



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:  
 Jennifer McCollum, Ph.D.  
 Communications and Development Officer  
 (336) 334-5704  
 jmccollum@nchumanities.org

## North Carolina Humanities Council Invests More Than \$79,000 in Eleven Cultural Projects Across the State

GREENSBORO, NC (June 18, 2008) – The North Carolina Humanities Council has awarded over \$79,000 in grants to eleven cultural and educational organizations to conduct humanities programs. The Humanities Council, a 37-year-old nonprofit foundation and state-affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, awards grants to organizations from Murphy to Manteo every year. This support allows community groups and nonprofits to provide free humanities-based public programs that bring together diverse groups of people to explore the history, traditions, and stories of North Carolina and its place in the world.

The funded groups match the Humanities Council's grants with in-kind and cash contributions. The projects supported during this grant period are integral to the Humanities Council's commitment to vital conversations that nurture the culture and heritage of North Carolina.

During this grant cycle, the Humanities Council awarded:

\$12,800 to "Twilight of a Neighborhood: Asheville's East End—1970," an oral history/photography project to be conducted by the Trust Fund of the Asheville-Buncombe Library System. The project's point of departure is resident Andrea Clark's extensive collection of documentary photographs of Asheville's East End, a vital, long-established African American neighborhood that by the 1970s had fallen to, as the project director writes, "the wrecking ball and the bulldozer" accompanying urban renewal. Funds will support the gathering of oral histories, the creation of an exhibit catalog, and the development of panel text for exhibit photos. A weekend-long public forum will offer the opportunity for public dialogue about "segregation, community, and urban renewal and its aftermath."

The project director is Karen L. Loughmiller (Karen.loughmiller@buncombecounty.org) of the West Asheville Branch Library (828.250.4750).

\$10,000 to "As I See It: Transitioning Back into the Community," a photography/video/writing initiative designed to assist ex-offenders re-enter the Charlotte community after incarceration. This Center for Community Transitions project aims to boost inmates' written and oral communication skills, confidence, and self-evaluation capacity, with overarching goals of reducing recidivism and improving a re-entry client's quality of life. The CCT will collaborate with photography/video/literary artist Van Miller and humanities scholar Frances Hawthorne to present three twelve-week interactive workshops. The results of these workshops will be compiled into a video presentation, photography show, and companion book of photos and writings to be displayed at a public reception.

-- continued --



The project director is Myra M. Clark (mclark@centerforcommunitytransitions.org). The Center for Community Transitions can be contacted at 704.374.0762.

\$9,876 to the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie, NC, for “Medicine in the Roanoke-Chowan Area—Past and Present,” a multi-pronged project to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital and the 160th anniversary of Chowan University. With storytelling, presentations by folklorists and historians, a symposium, Medical Readers’ Theater, and an oral history component, the project will explore past and present intersections of culture and medicine in the region. Leading scholars include Todd Savitt (Professor of Medical Humanities, Eastern Carolina University) and Ms. Alice Eley Jones (independent historian).

The project will culminate in an oral history narrative available in print and on DVD. For information, contact Sandra Woodard (Sandra.Woodard@PCMH.com). The Roanoke-Chowan Hospital can be contacted at 252.209.3067.

\$9,183 to the Gaston County Public Library in Gastonia, NC, for “Standing on a Box: Lewis Hine’s National Child Labor Committee Photography in Gaston County, 1908,” a multi-part humanities project that focuses on social documentarian Lewis Hine’s investigative photography of child workers in early 20th-century Gaston County textile mills. Events will include a photography exhibition with interpretative text; a scholarly panel discussion of the textile industry history and culture in Gaston County; a public concert featuring music of the era; and a community book-read and poetry readings. The project director is Carol K. Reinhardt (carol.reinhardt@co.gaston.nc.us). The Gaston County Public Library can be contacted at 704.868.2164. Ms. Reinhardt’s extension is 124.

\$9,000 to Together We Read, Inc., of Asheville, NC, for “Together We Read: Boone by Robert Morgan” to support the seventh-annual Western North Carolina community book-read that promises to prompt a region-wide conversation about such topics as historical truth, ecology, European-Indian relations, and African Americans on the frontier. For detailed information about the more than sixty events reaching residents of twenty-one counties, visit [www.togetherweweread.org](http://www.togetherweweread.org). The project director is Rob Neufeld (RNeufeld@charter.net). Together We Read, Inc., can be contacted at 828.505.1973.

\$7,300 to the Carolina Mountains Literary Festival Association in Burnsville, NC, for “‘The Beloved Community’”—Third Annual Carolina Mountains Literary Festival.” The project director explains that the purpose of the festival is to “create an event . . . that will bring the various elements of the community together to celebrate each other through literature.” Session subjects include novel, poetry, and children’s story readings; book and paper making; storytelling for all ages; writer and poetry workshops; live music; a hand-made book display; and special exhibits such as the Stock Car Collection of Appalachian State University. The project’s director is Daniel Barron (drdanbarron@gmail.com). The Carolina Mountains Literary Festival Association can be contacted at its temporary offices at the Regional Library Office (828.682.4476).

\$5,609 to the Neuse River Community Development Corporation in New Bern, NC, for “African American Voices Between Two Rivers,” an oral history initiative to preserve the legacies of elderly African Americans living in the coastal community of New Bern. Interviewees will share, as the project director explains, their own stories of “education, religion, social and economic development, civil rights, and traditional customs.” The project director is Bernard George (georgeb@newbern-nc.org or 252.636.2146). Tharesa Lee at the Neuse River Community Development Corporation can be contacted at 252.639.7582.

\$5,605 to SpiritHouse, Inc., in Durham, NC, for “Development of Gumbo Ya Ya or This is Why We Speak in Tongues,” a twelve-week creative workshop for African women in the Triangle that will, as the project director writes, involve “witnessing, documentation, theater, ethnography, self-actualization methods, film, photography, and movement to empower African American women to speak their truths about ‘lived experiences,’ ‘intimate histories,’ the environment, and personal growth.” SpiritHouse utilizes arts education programming for work in local inner-city Durham communities. The project director is Nancy J. Wilson (spirithousenc@gmail.com). SpiritHouse can be contacted at 919.358.3707.

-- continued --



\$5,000 to the Yadkin County Historical Society in Yadkinville, NC, for the third phase of a documentary film entitled *Gone to the Poorhouse*. The film investigates the history of “poorhouses” in North Carolina. The project will explore the experiences of poorhouse residents, who included the mentally ill, disabled, elderly, and orphaned. It will illuminate how poverty has been defined in our state, examine if and how that definition has changed over time, and consider its implications for responding to citizens in need. The film was conceived almost four years ago, when the project director discovered that her great-grandfather was confined to a Yadkin County poorhouse and died there. The project director is Kim Quintal (wolfiequ@bellsouth.net). The Yadkin County Historical Society can be contacted at 336.679.2702.

\$3,738 to the Haywood Arts Regional Theater (HART) in Waynesville, NC, to support performances of *The Legend of Nance Dude* by Western North Carolina folklorist Gary Carden, which is based on a novel of the same name by Maurice Stanly. The one-woman performance play is a true story that took place in Western North Carolina in 1913. It offers a nuanced analysis of the tragic realities of domestic violence and child abuse. The project director is Steven Lloyd (hartthea@bellsouth.net). The Haywood Arts Regional Theater can be contacted at 828.400.2633.

\$1,000 to the Durham County Library in Durham, NC for “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature—Identity and Imagination,” a six-week, scholar-guided group book discussion on a selection of books regarding the Jewish experience. The series theme is “A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World.” Let’s Talk About It is a popular national program throughout the U.S. This will be its debut in Durham.

The project director is Rheda Epstein (repstein@co.durham.nc.us). The Durham County Library can be contacted at 919.560.0190.

###

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a 37-year-old nonprofit foundation and state-affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Council supports through grants and free public programs vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina. The Council also offers the Road Scholars speakers bureau; the Let’s Talk About It library discussion series; and the Teachers Institute, which is a professional development program for the state’s public school teachers. To learn more about the Council, please visit [www.nchumanities.org](http://www.nchumanities.org).