Growing the Humanities

Building and stewarding resources to create bridges of understanding across California
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calhum.org
Letter from our President & CEO, Julie Fry

Growth.

It’s a word we use a lot in California, where the population almost tripled in the second part of the 20th century and where we are now in one of the longest economic expansions in our history.

It’s also a word we use a lot at California Humanities as we consider how best to serve this dynamic and innovative state. We know we can’t stand still; it’s imperative that we continue to listen, learn, and implement new ways of bringing people together through the public humanities.

We had a banner growth year at California Humanities in 2019, from our first-ever funding of $1 million from the State of California—thanks to our two key champions, State Senator Ben Allen and Assembly Member Rob Bonta—to a project that brought California and France closer together. We continued to engage with young people by partnering with community colleges through CA 2020: Youth Perspective and the Future of California. And we continued to expand programs, making more than $1.2 million in grants and adding new health care facilities to our Literature & Medicine® Program. We thank you for being part of our upward trajectory and look forward to seeing what we can do together in 2020 and beyond.

First Funding from the State of California

Early on a Wednesday morning in March 2019, a group of 12 California Humanities staff, board members, and board alumni gathered in a conference room in Sacramento to prepare for the first Humanities Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. During those 40 meetings we had with state legislators and/or their staff throughout the rest of the day, the message was clear: the public humanities matter in your district and are a positive underpinning of democracy in our state. We are grateful for all the Senators and Assembly Members who agreed and helped us to achieve our first-ever state funding of $1 million.
Program Impact

Library Innovation Lab

In 2019, we completed our second Library Innovation Lab cohort and began our third. Both cohorts, each comprised of staff from ten public libraries throughout California, reviewed the needs and interests of immigrants in their communities, designed events that engaged and welcomed these groups, and connected them with long-term residents in their areas. Library participants were guided through the ten-month design lab by mentors from previous years, and California Humanities staff hosted digital meetups and multiple face-to-face convenings in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento to foster a statewide learning community. Library staff cited the benefits of this professional development to their careers and circulation of foreign language books and e-materials rose at several branches.

California Documentary Project

California Documentary Project (CDP) Research & Development and Production grants support high-quality humanities-based media projects that document California in all its complexity. The CDP NextGen grant program supports emerging filmmakers age 18 and under. In addition to community screenings throughout California, multiple projects also received national broadcasts in 2019, including UNITED SKATES on HBO, with articles in the New York Times and Vanity Fair. WORLDS OF URSULA K. LE GUIN, the first feature documentary on the famed science fiction writer, broadcast nationally on American Masters, and two films were selected for the PBS series VOCES: THE PUSHOUTS and ADIOS AMOR: THE SEARCH FOR MARIA MORENO.

“The film is, in some ways, kind of a classic humanities story, even though it’s a biography of a person. It’s a life—a California life in its origin—which intersects with fields of humanities study in quite interesting ways... She took the painful moral lessons about the decimation of native tribes in California that she had learned as a growing person, and she combined them into explorations of far-flung worlds in outer space, of how societies could be put together differently. The humanities are at the core of her work.”

—Arwen Curry, Director, WORLDS OF URSULA K. LE GUIN
Program Impact

Humanities for All Quick Grants

Humanities for All Quick Grants are for small-scale public humanities projects that take place over the course of one year. Our applicant pool keeps growing: in 2019 we saw a higher volume of submissions from first time applicants. Since this program launched three years ago, we have awarded 176 grants. With grant deadlines offered three times per year, Quick Grants have supported topical projects such as exhibitions celebrating the centenary of women’s voting rights, panel discussions exploring California’s rich culinary traditions and foodways, and writing and performance workshops for veterans. Together these projects reflect the diverse spectrum of humanities work that is happening across the state.

Humanities for All Project Grants

Humanities for All Project Grants provide funding for large-scale public humanities projects of up to two years duration. In the three years since the program launched, 70 awards have been made that reflect the diversity of California’s communities and the rich variety of humanities programming offered by our community partners. By supporting the work of organizations both large and small across the state — including libraries, museums, educational institutions, and cultural and civic organizations — these grants help to nourish and strengthen California’s vibrant humanities ecosystem.

Second Responders: The Humanities in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters

In 2019 we launched a new grant focus area, Second Responders: The Humanities in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters which attracted funds from a Chairman’s Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Projects which self-identify under this designation aim to assist communities in recovering and healing in the wake of disasters such as wildfires, floods, and mudslides. Four projects with this designation were awarded in 2019 including Your Carr Fire Story: Written and Heard, a writing workshop and reading series curated by the Shasta County Arts Council, and WordSpring, a creative writing conference at Butte College, which will include poetry and creative writing sessions to help communities heal from the devastating Camp Fire.
Program Impact

Literature & Medicine®: Humanities at the Heart of Medicine

In 2019, we began a statewide expansion of Literature & Medicine®, a national, award-winning, medical humanities program for health care workers. We currently present Literature & Medicine® at five sites in Fresno, Sacramento, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Bakersfield. We are working to expand the program to include new locations in Southern California, the Central Valley, and the Central Coast. This year, a total of 71 Veterans Affairs’ staff members explored the human element of medical practice through readings, screenings, and discussions facilitated by skilled humanities scholars, designed to help staff better understand and empathize with the experience of their patients and peers.

CA 2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen

Launched in 2018, CA 2020: Democracy and the Informed Citizen brings Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists and media training to community college campuses in order to amplify young people’s voices in public dialogue. In 2019, we partnered with Bakersfield College, Foothill-De Anza Colleges, the San Diego Community College District, and Shasta College. Focusing on their region’s recovery from the devastating Carr Fire, students at Shasta College created audio stories which were profiled in an interview on the local NPR station and garnered an invite to the Community College Honors Conference. Shasta College also brought in Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sonia Nazario to meet with students, culminating in a public forum which drew approximately 400 attendees and plenty of local news coverage. At Bakersfield College, three Democracy Media Fellows produced 14 articles published in five outlets, reaching over 425,000 readers.

NEH Leadership in California

We were proud to welcome both Chairman Jon Parrish Peede and Senior Deputy Chairman Carlos Díaz-Rosillo from the National Endowment for the Humanities to California in the past year. Chairman Peede joined a California Humanities board meeting in Los Angeles, then traveled to Fresno to give the keynote speech at the CSU-Fresno College of Arts and Humanities Convocation. Sr. Deputy Chairman Díaz-Rosillo met with a group of our media grantees in Oakland and visited some local cultural institutions with us.
California Humanities on the International Stage

We took a giant step as part of an international cultural exchange between Oakland and Saint-Denis, France, in partnership with the French Consulate of San Francisco and the French-American Cultural Society. The overarching goal is to look in an interdisciplinary way at how the cultural and artistic assets of two similar cities (which are in the shadow of their more iconic neighbors), both grappling with gentrification and issues of social equity, can inform urban development. California Humanities participated in a week-long learning expedition to Saint-Denis in Fall 2019, and our French counterparts joined us in Oakland a month later. There are plans for a bilingual publication, as well as related performances, events, and exhibits in Oakland in the coming year. Our role is to support and partner on a short documentary film about both expeditions to be used in sharing this work widely with policymakers, urban developers, arts and culture institutions and leaders, and others across the world.

The Art of Storytelling

Art of Storytelling exhibits, displayed in our Oakland office, showcase visual media which celebrates California’s rich cultural and artistic histories in conversation with the dynamics of its changing demographics. We Are More: Stories by Queer Comic Artists, launched with an opening reception and artist talk in June. Four visual artists from Oakland contributed works to the exhibit, which included a sneak preview of a California Documentary Project-funded film NO STRAIGHT LINES. The exhibit brought in new partnerships with a transgender art modeling collective and youth filmmaking organizations.

California on the Table

In September, California Humanities hosted our first fundraising event, California on the Table, in San Francisco. Attendees enjoyed local cuisine, live Japanese jazz, and stories that connected the humanities to California food traditions, including remarks from former grantees Steven Wong, curator of the exhibit L.A. Heat: Taste Changing Condiments, and Lisa Morehouse, producer of the radio and podcast series California Foodways, as well as our keynote Nikiko Masumoto. Thank you to all who donated and attended in support of our programs.
Highlighted Projects

Call Taiko Swing Humboldt, a collaboration between San Jose Taiko and the Humboldt State University Jazz Orchestra, supported by a Humanities for All Quick Grant, used music and immersive theatre to recreate the performances of big bands in the Japanese American incarceration camps.

Visual Sovereignty at the Crocker Art Museum received a Humanities for All Quick Grant for a day-long symposium exploring the role art plays as Native Americans assert their history, and reestablish their power, culture, and authority.

In the Sierras, a Humanities for All Quick Grant supported Voices of Wisdom, a series of workshops to help seniors create memoirs to preserve their stories, facilitated by expert writing and editing coaches from Manzanitas Writers Press.

California Documentary Project grantee THE PUSHOUTS had its national broadcast premiere on PBS. The film follows former high school dropout Victor Rios, now a respected college professor, highlighting how opportunity and mentorship can radically change outcomes for youth.

Humanities for All Project Grant-funded exhibit CAMINOS at Arte Américas focused on the diverse experiences of Latinos in the Central Valley and the paths that brought them there. Two screenings of California Documentary Project film ADIOS AMOR, the story of a migrant mother who was an early unsung leader of the farmworker movement, were part of the exhibit.
BELONGING: Expressions of Black Empowerment and Possibility in San Luis Obispo was a month-long, multi-location, multimedia arts experience presented by R.A.C.E. Matters SLO and supported by a Humanities for All Quick Grant during Black History Month.

Kayaman Ng Lahi’s Media PAMANA Project, supported by a CDP NextGen grant, trained youth participants of their Philippine Folk Arts group to create short videos that explored their immigrant identity through the cultural traditions and customs of Philippine folk arts.

Using visual storytelling to promote empathy and share the immigrant and refugee experience the Fountain Valley Branch of Orange County Public Libraries designed ongoing programming focused on Vietnamese Americans and the community at large through Libraries Are for Everyone, a Library Innovation Lab project.

A month-long Humanities for All Project Grant-supported project celebrated and raised awareness about San Diego librarian Clara Breed, who fought against the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII.

Position Vector Salton Sea, a collaboration between the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and land artist Hans Baumann, is supported by a Humanities for All Project Grant. Tribal elders teach youth Cahuilla folkways in multi-day workshops. An art installation on tribal lands will measure the disappearance of the Salton Sea and mediate the community’s relationship to this ecological crisis.
Grants Awarded in 2019

California Documentary Project
Research & Development
Up to $10,000

- Acting Like Women: Performance Art and The Woman’s Building
  Project Director: Cheri Gaulke
  Chimaera Project

- The Dressmaker Strike of 1933
  Project Director: Mylene Moreno
  International Documentary Association

California Documentary Project
Production
Up to $50,000

- Fruits of Labor/La Bendita Fresa
  (formerly known as Ashley’s Story)
  Project Director: Emily Cohen Ibañez
  International Documentary Association

- Living in the Layers: Upending Ageism in the Golden State
  Project Director: Tina Antolini
  International Media Project

- Movement
  Project Director: Meklit Hadero
  Intersection for the Arts

- Return to Oaxacalifornia
  Project Director: Trisha Ziff
  International Documentary Association

- Untitled Dwarfism Project
  Project Director: Julie Wyman
  Women Make Movies Inc.

- The Political Mind of Jerry Brown
  Project Director: Scott Shafer
  KQED Inc.

The Asian Americans
Project Director: Donald Young
Center for Asian American Media

Coming Round: The Kashia Pomo Struggle for Homeland
Project Director: J Mitchell Johnson
Fort Ross Conservancy

Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen
Project Director: Sam Feder
International Documentary Association

FANNY: The Right to Rock
Project Director: Bobbi Jo Hart
International Documentary Association

On the Edge of Tomorrow
Project Director: William Versaci
International Documentary Association

Third Act
Project Director: Tadashi Nakamura
LTSC Community Development Corporation
Grants Awarded in 2019

#Timesup, Now What?
Reel Stories, Oakland

BAYCAT’s “Zoom In” Series:
Your New Storytellers Are Here!
Bayview Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology, San Francisco

Boyle Heights Beat Radio Pulso
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE) Inc., Calabasas

Get Lit Globe
Get Lit-Words Ignite, Inc., Los Angeles

Kayamanan Ng Lahi’s (KNL’s)
Media “PAMANA” Project
Visual Communications, Los Angeles

California Documentary Project
NextGen
Up to $15,000

A New Community – Stories That Connect Us/Una Nueva Comunidad-Las Historias que nos Conectan
County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries, San Luis Obispo

Arte Creativo: Come get creative with the art of Hispanic culture!
Placentia Library District, Placentia

Connecting Cultures
Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles

Cuentos Caminantes/Memories in Motion
Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles

Cuentos Caminantes/Memories in Motion
Long Beach Public Library System, Long Beach

Immigration Stories
Mill Valley Public Library, Mill Valley

Libraries Are For Everyone
Fountain Valley Branch Library, Santa Ana

My City, My Voice
City of Commerce Public Library, Commerce

Pásale Paisano: Welcoming Immigrants and Spanish Speaking Communities Through Stories, Artworks, & Traditions
Tulare County Library Foundation, Visalia

The Marigold Series
Sunnyvale Public Library, Sunnyvale

This Is Who We Are: Creating Cultural Awareness and Diversity Within Our Community
Napa County Library, Napa

Library Innovation Lab
Up to $5,000
Grants Awarded in 2019

BELONGING: Expressions of Black Empowerment and Possibility in San Luis Obispo
Ecologistics Inc, Los Osos

Bird Songs—Native American Stories that Connect to Today, Tomorrow, and Yesterday
Flights Of Fantasy Media Company, Sunland

Black is Beautiful:
Black Power & Jazz Film Series
Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco

The Blue Hour
Plaza de la Raza Inc, Los Angeles

Califas Relatos Revelados:
Stories Revealed*
Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Santa Cruz

Called to Rise: Chinese Americans’ Involvement in World War II
Chinese Historical Society of America, San Francisco

Centering the Masses*
Visual Communications, Los Angeles

The Chicana Project*
Makara Center for the Arts, Santa Ana

Connecting Cultures:
Barona Band of Mission Indians at The New Children’s Museum
The New Children’s Museum, San Diego

Constitutional Convention Debates and the Constitution of California
Friends Of Rancho San Pedro, Compton

Creative + Cultural Podcast Series - Japanese Internment Past & Present+
Eighteen Eighty Eight, Orange

Cultural Legacies and Speculative Futures: LGBTQ+ and/or Latinx
History as Survival Strategies
Santa Cruz Hub for Sustainable Living, Santa Cruz

Exploring the Literature of the California Desert
Wordsmith Productions, Hesperia

From Suffrage to #MeToo — Capturing the Stories of Groundbreaking Women In Sonoma County
Museums of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa

Genocide Awareness Film Series+
Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation, Arcata

100 Years of the Women’s Vote
CSU Dominguez Hills Foundation, Carson

The 1947 Partition Archive: Pop-Up Community Museum+
1947 Partition Archive, Berkeley

2019 San Diego Rep Latinx New Play Festival+
San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Diego

A People’s History of Southern California Foodways
Occidental College, Los Angeles

Amendment 19: Votes for Women*
Museum of Ventura County, Ventura

Amplifying Community: Recording the History of the San Joaquin Valley Armenian Music Production
California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno

Geography Meets Humanities: A Focus on Social Justice
California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock

THE GOLDEN RULE+
Asian Story Theater Inc, San Diego

GRASSROOTS LITERACY & EDUCATION CAMPAIGN++
EastSide Arts Alliance & Cultural Center, Oakland

Humboldt History Symposium
Humboldt County Historical Society, Eureka

I ACCEPT YOU PROJECT
dramaworks, Quincy

Imagining Home:
The Stories Photos Tell+
CSU Fullerton Auxiliary Services Corporation, Fullerton

Into the Underworld and Back - Women’s Stories of Making Their Way Back From Death and Darkness (sparkled by versions of the Orpheus & Eurydice story)
Mindful Warrior Project, a project of Community Partners, Los Angeles

(continued on page 12)
Grants Awarded in 2019

Legend and Legacy:
Jose Guadalupe Posada and Contemporary Latinx Art+
CSU Dominguez Hills Philanthropic Foundation, Carson

Mapping Indigenous Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles+
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, Los Angeles

My Sad Captains: A Thom Gunn Poetry Film Series & Community Retrospective+
Film Independent Inc., Los Angeles

One County, One Book Community Reading Program
Ventura County Library System, Ventura

Oral History Initiative:
Sacramento Movimiento
Chicano and Mexican American Education Project+
La Familia Counseling Center Inc., Sacramento

Philippine National Day Association LahìARTS 2020 Season*
Philippine National Day Association, Sacramento

Public Reading & Conversation with Visiting Fiction Writer(s)
California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno

The world premiere of the play "rasgos asiÓticos" by Virginia Grise
and directed by Misha Chowdhury+
California Institute of the Arts, Valencia

Recoding Criptech+
SOMArts, San Francisco

Retablos: student malinees and discussions*
Z Space Studio, San Francisco

Revelation & Rebirth: The History & Practice of Collecting African American Art+
Richmond Art Center, Richmond

The Rooted Recipes Project x Collective // Memories Community Meal
Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, San Francisco

SDFutures Collective: Teen Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing Workshops*
Regents of the University of California at San Diego, La Jolla

"Sine Kuvento" Exhibition and film screening with filmmakers Benito Bautista and Emma Francisco,
Bonita Historical Society, Bonita

_ÑÔThe Story of South Asians In Southern California_Ñ
South Asian Network Inc., Artesia

Taiko Swing Humboldt+
Humboldt Folklife Society, Arcata

Veterans Empowerment Theatre+
CRE Outreach Foundation Inc, Los Angeles

Veterans Write Their Poetic Myth Returning Soldiers Speak, North Hollywood

Visual Sovereignty: A Symposium on Contemporary Native American Art and Activism+
Crocker Art Museum Association, Sacramento

When We Hid in Plain Sight
J-Sei, Emeryville

WordSpring Creative Writing Conference 2020‡
Butte College, Butte-Glenn Community College District, Oroville

Writing Workshops for Communities of Color
California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno

Your Carr Fire Story: Written and Heard‡
Shasta County Arts Council, Redding

* Indicates projects accepted under the Youth Voices designation.
+ Indicates projects accepted under the Arts & Humanities designation.
‡ Indicates projects accepted under the special designation Second Responders: The Humanities in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters.
Grants Awarded in 2019

Cultivating Seeds of Community/Cultivando Semillas de Comunidad
Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Inc., Pomona

Deep Humanities and Arts for Socially Responsible Technology
San Jose State University Research Foundation, San Jose

FOREST=FIRe
Arts Council of Nevada County, Grass Valley

From Killing Fields to Sanctuary: Voices of Oakland’s Cambodian Refugees
ARTgether, Oakland

In the Movement
Asian Improv aRts, San Francisco

Miercoles de Mariachi
East Los Angeles Community Corporation, Los Angeles

Migration, Environment, and the Search for Sanctuary*
The University Corporation (California State University, Northridge), Northridge

One Inclusive Community*
Inlandia Institute, Riverside

Position Vector Salton Sea*
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Thermal

Preserving the History of South Los Angeles: A Community Digitization Initiative
Pepperdine University, Malibu

Remembering the Rebellious Miss Breed
San Diego Public Library, San Diego

Revealing Women in the Archives
Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles

Rumbo A California—An Exhibition of the Strachwitz Frontera Collection Celebrating California’s Mexican American Musical Legacy
Arhoolie Foundation, El Cerrito

Sharing Comfort and Care: Intergenerational Story-Mapping in the Cambodian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities of Orange County
The Regents of the University of California, Irvine

Tanforan Assembly Center Exhibit
San Francisco B.A.R.T. District, Oakland

Toward Peace
Mission Inn Foundation, Riverside

Wakaji Matsumoto: An Artist in Two Worlds, Los Angeles and Hiroshima, 1917-1944
Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles

We So Bay*
Youth Speaks, San Francisco

We the People: 50 Years of Women’s Studies and Activism Through Art
San Diego State University Research Foundation, San Diego

“White Nights, Black Paradise” The Play: Exploring Black Women’s Voices in Peoples Temple and Jonestown
Black Skeptics Los Angeles, Los Angeles

You Are Here: California Stories on the Map
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland

* Indicates projects accepted under the Youth Voices designation.
+ Indicates projects accepted under the Arts & Humanities designation.
† Indicates projects accepted under the special designation Second Responders: The Humanities in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters.
Thank you to the following who made contributions to California Humanities in 2019.

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WestEd

**2019 Pre-audited Financials**

- **Core Programs**: $1,709,606.35 (51.65%)
- **Management & General**: $882,056.23 (26.65%)
- **Periodic Initiatives**: $317,516.42 (9.59%)
- **Fundraising**: $229,237.08 (6.93%)
- **General Programs**: $171,696.67 (5.19%)
- **Total Expenses**: $3,310,112.75

*Indicates donations earmarked for the Nancy Hatamiya Arts & Humanities Fund. This fund honors the memory of former board chair Nancy Hatamiya by supporting projects that promote the humanities through the visual and performing arts.*
Growing is an act of hope. I can't help but see a connection between farming and the public humanities. In the fields, we grow fruit with the hopes of nourishing human connection to the land. Aren't public humanities the same? I marvel at those moments of deep connection, when the humanities are the food for our souls.

– Nikiko Masumoto, Masumoto Family Farm, Artist, Storyteller

Who We Are

California Humanities is an independent nonprofit and a partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For almost 45 years, our goal has been to promote the humanities as relevant, meaningful ways to understand the human condition and connect us to one another. We produce, fund, create, and support humanities-based projects and programs eye-opening cultural experiences and meaningful conversations that help to strengthen California. Since 1975 California Humanities has awarded over $31 million in grants across the state.