

1997 - 1998

report TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND



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LETTER from the Director and Chair

Dear Friends,

1999 marks 26 years of the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities' continuous service to the people of our state.

RICH brings the humanities to the people of Rhode Island. What that means is both simple and complicated, but obvious and subtle, both immediate and far-reaching. We connect people with ideas and with the great traditions of thought and cultural evolution that define the way we live. Through history, literature, philosophy, religion, art and music, the humanities underlie our schools, our communities, and our values. They

belong to all of us, and provide citizens' most immediate – and most important – access to power in a democratic society.

RICH is a private, not-for-profit agency supported by a federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities, along with the State of Rhode Island and contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations. To fulfill our mandate we offer a variety of programs and services to Rhode Islanders of all ages, and manage a statewide program of grants in support of community-based programs that allow citizens to explore seriously the issues, values, and ideas of importance to them.

Ultimately, our job is to bring Rhode Islander teachers and scholars back into general circulation. In that sense, RICH's mission has changed little since 1973. A Rhode Islander's exploration of ideas should not slam to a halt when he or she leaves school, for our state can grow only as far as our collective intellect and imagination can grow. Our job is to keep everyone thinking about themselves, each other, and our world.

This report summarizes in brief and not terribly illuminating form the activity of RICH during the past two years. While it provides an idea of the breadth of the humanities in our state, it does not even begin to capture the true value of the humanities in the daily lives of our communities and ourselves. Please use it as a refresher and as a re-introduction, and please do not hesitate to contact RICH, or any of these remarkable project directors and sponsoring organizations, for a much better and richer picture of the state of ideas in Rhode Island.

Galen Johnson, Chair

Joseph Finkhouse, Executive Director

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FY97 GRANTS AWARDED

Public Project Grants	
Home from the Mill: French-Canadian Quiltmakers in RI	
<i>Slater Mill Historic Site</i>	
Pawtucket	\$1,554
Humanities Rep	
<i>Trinity Repertory Company</i>	
Providence, Newport	\$11,849



In Her Own Words: Elizabeth I Onstage and Online	
<i>Women Writers Project, Brown University</i>	
Providence, Johnston, Newport, Wakefield, West Warwick, East Providence, Greenville, Charleston	\$7,400

The Jews and the Expansion of Europe to the West: 1450 to the Revolutions for Independence in the Americas	
<i>The John Carter Brown Library</i>	
Providence	\$7,000

1997 Classical Association of New England Summer Institute: New Voices, New Forms: Politics, Poetry, Philosophy and Science in the Greek Lyric Age	
<i>Classical Association of New England</i>	
Hanover, New Hampshire	\$2,200

Narragansett Bay: A Photographic Essay Save the Bay and Rhode Island Historical Society	
<i>Providence</i>	
	\$6,000

Beyond Bellevue Avenue: The Other Summer Colonies in Newport	
<i>Newport Historical Society</i>	
Newport	\$4,450

ACTION SPEAKS : A Topical Forum Is Technology our New Religion? Worshipping on the Altar of Progress AS220 & WHJ	
<i>Providence</i>	
	\$4,500

"H.P. Lovecraft's Providence"	
<i>Rhode Island School of Design</i>	
Providence	\$4,910

"Rhode Island Reconsidered"	
<i>The John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$10,000

Je Me Souviens (I Remember) French Canadian Oral Histories	
<i>American French Genealogical Society</i>	
Woonsocket	\$4,100

Let Me Forget About Today Until Tomorrow: An Oral History of 1968	
<i>South Kingstown High School and Rhode Island Historical Society</i>	
Wakefield	\$9,185

2nd Annual Rhode Island Youth Playwriting Festival	
<i>All Childrens Theatre</i>	
Providence	\$3,050

Humanities Branch – 6th Annual Women's Playwriting Festival	
<i>The Perishable Theatre</i>	
Providence	\$8,903

Humanities Resource Grants	
Newport Finding Aids	
<i>Redwood Library and Athenaeum</i>	
Newport	\$12,100

A Living Museum II: Return of the Dragons	
<i>Foundation for the Promotion of State Cultural Heritage</i>	
East Providence	\$1,457

Dairy Farms of Rhode Island: At the Close of the Twentieth Century	
<i>Rhode Island Historical Society Library</i>	
Providence, Wakefield, Woonsocket	\$13,900

An Oral History of the Costume Jewelry Industry in Rhode Island: A Publication	
<i>Providence Jewelry Museum & 'Improvise! Inc.</i>	
Cranston	\$7,500

The Papers of General Nathanael Greene	
<i>Rhode Island Historical Society</i>	
Providence	\$3,000

Media Production Grant	
"First Steps to Freedom" A History of Colonial Rhode Island	
<i>National Society of Colonial Dames, Rhode Island Chapter</i>	
Wakefield	\$15,000

Early Response Grants	
A Visit by Harriet Beecher Stowe	
<i>North Providence Free Library</i>	
North Providence, Coventry, South Kingstown, Woonsocket	\$1,000

Cumulative Index for Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association NOTES	
<i>Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

The National World War II Memorial Competition – A Symposium	
<i>Dept. of Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Lecture – Presentations for 100 Years Ago in South County at Hera Gallery	
<i>Hera Gallery</i>	
Wakefield	\$500

Convergence Film Festival	
<i>Providence Film Commission</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Women of Courage	
<i>The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Lincoln Public Library Oral History Project	
<i>Lincoln Public Library</i>	
Lincoln	\$1,000

Jonnycake Storytelling Festival	
<i>South Kingstown Parks and Recreation</i>	
Wakefield	\$1,000

Whose Life is It Anyway?: The Right to Choose to Live – or Die?	
<i>Rhode Island College</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Small Press/Fine Printing Book Fair	
<i>John Russell Bartlett Society</i>	
Providence	\$300

Two Pre-Performance Lectures: Early Music	
<i>Museum Concerts</i>	
Providence	\$600

Strange Tales: Fantasy and the Supernatural in Literature	
<i>NewGate Theatre</i>	
Providence	\$900

Permanent Interpretive Exhibit for the Old State House	
<i>Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission</i>	
Providence	\$977

Wampanoag Indian Exhibit	
<i>Aquidneck Indian Council</i>	
Newport	\$930

Judith Hull Lecture and Forum	
<i>The Grace Church in Providence</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Teacher/Librarian Incentive Grants	
Poetry – Alive and Well	
<i>Stephen Olney School, North Providence</i>	
Janice D. Arsenault	\$300

Colonial Providence Then and Now	
<i>Graniteville Elementary School, Johnston</i>	
Carolyn Carnevale	\$300

Writers in Rhode Island: A Visiting Author Series	
<i>Mt. Hope High School Library, Bristol</i>	
Lisbeth H. Chew	\$300

Rhode Island Lighthouses	
<i>The French American School of Rhode Island, Providence</i>	
Elizabeth D'Abbraccio	\$300

Theater Live	
<i>Nathanael Greene Middle School, Providence</i>	
Betsy B. Dietrich	\$300

Discovering the Revolutionary War through poetry and mapmaking	
<i>San Miguel School, Providence</i>	
Monique Flynn	\$270

African Adventures	
<i>Coventry Middle School</i>	
Kathleen Gendron	\$300

Asian Studies - for and by kids!	
<i>Bishop McVinnay Middle School, Providence</i>	
Louis G. Hebert	\$300

Putting You In History	
<i>Wickford Middle School</i>	
Helen B. Johnson	\$300

A Suitcase Museum for the Journey West	
<i>Metcalf Elementary School, Exeter</i>	
Sue-Ann Kresinski	\$300

Teaching the topic of family and aging through the use of appropriate current realistic fiction with a variety of presentations.	
<i>Hope Valley Elementary School</i>	
Lynn Larned and Catherine Moffitt	\$300

An Historical Walk through Phoenix	
<i>John F. Deering Middle School, Warwick</i>	
Patricia A. Lewis	\$300

"An historical analysis of the people, events, and environment we call the Olympic Games"	
<i>W.L. Callahan School, Harrisville</i>	
Kenneth E. Milligan, Jr.	\$300

"Experiencing the Arts Through Children's Literature"	
<i>Sowams School Library, Barrington</i>	
Katherine Monahan	\$300

River Journeys	
<i>Winman Jr. High School, Warwick</i>	
Mary Lynn Morin	\$300

Walter E. Ranger – who was that guy?	
<i>Walter E. Ranger Elementary School, Tiverton</i>	
Deborah OlHara	\$300

Developing an awareness and sensitivity toward the people and events surrounding the Holocaust	
<i>San Miguel School, Providence</i>	
Pamela Prendergast	\$160

"Invention Convention"	
<i>Norwood Avenue School, Cranston</i>	
Holly Scripsack	\$300

Self-Portraits Through Family History: An Oral History Project Involving Bristol Warren Neighborhoods	
<i>Kickemuit Middle School at Guiteras, Bristol</i>	
Judith A. Souza and Deborah Kearns	\$300

"Rainbow Quest: Bringing Ideas into Action"	
<i>South Kingstown High School</i>	
Victoria Tefft	\$300

"Rhode Island – A Multidisciplinary Unit"	
<i>Flynn Elementary School, Providence</i>	
Janice Torvi and Daryl J. Mazza	\$300

Alphabet Books: Not Just for Primary	
<i>John Brown Francis School Library, Warwick</i>	
Patricia S. Treanor	\$60

Pursuing Peace	
<i>San Miguel School, Providence</i>	
Susan Vaughan	\$285

FY98 GRANTS AWARDED

Public Project Grants	
The Kelley Collection of African American Art	
<i>Bell Gallery, Department of Art, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$4,521

An Exhibition of Joseph Lindon Smith Paintings in connection with "50 Years of Egyptology at Brown" and the 200th Anniversary of Egyptology	
<i>Department of Egyptology, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$3,836

Gifts of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Faience	
<i>The Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design</i>	
Providence	\$5,636



Humanities Rep	
<i>Trinity Repertory Company</i>	
Providence	\$8,000

Speaker Program: Providence Convergence	
<i>Film/Video Festival</i>	
<i>Providence Film Commission, City of Providence</i>	
Providence	\$2,500

The Frontier in American Culture	
<i>Providence Public Library</i>	
Providence	\$2,500

Narragansett Bay: A Photographic Essay – The Traveling Exhibit	
<i>Save the Bay</i>	
Statewide	\$6,000

A People of Two Tales: An Oral and Visual History Project about the Immigrants from Southeast Asia in Rhode Island	
<i>Community College of Rhode Island</i>	
Statewide	\$6,000

Portuguese Film Festival	
<i>Department of Anthropology, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$7,250

Queen Elizabeth I: Her Times, Her Words	
<i>English Speaking Union</i>	
<i>New Shoreham, Bristol, Woonsocket, East Providence, Providence, Coventry</i>	
	\$6,423

Teaching About Latin American Through Material Culture: A Thematic Approach	
<i>Center for Latin American Studies, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$3,000

Ambassadors of God: Homelessness and the Meaning of Charity	
<i>Newport Historical Society</i>	
Newport, Woonsocket	\$8,900

Action Speaks: A Topical Forum – America at the Millennium	
<i>AS220</i>	
Providence	\$7,650

Discussion Panels & Catalogue PORTUGUESE FILM FESTIVAL	
<i>Department of Modern Culture and Media and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Department, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$5,000

1998 CANE Summer Institute: Greece: For and Against Itself: Fifth Century Classical Culture in Conflict	
<i>Classical Association of New England</i>	
Hanover, New Hampshire	\$2,000

Reader's Map of Rhode Island	
<i>Lost Roads Publishers</i>	
Statewide	\$7,500

Humanities Resource Grants	
Planning Grant for Exhibition on Rhode Island History	
<i>Rhode Island Historical Society</i>	
Providence	\$8,240

Picture This: Cataloguing and Conserving the Photoarchives of the Museum of Natural History	
<i>Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, Roger Williams Park</i>	
Providence	\$5,500

Completion of the Common Burying Ground Survey	
<i>Newport Historical Society</i>	
Newport	\$3,325

Media Production Grants	
WATERFIRE: Illuminating the Mirror	
<i>Visual Artists of Rhode Island</i>	
Providence	\$5,000

Here Am I, Send Me: The Journey of Jonathan Daniels	
<i>Keene State College</i>	
Keene, New Hampshire	\$8,081

Early Response Grants	
Amilcar Cabral and the Cape Verdean Struggle for Independence	
<i>Cape Verdean Vision</i>	
Pawtucket	\$1,000

Ancient Utopias	
<i>Department of Classics, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Sharing Our Town With Visitors and Students: Can We Make It Work? Lecture by Elizabeth Waters	
<i>The Preservation Society of Newport County</i>	
Newport	\$1,000

"Kindertransport": Voices from the Holocaust	
<i>NewGate Theatre</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Background Extra	
<i>Rhode Island College Foundation</i>	
Statewide	\$1,000

Earth Truth Survival – From Where I Stand	
<i>Four Colors Productions, Inc.</i>	
Monterey, MA / statewide	\$1,000

"1968 – The Whole World was Watching" – A Video Guide to the Classroom Oral History Project	
<i>South Kingstown School Department</i>	
Wakefield	\$1,000

Crescent Park: Coney Island of the East	
<i>East Providence Historical Society</i>	
East Providence	\$570

Community Conversations	
<i>Department of Sociology, University of Rhode Island</i>	
Kingston	\$1,000

Goa Through the Centuries	
<i>The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Extremities: Symposium on Rape and Domestic Violence	
<i>Department of Theatre, University of Rhode Island</i>	
Kingston	\$1,000

The 120th Anniversary of City Hall Exhibit	
<i>City of Providence</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

"Meet me at the Shepard Clock" Oral History	
<i>SPRI – Senior Players of Rhode Island and Rites and Reason, Brown University</i>	
Providence	\$1,000

Teacher/Librarian Incentive Grants	
Talking Walls Around the World	
<i>Nathaniel A. Ferri Middle School, Johnston</i>	
Carolyn	

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who have contributed to projects
in the last **2** years

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Legacy PERFORMANCES

The award-winning *Legacy* school programs have been conducted in the following school districts:

Barrington ■ Bristol Warren ■ Burrillville ■ Central Falls ■ Chariho ■ Conventry ■ Cranston ■ Cumberland East Greenwich ■ East Providence ■ Exeter-West Greenwich ■ Foster ■ Foster-Glocester ■ Glocester ■ Jamestown ■ Johnston ■ Lincoln ■ Little Compton ■ Middletown ■ Narragansett ■ Newport ■ New Shoreham ■ North Kingstown ■ North Providence ■ North Smithfield ■ Pawtucket ■ Portsmouth ■ Providence ■ Scituate ■ Smithfield ■ South Kingstown ■ Tiverton ■ Warwick ■ Westerly ■ West Warwick ■ Woonsocket

CHOICES

FOR THE **21**ST CENTURY

This library based discussion program about US foreign policy is run in cooperation with the Thomas Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University. It was offered in the following libraries across the state:

■ Barrington Public Library, Barrington
 ■ Cross' Mills Public Library, Charlestown
 ■ Cranston Public Library, Cranston
 ■ East Providence Public Library, East Providence
 ■ Jamestown Philomenian Library, Jamestown
 ■ Newport Public Library, Newport
 ■ North Kingstown Free Library, North Kingstown
 ■ Mayor Salvatore Mancini Union Free Library and Cultural Center, North Providence
 ■ Providence Public Library, Providence
 ■ Peace Dale Library, South Kingstown
 ■ Public Library, West Warwick
 ■ Harris Public Library, Woonsocket

Speakers Bureau

Through the RICH Speakers Bureau, RICH offers a series of engaging, informative programs in a variety of formats and covering a wide array of topics. RICH has given presentations at the following organizations:

■ Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, Bristol
 ■ Emanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland
 ■ East Greenwich Leisure Learning, East Greenwich
 ■ East Providence Public Library, East Providence
 ■ Foster Public Library, Foster
 ■ Jamestown Central Baptist Church, Jamestown
 ■ Little Compton Community Center, Little Compton
 ■ St. Thomas Church, Nasonville
 ■ Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence
 ■ UU Church of Mediator, Providence
 ■ League of Women Voters
 ■ Essex Library, Tiverton
 ■ Westerly Public Library, Westerly
 ■ Woonsocket Public Library, Woonsocket

FEAST YOUR MIND

Feast Your Mind, a humanities work-based program, has been held at the following businesses:

Arkwright, Fiskville ■ Americore, Pawtucket ■ Business Expo '97, Providence ■ East Greenwich Manor, East Greenwich ■ Edwards & Angell, Providence ■ Fleet Bank, Providence ■ Hospital Trust, Providence ■ Mine Safety Appliance, Smithfield ■ Providence Journal Bulletin, Providence ■ South Bay Manor, South Kingstown ■ TACO, Cranston ■ United Health Care, Warwick ■ Veterans Health Care, Cranston ■ Women & Infants Hospital, Providence

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1997 - 1998

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RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEARS ENDED 10.31.97 AND 10.31.98

INCOME	10.31.97	10.31.98*
NEH	\$449,499	\$425,677
State of Rhode Island Grants	8,250	12,250
Contributions + Gifts	16,363	23,901
Other Income	4,792	3,745
Total Income	\$478,882	\$465,573
EXPENSES		
Administration	\$125,751	\$114,602
Grants + Program Development	147,743	201,502
RICH Programs	196,473	133,748
Total Expenses	\$469,967	\$449,852
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$8,915	\$15,721

* Figures for year ended 10/31.98 are unaudited