



State Humanities Council Approaches to Serving Immigrants and to Telling Their State's Migration Stories

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The material collected here is a sampling of the work state humanities councils do for their states' immigrant and diverse communities and the ways they approach migration and immigration history and culture. It draws primarily on responses to my queries about this work posted on the Federation of State Humanities Council's listservs, information provided in 2014 interim narrative reports, self-assessment reports, and councils' electronic media. Most of these examples are current.

The report begins with the Museum on Main Street exhibition *Journey Stories* because all the councils that have hosted it have supported complementary programming that tells stories of migration and immigration. After six years on the road, this exhibition closes in 2014.

Following the material about *Journey Stories*, the presentations and program descriptions are organized by state. Key words identify each council's approaches. A chart of the approaches to the topics of migration and immigration and the councils that use them is on page 15.



Councils that hosted JOURNEY STORIES, with examples from three councils (Museum on Main Street exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service)

2009: Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma

2010: Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, **Washington**

2011: Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, **Washington** (2nd year)

2012: Florida, Illinois (2nd year), Maryland, North Carolina, Nebraska

2013: **Arizona**, Colorado, Florida (2nd year), Michigan, Ohio

2014: California, Guam, **Utah**, Wyoming, Texas

- **Washington:** *Journey Stories* travelled to twelve communities. Humanities Washington was particularly pleased with the new experience of partnering with a historical society without a physical location to present *Journey Stories* at the Crossroads Mall in suburban Seattle. More than 45,000 visitors saw the exhibit in a community that is extremely diverse and home to many first-generation immigrant families. Many shoppers stopped to read the exhibit panels and look at the artifacts.
- **Arizona:** Arizona Humanities presented *Journey Stories* to six rural communities where 17,656 visitors explored the many different forms of movement in America, from migration and immigration to vacation. In addition to hosting the exhibition, each

community developed unique companion exhibitions and programs that celebrated local history. Many of these sites prepared local exhibitions that tell the unique stories of that place. In Santa Cruz County, for instance, complementary programming themes included the movement of water, the northward migration of culture and traditions, the westward and northward movement of cowboy culture, and the journey of music.

- **Utah:** as part of the *Journey Stories* exhibition, the Utah Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City welcomed a panel of local immigrant leaders who presented their individual journey stories, “Journey Toward Leadership,” followed by a discussion and exchange with the audience. The panel included: Tom Huynh, West Valley City’s first minority councilman; Jorge Fierro, Mexican restaurateur, businessman and activist; and Nephi Prime, a Maori New Zealander and Director of Language and Cultures at the Pacific Heritage Academy. The exhibition is accompanied in West Valley City by a local exhibition “Nation of Immigrants,” curated by artist Namon Bills. “Nation of Immigrants” featured 25 local artists of varying backgrounds working in various mediums, each representing an immigrant experience.



Arizona (programs)

Arizona Humanities funded *Riders on the Orphan Train* at three locations. This program used music, storytelling, video, oral history, and informal discussion to bring awareness about the largest child migration in U.S. history, from the over-crowded east to the developing west. It not only told a story of westward expansion but also highlighted the role Arizona played in providing homes for displaced children from very different backgrounds.



California (programs, statewide read)

The former program director of Cal Humanities says that “everything we do” is about immigration and migration. This has been the case since the Council began the *Reading the Grapes of Wrath* statewide reading initiative in 2002. A highlight of this approach is the *We Are California* bilingual website created by Cal Humanities, weareca.org.



Florida (programs, Prime Time)

The Florida Humanities Council works most directly, and effectively, with immigrant groups through the Prime Time Family Reading Time program. It has sponsored Prime Time programs in Miami that have targeted large numbers of Haitian families with programs in French and Creole. In Plant City the program attracts migrant worker families and in Sarasota county in North Port a number of Russian/Ukrainian families are regular attendees. A number of programs each year are in both

English and Spanish for the state’s ever growing Hispanic population. A large part of the success of these programs have been the public libraries. Immigrants tend to see public libraries as safe places and ones where they can go for a variety of services such as ESOL and citizenship classes, connections to and information about other local social service agencies, as well as free access to the internet.

The Council is at the very beginning stages of developing a program that will touch on multiculturalism, including the topics of immigration/migration.



Maryland (statewide read, grants, speakers)

One Maryland One Book: the 2014 selection is *The Distance Between Us: A Memoir* by Reyna Grande. It tells Grande's story both before and after entering the U.S. from Mexico without documentation at the age of 9 with her father and siblings (she gained legal status at the age of 13). The book tells her story from age 9 until she goes off to college. During the annual multi-stop fall author tour, the Maryland Humanities Council's partners have planned a line-up of programs. In addition to book discussions there

are lectures, films, memoir workshops, and talks given by immigrants sharing their personal stories. In addition to the partners who work with the Council on this program annually—libraries, schools, colleges/universities, museums/ historical societies, senior centers, correctional facilities—outreach has been extended to several of the agencies that provide services to the migrant and immigrant populations.

Grant: a major grant was made in FY2014 to Migrant Clinicians Network to support "Sharing Stories Through Images: A Humanistic Look at Immigrants on Maryland's Eastern Shore." Migrant Clinicians Network will produce an eight-week exhibition of 50 photographs and text portraying Eastern Shore immigrant families and individuals. The exhibit will open in September 2014 and be housed in Salisbury University's downtown gallery. During the exhibit opening, a panel discussion will include an immigrant who is the subject of some of the images, and experts in photojournalism (specifically Earl Dotter, the photographer for the project), cultural studies, immigration, and migrant health. In addition to the panel discussion, the panel moderator will invite the audience to engage with panelists and share personal narratives.

Speakers Bureau: Dr. Martin Ford, Associate Director at the Maryland Office for Refugees and Aslyees (MORA) and former Executive Director of the Maryland Ethnic Heritage Commission, has offered two of MHC's most popular Speakers Bureau programs. His topics are: "Melting Pot or Mixing Bowl: How Immigration Shapes our History," an illustrated lecture that traces the "great waves" in American immigration history and discusses how American attitudes toward newcomers have changed over time; and "The Border Fence in U.S. Immigration History," which uses the idea of "mental fences"—attitudes about inclusion and division—to describe the ways Americans have resisted the inclusion of immigrants, and explores how immigrants have expanded notions of what it means to be American.



Michigan (statewide read, *Muslim Journeys*)

The Michigan Humanities Council implemented the last grant cycle of *Muslim Journeys* with two partner sites. Both worked with Muslim communities to partner and draw audiences. One site was more diverse with a Islamic population and the other was more rural, and not very diverse. An approach that worked well in the rural setting was to form a committee and introduce the program by getting buy-in at all levels in the community. In the other setting, strong program partnerships already existed. The Michigan Humanities Council reaches out to various ethnic groups through its programs. For instance, this past year the *Great Michigan Read* selection, *Annie's Ghosts* by Steve Luxenberg, dealt with immigrant Jewish communities in Detroit and MHC partnered with the Jewish Family Service.



Minnesota (workshop, documentary)

An Evening with Xavier Tavera: Creativity Across Disciplines: after moving from Mexico City to the United States, photographer Xavier Tavera learned what it meant to be part of the immigrant community subculture. Through associated feelings of alienation, Tavera shifted his work to focus on shedding light on the lives of those who are traditionally marginalized. Tavera's images offer insight into the diversity of our communities and have been shown nationally and internationally

including Chile, Uruguay, and China. His work is part of the collections of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Plains Art Museum, and the Weisman Art Museum. The Minnesota Humanities Center hosted an evening with Tavera in a hands-on, easy-to-replicate photography workshop.

Iron Range: Minnesota Building America is an Emmy Award winning documentary film about the history and future of the Iron Range. It was produced by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television. The history of the Iron Range tells the history of America; it is the story of immigrants, of conflict and assimilation, of people creating lives for themselves, their families, and for others. It is a story about industrial America and U.S. military build-ups in the first and second world wars.



Mississippi (programs, speakers)

According to the 2010 census, 2.1% of Mississippi's population is foreign born—only Montana and West Virginia have lower figures. Nevertheless, the Mississippi Humanities Council has long developed programs to serve and reflect the experience of this small, but growing population. It has published two volumes on the ethnic heritage of Mississippi, the most recent of which came out in 2012. In addition, it runs a bi-lingual family reading program called *Luciernagas*, aimed at the state's growing

Hispanic population. During the fall of 2014, it is holding "Lucy" programs in Columbus and Horn Lake. These programs reach parents as well as children. Indeed, usually the kids know English much better than their parents. So far, the program has avoided any controversy in a state with a strong nativist streak. MHC has also funded several projects that relate to the experience of immigrants in Mississippi. Most recently, it funded a symposium and exhibit on the Chinese of the Mississippi Delta, and in the past has supported programs about the Vietnamese immigrants of the Gulf Coast. Several topics related to immigrants in Mississippi are part of the speakers bureau.



Nebraska (programs, speakers, Prime Time)

In 2004, the University of Nebraska Center for Public Affairs Research released important demographic statistics. These statistics pointed to substantial demographic changes in Nebraska's immediate future. In response, Humanities Nebraska adopted a multi-year initiative to explore three important demographic changes shaping Nebraska's future: the influx of immigrants and refugees, the movement of people from rural to urban and suburban communities, and the continued aging of the state's

population despite the influx of new, young immigrant and refugee families and the baby boom ripple effect.

In 2004, 2007, and 2008, the Council rolled out a series of initiatives that included RFPs for grant applications, targeted speakers bureau programs, scholar recruitment, and other special efforts. The *New Nebraskans* initiative (2004) was designed to encourage productive

civic discussion of issues faced by immigrants, refugees and their host communities. *The Good Life: Rural—Urban—Suburban* (2007) addressed potential problems that might result from the movement of people from farms and small towns to the metro areas of the state. Areas for special consideration include identity and sense of place, rural culture, technology, and natural and other resources. The 2008 initiative, *Growing Older in Nebraska*, encouraged Nebraskans of all ages to respond better to the challenges and opportunities of aging while supporting, strengthening, and revitalizing our communities for all citizens. This grants initiative is no longer active, but HN supports Prime Time, speakers bureau, and cultural encounter kits.



New Hampshire Humanities Council (programs; book discussion; documentary)

Fences & Neighbors: New Hampshire's Immigration Story: This four-year initiative included: The NH Theatre Project created an original play, *Dreaming Again*, based on the authentic voices and experiences of immigrant and refugees who have settled in New Hampshire over the past 100-plus years. Written and performed by the NH Theatre Project, *Dreaming Again* toured the state in 2012 for 10 public performances in seven communities. A second tour to 15 schools combined with teacher professional development workshops took place in 2013-14, and discussions are underway for a third tour during the fall of 2014. This initiative also supported:

- NH Public Radio created a series of documentaries, call-in programs, and news features on New Hampshire's immigration story, funded with a major NHHHC grant in 2012. In 2013, the series won an Edward R. Murrow Award.
- The Saint Anselm College-Manchester School District's "Humanities After School" program, a *Fences & Neighbors* regrant, was so successful that they applied for and received two additional grants from the NHHHC's regular regrant program to conduct a second year of the program. Now in its fourth year and independently funded, St. Anselm College has expanded "Humanities After School" into one of four tracks within their new Access Academy for Manchester high school students. The Manchester School District is committed to providing student credits through the ELO (extended learning opportunities) program for any student involved in the Saint Anselm initiative. Some of the original "Humanities After School" participants have now entered college, including at Saint Anselm College where they are serving as student mentors of the next class of Access Academy participants.
- "Who Am I Going to Be: African Youth Building Lives in NH," a 40-minute documentary video, is the final *Fences & Neighbors* regrant project to be completed. It will premiere in the fall of 2014 and will tour the state to be shown to such groups as teachers, law enforcement officers, social service providers, medical staff.
- UNH Center for the Humanities' success with their documentary video, "Uprooted: Heartache & Hope in New Hampshire" has led them to create a new documentary, "Fade to Black," about the loss of historical knowledge concerning New Hampshire's African-American past.

The Story of a Pumpkin: is a bilingual children's book published in 2012. It was written, translated, and illustrated by Bhutanese refugees resettling in New Hampshire. The project inspired confidence and a sense of belonging and cohesion among participants. The book and the process of creating it honored the Bhutanese-Nepali culture, and created new connections across generations and between the Bhutanese and their new neighbors in New Hampshire. Refugee Bishnu Khanal summed up the project's value this way: "I think this

story is about refugees coming to a new country. We have a large communications gap, but our children will bridge it. In the story, the man emerged from the pumpkin and became his true self. In that same way, our children will emerge... and become their true selves in our new home.”

- Public libraries use the tale from Bhutan in story programs. The NHHC adult literacy program Connections includes the book in its discussion series with both ESOL students and native English speakers. It has been added to immigration and folklore units in NH elementary and middle schools.
- A review of the book by the capital city’s daily, *The Concord Monitor*, noted, “*The Story of a Pumpkin* is most definitely not just the story of a pumpkin. It’s a story of national heritage, rooted deep in the farmlands of Bhutan and passed down from generation to generation. It’s a story of growth and change, written in both the native language of Bhutanese refugees and the language they are struggling daily to learn. And it’s a story of honoring tradition, designed to link these refugees’ children to the quickly fading memories of their homeland.”

A *Connections* book discussion series for immigrants was linked in 2013 to *Constitutionally Speaking*, (NHHC’s collaboration with the New Hampshire Supreme Court Society, the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership and Public Policy at UNH Law School, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and Social Sciences at Dartmouth, the New Hampshire Institute for Civic Education, and St. Anselm College’s New Hampshire institute of Politics). Participants had asked for more books on American history and government. The NH chapter of the DAR donated pocket copies of the Constitution to participants in the two pilot series. One group of 35 students in Manchester asked for a second series on the same theme and then organized a trip to walk Boston’s Freedom Trail as a follow-up. In 2014, a writing component is being added to Connections and digital literacy is being incorporated into the classes.

Hari Sharma is a Bhutanese refugee who started as a student, served as an editor of *The Story of a Pumpkin*, and is now a *Connections* facilitator. He was featured in July 2014 on NH Public Radio in a competitive spot about nonprofits called “Giving Matters.”

Who am I Going to Be, a documentary chronicling the experiences of resettlement from the perspective of five refugee youth living in New Hampshire, premieres in October and has been selected to open the 2014 New Hampshire Film Festival.



New Mexico (grants, Chautauqua)

Through our *Chautauqua* and *Grant* programs, the NMHC has aligned itself with scholars and organizations that address interdisciplinary immigration issues and topics to help further develop transnational conversations. These programs address issues essential to the residents of New Mexico and their experiences.

Diana Molina’s Chautauqua presentation of the “Seven String Barbed Wire Fence: The Many Faces Of Latino Immigration In The U.S aims to provide a balanced, informative account of the often emotionally-charged issue of Latino Immigration to the U.S. A polyphonic multimedia presentation gives a human face to the issue: different voices, independent and disunited, are bound by the common theme of immigration. Photos, montages, three-dimensional installation examples, and a short video document the formidable barriers along the border environment and provide a comprehensive portrayal of

the actors and arguments within the post-9/11 debate over policy reform. Molina has presented her program in Artesia, a community with a detention center holding approximately 600 immigrant/refugees. Her talk at the community library was about Latino immigration to the U.S. and has hopefully spurred ongoing conversations about what is happening in this community and others.

In her Chautauqua on “Race And Racism In The New Millennium: The Economic Impact Of Unconscious Bias,” Sherri Burr focuses on the discriminatory impact of unconscious bias. Burr draws on studies on shopping for cars and mortgages, participating in music competitions, and searching for jobs by using phantom resumes to show that while the law has eliminated conscious discrimination against African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and others, these groups continue to be harmed at a more insidious, unconscious level. The surprising revelation is that group members sometimes discriminate against each other.

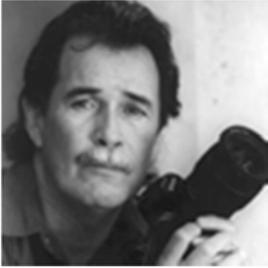
Grants: In each grant cycle, applications and awards deal with different factors of immigration that are of interest and relevant to current issues facing communities, the state, the nation and the world. Some funded organizations can reach and engage their target audience in ways not typically available in mainstream organizations. Collaborating with neighborhood community centers has allowed bilingual discussions of personal stories that reflect the challenges of emigrating to a new place, transitioning to a new culture, and experiencing both visible and invisible border. Last year the Council funded a radio documentary series that dealt with gender violence on the U.S. border. This program included not only scholars and journalists but also victims’ family members, each telling stories, each adding a piece to the conversation. This program provided opportunities for the public to dive deep into the different dimensions of a cross-border crisis, rather than getting tidbits of information on the news, because it included multiple voices from the grass roots to the academic.



New York (book discussion, festival)

The New York Council for the Humanities’ *Unidos—Charlas de libros para niños y padres* program offers a unique forum for bilingual (Spanish and English) parents and their 9- to 11-year-old children to come together to talk about books and ideas at their local library. Unidos reaches out statewide to linguistically and culturally diverse families. Many families who speak English as a second language are unable to use their native languages to support their children’s reading. *Unidos* gives libraries the tools to introduce and reinforce the pleasure of engaged reading through bilingual reading and discussion.

The University at Buffalo Humanities Institute, with support from the NYCH, presented the first annual Buffalo Humanities Festival, “Migration Nation: Moving Stories,” in September 2014. The day and a half of talks, music, conversations, dance, and food, sought to answer the deceptively simple question “how did we get here” in a fresh, lively, and fun atmosphere.



North Carolina (exhibition)

North Carolina is not positioned as a welcoming state, particularly for undocumented immigrants. It remains, however, a growing hub for legal immigrants. The burgeoning Hispanic population requires that the North Carolina Humanities Council develop innovative outreach approaches. The Council is working to diversify board membership to represent this group and to increase understanding about appealing programming. An example of grants awarded is the exhibition project “Picturing Our

People—Al Norte al Norte: Latino Life in NC” at the North Carolina Museum of History. The exhibit was the work of José Galvez, photographer and guest curator who, for more than 40 years, “has captured a powerful and unparalleled historical record of the Latino experience in America.” A widely attended series of lectures accompanied the exhibition.



North Dakota (programs)

The NDHC encourages organizations currently working with immigrants to apply for funding for projects. It also works with Lutheran Social Services to provide free tickets to immigrants, mostly refugees, to programs like the *Game Changer Series* which is focused this year on the Middle East. The image here is of Sudanese children, but not those connected to the program described below.

A NDHC grant supports a year-long language and cultural preservation project to bridge linguistic, cultural and experiential gaps between adult and their U.S.-raised and educated children. The Dinka- and Nuer-speaking Sudanese immigrants spent years fleeing war and surviving in refugee camps, years that did not accommodate educational attainment or vocational development. This project will facilitate English and Dinka or Nuer language learning as an avenue to anchor and evolve relationships between parents and children. It will also aid understanding of North Dakota’s cultural particularities. At the beginning of the process, parents will write letters to their children in Dinka to give a generation of youth coming of age in America insight into their experiences within and displacement from Sudan during a particularly conflicted, devastating period in the country's history. Children participating in the project will write letters to their parents in English, introducing a chapter or illuminating a dimension of their lives for their parents. Through the course of this yearlong project, parents will study English and youth will learn Dinka or Nuer, culminating in the translation of each others’ letters. Instead of motivating language acquisition as a primer for professional development or academic progress, this project will ground language learning in the context of familial and communal relationships and desire to relate to a child or parent. At the conclusion of the project, participants will have the opportunity to read their letters during a community celebration that will be open to the public. The side-by-side original and translated letters contributed by participants willing to publish their narratives will be prepared as a manuscript available to the public via a print-on-demand service.



Rhode Island (programs, grants)

Expansion Arts Program is a peer-learning capacity-building program supported by a collaboration of the RI Foundation, the RI Council on the Arts, and the RI Council for the Humanities. Expansion Arts offers funding and technical assistance to immigrant and minority community-based arts and humanities organizations in the form of consultation time, administrative support, and peer group work. Organizations build and learn together over time, share resources, and build valuable long-term

relationships. Outcomes include cultural preservation, heritage expression, audience building, and enhanced knowledge of immigrant culture and heritage throughout the state.

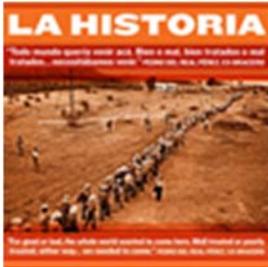
Rhode Tour - Mobile Phone Application: RICH has partnered with Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage and the Rhode Island Historical Society to create a statewide mobile historical smart phone application for local, place-based histories of Rhode Island. One of the first projects chosen to represent a diverse approach to Rhode Island history will be a tour of Providence's Elmwood neighborhood. Established for the rising middle class in the mid-nineteenth century, Elmwood's history is one of successive waves of immigration, from the Irish, German, and Jewish immigrants who once called Elmwood home to the Dominican, Chinese, and African American residents of 2014. The Elmwood Neighborhood tour will look at urban placemaking as an agent of change, linking stories of the neighborhood's rich heritage and beautiful architecture to the power and importance of ethnic and economic diversity now.

Grants Program: the Council address issues and immigration through supporting public humanities research and programs, for example:

- Hispanic Heritage Committee of Rhode Island, *Nuestras Raíces—The Latino Oral History Project of RI*. The Spanish word “raíces” means “roots” in English, and this explains what this project is all about: The history of the Latino community of Rhode Island and how it all began. The project aims to collect oral histories charting the history of Latino populations in Rhode Island, especially the four fastest-growing populations: Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Colombians and Guatemalans.
- Newport Historical Society, *The Spectacle of Toleration*. Funds supported an academic conference and statewide public programming exploring the lived experience of tolerance and religious pluralism in society. By examining 18th century Newport and Rhode Island and comparing it to other times and places, the project sought to extract lessons on how we deal with diversity in thought, culture, and belief today.
- Olneyville Neighborhood Association, *Heroic Voices II: Stories of Separation and Survival*. Funds support a community-led oral history project that will chronicle the experiences of immigrants and their families with detention and deportation. Led by the immigrants who will share their testimonials, the project will be used as an educational tool within the community and among the general public.
- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, *Welcoming Rhode Island: My Story, Our Community*. Funds support the collection of oral history interviews by students in the Providence College Global Studies Program from 16 local immigrants and refugees in Rhode Island, focusing on the themes of globalization, migration, and how individual journeys can contribute to a collective sense of community. The collected oral histories will be put on exhibition at the International Institute of Rhode Island and digitized online, and will aim to bridge the divide between immigrants/refugees and native-born Rhode Islanders in order to foster a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere in the state.

Impact Over Time: The Council's Role in Immigrant Cultural Heritage: To celebrate the 40th anniversary of RICH, historian Dr. Nancy Austin was commissioned to help tell the Council's story. Austin used the Council's archive of grants, the founding of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and important moments in Rhode Island's early and more recent history. The resulting essay begins to trace the cumulative impact of Council grantmaking over four decades through the lens of three representative themes: (1) *The Lively Experiment*, to honor Rhode Island's exceptional Colonial Charter—350 years old this year—and its legacy of tolerance and the principle of separation of church and state; (2) *Our Stories, Our Rhode Island*, to convey the achievements of immigrant and heritage histories;

and (3) Place Making, to suggest the significant role that Council grants have played in the revitalization of Providence and other places. An example of the material in this essay are the grants made to Rhode Island's Cape Verdean community, starting with a 1973 grant in RICH's first grantmaking cycle that funded the inaugural convention of the Cape Verdean American Federation. Numerous Council grants in subsequent years engaged the Cape Verdean community to experiment with new ways to preserve cultural memory across generations by combining oral history, traditional and nontraditional historical research, and non-academic story telling. RICH has helped artists, scholars, and students from this heritage community preserve cultural memory, communicate diverse stories on a public platform, and evolve a multi-generational perspective on assimilation and heritage identity.



Humanities Tennessee (programs, *Muslim Journeys*, exhibition)

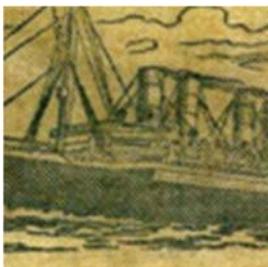
Humanities TN is travelling a bilingual poster series from the Smithsonian exhibit “Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964.” The poster exhibit began touring the state in 2014, and has reached five communities, with an additional three booked so far in 2015. In addition to the exhibit, the Council provides each host site a facilitated, bilingual public discussion, *Life on the Fence: A Long View of Guest Worker Programs*, and funding for companion projects, publicity, and

children's books.

In partnership with the Nashville Public Library's StoryCorps-funded project, “Nashville's New Faces,” Humanities Tennessee is collecting oral history interviews with foreign-born Nashvillians. It began a digital archive of the ongoing collection, and will use audio excerpts to share and interpret this content on the Council's website. It is also widening its collection statewide in conjunction with other Humanities TN projects, such as “Bittersweet Harvest.”

Both of these ongoing projects fall under Humanities TN's initiative, *Our Stories. Our State*. The initiative includes a range of projects that uses stories to promote a shared understanding among Tennesseans of diverse experiences.

Humanities Tennessee also sponsors a selection of four conversations that address race relations in the U.S. from the 1850s to the present as well as the *Muslim Journeys* reading discussion series. *Muslim Journeys* serves to introduce HT to Muslim community leaders and groups.



Humanities Texas (programs, exhibition, media)

Texas's increasing diversity represents its most significant social transformation in recent decades. Although Humanities Texas's grants and traveling exhibitions have always focused on underserved communities, the current demographic changes compel HT to continue to adjust its exhibitions and educational programs to serve the growing Hispanic population. *Texas Originals* (available on radio, iTunes, and website), the e-newsletter, and the website offer feature the diversity of

the state's history and Latino and African American events. A planned literacy initiative has the potential to not only promote a love of reading while facilitating communication in English, but to also advance a greater appreciation of our state's diverse cultures through regional literature.

Humanities Texas is working with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum on a traveling version of their major exhibition on immigration through *Galveston Port, Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island* which will be available

in fall 2014. In addition, the council continues to offer several other exhibitions about Mexican American, African American, Texas, and women's history. New bilingual exhibitions are in the planning stage that will have greater visual appeal as well more audio-visual components and interactive technology. The challenge in accomplishing this is balancing increased size and maintenance needs with affordable shipping and ease of installation.



Utah (programs, grants)

Bridging Cultures Award: In 2013, the Utah Humanities Council, as part of its Humanities Ties Awards, gave the Bridging Cultures Award to Diana Paredes and Luis Garza of Comunidades Unidas or Communities United, whose mission is to eliminate ethnic disparities by promoting grassroots outreach, education and capacity building, as well as advocating for long term policy change. The Council supports Comunidades Unidas' Welcoming Utah Initiative which aims to

strengthen relationships between Utah's native-born and foreign-born residents. Welcoming Utah organizes community dialogues, workshops, film screenings, and other activities that provide opportunities for new and old Utahans to share experiences and stories in order to understand each other better. Welcoming Utah has made a difference in the lives of many by promoting healthy dialogue about immigrants, refugees, race, and ethnicity.

Inside Out: We Are One Inside Out is a public art project by 10-graders inspired by their teacher, Jorge Rojas, by a Utah Humanities Council Clemente Course on the history of public art, and by their participation in the national Achievement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. These sophomores considered whether art can change the world and affect people's perceptions and ideas. They wanted Salt Lake City to know that East High—the school that was the setting for Disney's "High School Musical"—isn't all white. To tell that story and to change peoples' understanding, they mounted 100 pictures of themselves on the walls of their school, showing the world outside who they are inside and how diverse their school community is. The *We Are One Project* has now become a brief documentary produced by Spy Hop and available on YouTube.



Vermont (programs, statewide read, grants, speakers, book discussion)

VT Reads, the Vermont Humanities Council's statewide one-book community reading program, has focused on refugee and immigrant experiences and issues in three of its twelve years, featuring *First They Killed My Father* by Loung Ung (Cambodia, 2004), *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka (Japanese internment camps, 2009), and Katherine Paterson's *The Day of the Pelican* (Kosovo, 2010).

Grants:

- "Welcome to Vermont," a documentary by filmmaker Mira Niagolova, presents four vignettes of the daily lives of refugee families displaced from Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and Rwanda. The VHC grant supported teacher resources, including online resources with background information on the film and a teachers' study guide, and present educator workshops on the film.
- *New Vermonters from the Balkans: An Online Resource*, Vermont Folklife Center. The grant supported the center in making their research, including photographs, audio, and videos, available via a new website to raise awareness of the refugee resettlement experience in Vermont.

- The Golden Cage: Mexican Migrant Workers and Vermont Dairy Farmers exhibit at the Bent Northrop Memorial Library. This grant helped bring an exhibit from the Vermont Folklife Center to the library in Fairfield. Programs included a lecture by interviewer and former Vermont Migrant Education Program tutor Chris Urban and photographer Caleb Kenna.

Speakers Bureau: the Vermont Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau includes two frequently presented events related to immigration:

- The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains: Beginning in the late 1840s and lasting through the 1860s, thousands of Irish immigrants, escaping the potato famine in their homeland, settled in Vermont. They arrived in the Green Mountain State just as Vermont was undergoing a mini industrial revolution—a revolution based on railroad construction, the quarrying of slate and marble, and textile production. Vince Feeney, author of the recently published history of the Irish in Vermont, *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeppers*, tells the little-known story of the impact of Irish immigrants on Vermont life in the middle of the nineteenth century.
- Vermonters of Many Cultures: Vermont is often described as culturally homogenous, yet nearly a third of all Vermonters trace their ancestry to French Canada, and there is a long history of cultural diversity in such urban centers as Rutland, Barre, and Burlington's Old North End. This slide lecture by Vermont Folklife Center programming director Gregory Sharrow explores the vital cultures of Vermont's immigrant communities—including the growing refugee populations of Chittenden and Washington counties—highlighting family celebrations, foodways, religious culture and traditional arts as they relate to personal and family identity.

Reading and literacy: VHC offers one reading and discussion program on the topic of immigration that is designed for students (middle school students and older) and adults (perhaps parents). For many years it has offered literacy programs created for refugees and immigrants. The VHC Director of Literacy Programs, herself an experienced adult and family literacy teacher who has worked with refugees and immigrants, communicates with the host staff, who are often educators of adult English Language Learners, to specially select books that would be best for their participants, given their cultural backgrounds and language abilities. The books are gifts to each participant to help build their home libraries and practice what they have learned. Books selected have included titles that were published by humanities councils in Minnesota and New Hampshire, as well as VHC's annual *Vermont Reads* selection. Adult reading and discussion programs are provided through the Connections program and early literacy workshops for parents of children from birth to age 6, through the Read With Me program. VHC also provides professional development on leading book discussions for teachers of adult ELL classes. These teachers can then choose books at any time for students in their classes. VHC has supported a workplace ELL class for custodians at the University of Vermont and a pilot program served Bhutanese women who are in training to become registered home child care providers. A small group of immigrants and refugees in Middlebury has met for many years with their teacher where they are learning about U.S. history and culture by reading and discussing books provided by VHC. In addition, for several years VHC has annually provided a Mini Grant of \$200 for a program serving Burundi refugee families.



Wyoming (programs, documentary)

The Wyoming Humanities Council recently funded the production of a play about illegal immigration, *No Roosters in the Desert*, performed in two sites. WHC hosted Q&A sessions after each show to discuss the issue of illegal immigration and the hazards of the desert crossing from Mexico into the U.S. The Council also sponsored the director/producer at a high school on the Wind River Indian Reservation and at the neighboring community college where students created brilliant 8 foot by 5 foot posters that served as the stage backdrop for the play.

Jose Antonio Vargas, the Pulitzer winning journalist who recently announced he was an undocumented immigrant having been brought to the U.S. illegally as a child, spoke at the Alan K. Simpson Institute's Symposium on Immigration in Laramie in September 2014.

The Council maintains a long-term relationship with a group of "college-bound Latinas" from Jackson. In 2013 it sponsored the creation of a documentary, *Voces Latinas de Wyoming*, about these daughters of Mexican immigrants to Jackson, the most wealthy community in the state and one of the most wealthy in the country. These young women will be going to the University of Wyoming



Virginia (programs, documentary, board)

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities has several projects about immigration inspired by or located in Arlington County.

Columbia Pike Documentary Project: Over the past dozen years, Lloyd Wolf, Paula Endo, Mimi Xang Ho, Duy Tran, Aleksandra Lagkueva, and the other photographers in the Columbia Pike Documentary Project have walked this road for thousands of hours, observing and photographing it,

looking into its multicultural face, studying the polyglot language of its soul. VFH engagement with the Columbia Pike Documentary Project began in 2002 with a grant to support publication of a book called *Portraits from the Pike*. It continued with a series of grants made between 2007 and 2009 to the Urban Alternatives Foundation and the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization. These grants supported more photo-documentation and interviews with Pike residents, leading up to an exhibit and public forum on the Pike's future, held in celebration of its 200th anniversary in 2010. Meanwhile, the face of the Pike community continued to change, and the documentation work has continued, right up to the present day. A new book, *Living Diversity*, will soon showcase the fruits of the Columbia Pike Documentary Project to the world.

- VFH has sponsored a partnership with Arlington County Public Schools that engages local teachers and the Arlington community in a focused exploration of Latino immigration in the United States.
- *Food & Community:* In August 2014, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities began a long-term, statewide effort to explore the nature of community, tradition, family, and personal identity through the lens of food. The Food & Community project was launched in Arlington, not far from Columbia Pike, and more than half the participants in the launch event were first-generation immigrants. Several had been involved in documenting the Pike community since the days of *Portraits from the Pike*.

The Virginia Folklife Program documents and honors, not just the traditions that have long been associated with Virginia, but also those that are recently arrived. These include master-apprenticeship programs in Guatemalan "Alfombra" carpet-making, Ethiopian liturgical

singing, Mongolian traditional maskmaking, and Mexican mole sauce-making from the state of Aguascalientes, to name just a few examples.

New partnerships with immigrant communities are emerging across the state. Current members of the VFH board of directors bring the perspectives of immigration/migration from Iraq, Bolivia, and Vietnam.

Types of Approaches to the Topics of Migration and Immigration and the Councils that Use Them

<i>programs</i>	<i>statewide read</i>	<i>grants</i>	<i>speakers</i>	<i>Journey Stories</i>	<i>Muslim Journeys</i>	<i>Prime Time</i>	<i>book discussion</i>	<i>festival</i>	<i>documentary</i>	<i>Chautauqua</i>	<i>exhibition</i>	<i>media</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>board</i>
AZ	CA	MD	MD	AL	MI	FL	NH	NY	MN	NM	NC	TX	MN	VA
CA	MD	NM	MS	AZ	TN	NE	NY		NH		TN			
FL	MI	RI	NE	CA			VT		WY		TX			
MS	VT	UT	VT	CO					VA					
NE		VT		FL										
NH				GU										
ND				ID										
RI				IL										
TN				KS										
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