



From the Executive Director

Here's to Our Next 50!

By the time you receive this issue, we'll be two months into our 51st year. Our regular annual programs will be set and ready to launch. Special projects, like the West Virginia National Cemeteries Project and the Folklife Apprenticeship Program, are already under way. We're exploring the possibilities of new partnerships and collaborative work with local foundations, businesses, and other organizations.

Happy to say, this increased pace and diversity of programming have really become the new normal for us. Over the last few years, we've tremendously expanded the Council's work in terms of project development and audience numbers. We now reach more than 400,000 people annually through our grantmaking or direct programs—a number equivalent to nearly one in every four West Virginians. Keeping our members informed of this rapid growth started becoming quite challenging as the pace of our work outgrew our traditional publication schedule for *People & Mountains*. Three short newsletters a year don't allow us to share all the exciting news about our daily work in an opportune manner, or with the level of detail that *People & Mountains* readers really deserve.

To take just a few examples: As you'll see in this issue, Percival Everett, our 2024 McCreight Lecturer in the Humanities, won the 2024 National Book Award for his novel *James* last November, just one month after his talk to a packed house at Charleston's historic Capitol Theater. And if you're a reader of the West Virginia Folklife Program blog, you've probably already heard about our new round of Folklife Apprenticeship Pairs. If you were at our Holiday Open House event in December, you got a close look at ongoing upgrades to our historic house and grounds, and you may have noticed the redesigned and much-improved version of *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia Online*.

As you can see, your support gives us much to celebrate. We've been thinking a lot about how



Katie Morris

to share all this happy news widely and in a timely manner. And so, following this issue, our regular *People & Mountains* newsletter will be converted to an expanded digital version, allowing us to share much more news and in-depth stories with our members and the general public.

This means you'll be hearing a lot more from us, in more detailed and timely formats. We'll be connecting with you through email, social media, our website (wvhumanities.org), and in person. You will be able to access our online version of *People & Mountains* from your computers, phones, or other electronic devices. And if you'd still like to receive a hard copy of *People & Mountains*, we're happy to oblige: Please contact us at wvhuman@wvhumanities.org or 304-346-8500, and we'll be glad to mail you a print version of our new digital publication.

Thank you for being part of this work, which we look forward to sharing with you all.

—Eric Waggoner



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: Feb. 1, Sept. 1

Minigrants have a budget of \$2,000 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, 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 whumanities.org, email riebe@whumanities.org or call 304-346-8500.

Grantee Spotlight

New Graphic Novel Highlights West Virginians in the Civil Rights Movement

Sponsored in part by the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) has published a new graphic novel, *West Virginians' Experiences in Civil*

Rights: How We Have Been Connected All Along, compiled and illustrated by Eve Faulkes, with Joan Browning and Barb Howe as editors. It features 22 storytellers from 14 West Virginia counties discussing 60 years of their work, from Freedom Riders of the 1960s to supporters of the CROWN Act in the 2020s. The 132-page book has more than 200 of Faulkes' own illustrations.

You can order online at ccsjwv.org. The book is \$15.90, including tax, or \$23.90 mailed.

The Humanities Council's grant allows CCSJ to provide free copies of the book to academic and public libraries and museums. If you are involved with these organizations and would like to receive a copy, please contact ccsjwv@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Percival Everett!

The West Virginia Humanities Council would like to offer a hearty congratulations to Percival Everett, our 2024 McCreight Lecture in the Humanities speaker, on winning the prestigious National Book Award for Fiction for his novel *James*. In October, we were honored to host him at the historic Capitol Theater in Charleston, where hundreds of attendees enjoyed Everett's readings from *James*, an engaging question-and-answer session, and a book signing.



Michael Keller



New Vietnam War Exhibitions

To mark the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, the Humanities Council has secured permission from the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration (vietnamwar50th.com) to present a series of exhibitions now available to West Virginia's public libraries, schools, museums, and other interested host organizations. Contact Program Officer Kyle Warmack (warmack@wvhumanities.org) for booking details.

All exhibits consist of several 24x36-inch panels (usually three to four in each exhibit), comprising a total of 23 different displays on specific Vietnam War topics. The exhibits are ideal for display on tabletops. Host institutions may borrow several exhibits simultaneously to create larger visitor experiences.

Historical topics covered by individual exhibits include Military Nurses, The POW Experience, African Americans, Counterinsurgency, U.S. Army Air Mobility, and more. Host organizations are encouraged to create supporting displays to honor local veterans and tell their own communities' Vietnam War stories.

The printing was made possible with funds from the Veterans Legacy Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which supports the Council's West Virginia National Cemeteries Project (WVNCP). For more information and resources available through the WVNCP, visit the "Programs" tab at wvhumanities.org. For more details on the Vietnam War exhibition posters, click on "Traveling Exhibits" under "Programs."

Check out the new and improved *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia Online*: wvencyclopedia.org. This first substantive change to the site since its original 2010 launch features better search functionality and a K-8 Civics Toolkit that more than doubles our teacher lesson plans. Our quiz question database also has grown from 200 to more than 1,500, randomizing the quizzes every time you take one.



Program Committee Election

The Program Committee oversees all the Council's direct programs and grants by reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations to the Council's Board. Your vote gives the public a voice in our grants and program decisions. You can vote online at wvhumanities.org. Vote for no more than four:

___ **Beth See Bean**, Hardy County, is a retired educator and former heritage outreach coordinator. She has been a board member of the Hardy County Tour and Crafts Association and the county historical society.

___ **Hannah Hedrick**, Ohio County, an artist and educator based in Wheeling, teaches and manages print shop operations at the Mother Jones Center for Resilient Community. She formerly directed community education programs at Grow Ohio Valley.

___ **Dan Holbrook**, Cabell County, is Professor Emeritus of History at Marshall University, where he served as Department Chair for 10 years. Dan, an incumbent, is eligible for reelection.

___ **Sudhaker Jamkhandi**, Mercer County, is a tenured English professor at Bluefield State University and Director of the Office of International Initiatives. Jammy, an incumbent, is eligible for reelection.

___ **Duncan Slade**, Kanawha County, is a journalist and deputy managing editor at *Mountain State Spotlight*, a statewide nonprofit newsroom.

___ **Jay Smith**, Randolph County, is a Department Chair and Coordinator of Interdisciplinary Studies at Davis & Elkins College. Jay is an incumbent and eligible for reelection.

___ **Lloyd Tomlinson**, Mingo County, is education coordinator at the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum and a History and Appalachian Studies instructor at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

CAST YOUR VOTE BY **MARCH 3**.



Scan this code or sign up at bit.ly/PeopleMountains and we'll email future digital versions of *People & Mountains* to you, or you can visit wvhumanities.org to read it online.

People & Mountains will switch to an online format beginning with the next issue. See page 1 for details.

West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program: 2024-25

Hosted biennially since 2016, our program has increased in size over four rounds of apprenticeships. Ten new pairs have been selected to carry on important Appalachian traditions (mentor is listed first).



Linesha Frith and Dural Miller

Clawhammer banjo:

Tim Bing (Cabell County) and Edwin McCoy (Monroe County)

Weaving and fiber arts:

Margaret Bruning and Nevada Tribble (both Randolph County)

Fiddle repair:

Richard Eddy and Katie McCoy (both Monongalia County)

Storytelling:

Bill Hairston (Kanawha County) and Aristotle Jones (Monongalia County)

Unaccompanied Primitive Baptist hymn singing:

Ginny Hawker (Randolph County) and Mary Linscheid (Monongalia County)

Urban farming:

Dural Miller and Linesha Frith (both Kanawha County)

Family candy recipes:

Nancy Nelson and Kenneth "KD" Jones (both Kanawha County)

Square dance calling:

Taylor Runner and Annick Odom (both Monongalia County)

Old-time fiddle:

Ben Townsend (Hampshire County) and Bodhi Gibbons-Guinn (Allegany County, Md.)

White oak basketry:

Judy Van Gundy and Andrea Brandon-Hennig (both Randolph County)

This program is made possible with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and is managed by the West Virginia Folklife Program, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. Follow @wvfolklife on social media, and visit wvfolklife.org to learn more about the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program.



Andrea Brandon-Hennig and
Judy Van Gundy