscal officer, joined our staff in November 2022. She previously served as Director of Library and Development Services at the West Virginia Library Commission. Heather holds a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Stan Bumgardner came on board in December as our e-WV Media Editor. He earned a BA in history



*Stan Bumgardner and Heather Campbell-Shock joined the Council staff in 2022.*

from Marshall University and his MA in public history from West Virginia University. A West Virginia historian for more than 30 years, Stan worked for the West Virginia State Archives, served as creative director

for the West Virginia State Museum renovation, and, most recently, was editor of *Goldenseal* magazine for seven years.



*Jeremy Brannon*

Two Preserve WV AmeriCorps members are volunteering with the Humanities Council this year. Jeremy Brannon is digitizing, organizing, and archiving photographs and records from the Council's 50-year history. Jeremy, a Charleston native, has a bachelor's degree in communications from West Virginia State University with an emphasis in journalism, public relations, and filmmaking. He hosts the quasi-satirical podcast *Mothman in the Bible Belt* about the Appalachian experience.

Vanessa Peña is assisting State Folklorist Jennie Williams with transcriptions, fieldwork, and archival preparation for the West Virginia Folklife Program. Vanessa is a senior at West Virginia State University and will earn a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in visual media in spring 2023. In her spare time, Vanessa enjoys cooking and creating traditional art using various media.



*Vanessa Peña*

**History Alive!** From Pearl Buck and Col. Ruby Bradley to Charles Schulz and Walt Disney, these living history performers provide audiences at fairs, festivals, and other community events with a passport through time. Each character is available for a \$150 booking fee to nonprofit and for-profit organizations across West Virginia. Contact Council Program Officer Kyle Warmack at 304-346-8500 or [warmack@wvhumanities.org](mailto:warmack@wvhumanities.org) for more information.