

SUPPORTING THE HUMANITIES IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Dr. Stuart Rockoff,
Executive DirectorCARESGRANTS
BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

With funding from Congress through the CARES Act, the Mississippi Humanities Council launched an emergency grant program in April 2020 to help support cultural organizations affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The Council received \$460,000 to redistribute across the state as CARES Emergency Grants, providing unrestricted operational expenses up to \$20,000 for humanities-focused cultural nonprofit organizations for up to two months.

"We were very pleased to be able to direct these federal emergency funds to help the institutions that preserve and document Mississippi's unique cultural heritage while enriching the quality of life in our communities. Our goal was to use these federal relief funds to bolster employment in our state's cultural economy while helping these organizations 'keep the lights on' during this time of unprecedented challenges."

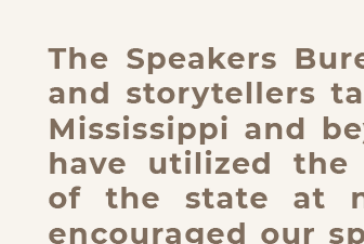
Stuart Rockoff
Executive Director
Mississippi Humanities Council

MS + MA
CROSSING BORDERS
CONNECTING STORIES

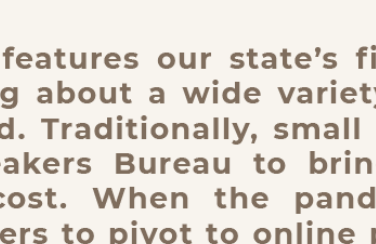
MS + MA was a joint project of the Mississippi and Massachusetts humanities councils, bringing together people from our respective states for six interactive, online programs to facilitate conversation and connection. The series was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to forge connections when in-person programming became impossible. By reflecting on our states' histories in relationship to each other, the series' aim was to build understanding and offer new perspectives. The series spanned seven months and examined the literary heritage of our two states, the Civil Rights Movement from the perspectives of Mississippi organizers and Massachusetts volunteers, the lives of fishing families on the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic seaboard, the role of poetry in public life, the long and ongoing challenge of school integration for both of our states, and Blues music and venues in our two states.



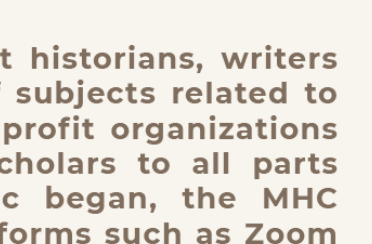
WATCH SOME OF OUR RECORDED DISCUSSIONS!



A discussion about literary heritage, featuring guests W. Ralph Eubanks and Michael Gorra.



An exploration of the Civil Rights Movement featuring Freedom Summer participants Roy DeBerry, Elaine Delott Baker, and Charles Cobb, as well as contemporary community organizer Albert Sykes.



A conversation about the role of poetry in public life, including poems and thoughts from former Mississippi Poet Laureate Beth Ann Fennelly and her student, Michael Martella, plus Worcester (MA) Poet Laureate Juan Matos and Worcester (MA) Youth Poet Laureate, Amina Mohammed.

ADAPTING TO COVID



Pictured: Jim Giesen giving a virtual lecture as part of a Speakers Bureau program (video linked below)

One of the primary goals of the MHC is to bring people together for civil and constructive discussions about topics and issues that directly affect Mississippians.

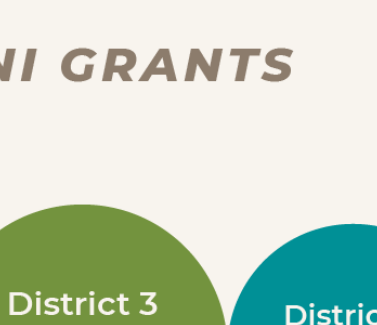
When COVID-19 forced us all to shelter in place, we wanted to find a way to keep people connected while following safety guidelines, so we did what everyone else did: We shifted our programming to the virtual world.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Speakers Bureau features our state's finest historians, writers and storytellers talking about a wide variety of subjects related to Mississippi and beyond. Traditionally, small nonprofit organizations have utilized the Speakers Bureau to bring scholars to all parts of the state at no cost. When the pandemic began, the MHC encouraged our speakers to pivot to the online platforms such as Zoom and Facebook live. Remarkably, without the typical geographical restrictions, many of the talks were more successful than ever, allowing a statewide (and beyond) audience to join virtually, and for some speakers to take more creative measures with their presentations (see Jim Giesen's video linked below).

IDEAS ON TAP

Our original purpose in creating "Ideas on Tap" was to gather Mississippians together in the same space to learn about and discuss important contemporary issues. With the pandemic, we had to move these gatherings to virtual spaces. While we missed the face-to-face interaction, we continued to use "Ideas on Tap" to show how the humanities can help us understand the challenges of our time. From political polarization and systemic racism to the balancing of individual freedom and the public good during the pandemic, "Ideas on Tap" continued to create forums for the civil exchange of diverse ideas.



DON'T TREAD ON...US?
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND THE COMMON GOOD

Mississippi State University Professor of History James C. Giesen talks about the powerful cultural place of the American farmer and touches on topics as far-reaching as

Thomas Jefferson and Jason Aldean.

Virtual Ideas on Tap discussing the struggle between personal freedoms and the common good in the age of COVID-19.

FY2020 GRANTS
BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Grant-making to support public humanities programs, events and projects is central to our work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mississippi Humanities Council worked with grant recipients to help them shift their programs to virtual formats or to extend their grant period to allow in-person programs once COVID-19 restrictions eased. Many events successfully moved to online spaces—and along the way, connected with new audiences that had not been able to travel to these events in the past, but could participate online.

In the response to the national conversation about systemic racism prompted by the murder of George Floyd and other incidents during our COVID year, the MHC created a special grant program to help Mississippi public libraries purchase books on the history of white supremacy and how to create a racially equitable society. In total, \$29,000 was awarded to 27 public library systems across the state and more than 1,700 books were placed in over 120 public libraries in Mississippi.

The MHC is committed to being an accessible grant-maker, offering guidance and support to both our experienced partners and first-time grant writers—and helping grantees carry out their programs when unexpected challenges arise, like a global pandemic.

REGULAR AND MINI GRANTS



University of Mississippi The Twenty-Seventh Oxford Conference for the Book • **Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs, Inc.** Behind the Big House Program & tour (2020) • **League of Women Voters Oxford-North Mississippi League** of Women Voters Oxford-North Mississippi 100th Anniversary Media Project • **Oxford Film Festival** "Win, Lose or Draw Straws" Screening and Discussion • **University of Mississippi-English Department** Magic in the Middle Ages: What's Next? • **Gumtree Museum of Art** Barrier Free—A Socially Engaged Art Installation • **University of Mississippi** Community Conversations: War and Homecoming Across the Humanities • **Yoknapatawpha Arts Council** Oxford to the Ballot Box: The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election • **Mississippi Presenters' Network** Mississippi Creates • **Friends of Thacker Mountain Radio, Inc.** Summer Radio Series • **Columbus-Lowndes Public Library** Reading Shelf • **Lee-Itawamba Library System** Reading Shelf • **Dixie Regional Library System**, **Pontotoc County Library System** Reading Shelf • **First Regional Library Reading Shelf**, **North Central Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Tombigbee Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Marshall County Historical Museum** Historical Documentary of North Central Mississippi • **Jackson State University** 50th Re-collection and Commemoration of Gibbs-Green • **Scott Ford House, Inc.** Presenting Regional Perspectives of Mississippi Midwives: From Jim Crow to Civil Rights • **Community Foundation of Washington County** Girls Write the World Documentary • **New Hope Baptist Church** Back in the Day Black History Celebration • **Greenville Arts Council** Do Drink the Brown Water (2020) • **Delta State University** The Academy Stories (DSU) • **Millisaps College** The Global South and the Black Diaspora—From Mississippi to the Caribbean • **Delta State University** 2020 Sammy O. Cranford Memorial Lecture • **Alcorn State University** 40th Alcorn State University Jazz Festival Workshop • **Coahoma Community College** 2020 Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival • **The Southern Documentary Fund** TEACH • **Community Library Mississippi** Community Library Mississippi Goes Virtual • **Winterville Mounds Park and Museum** Native American Days 2020 • **Jackson State University** 50th Re-collection and Commemoration of Gibbs-Green • **From the Heart Productions** Fannie Lou Hamer's America • **Madison County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Harriette Person Memorial Library** Reading Shelf • **Tallahatchie County Library** Reading Shelf • **Bolivar County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Yalobusha County Public Library System** Reading Shelf • **Sunflower County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Elizabeth Jones Library** Reading Shelf • **Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Community Foundation for Mississippi** The Academy Stories • **Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation, Inc.** Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration 2020: Visits, Vintles & Vines—The Culture of Southern Hospitality • **Historic Natchez Foundation** Slave Dwelling Project-Natchez • **International Museum of Muslim Cultures** Bridging Cultures: Working for Equity Across Race, Class, Religion and Ethnicity • **Mississippi State University** Ben Percy Public Reading Shelf • **The Last Page** Visit • **Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute** Mississippi Justice Then and Now • **Golding Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life** Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities: Mississippi Updates and Revisions • **Mississippi Children's Museum** MCM Activity Kits for COVID-19 Relief • **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** Sounds of Prohibition • **Immigrant Alliance for Justice & Equity of MS** Mississippi Hispanic Heritage Month & Indigenous People's Day: A Night of Art and Storytelling • **Starkville Area Arts Council** Histories I Wish I Knew • **Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Judge George W. Armstrong Library** Reading Shelf • **Central Mississippi Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Jackson Hinds Library System** Reading Shelf • **Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System** Reading Shelf • **The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County** Will Elmer and the Graphic Novel • **League of Women Voters of MS** Bridge Builders and Burners: 100 Years of Woman Suffrage in a Southern State • **Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County** Mississippi History Zoomed to You! • **Waveland Ground Zero Hurricane Museum** Crossroads: Waveland • **University of Southern Mississippi** Ben Jonson's "The Alchemist," the Plague and Contemporary (COVID19) Resonances Today • **Waynesboro-Wayne County Library** Reading Shelf • **Hancock County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Harrison County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County** Reading Shelf • **Pine Forest Regional Library System** Reading Shelf • **Pearl River County Library System** Reading Shelf • **Lamar County Library System** Reading Shelf

FY2020 Funding Sources

NEH-General Operating Support.....	\$ 791,700.00
NEH-CARES Act	474,667.00
Mississippi Legislature: Oral History	45,748.00
Federation of State Humanities Councils	30,000.00
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	50,000.00
Community Foundation for Mississippi	8,500.00
Mississippi Arts Commission	6,489.00
Kettering Foundation Joint Learning Agreement	6,670.00
Private Donations	16,752.00
Interest Income	1,444.00
Miscellaneous Income	25,954.00
Donated Facilities and Services	74,705.00
Total	\$ 1,532,629.00

FY2020 Expenditures

Total: \$1,336,689.00



FY 2020 DONORS

GIFTS OF \$1,000 & ABOVE

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Administrative
\$177,114
13.3%

Fundraising
\$28,646
2.1%

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