

South Carolina Humanities

2019 Annual Report

The humanities are how we understand ourselves, our world, and how we communicate that understanding to others.

South Carolina Humanities funds, promotes, counsels, and coordinates all manner of thoughtful (and thought-provoking) endeavors—exhibits, documentaries, discussion forums, research, planning, workshops, dramatizations, lectures, and on and on—that pertain to the humanities. The goal of South Carolina Humanities' programs is to explore the rich heritage of the state and its links to the cultural traditions of the nation and world.

SC Humanities serves as a politically neutral convener for a wide-ranging, diverse number of groups. We make connections and offer technical assistance to prospective grantees and project coordinators every day. SC Humanities frequently provides advice, referrals and mentoring (at no charge).

We are a small organization, but we accomplish big things through and with our partners. We help to build communities and move South Carolina forward as a state. SC Humanities reaches many rural areas, increasing the cultural capacity of local institutions and providing local economic impact.

Thank you for supporting our mission to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians.

Our History

1973

South Carolina Humanities is established and it awards its first grant

1977

SC Humanities joins the Federation for State Humanities Councils

1982

Speakers Bureau: Humanities Out Loud is established

1984

Let's Talk About It: Reading and Discussion program is established

1991

First Annual Governor's Awards in the Humanities

1993

First Annual South Carolina Humanities Festival

2004

South Carolina Humanities brings its first traveling Smithsonian exhibit to tour the state

2006

The South Carolina Encyclopedia is published

2017

South Carolina Humanities recognized with an Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts

2018

South Carolina Humanities is awarded a Mellon Foundation grant to host an eight-month project titled "News Literacy and the Future of Journalism"

350,000

people reached

\$215k

awarded in grant funds

250

programs supported

58

grants awarded

30

counties reached



National History Day | Courtesy of National History Day

The grants program has always been the foundation of South Carolina Humanities' public support of the humanities, and we have funded a variety of projects, from major documentaries broadcast on national public television to small-scale genealogies and oral histories at the local level.

SC Humanities makes several categories of grants available to statewide nonprofit organizations, including major grants, mini and planning grants, fast-track literary grants, and **council program grants**. The fast-track literary grant program is supported by our partner, the **South Carolina Arts Commission**.

In fiscal year 2019, SC Humanities awarded 58 grants totaling \$215,000. SC Humanities supported and/or presented a total of 250 programs reaching more than 350,000 people.

Visit schumanities.org/grants for a complete list of awarded grants and for information on how to apply for a grant from SC Humanities.

Council Programs offer low-cost, high-quality programming opportunities to cultural organizations around the state.

Let's Talk About It is a reading and discussion program funded by SC Humanities and coordinated with assistance from the South Carolina State Library. *Let's Talk About It* groups meet every other week to discuss each book in a themed series. The group discussions are facilitated by a qualified scholar or by using the series guide provided with each series. **In 2019, South Carolina Humanities supported 6 *LTAI* programs.**

Speakers Bureau: Humanities Out Loud is one of SC Humanities' longstanding program priorities. Through this program, some of South Carolina's finest scholars travel the state to share their knowledge of the humanities and to spark discussions about human values, traditions, and cultures. **In 2019, South Carolina Humanities supported 58 Speakers Bureau programs.**



Grants Writing Workshop at the York County Library | Courtesy of RevenFlo

Our grants writing webinar was produced this year at the 25th Annual South Carolina Humanities Festival in York County. For years South Carolina Humanities has offered free grants writing workshops in communities throughout the state, including every community that hosts the South Carolina Humanities Festival. The new webinar offers cultural grants writing tips and techniques and an overview of SC Humanities' grants program.

To view the webinar, visit schumanities.org/grants-writing-webinar.

Feedback from the Field

PROJECT DIRECTORS REPORT BACK ABOUT GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS FROM 2018-2019

South Carolina Humanities funds humanities-based programs, events, and experiences in every corner of the state. The SC Humanities staff stays in contact with grantees from the start of the project until the very end. We are pleased to share some success stories from last year's grant-funded projects. We would like to thank our project directors for their hard work bringing high-quality programs to the people of South Carolina.



Courtesy of Adrienne Burris

Greenville Wordsmiths Writing Workshops

GREENVILLE WORDSMITHS

The collaborative nature of Greenville Wordsmiths writing workshops afforded students who typically shy away from writing a chance to discuss their opinions and actively participate in story creation. Students realized that literature is a social and active art form, not a passive subject for studying alone. When I returned to the school to deliver the published books, it was often noted that students had created their own books during the gap, writing at recess or during free-time. As such, it became a celebration of the process, not just the final product.

Adrienne Burris, Project Director



Courtesy of the UofSC Center for Civil Rights and Research

Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement

CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY AND RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The response to the "Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement" exhibit has been overwhelming, both within the University of South Carolina and outside of it. We were able to reach a wide variety of the South Carolina community, from K-12 students learning about civil rights history to veterans of the Movement. As visitors came through, they continually expressed support and appreciation for the stories we told in the exhibit.

Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Project Director



Courtesy of Donald Sweeper

Speakers Bureau: Humanities Out Loud Donald Sweeper

FLORENCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

While our service population is 46% African-American, our adult programs do not always effectively attract the full participation of this significant portion of our population, but the Donald Sweeper program [about Robert Smalls] did so quite successfully. This program helped to kick off a busy roster of month-long Black History Month events and helped to generate excitement about the related library programs that followed, no doubt bolstering attendance to these programs as well.

Aubrey Carroll, Project Director



Courtesy of the Edisto Island Historical Preservation Society

An Exhibit of the Early Edistonians

EDISTO ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Edisto Island Historical Preservation Society has often had questions from museum visitors about the story of the Edisto tribe. There was a clear thirst for this information. Since the "An Exhibit of the Early Edistonians" opened, we have gotten numerous remarks about the quality of the exhibit design as well as the informative content of the exhibit. One person even said, "This is like an exhibit you would see at the Smithsonian!" High praise indeed.

Gretchen Smith, Project Director

Tour Schedule

JUNE 27 – AUG 8, 2020

Hickory Knob State Park
McCormick County

AUG 13 – SEPT 23, 2020

Hampton County Library
Hampton County

SEPT 28 – NOV 8, 2020

SC Maritime Museum
Georgetown County

NOV 13 – JAN 13, 2021

Congaree National Park
Richland County

JAN 18 – MAR 1, 2021

McClellanville Arts Council
Charleston County

MAR 6 – APR 17, 2021

Westminster Historic Railway Depot
Oconee County



Traveling exhibits are a great way for South Carolina Humanities to bring engaging, enriching programming to small, rural communities throughout the state.

◀ **Water/Ways** is a traveling Smithsonian exhibit that dives into water – an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically. Supported in South Carolina by a grant from **Dominion Energy**, the exhibit will tour 6 communities in South Carolina in 2020–2021. The exhibit is a part of **Museum on Main Street**, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and state humanities councils.

South Carolina: The Food We Celebrate ▶ is a new traveling exhibit that celebrates iconic foods from communities around South Carolina. In 2019, the **South Carolina State Museum** and South Carolina Humanities collaborated with 22 organizations across the state to develop the content for the exhibit.



Tour Schedule

FEBRUARY 2020

Horry County Museum
Horry County

APRIL 2020

Colleton County Museum
Colleton County

MAY 2020

Dorchester County Archives & History
Dorchester County

JUNE – JULY 2020

Gaffney Visitor Center
Cherokee County

AUGUST 2020

The Village Museum, McClellanville
Charleston County

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020

The Heyward House Museum
Beaufort County

NOVEMBER 2020

Coastal Discovery Center
Beaufort County

Throughout our history, two things have been central and essential to life in South Carolina: **food and water**. These exhibits examine and celebrate the way our lives are affected and enhanced by our unique cultural connections to both.

RANDY AKERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES

McClellanville shrimp fleet | Courtesy of Bernadette Humphrey





The Governor's Awards in the Humanities

recognize outstanding achievement in humanities research, teaching, and scholarship; institutional and individual participation in helping communities in South Carolina better understand our cultural heritage or ideas and issues related to the humanities; excellence defining South Carolina's cultural life to the nation or world; and exemplary support for public humanities programs.

Greenville Chautauqua, Ron Daise, and Steven Naifeh were this year's distinguished Governor's Awards recipients.

The Fresh Voices in the Humanities Award is a new award established in 2018 to recognize individuals who are working in unique and innovative ways to use culture and history to bring people together, but whose efforts may have gone relatively unnoticed beyond their own community.

Marcus Amaker, Marlanda Dekine, and Scott Gwara were this year's inspiring Fresh Voices.

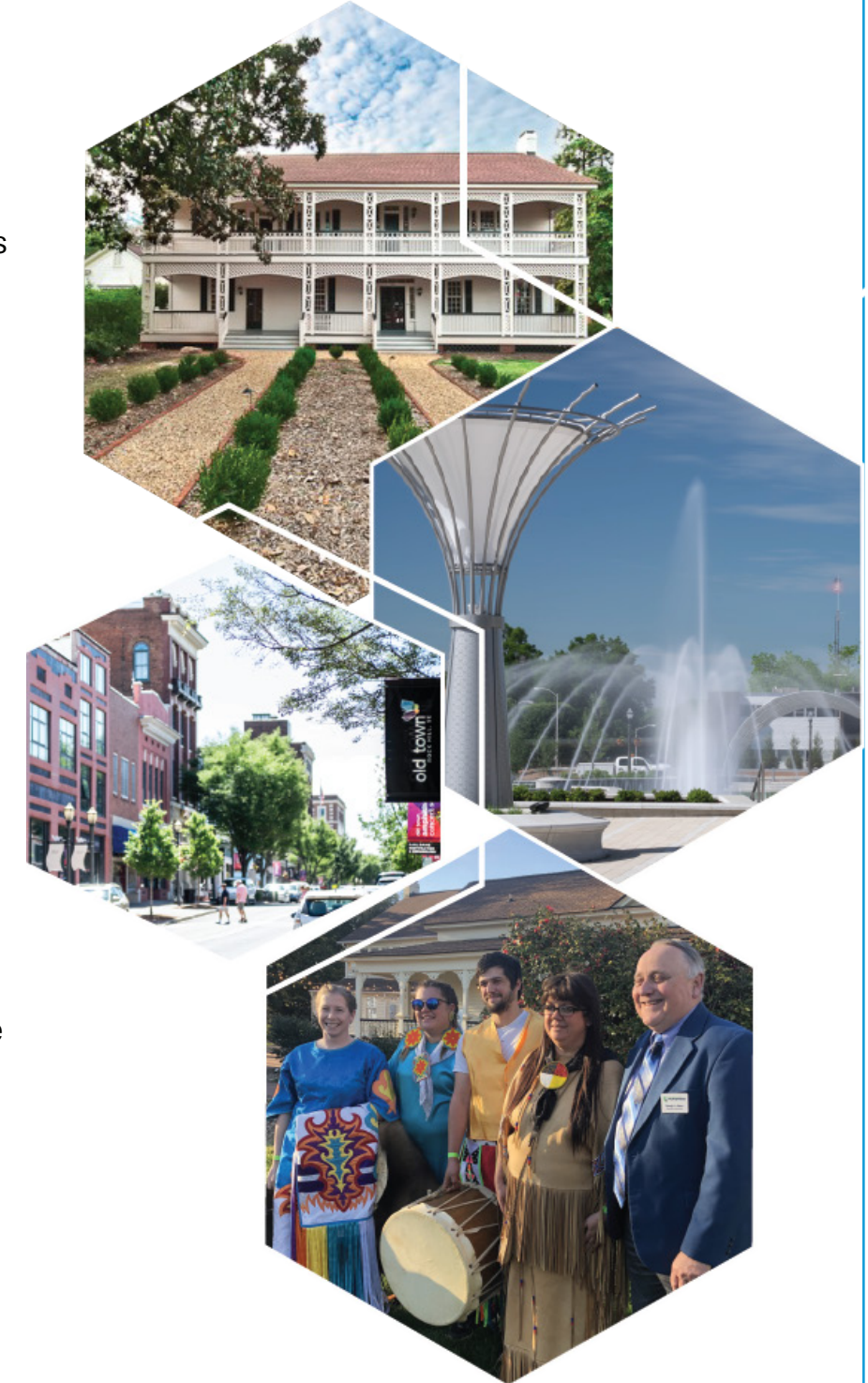
The 2019 Award Ceremony and Luncheon took place on October 24 at the Pastides Alumni Center. For more information on the awards, visit schumanities.org/annualevents/govawards.

The South Carolina Humanities Festival

celebrates the local history and culture of the host community, engaging the citizens in lectures, discussions, films, and exhibits facilitating partnerships between cultural organizations and community groups. Established in 1993 in honor of South Carolina Humanities' 20th Anniversary, the Humanities Festival has been held in 20 different South Carolina towns.

York County hosted the 2019 Humanities Festival from Thursday, March 28 through Saturday, March 30. **Visit York County** and ten participating cultural partners organized three dynamic days of programming. In a thank-you letter to York County following the festival, Executive Director Randy Akers said, "Cultural programming adds quality and value to our communities and we salute York County for supporting its university and schools, colleges, libraries, museums, churches, and arts organizations that contribute to the quality of life in the community."

South Carolina Humanities is pleased to announce that the 2020 Humanities Festival will be held in **Moncks Corner** from **Thursday, April 23 to Sunday, April 26**.



Letter from the Chair



DR. TOM MACK, BOARD CHAIR

Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how public programs in the humanities have enriched the lives of South Carolinians, both young and old; and that is why I relish the honor of serving as chair of the board of directors of SC Humanities, now celebrating its 47th anniversary.

Our state humanities council, an affiliate of the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, has much of which to be proud not only because of its own innovative initiatives but also because of its ardent support of the fine work of countless cultural institutions across South Carolina.

Most notable among SCH's own generated programs this year has been a first-time collaboration with the South Carolina State Museum to create a one-of-a-kind traveling exhibition entitled "**South Carolina: The Food We Celebrate**," which tells the story of 20 foodways popular in our state and how they are "saluted and shared." The exhibit debuted at the South Carolina State Fair in October and travels to 10 other venues in the next 2 years.

SC Humanities has long supported traveling exhibits under the auspices of the Museum on Main Street program of the Smithsonian Institution—in fact, "**Crossroads, Change in Rural America**" finished a 10-month

tour with stops in Union, Denmark, Newberry, Hopkins, Barnwell, and Dillon this past year—but the "Food We Celebrate" exhibition is the first such project completed in-state, using input solely from in-state organizations.

Touching the lives of South Carolinians in communities large and small is one of the principal goals of SC Humanities, and we estimate that each year **more than 350,000 citizens** of our state visit an exhibition, view a documentary, or attend a lecture or forum or workshop hosted by or supported by a grant from the state humanities council.

Among our most popular continuing programs is the annual statewide humanities festival staged in a different South Carolina municipality each year. In 2018, my hometown of Aiken got a chance to host the festival that brought together a dozen historical, literary, visual art, and religious organizations in an effort to explore the community's rich cultural history since its founding as a stop on the South Carolina Railroad in 1835. The festival in Aiken and the one hosted in York County in 2019 each attracted around 1,000 participants, and the citizens of Moncks Corner will get a chance to celebrate their town in the spring of 2020.

One of my favorite SC Humanities initiatives is the "**Let's Talk About It**" book discussion series. Libraries and other cultural institutions can apply to host packaged series on a score of different topics such as modern South Carolina novels or women's autobiography. SC Humanities provides local readers with copies of each title and underwrites the role of humanities scholars leading discussions on each text. I have

had the pleasure of being lead presenter in the LTAI series at the Aiken County Library each fall, and I can personally attest to how hundreds of Aikenites look forward to the reading and discussion series—when one series ends, participants are already asking about the next!

Funding for the annual festival and LTAI series makes up part of approximately **\$215,000** offered this past year in grants to non-profit organizations—museums, libraries, historical societies, colleges and other educational entities—in support of humanities-related programming. Just in this past year alone, SCH funded such disparate initiatives as the preservation and digitalization of photographs by Civil Rights icon Cecil Williams, the annual literary hall of fame induction weekend hosted by the South Carolina Academy of Authors, and a special print issue and CD produced by *Oxford American* and devoted exclusively to our state's musical heritage.

All of this activity is managed by a dedicated board made up of 21 community leaders from around the state; the board's determinations are implemented by a very talented 5-person staff headed by Dr. Randy Akers, who has the distinction of being the **longest-serving state council director** in our country.

Both board members and staff welcome input from the larger community. We also encourage everyone to **get involved in the humanities** by donating to SC Humanities and becoming either an institutional or individual "friend." For more information on our collective work for the citizens of our state, visit www.schumanities.org.

Hello & Goodbye



Bonnie Hargrove
BEAUFORT

Bonnie Hargrove is the Director of the University of South Carolina Beaufort Center for the Arts, a role she has held since 2010. She serves as the Chairperson of the City of Beaufort Cultural District and has been an advisory member for Main Street Beaufort and a member of the Beaufort Guild of Galleries. In 2017, the South Carolina Arts Commission honored the USC Beaufort Center for the Arts and Bonnie Hargrove with an Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award in the Arts for the City of Beaufort's robust arts and cultural scene.



Isaiah R. McGee
ORANGEBURG

Dr. Isaiah R. McGee is the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Associate Professor of Music at Claflin University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from South Carolina State University, a Master of Music degree in vocal performance with an emphasis in Opera Theatre from the University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. in Music Education with choral conducting emphasis from The Florida State University. He is very active in the community, serving as the director of Leadership Orangeburg, which is sponsored by the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce.



Ashlye V. Wilkerson
COLUMBIA

Ashlye V. Wilkerson is a doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina and certified educator. Wilkerson currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina and Columbia College. Additionally, she was voted by the SC General Assembly to serve on the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, the youngest trustee in the state of South Carolina. Wilkerson was honored with a South Carolina Senate Resolution and a South Carolina House of Representatives Resolution for her work with children's literature.

Thanks to Marie C. Boyd & Billy Keyserling for your service.

SC Humanities would like to thank Marie C. Boyd and Billy Keyserling for their service on the Board of Directors from 2013 to 2019.

Boyd and Keyserling both served on the Grants & Programs Committee. Boyd also served on the Executive Committee from 2017 - 2019.

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Stay in the loop about humanities events coming to your area. Visit www.schumanities.org to sign up today.

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The SC Humanities Staff (L to R: Laura McGuinn, Gail S. Lyles, Randy Akers, Judy Burke Bynum, and Theresa J. Wallace.)



Why I Give

When I was growing up in Fairfax, SC, our family farm had an old hand pump that had to be primed. We kept a bucket of water by the pump so we could pour water in to get the pump going, and soon many buckets of water would come flowing out. I think of my contributions to South Carolina Humanities as priming the pump. Through its grants program, SC Humanities primes the pump of local communities. The community programs prime the pump for local growth, connection, and appreciation for history and diversity. Programs supported by SC Humanities create opportunities for building and strengthening the growth of community, which is the best way I know for us to thrive and prosper as a state and a nation. And that is why I give.

Sara L. Sanders



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