

Our Grants...

Originally founded solely as a vehicle for regranting funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Humanities Council retains grantmaking at the center of its work. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations throughout West Virginia and support an array of humanities projects - from archaeology to Holocaust education to Japanese poetry. Fiscal 2002 saw an eighteen percent increase in funds requested and a twelve percent increase in funds awarded. At the recommendation of its program committee, the Humanities Council board of directors funded eighty-three grants for a total of \$297,944 in fiscal 2002.

The Council's application process has been praised by grantees as one of the simplest they have ever encountered. Grants administrator Pam LeRose's phone is frequently busy and her e-mail box usually full as she works with prospective grantees. "My goal is to get as many good proposals as possible for each deadline," says LeRose. "The more competitive requests I have, the more quality humanities programming will be available across West Virginia." Whether for a major grant or minigrant, a fellowship or summer teacher institute, Council staff stand ready to help applicants develop their ideas and hone their proposals to present the best case for funding.



The Council's program committee reviews proposals and makes funding recommendations to the board. The program committee is a 24-member group composed equally of Council board members and other members elected from the community at large. Program committee members come from all across the state and represent experience in many areas of the humanities, making them well able to evaluate proposals. Often the committee recommends the re-submission of projects that show promise but fall short of meeting the committee's criteria for funding. Council staff then takes the committee's recommendations back to applicants to help them rework their proposals.

Hundreds of West Virginians take part in grant-funded programming each year.

Grant projects in 2002 represented a wide variety of humanities topics and reached across the Mountain State. Minigrants took Renaissance history to Cabell County, poetry to a 4-H camp in Doddridge County, an archaeology dig to Jefferson County, and literacy programming to Logan County. Major, media, and publication grants funded an array of projects, including the statewide Read Aloud West Virginia Conference in Charleston, programs for an exhibit on mummies in Huntington, activities about West Virginia during the frontier days in Lost River, and a writer-in-residence program at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, to name only a few. Summer 2002 fellowships afforded scholars and researchers the opportunity to expand their knowledge of such topics as World War II, depictions of women in popular culture, and Renaissance music. And two summer teacher institutes helped educators transform their teaching and enhance their understanding of Shakespeare and West Virginia folklife.

The West Virginia Humanities Council strives to serve all of West Virginia with its grant program, providing grant-writing workshops in underserved areas of the state and meeting with local citizens to encourage humanities projects there. Anyone interested in information about applying for Humanities Council grants should contact Pam LeRose at (304)346-8500 or via e-mail at lerose@wvhumanities.org.



Brag Box

- *Out of the Storm* won Best Event Documentary at the West Virginia Filmmakers Film Festival. The film, funded by a Humanities Council media grant, documents the herculean efforts of the Galford Lumber Company of Pocahontas County to assist in the clean-up of a disastrous New England storm.
- *The History of Serbia* by John K. Cox was published by Greenwood Press in 2002. The book resulted from research conducted with a Humanities Council fellowship.
- The University Press of Kentucky published *Writers and Miners: Activism and Imagery in America* by David C. Duke in 2002. The publication was funded by a grant from the Humanities Council.



...at the heart of our mission