

## **I. Major Grants**

*Five organizations and partnering scholars received awards totaling \$35, 550 to develop public projects that will engage Rhode Islanders in discussion of the meaning of the "Pursuit of Happiness" as written in the Declaration of Independence and what it means today. What Does The Pursuit of Happiness Mean Today? is a one-time special grants initiative of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and part of the Council's current area of inquiry The Pursuit of Happiness: What is the American Dream? The RICH "Pursuit of Happiness" Grants Initiative has been funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities – We the People initiative.*

*Pursuit of Happiness: An Indigenous View*

### **Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum**

\$11,600

The Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum in collaboration with Narragansett Tribal leaders, museum professionals, historians, and educators will present in at least three locations across the state a public program that includes scholarly papers and presentations, cultural presentations, an exhibit, and a film that examines what happiness is today for the Indigenous people of Rhode Island.

*Everyday Happiness*

### **Hera Educational Foundation**

\$6,600

Hera Gallery has received a grant to develop a six-part television series that will air this fall on Rhode Island PBS and premiere the first two programs. *Everyday Happiness* will feature discussions moderated by a scholar with Rhode Island residents and scholars about how we pursue happiness in contemporary times and will include specific conversations with Rhode Island seniors, faith worshippers, and immigrants.

*Urban Youth in Pursuit of Happiness*

### **Everett Dance Theatre**

\$6,100

Everett Dance Theatre has received a grant to involve a humanities scholar, filmmakers, and youth in an examination of what The Pursuit of Happiness means to urban youth and how this notion is shaped in an urban setting. A film will be produced based on this examination, drawing from participating youth's own life experiences.

*The Pursuit of Happiness: African American Murals*

### **International Gallery for Heritage and Culture**

\$7,500

International Gallery for Heritage and Culture undertakes a collaboration with scholars and the Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Rhode Island Bannister Gallery, University of Rhode Island, and Providence City Hall that will reveal the nexus between African American murals and the "Pursuit of Happiness" theme and will develop public humanities programs in conjunction with the exhibit "Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride."

*What does "In Pursuit of Happiness" mean today? Happiness Cafes*

**Oasis International**

\$3,750

Oasis International has received a grant to pilot "happiness-themed cafés" including one for Spanish-language speakers and one for seniors. The cafes will be facilitated by scholars and will present original essays on the theme of happiness.

*Six organizations received major grant awards totaling \$25, 756 to present public humanities projects.*

*The Little Women Project*

**South County Players**

\$7,480

This discussion and presentation of an original adaptation of *Little Women* examines women's changing roles in the 19th Century. Researched by the actors and actresses of the South County Players Children's Theatre and historically narrated, the project travels to libraries and schools throughout Rhode Island during 2005.

*Humanities Rep*

**Trinity Repertory Company**

\$2,300

*Humanities Rep* program essays and public post-performance discussions contextualize and analyze the literary and social themes central to the Trinity Rep productions.

*Shared Sundays*

**The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre**

\$2,675

*Shared Sundays* program essays, study guides, and public pre-performance forums present scholarly research relating to specific themes raised by Gamm plays.

*Capitol Forum*

**Global Rhode Island**

\$4,551

*Capitol Forum* is a project in which high school teachers and students examine and debate current issues of civic and international importance.

*The Art of Media and Social Change: Providence*

**AS220**

\$4,750

*The Art of Media and Social Change: Providence* is a project in which scholars, filmmakers, and youth from the Broad Street Studios of AS220 and the Rhode Island Training School undertake media analysis, produce a documentary film about their visions for their lives, and host screenings and discussion forums.

*Humanities First*

**FirstWorksPro**

\$4,000

*Humanities First* are public humanities forums about Paul Phillips' "War Music" composition, the history of hip hop moderated by Wendy Walters and with Rennie Harris and Thomas DeFrantz, and the relationship between art and beauty with Laurie Anderson.

*Six organizations received major grant awards totaling \$46,915 to develop scripts for documentary theatre pieces and documentary films or produce documentary films.*

*A Vanished Vision: Windshield Revisited*

**Artvision Communications, Inc.**

\$14,600

This one-hour documentary film by Joanna Datillo examines the rise and fall of *Windshield*, the landmark modernist summer residence on Fishers Island commissioned in 1936 by John Nicholas Brown and Anne Kinsolving Brown of Rhode Island. The documentary examines this "lost" landmark in an architectural and cultural context and also a focus on Richard Neutra and John Brown's collaboration as architect and patron respectively.

*Buddy*

**Documentary Education Resources**

\$15,775

This documentary film by Cherry Arnold chronicles Vincent "Buddy" A. Cianci's 22-year career as Mayor of Providence from his rise in politics to his 2002 federal trial and conviction, and tells a story of how culture, personality, and power shape American local politics.

*The Door of No Return*

**Rites & Reason Theatre**

\$5,000

This production will include live dramatic presentations, essays, and discussion programs that aim to examine RI's multicultural history associated with immigration and the legacy of the slave trade in Rhode Island. Research and scripting will be conducted by Nehassaiu deGannes.

*Fish Tales*

**HERA Educational Foundation**

\$4,290

This documentary film project will examine striped bass fishing culture and community identity among striper fisherman in Rhode Island. Research and scripting will be conducted by Daniel Powell.

*An American Jewel*

**Art Ventures Funding**

\$5,000

This documentary film project will offer a historical examination about Rhode Island's jewelry industry. Research and scripting will be conducted by Carmen DeCecco.

*Rhode Island Visionaries of Color-the Lives of 20th Century Mavericks*

**Rhode Island Black Heritage Society**

\$2,250

This film project will collect and present interviews and oral histories with elders from Rhode Island's African American community. Research and scripting will be conducted by Joseph Braithwaite.

**II. Independent Research Mini-Grants**

*RICH's Independent Research Grants help individuals conduct humanities research projects on topics of local interest. Six grants of \$2000 or less were awarded to the following individuals:*

**Robin Amer**, \$2,000, for the research and planning of a radio documentary commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Federal Highway Administration Act and its impact in Providence and other American cities.

**Lee Fearnside**, \$2,000, for the research and production a short video that chronicles an archeological dig at a former slave plantation at Greene Farm in South County, Rhode Island.

**Shannah Kurland**, \$2,000, for the research and creation of an institutional map of social justice movements and organizational history in Providence since approximately 1965.

**Karin Liiv**, \$2,000, for the creation of a community dialogue series and film involving youth, parents and community leaders as to what constitutes healthy adulthood.

**Stacy Morrison**, \$1,000, to research the life of Bristol native Susan Amelia DeWolf, daughter of John DeWolf (one of the seven brothers who controlled the slave trading voyages off the shores of Bristol).

**III. Early Response Mini-Grants**

*Five organizations received mini-grant awards totaling \$8,300 to present public humanities projects.*

**What is Native Art? An Open Discussion on Art, Identity, and Culture**

*Perishable Theatre*

\$1,500

This panel brings members of the Native American community together to lead a focused discussion about what constitutes Native American art, identity and culture.

**Black Lavender: An Exhibit of Writings by Black Gay Men**

*John Hay Library at Brown University*

\$2,000

This exhibit of books and periodicals includes a lecture program and exhibit booklet that examine the literary output of Black gay men dating from the Harlem Renaissance to present day. The exhibit is augmented by an auxiliary display of books by Black gay men in RI, photographs, posters, and related ephemera.

*Man's Pursuit of Nature*

**Audubon Society of Rhode Island**

\$2,000

This three-part lecture series includes historical accounts, folklore, literature, social impacts and philosophical discussions surrounding the whaling industry, Shackleton's journey to Antarctica, and the fabled "sea monster" the Giant Squid.

*In the Shadow of the Crow*

**Rhode Island Indian Council**

\$1,350.00

This 80 minute documentary film aims to create a deeper understanding of the divergent life experiences of New England native people and to enable a broad audience to become knowledgeable about the Narragansetts. RICH funding will go toward hosting two post-screening discussions with scholars and community leaders to discuss issues brought up in the film.

*Dam It! How Water and Industry Shape Our Lives*

**Perishable Theatre**

\$1,150

This award supports Perishable's efforts to introduce humanities programming into their production runs. Taking place during the closing weekend of *Cataract*, this stand-alone moderated panel discussion will explore how waterpower has shaped American culture on a larger, social scale and a smaller, individual scale covering both utilitarian and aesthetic perspectives.

*Trudeau Center Restoration and Preservation Project*

**J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center**

\$300

This award supports the center's consultation with a scholar to develop a plan for building and publicizing an archive at the Trudeau Center.