



NORTH CAROLINA
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL

MANY STORIES, ONE PEOPLE

For immediate release
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North Carolina Humanities Council invests more than \$56,000 in eight groups around the state

The North Carolina Humanities Council has awarded \$56,878 in grants to eight cultural and educational organizations to conduct humanities programs. The Humanities Council, a 36-year-old nonprofit foundation and state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, awards more than \$230,000 to groups from Murphy to Manteo every year. This support allows the community groups and nonprofits to provide free 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 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 the following grants:

- **\$4,541 to Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, N.C.**, for work with the Upper Catawba Valley Archeology Project on a two-part film on the **Fall of Fort San Juan**. The funds will support planning, research, and an evaluation meeting for scholars who will scrutinize a script treatment for a two-part film. Built in 1567, the Fort is considered to be the first permanent Spanish settlements on the interior of North America. Archeologists made a major discovery in 1986 at what is known as the "Berry Site" in Morganton. The film follows the military expedition of Captain Juan Pardo, who "established six forts across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee" to "examine the little-known period in history that ended with the cessation of Spanish exploration and ruin for the North American native population."
- **\$5,674 to the Cape Fear Museum of History and Science in Wilmington, N.C.**, for **Community Conversations: The Early Experiences in the Lower Cape Fear**, a series of "community conversations exploring the stories of the Lower Cape Fear region ... [which will] feature notable and knowledgeable guest scholars" with the intent of "revising our core gallery exhibit." The focus will be on the period from "pre-history" to the American Revolution and "will put the longleaf pine forest and waterways at the center of interpretation" and "explore the role of these natural resources in the lives of Native Americans, European settlers, and Africans ... Placing the forest, river and the ocean as the core of our interpretation will help visitors understand dynamic relationships between the people who lived in the region ... [as well as] the historic and economic development of southeastern North Carolina."



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- **\$9,734 to Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN) in Asheville and Black Mountain, N.C.**, for the **Asheville Wordfest Media Outreach Project** to support a multi-media poetry festival. Events will take place April 25-26, 2008 in Asheville and Black Mountain. The festival includes readings by renowned poets Simon Ortiz, Glenis Redmond, and Patricia Smith; workshops led by local Asheville citizens active in writing and teaching poetry; and a discussion led by Galway Kinnell, a distinguished writer and graduate of Black Mountain College. Events will be broadcast simultaneously on the Internet and will also be made available later for public use.
- **\$10,000 to the Lincoln County Historical Association in Lincolnton, N.C.**, to support the **Lincoln County Voices Oral History Project** to “document, preserve, and spotlight the history and heritage of the [local] African-American community ... through collected personal stories and the location of documents, photographs, and other artifacts and objects related to this community.” The project promises a multi-pronged delivery of programs including a website featuring biographies and photographs of, and related to, these citizens, streaming audio files as well as searchable transcripts of the interviews, a booklet about the project, and a public presentation.
- **\$6,104 to UNC Pembroke in Pembroke, N.C.**, for **The Elder Teachers Project** to “collect, document, publicly present, and preserve the stories and insights of six elder Lumbee teachers who taught during the years of segregation in Robeson County.” In addition to interviews with each elder, the teachers will present some of their stories at six venues: Indian Education Parent Councils; Lumbee Homecoming; UNC Chapel Hill Native American student association and research center; Pembroke teaching fellows; State Advisory Council for Indian Education and the Social Studies Division of DPI; and Robeson County Museum Association.
- **\$5,000 to the Department of English at North Carolina State University in Raleigh** for preliminary work on **North Carolina’s State Asylum for the Colored Insane: A Documentary**. Located in Goldsboro, NC, the asylum opened in 1880 and is now known as Cherry Hospital. The project will film “interviews with hospital workers and nearby residents who remember the still functioning facility’s non-integrated past, as well as with humanities scholars specializing in the history of race and mental illness in the U.S.” The project directors are scholars of film and are filmmakers themselves. The cinematographer works regularly with Dr. Walt Wolfram, a well-known scholar of culture and language in North Carolina.
- **\$5,000 to the Black Heritage Society, DBA Cultural Heritage Museum in Kinston, N.C.**, for **Earning the Right to Citizenship-IV**, to support “a free symposium on African American participation in the Civil War.” The event will include a workshop targeted at 8th grade teachers in adjacent counties and a “mini-documentary on U.S. Colored Troops, battles and encampments in NC.” “The video will include images of USCT in action (fall of Wilmington re-enactment), historical interpretations of significant figures, narratives from scholars and follow-up references.”
- **\$10,825 to Student Action with Farmworkers in Durham, N.C.**, for **Nuestras Historias/Nuestro Suenos--Our History/Our Dreams: Latino Immigrants in North Carolina**. The grant will support documentary fieldwork by student interns collecting oral histories of the traditions, culture, and educational aspirations of migrant farmworkers. A part of the request is to fund the intensive documentary training sessions presented by scholars. The majority of the interns are from farmworker families and will be linking to past interns, forming a cadre of trained fieldworkers who have the potential to continue identifying, preserving and presenting farmworker life to the general public for years to come. Next summer’s project will be the third year of collaboration with the Center for Documentary Studies. Together, they will produce bi-lingual publications, a traveling exhibit, radio programs, and a multi-media website. The formal opening of the public exhibit is planned for fall 2008.

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