

Why **South Carolina** Humanities is Important

With the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and individual, corporate and foundation donors, SC Humanities provides inspiring, engaging, and enriching programming throughout the state.

SC Humanities is important because:

- **SC Humanities connects with all segments of the state's population, reaching 300,000 citizens annually.** For every federal dollar that is granted, three to four dollars are spent locally.
- **Our programs explore the rich heritage of our state and its links to the cultural traditions of our nation and world.** SC Humanities provides almost \$200,000 annually in grants around the state. Conferences, films, exhibits, festivals, library reading and discussion groups, and high-quality speakers are just some of the types of public humanities programs that build South Carolina communities and move South Carolina forward as a state by encouraging collective consideration of important issues.
- **SC Humanities reaches many rural areas, increasing the cultural capacity of local institutions and providing local economic impact.** Each of the communities that host a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit or the annual South Carolina Humanities Festival receives a boost in the local economy. The 2015 Smithsonian exhibit *Hometown Teams* attracted more than 20,000 attendees in six South Carolina communities. The 2017 exhibit *The Way We Worked* will attract thousands more.
- **SC Humanities reaches both students and adults through special initiatives.** We support the National History Day program, which served 8,000 students in 2016, as well as Speakers Bureau programs at senior centers and schools statewide. Requests for speakers exceed the funds available to provide them.
- **SC Humanities has helped to fund dozens of public broadcasting films about the history, cultural treasures and natural resources of South Carolina and its colorful, famous and sometimes infamous people.** Among them are *Saving Sandy Island*, *G-Man: The Rise and Fall of Melvin Purvis*, *The Curious Mr. Catesby*, *The World of Julia Peterkin: Cheating the Stillness*, *The Education of Harvey Gantt*, and many others. These documentaries have reached more than a million viewers on public television in South Carolina and the nation.
- **SC Humanities strives to make many of our products available electronically, partnering with important organizations such as the South Carolina Arts Commission, SCETV, USC Press, and the South Carolina State Library to maximize use of limited resources.** *The South Carolina Encyclopedia* (more than 18,500 print copies sold) has recently been digitalized and made available to the public online at www.scencyclopedia.org, along with six e-books and three paperbacks based on that volume that are available for sale.
- **SC Humanities serves as a politically neutral convener for wide ranges of groups.** We make connections, offer technical assistance and provide programs and services that inspire, educate, and engage the population. Our product is knowledge, including a better understanding of self and the world in which we live. We foster and encourage collaborations among private, non-profit and all-volunteer organizations at the local, regional and state level.

SC Humanities is a cultural asset for the Palmetto State. It not only provides cultural and intellectual enrichment through its own programming but it assists other cultural and educational institutions in communities both small and large. It is a small financial investment that yields big dividends for the people of South Carolina.

Our mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians

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