



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
humanities

*Connecting people with ideas*

through free public events, literacy programs, and grantmaking.

*New Hampshire Humanities provides wide-ranging and thought-provoking, humanities-based programs that connect people across New Hampshire to culture, history, places, ideas, and each other.*

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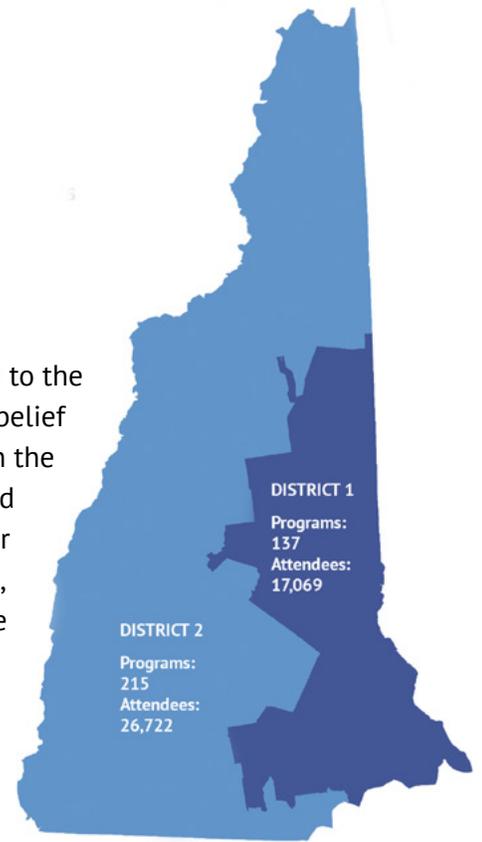
Humanities on the Hill  
March 2021



# NEW HAMPSHIRE humanities

## At a Glance

We believe that education is a lifelong process and is vital to each individual and to the strength of our communities, our state, and the nation. More specifically, it is our belief that engagement with the humanities and their capacity to explore stories within the American experience is critical to an understanding of the democratic process and enriches the lives of all people in New Hampshire. The quality and integrity of our programs, grants, and opportunities requires that they be offered by, accessible to, and in collaboration with a diverse group of people, especially the voices of those whose stories have not been fully or accurately represented throughout history. In fulfilling our mission of reaching all people of this state, we will strive to be inclusive and equitable in all that we do.



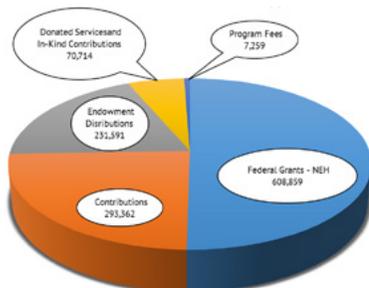
[www.nhhumanities.org](http://www.nhhumanities.org)

## Programs by District

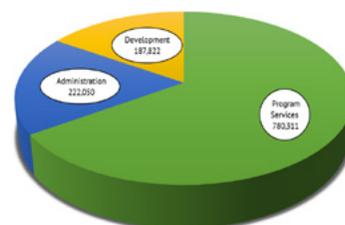
	<u>2020</u> (Pandemic year)	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
District 1	137	282	269
District 2	215	478	375
Virtual	144	n/a	n/a
Total Programs	496	749*	644
Residents Served	54,951	241,034	144,174
Communities Served	92	170	170
Partner Organizations	343	338	320

*\*Some single event presentations, some multi-event projects or series*

### Fiscal Year 2020 Revenue & Support



### Fiscal Year 2020 Expenses

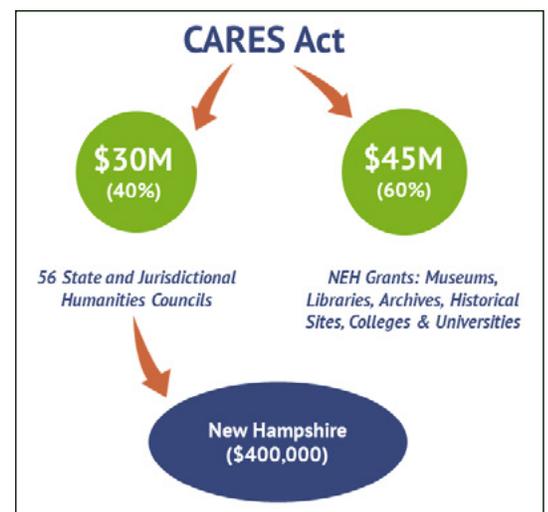


# CARES Act Awards



In April 2020 Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), providing \$75 million in supplemental funding, including general operating support, to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus. \$30 million of that was allocated to our state and jurisdictional humanities organizations to support grants to eligible nonprofits for humanities programming and general operating support.

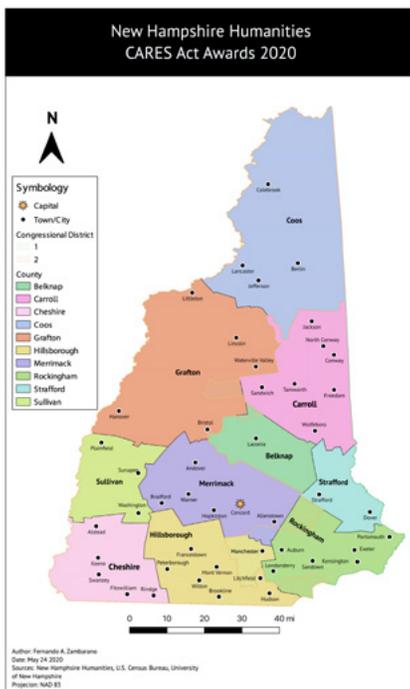
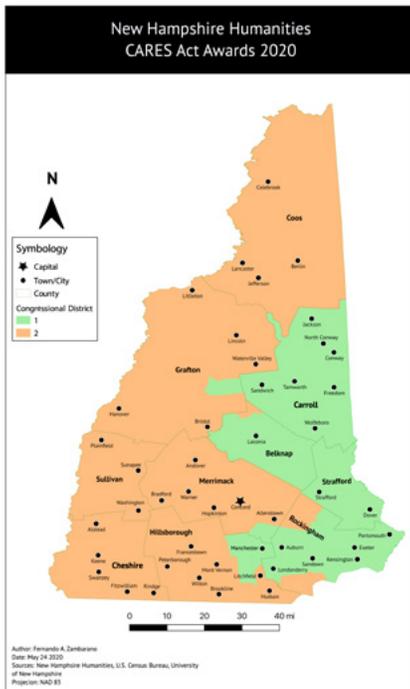
In total, New Hampshire Humanities (NHH) received \$420,200 in supplemental funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). After retaining \$20,200 (5%) of the award for administrative overhead, NHH launched our CARES Act General Operating Support Grants Program to disseminate \$400,000 to eligible New Hampshire-based cultural nonprofits and public libraries.



While we anticipated a high level of demand, the depth and breadth of financial need was immediately apparent. NHH launched the CARES Grant Program on May 1 and received applications from 89 organizations seeking support. Eighty percent of the applicant organizations indicated they were applying for financial support to sustain and maintain their operations during the pandemic. After careful review, NHH funded 64 applications, granting awards that ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000, and provided general operating support to recipient organizations. Over thirteen business days, we committed all grants funds available and positively impacted 47 communities throughout the Granite State.

*“Words cannot express the joy and gratitude I feel. We whole heartedly thank you for this grant award. When I shared the news with our founder, through tears, smiles, and excitement I said, ‘We are going to survive 2020, our 20th anniversary!’ You will never know how much this means to our organization as we redefine our existence and our future through this new normal.” ~ CARES Act Grant Recipient*

# CARES Act Awards



## Organizations that received 2020 CARES Act support through New Hampshire Humanities

### Belknap County

Belknap Mill Society  
 Carroll County  
 Cook Memorial Library  
 Freedom Public Library  
 Friends of the Conway Public Library  
 Jackson Public Library  
 New Hampshire Boat Museum  
 North Conway Public Library  
 Samuel H. Wentworth Library  
 Tamworth History Center  
 Cheshire County  
 Cathedral of the Pines  
 Fitzwilliam Town Library  
 Historical Society of Cheshire Country  
 Mill Hollow Heritage Association  
 Mt. Caesar Union Library  
 Shedd-Porter Memorial Library

Peterborough Historical Society DBA  
 Monadnock Center for History and Culture  
 Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library  
 World Affairs Council of New Hampshire

### Merrimack County

Allenstown Public Library  
 Andover Historical Society  
 Bradford Historical Society  
 Hopkinton Historical Society, New Hampshire  
 Antiquarian Society  
 DBA Kimball Jenkins Inc.  
 NH Institute for Civics Education  
 New Hampshire Preservation Alliance  
 New Hampshire Telephone Museum  
 Park Street Foundation, NH State Library  
 Warner Historical Society

### Rockingham County

American Independence Museum  
 Black Heritage Trail of NH, Inc.  
 Griffin Free Public Library  
 Kensington Public Library  
 Londonderry Historical Society  
 National Society of the Colonial Dames  
 of America in NH  
 New Hampshire Theatre Project  
 NH Aviation Historical Society  
 DBA Aviation Museum of NH  
 Portsmouth Submarine Memorial Association  
 Sandown Public Library  
 Seacoast African American Cultural Center  
 Warner House Association

### Strafford County

Annie E. Woodman Institute Museum  
 New Durham Public Library

### Sullivan County

Plainfield Public Libraries  
 Sunapee Historical Society, Inc.  
 Washington Historical Society

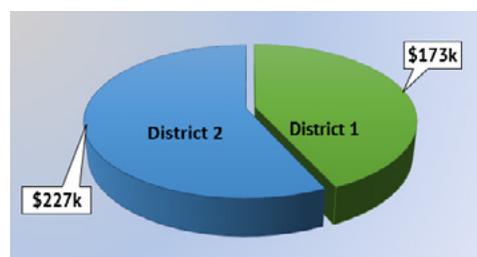
### Coos County

Berlin & Coos County Historical Society  
 Berlin Public Library  
 Jefferson Historical Society  
 Lancaster Historical Society  
 Poore Family Foundation for  
 North Country Conservancy  
 Grafton County  
 Hanover Historical Society  
 Lincoln Public Library  
 Littleton Public Library  
 Margret & H.A. Rey Center  
 Minot-Sleeper Library

### Hillsborough County

Aaron Cutler Memorial Library  
 Brookline Public Library  
 Daland Memorial Library  
 George H. Bixby Memorial Library  
 Global Citizens Circle  
 Hudson Historical Society  
 Journeys in Education DBA Mariposa Museum  
 Manchester Historic Association

## Awards by district



## Awards organizational type





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## Program Offerings

### Humanities to Go

Through *Humanities to Go*, our statewide speakers bureau, nonprofit organizations and community groups can offer high quality cultural programming to the public at minimal cost to the host. In response to the pandemic, we are offering new and traditional programming in more accessible online formats. [nhhumanities.org/humanitiestogo](https://nhhumanities.org/humanitiestogo)

### Humanities@Work

A workplace-based initiative that enables New Hampshire employers to bring high quality, innovative humanities programs into the workplace. Humanities@Work is the recipient of a *NH Business Review* 2020 Best of Business Award for "Best Way to Bring Culture Into the Workplace." [nhhumanities.org/HAW](https://nhhumanities.org/HAW)

### Connections

Our adult literacy program brings quality books and stimulating discussions to 500+ adult learners to promote English language skills, cultivate conversations about ideas, reinforce family literacy, reading, and encourage civic engagement. [nhhumanities.org/Connections](https://nhhumanities.org/Connections)

### Community Project Grants

Community Project Grants disseminate federal awards to New Hampshire non-profits to lead public humanities programs. We offer two types of grants: Mini grants provide up to \$2,000 in funds; Major grants provide up to \$10,000. [nhhumanities.org/grants](https://nhhumanities.org/grants)

### Ideas on Tap

Pint-sized conversations about big ideas: Lively community conversations in casual pub settings, on a variety of contemporary topics, such as artificial intelligence, fake news, income inequality, higher education, and more. [nhhumanities.org/ideas](https://nhhumanities.org/ideas)

### Black Thought

A new series from New Hampshire Humanities that focuses on Black perspectives on the humanities. [nhhumanities.org/BlackThought](https://nhhumanities.org/BlackThought)

## CONNECTIONS READING & DISCUSSION GROUPS

# More Than Data

Mary Nolin, Program Manager, *Connections*

An interviewer once asked of the *Connections* program, “If we can’t measure your impact, what is the point of doing it?” In a world driven by data and the need for measurable impacts, the pressures on programs to report out metrics, demographics, or skills gain are realities of our modern society. Grant funding and philanthropic support often depend on it. This need for data is important. But it can sometimes be difficult for a program that is also based so much on personal stories, heart-felt emotions, and learning experiences lead by participant discussion. Below are stories that reflect some of the deeper impacts of the *Connections* program from New Hampshire Humanities.



For Meena, a refugee from Bhutan living in Concord, her moment came while reading a *Connections* book in a financial unit of her English class titled, *A Chair For My Mother* by Vera B. Williams. In the story, a mother, daughter, and grandmother save money in a big jar to buy a comfortable

armchair after their life’s belongings were lost in a fire. When asked to share a page from the book that was important to her, she chose the following illustration. Meena said that her own family saves money like this. Everyone contributes to buy clothes and things they need. She then promptly sent a picture of her own money jar in her class’ group text. This prompted a larger discussion about the role of money and savings in countries around the world. A commonality amongst all students was the money jar and its unique ability to collect our coins.



For Miryam, another *Connections* participant, her moment played a more practical role in her life and came during a naturalization test for United States citizenship. Coming from Sudan in 2014, Miryam has been dedicated to learning all the necessary civic values, systems of government, and US history required for US citizenship. She has done this through unwavering dedication to English class, a private tutor, and listening to citizenship questions daily on her television. She also read the *Connections* book *Two Friends: The Story of Susan B. Anthony* and *Frederick Douglass* by Dean Robbins with her English class at Second Start in the days leading up to her citizenship exam. She thrived in group conversation around

“I wish I could write books, but I don’t have that ability; instead, I’m glad I’m a reader.”

- *Connections* participant

American history and easily answered practice citizenship questions. In her written reflection on the book she wrote, “Susan B. Anthony was important because she was a teacher and speaker around the country, and she fought for women’s rights too.” On December 18th, 2020, Miryam received US citizenship! When asked by her teachers if they asked a question about Susan B. Anthony on her citizenship test, she responded, “Yes they did, and I knew the answer.”



Finally, just as life changed for so many in 2020, the *Connections* program has also changed with a transition to the virtual space in response to COVID-19. Many adult education centers have stayed remote since March, forcing participants to learn from home online. For an immigrant family from Romania, their moment happened as a family in a virtual *Connections* series at Derry Adult Education led by longtime *Connections* facilitator, Maren Tirabassi. Alina, Marius, and their 10-year-old son Andrei all attended the online book discussion. They learned about themes of working together in friendship, humans’ relationship with nature, and the impact of technology on the environment. Alina reflected on her experience reading the three books below in their online, class community.

“Even if the presentation of the books was done with the help of the ZOOM platform, the effect was very good. I almost didn’t feel the difference, and this is Maren’s merit. I really enjoy reading, especially biographies and nonfiction books and this little Book Club, as I like to call it, gave me the chance to discover reading in a different language. The books presented by Maren in this session had interesting, current topics that can be useful in our daily lives. The world of books is fascinating and unpredictable, and the imagination of writers without borders. I wish I could write books, but I don’t have that ability; instead I’m glad I’m a reader.”

To return to the initial question of “What’s the point in doing something if we can’t measure it?” The answer is simple. Some impacts cannot always be measured. Literature, even in the simplest of children’s books, can hold tremendous power and create some of our fondest life memories. Sometimes stories, and the way they make us think or feel, cannot be captured by a spreadsheet or a datapoint. However, that does not make them less important. In fact, it makes them more important. For they reveal the true heart of the *Connections* program.

# What Does It Mean to be an American?

By Barbara Visciano

“Liberty and Justice for All”  
“All Men are Created Equal”

For all Americans, these words ring true as the promises made in the founding of our country. For those who seek to learn about America, the understanding of what these words mean and how they are demonstrated in our culture is fundamental.



In a recent New Hampshire Humanities (NHH) *Connections* program requested by **Barbara Visciano**, teacher of the **ESL Civics Reading and Discussion Class at the Dover Adult Learning Center**, the concept of liberty and justice in our history was the topic of exploration. Using four picture books during the four week series, facilitator **Bill Badgley** took these students on an historical journey to four periods in American history during which there were struggles to live up to ideals set forth in our founding documents. He posed the essential question: **What is an American?**

In the first class, students read ***Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton*** by Tanya Lee Stone and were introduced to this early suffragette and her role in securing the vote for women. Following that, the role of the Underground Railroad and the injustices of slavery were discussed using ***Follow the Drinking Gourd*** by Jeanette Winter. The need to continue addressing the full inclusion of African Americans was brought to light in reading ***Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*** by Andrea Pinkney. ***How Baseball Saved Us*** by Ken Mochizuki gave students a look at the issue of Japanese Internment in WWII from the perspective of a young boy. Students were delighted to learn that this NHH *Connections* program allowed them to keep these books to add to their personal libraries.

Discussions led by Bill during the program were rich and probing. Students brought perspective from their native countries and were quick to point out the universal quest for freedom and dignity. They grappled with the question of civil disobedience in the face of cruelty and injustice as during the times of slavery and racial discrimination. **“I really like these books because the other books I read say in the United States all men are created equal, but these books tell more of American history,”** said one student.

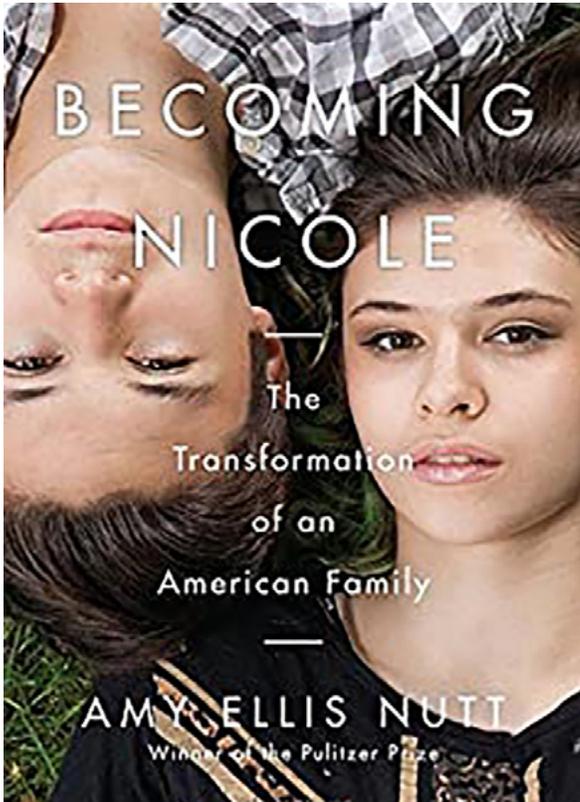


They recognized the impact of marginalizing groups of people and dismissing the cultures of those who may come from other places. **“It's not just the Japanese that needed to be saved. America needed to be saved to be able to include everyone,”** was the response of one student after reading *Baseball Saved Us*. **“Being in a Japanese internment camp broke their culture,”** reflected another.

Some students read the books to their children and saw in their reactions the suffering of those who were not treated with respect because of their differences. **“My children are Chinese children and here in school in America. I read the books to them and my young son cried when he heard about how the Japanese boy in the story was treated. I like when my children learn from the books about everyone being the same,”** shared student, Lin Huang, in evaluating the program. Another student, Yaling Liu, is anxious to give her books to her son when she returns to her native country in order to help him understand America.

In answer to the question: What is an American? Tereza Leite, a newly naturalized American citizen, commented, **“When we feel welcome and a part of the community, we are American. If I don't feel welcome, I will never really be an American.”** One could not ask for a simpler or more important truth.

## 15 libraries and a bookstore come together for One Book One Valley



Organized through the cooperative efforts of libraries, schools, and organizations in the Mount Washington Valley, *One Book, One Valley* is an annual community reading program that aims to strengthen community ties, promote literacy through a shared reading experience, and encourage wide-spread discussion of a common book throughout region. For 2019, the program's 14th anniversary, conveners selected *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of An American Family* by journalist Amy Ellis Nutt, which explores one family's experience with the transition of their son to a girl named Nicole. The organizers selected this book to initiate conversations about the transgendered people's lived experiences and more broadly, to prompt individuals of all genders to reflect on their gender and gender identity.

During the fall of 2019, 368 people participated in the range of programs hosted by the partner libraries and organizations. These included a Gender 101 lecture, a film screening and community discussions with transgender people. The program culminated with an author talk with Amy Ellis Nutt. At the end of the series, participants expressed their appreciation for the program and how they gained a "better understanding of another slice of the human experience."

*"The most meaningful outcome [from this program] has been the deep gratitude of local transgender persons and their families. I have heard from a transgender woman who expressed how much this year's program made her feel accepted and gave a natural way for her to share information about what it means to be a transgender woman. One grandmother of a transgender teen was grateful for the education component and the conversations that were informed by the reading of the book. One longtime member of the community, a transgender woman, told one of our librarians how she felt "seen" for the first time. One grandfather who had just learned that his grandchild came out as transgender came to a program looking for information on what that means."*

– Mary Cronin, Project Director

# COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

## Major Grants

(up to \$10,000 in funds)

ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY\*

### **All Aboard! Economic, Social and Environmental Change During New Hampshire's Railroad Era**

A multi-town, multi-event collaboration that explored the social, economic, and environmental impact of railroads' construction in rural towns and on Native American society. (\$2,902)

BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NH

### **Tea Talks Expansion: Raising Awareness of NH's Black History to Build Inclusive Communities Today**

A three-event program that brought the Black Heritage Trail's successful *Tea Talks* community discussions to Nashua, Keene, and Plymouth. (\$6,550)

CURRIER MUSEUM OF ART

### **For Freedoms at The Currier: Town Hall Conversations**

The Currier Museum of Art, in collaboration with the artist group For Freedoms, organized four town hall events inspired by the four human rights that President Roosevelt named in his 1941 State of the Union Address: freedom of speech, of worship, from want, and from fear. (\$7,500)

FRIENDS OF COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### **One Book One Valley 2019**

In its 14th year, One Book One Valley chose *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* for its community reading program, using the book as a launching point to discuss the experiences of transgender people and gender identity. (\$3,000)

NH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **New Hampshire History Institute: Elementary Social Studies Teacher Training**

Three virtual workshops introduced social studies teachers to the NH Historical Society's "Moose on the Loose" curriculum and offered additional resources for teaching the American Revolution. (\$6,000)

NH LISTENS & URBAN RURAL ACTION

### **Deepening Connection and Understanding Across NH's Urban Rural Divide**

A collaboration between NH Listens and Urban Rural Action, a series of interactive gatherings focused on constructive conversation across differences brought residents of NH together and laid the foundation for participants to work together to strengthen their communities. (\$10,000)

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSEUM OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS\*

### **Speaker Series for Wayfinding: Maps of the White Mountains**

A 10-event series featuring speakers to talk about the history and current practices of maps and map-making in the White Mountains, to accompany the exhibition, "Wayfinding: Maps of the White Mountains." (\$2,850)

PONTINE THEATRE

### **Plains Speaking: Portsmouth's 1696 Massacre in Fact & Fiction**

A four-event series hosted by the Pontine Theatre that explored the history and legacy of the 1696 Portsmouth Plains massacre. (\$4,850)

RACIAL UNITY TEAM

### **It's More Than Skin Deep: Skin Color and Its Impact on Children**

An examination of how our collective history as well as societal and parental influence have made an impact on children's perception of themselves and others based solely on skin color; how that perception affects children's wellbeing and eventual role in our changing society. (\$3,000)

*\*Indicates awards granted in FY2020 whose programs have been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## Mini Grants

(up to \$2,000 in funds)

DUBLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY\*

### **Centennial Exhibit, "My Dublin Story"**

A storyboard exhibit featuring the stories of Dublin residents to commemorate the Dublin Historical Society's 2020 Centennial. (\$971)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

### **Empowered People and the Power of Voting Rights**

A multi-event program exploring the history of voting rights. (\$1,000)

LAKE SUNAPEE REGION CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### **Courage to Create: "Mending Broken Things"**

An author talk and reading by the poet Wes McNair. (\$950)

NH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport**

A public lecture delivered by *New York Times* best-selling author, Kenneth C. Davis that explored how social studies curriculum in schools promotes democratic ideals for children. (\$1,000)

PORTSMOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

### **Poetry as a Bridge to Japan**

A series of writing workshops followed by a scholar talk to introduce participants to traditional Japanese poetry and visual art forms. (\$1,000)

SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE

### **Alexa Miller: smArt in Medicine - A New Era**

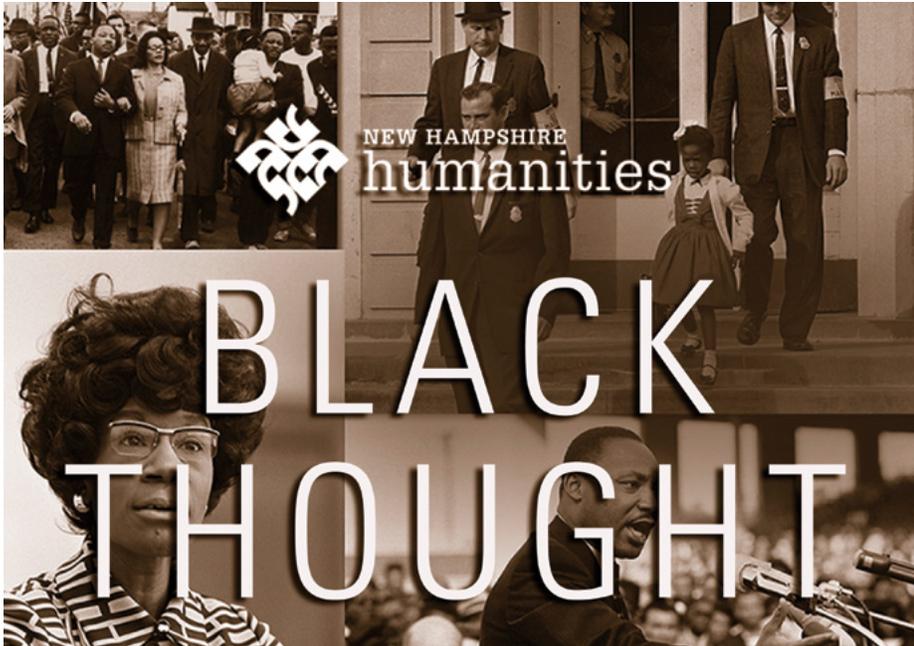
An interdisciplinary talk that explored how health care practitioners can improve their care for patients through engagement with the methods and approaches of art criticism. (\$1,000)

THE FRIENDS OF THE KINGSTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

### **One Community, One Book 2019: The Devil in the White City**

A multi-event community reading program that used the book, *The Devil in the White City*, to explore the history and legacy of 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. (\$700)

## BLACK THOUGHT SERIES



New Hampshire Humanities developed a new program series entitled *Black Thought*, which focuses on Black perspectives on the humanities and highlights the work of Black scholars in New Hampshire. These presentations included the history of Juneteenth (held in partnership with the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire), a discussion of representations of race in medieval Christian religious iconography, and a comparative analysis of the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793 and the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020. This fall, we held four more programs: “From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter,” “Reading Shakespeare While Black,” “Reparations: Its History and Impact: Why Now?” and “Awakening to Racism as a Public Health Issue, A Historical Perspective.” In addition, we created a web page that provides archived recordings of the programs as well as resources for additional information on these topics.

From participants in the *Black Thought* series:

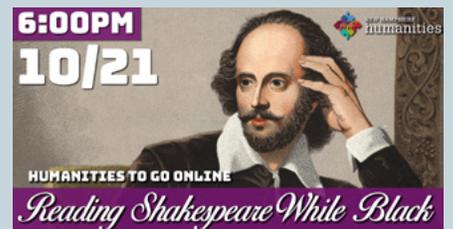
***“I liked that it was a New Hampshire lens on national historical issues, led by a local expert.”***

***“I like that these programs are available to everyone in the state, not just a town library. I like that [the speaker] was so thoroughly prepared and passionate and was able to go beyond the topic to other related events in Black history. I like that you are making the effort at the humanities council to focus on improving the U.S. by recognizing the problem and promoting little and big actions.”***

***“I appreciate the racial equity series – difficult topic, intelligently and provocatively presented!”***

HUMANITIES ON THE HILL 2021

Previous talks in the new *Black Thought* series:



[www.nhhumanities.org/BlackThought](http://www.nhhumanities.org/BlackThought)