



MANY STORIES, ONE PEOPLE

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**North Carolina Humanities Council Invests More Than \$76,000
in Eight Cultural Projects Across the State**

GREENSBORO, NC (December 2, 2008) – The North Carolina Humanities Council has awarded over \$76,000 in grants to eight community-based cultural, educational, and nonprofit organizations to conduct humanities programs. In a highly competitive grants award cycle, the Humanities Council funded groups across the state to address subjects as diverse as North Carolina textile history and end-of-life issues. The grant recipients will use varied approaches, such as oral history, drama, fiber art, public symposiums, and webcasts to provide forums for North Carolinians to come together in conversation.

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 public humanities programs that bring people together 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 are integral to the Humanities Council's commitment to vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina.

During this grant cycle, the Humanities Council awarded:

- **\$11,683** to the [Touring Theatre of North Carolina](#) in Greensboro to support the staging and production of *Piece Work*, poems about Piedmont textile workers written by Barbara Presnell, a lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Presnell will introduce each performance with a poem from *Piece Work* and lead a post-performance discussion. Three of the performances are scheduled for the spring of 2009 in collaboration with the Greensboro Public Library's spring poetry festival. A fall tour of

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approximately ten Piedmont community colleges will follow. The program will offer an Internet book discussion forum available to all.

The project director is Ivan Canada, President of the Touring Theatre (performs@ttnc.org or 336.852.0253).

- **\$11,168** to the Apprend Foundation/[Thomas Day Education Project of Durham](#) for **“Uncovering the Hidden History of Thomas Day: The Man, the Masks, and the Methods of Discovery,”** to support a free publication and public symposium that examines the abolitionist ties of Thomas Day, a free black of mixed race and slave-owner who became the most important and largest furniture maker in North Carolina before the Civil War. Collaborating program partners are the Caswell County Historical Association and the Thomas Day House/Union Tavern Restoration.

The project director is Laurel Sneed, Executive Director of the Apprend Foundation (seasneed@aol.com or 919.544.2796).

- **\$10,000** to the [Mountain Area Information Network \(MAIN\)](#) for the **“Asheville Wordfest Media Outreach Project,”** a poetry festival celebrating diversity and community that will be web-broadcast live. MAIN advocates “citizen journalism,” journalism produced by webcams, camera-phones, and upstart websites. Partners in the Asheville Wordfest include the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Warren Wilson College, Bookworks, the School for the Deaf, Mission Hospital, and the Mountain Area Health Education Center.

The project director is Laura Hope-Gill of the Mountain Area Information Network (laurahopegill@aol.com or 828.681.5348).

- **\$10,000** to the [Duke Human Rights Center](#) of Duke University for **“Pauli Murray Project Pilot Narrative: History and Dialogue as a Gateway to Reckoning and Reconciliation,”** a project inspired by Durham native Pauli Murray that promotes discussion and debate in Durham about the difficult chapters of its county’s past and to use history to seek solutions to contemporary problems. Project components include oral history interviews, the development of a documentary piece, and two community forums.

The project director is Robin Kirk of the Duke Human Rights Center and the Franklin Humanities Institute (rights@duke.edu or 919.668.6511).



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- **\$9,693** to the [Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe](#) of Hollister for **“Haliwa Indian School Documentation Phase I,”** a project examining the crucial role played by the Indian School for members of the Haliwa-Saponi tribe. The program will use the creation and closing of the school as entry-point for an examination of the history, the values, and cultural forces that shaped the Haliwa-Saponi experience during the last half-century.

The project director is Archie Lynch, Tribal Administrator of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe (alynch@haliwa-saponi.com or 252.586.4017 ext. 245).

- **\$9,595** to the [End of Life Care Coalition](#) of Eastern North Carolina for **“Facing the End of Life through the Humanities: Artfully Stitching Inclusive Community Partnerships”** to support presentations about aging and the process of dying and exhibits by fabric and thread artist Deidre Scherer, whose work “focuses on the universal issues of age and mortality.” Programs will include a series of book readings, films, lectures, and community workshops to promote interdisciplinary and community dialogue. Project partners include the Greenville Arts Museum (hosting the event), Eastern Central Carolina University, local quilting guilds, the Sheppard Public Library, and Pitt Memorial Hospital.

The project director is Annette Greer (greaa@ecu.edu or 252.744.1288).

- **\$9,327** to the [North Carolina Conference of English Instructors and the North Carolina Community College System](#) for **“Diverse Southern Voices: Gateway to Inspiration, 2009 Southeast Conference for English and Humanities Instructors.”** Funds will make it possible for North Carolina English and Humanities instructors at community colleges to attend the Annual Two-Year College Association’s Southeast Conference in Greensboro for only the cost of meals and accommodations. The wide range of program sessions includes literature, composition, technical writing, humanities, critical thinking, Southern culture, storytelling, creative writing, developmental writing and ESL, online teaching, learning communities and service learning.

The project director is JoAnn Buck, English Department Chair of Guilford Technical Community College (jmbuck@gtcc.edu or at 336.506.4206).

- **\$5,000** to the [Charlotte Symphony Orchestra](#) for **“Daybreak of Freedom,”** a multi-media component to the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Concert. The presentation will combine historical interviews and images from Charlotte’s Civil Rights Movement with text from various speeches of Dr.



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King's. The project includes community-based lectures, demonstrations, and panel discussions, which will take place at the Mint Museum, the Levine Museum of the New South, the Excelsior Club, and the African American Cultural Center.

The project director is Susan Miville, Director of Education and Community Partnership (susanm@charlottesymphony.org or 704.714.5109).

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The **North Carolina Humanities Council** is a 37-year-old statewide nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Council supports through grants and public humanities programs vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina. In addition to **grants** and **publications**, the Council offers the **Road Scholars** speakers bureau; the **Let's Talk About It** library discussion series; **Museum on Main Street**; and the **Teachers Institute**, a professional development program for the state's public school teachers. To learn more about the North Carolina Humanities Council, visit www.nchumanities.org.