Dear fellow North Carolinians,

Since 1972 the North Carolina Humanities Council has been dedicated to enriching the quality of life for all North Carolinians. As an organization, we believe that through public scholarship and community conversations, we can deepen our understanding of one another and our state’s rich heritage, history and people.

From serving rural communities with programs such as our Road Scholars speaker’s bureau and Let’s Talk About It library discussion series to special themed programs like our Veterans Reading Groups and 2017 thematic initiative *Journey in the New South*, the Council reaches thousands of North Carolinians each year. In such a diverse state, we ensure that cultural organizations have access to quality, affordable programming and capacity development opportunities. With our 45 plus years of program expertise, we also provide one-on-one technical assistance, grant writing consultations, referrals and other services to our prospective grantees and project directors.

In 2017, the North Carolina Humanities Council served over 141,900 North Carolinians across the state through program services and grant making. The Council supported over 150 organizations, reaching diverse populations and locations. These organizations match the Council’s investment with in-kind and cash contributions from their communities to leverage and maximize cost efficiency and educational opportunities. All community programs support the North Carolina Humanities Council’s mission.

We hope you will visit our website, www.nchumanities.org, to learn more about our work and impact across North Carolina.

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sincerely,

Sherry Paula Watkins
Executive Director
**HARLAN JOEL GRADIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE PUBLIC HUMANITIES**

“PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE,” 2017 WINNER

The Council’s 2017 Gradin Award was presented to St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Winston-Salem for their project “Preserving our Heritage.” Local Paisley IB Magnet School students conducted genealogical research on veterans buried at Odd Fellows Cemetery, one of Winston-Salem’s most prominent African-American historical sites. The project gave students the opportunity to examine the historical experience of serving in our nation’s military.

The Gradin Award is presented to outstanding and imaginative public humanities projects that are funded in part by the Council and affirm its mission. The award is named in honor of Harlan Joel Gradin, a former Council staff member from 1991-2011.

**LINDA FLOWERS LITERARY AWARD**

AARON BALLANCE, 2017 WINNER

The Council’s 2017 Linda Flowers Literary Award was presented to Aaron Ballance for his entries of “Sugarfoot,” “Old Trouble,” “The Peaks,” “One-Eyed Jenny,” “The Brink,” “Leading Flash to the Barn – January” and “Rust.” Statewide judges, Hannah Dela Cruz Abrams, Krista Bremer and Jaki Shelton Green, described Ballance’s work as a “wonderful stream of consciousness narrative” whose “grittiness in language takes you to a grounded place” and “embodies the spirit of the award.” Ballance was presented the award during a North Carolina Writers’ Network Fall Conference panel led by Council Trustee Marian Fragola. Ballance received an honorarium and a residency at Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities.

The Flowers Award is a statewide literary contest that honors the late Linda Flowers, who served as a Council Trustee from 1992-1998. The award recognizes humanities excellence and celebrates North Carolina experiences through writing.
In Chapel Hill on October 27, 2017, the Council presented Bland Simpson with the 2017 Caldwell Award for his exemplary and inspiring career as an environmentalist, musician, professor and humanities advocate.

Simpson began his teaching career over 30 years ago at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he is a Kenan Distinguished Professor of English & Creative Writing, a recognition reserved for exceptional faculty members. As an author, his novels and creative non-fiction have given readers a captivating look into North Carolina's history, cultures and environments.

Tom Earnhardt, writer, producer and host of UNC-TV's "Exploring North Carolina," delivered the 2017 Caldwell Lecture in the Humanities entitled, "The Humanities and Nature: An Intimate Relationship." The lecture was followed by the bestowing of the Caldwell Laureate medal by Ann Cary Simpson. Bland Simpson, a longtime member of the musical group The Red Clay Ramblers, ended the ceremony by leading the audience in a song: *The Old North State.*

The 2017 Caldwell Award ceremony was supported by the Friday Center, the National Humanities Center, *Our State*, the UNC-Chapel Hill College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English and Comparative Literature, and Creative Writing Program, the North Carolina Writers' Network and Thomas S. Kenan, III.

The Caldwell Award recognizes those exceptional individuals who, throughout their lives and careers, have strengthened the educational, cultural and civic life of North Carolinians. Inaugurated in 1990, the award is named for the late Dr. John Tyler Caldwell, a founder of the North Carolina Humanities Council.
### 2017 Annual Report

#### Program Spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th># Awarded</th>
<th>$ Awarded</th>
<th># Served</th>
<th># Orgs Served</th>
<th>Leveraged Cost Share</th>
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<tr>
<td>Road Scholars</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>$40,950</td>
<td>7,499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let's Talk About It</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>Literature and Medicine</td>
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<td>Thematic Initiatives</td>
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<td>*Large Grants</td>
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<td>Grassroots Grants</td>
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<td>Planning Grants</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>182</strong></td>
<td><strong>$253,277</strong></td>
<td><strong>141,921</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>$743,291.34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Large, Grassroots and Planning Grants
Awards supporting public humanities projects allow North Carolinians of all ages, backgrounds and geographic locations access to the public humanities and the educational and community building benefits they offer. In 2017, the Council offered Planning Grants (up to $750), Grassroots Grants (up to $2,000) and Large Grants (up to $20,000) for the implementation or planning of humanities-based programming.

#### Let's Talk About It
This library discussion series connects scholars and communities through literature, poetry & film. Let's Talk About It is a program of the North Carolina Humanities Council, the State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

#### Literature and Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare *
A national, award-winning reading and discussion program specific to health care professionals. By sharing their reflections with their colleagues, health care professionals are able to better empathize with their patients and build deeper collaborations with one another in their daily work.

#### Road Scholars
A humanities-based lecture program bringing the public a variety of presentations which explore the nuances of culture, identity and community. The Council works with an array of organizations from across the state including historical societies, civic groups, community colleges, churches, libraries, retirement centers, museums, universities and others to host these events. This program reaches rural and underserved areas within North Carolina.

#### Thematic Initiatives
The North Carolina Humanities Council offers rotating, multi-faceted programs that address a particular topic relevant to our nation and state. Initiatives may include various projects, events and grant opportunities related to the designated theme. In 2017, the Council’s thematic initiative was Journey in the New South.

#### Veterans Reading Groups
A national, scholar-led humanities reading and discussion program for veterans that uses the humanities to build community among those who have military experience.

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*Note: 3 of the 6 Large Grant projects are still in progress as of October, 2017. Final data is available upon request.*
Journey in the New South engaged North Carolina communities in deep conversations using our state’s rich cultural heritage and humanities scholarship to create spaces for cross-cultural interactions that lead to greater cultural, ethnic and racial understanding. Thematic initiative programs were partially funded by a $15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“Latinx en el Nuevo Sur,” Charlotte
Collaborator: National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC)
June 2-3, 2017; A series of panels, workshops and presentations exploring what it means to be Latinx in the South.

“Harm Free Zone Southern Regional Book Study,” Durham
Collaborator: Spirit House
March-June, 2017; Over the course of four months, 160 North Carolinians and other individuals across 14 states read Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice In Prisons Around the World. The Council sponsored a convening with author Dr. Baz Dreisinger and participating readers to discuss the state of justice in a global context.

“Keith Scott Shooting, 1 Year After. What Have We Learned?,” Charlotte
Collaborator: Consolidated Media Alliance
September 13, 2017; Observing the one-year anniversary of the Keith Scott shooting in Charlotte, community members and leaders gathered to explore the impact the shooting and protests had on the city. Consolidated Media Alliance is a partnership between The Charlotte Post, QCityMetro and NewsReleaseNow.

“On the Table CLT,” Charlotte
Collaborator: Charlotte Observer
October 25, 2017; Over breakfast, former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt and rising community advocate James Ford discussed Charlotte’s capacity to become a more connected, dynamic and opportunity-rich community. The discussion was followed by facilitator-led group conversations among audience members.
The North Carolina Humanities Council awarded $120,000 in Large Grants for public humanities projects of extended scope that explore North Carolina’s rich diversity, traditions and cultures.

$20,000 to “Black Mountain College Semester”  
*Grantee:* Appalachian State University, Boone  
Funding supported a multi-site exhibition series, special editions of the *Appalachian Journal* and a multipurpose digital timeline that engaged participants in the world of the 1930’s innovative, art-centric teaching traditions of the now closed Black Mountain College.

$20,000 to “The Virtual Martin Luther King Project”  
*Grantee:* North Carolina State University, Raleigh  
Funding supported expanding access to the walk-in, gaming and virtual reality components of this digital humanities experience both online and in physical spaces. Featured content is a fully immersive recreation of Dr. King’s “Fill Up the Jails” speech, delivered in 1960.

$20,000 to “Critical Thinking and Process of Discovery: Teachers Studying the Art and Chemistry of Light”  
*Grantee:* University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
Funding supported a Charlotte Teachers Institute seminar that allowed teachers to create original curricula based on their research. Curricula will be taught to students in Spring 2019.

$20,000 to “Swords to Plowshares Memorial Belltower Centennial Tour”  
*Grantee:* Veterans For Peace Chapter 157, Raleigh  
Funding supported a touring memorial that afforded visitors the opportunity to engage with the stories of war and share how they have been affected by writing inscriptions on its plaques. A multi-media website, three short documentaries and a photography exhibition accompanied by veterans’ writings were also created.

$20,000 to “At a Stranger’s Table: An In-Depth Introduction to the Eastern North Carolina Latino Field Workers”  
*Grantee:* Asociacion de Mexico en Carolina del Norte Amexcán, Greenville  
Funding supported oral history collection and components of a documentary examining North Carolina Latino field workers and their contributions to the production of produce and tobacco.

$20,000 to “The Child Character in Southern Literature and Film”  
*Grantee:* University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
Funding supported multi-faceted events for participants that examined the function of the child character in Southern literature and film and the realities of Southern childhood throughout history.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUES

Public Support
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)..............$965,600
Other gifts and grants.........................................................70,616

Other Revenue
Interest income.................................................................$823
Investment income...........................................................106,336

Total Revenue.....................................................................$1,143,375

EXPENSES

Program Services
Program Activities..........................................................$203,921
Caldwell Program..............................................................20,738
Road Scholars....................................................................47,544
Teachers Institute..............................................................12,948
Let’s Talk About It.............................................................36,246
Literature and Medicine..................................................13,099
Museum on Main Street...................................................11,173
Veterans Reading Group.................................................10,262
Pulitzer..............................................................................13,904
Teachers Workshops.........................................................630
Humanities Moments.......................................................1,892
NEH Special Projects......................................................563
Journey in the New South................................................12,680
Linda Flowers Award.......................................................2,005
Re-grants - NEH funds.....................................................194,671

Supporting Services
Management and general ................................................$310,750
Public relations.................................................................14,396
Fund-raising.................................................................106,250

Total Expenses..................................................................$1,013,672

Net Assets
Changes in net assets......................................................$129,703
Net assets, beginning of year..........................................1,536,290

Net assets, ending..............................................................$1,665,993

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Fiscal Year 2017 (November 1, 2016-October 31, 2017). The audited statement for fiscal year 2017 is available upon request.
CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Our programs are made possible through the generous support of people like you! Please help us continue to deliver these crucial, life-changing programs with a tax-deductible donation today. For more information please call Melanie Moore at (704) 687-1520.

DONATE ONLINE at www.nchumanities.org

TYPES OF GIFTS:

UNRESTRICTED GIVING — Unrestricted gifts support the Council wherever the need is greatest. Gifts toward operational support ensure organizational sustainability for essential day-to-day activities and flexible programming.

RESTRICTED GIVING — Gifts may be given to any of the North Carolina Humanities Council’s programs, allowing you to support programs most closely aligned with your passion or interests.

WAYS TO GIVE:

CASH GIFTS — A gift of cash is the most common gift.

PLEDGE GIFTS — A pledge of support over a period of time allows you to support the Council at a higher level of commitment while enjoying a more flexible payment method.

MATCHING GIFTS — Businesses and corporations often offer matching gift programs that match dollar-for-dollar charitable contributions given by their employees and, in some cases, former employees. Please consult your employer to see if your gift is eligible to be matched.

BEQUESTS AND PLANNED GIVING — Please consult your financial planner for information about how to name the North Carolina Humanities Council in your Will.

GIFTS OF STOCK — Please consult your financial planner for information about how to transfer shares of stock to the North Carolina Humanities Council.

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NOVEMBER 1, 2016- OCTOBER 31, 2017

*Indicates Gubernatorial Appointee

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North Carolina Humanities Council Mission: The North Carolina Humanities Council serves as an advocate for lifelong learning and thoughtful dialogue about all facets of human life. We facilitate the exploration and celebration of the many voices and stories of North Carolina’s cultures and heritage. Through our programs we seek to cultivate informed and active citizenship as an outgrowth of new awareness of self and community.

North Carolina Humanities Council Vision: The North Carolina Humanities Council envisions people who explore their personal and collective stories asking fundamental questions about identity, work, and culture; learning to value others’ stories and perspectives; and transforming their lives and communities through new reflections and new visions.

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.