

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

WHY ARE THE PUBLIC HUMANITIES IMPORTANT IN NEW JERSEY?

The humanities connect people. The humanities - including the study of languages, cultural forms, literature, history, philosophy, and religion - are the disciplines that study all the forms we use to examine and interpret the human experience and communicate its meaning.*

When we harness the power of the public humanities, we use those disciplines as a lens to examine our experiences, which leads to a deeper understanding of the world around us. The public humanities create opportunities for this reflection and exchange amongst community members. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supports dynamic and meaningful programs, events, and opportunities for all New Jerseyans.

NJCH provides funding and support to our grantees and program partners in a variety of program areas. Within each initiative, the Council develops resource materials and tools. Also, NJCH actively advocates for the value and impact of public humanities on a statewide level.

*As seen on the Rutgers University website. This particular explanation resonates with us.

OUR MISSION: *At the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, we harness the power of the humanities to strengthen our society.*

OUR VISION: Our vision is a New Jersey that delights in diversity, appreciates that there are no easy answers, and finds joy and understanding in the humanities. How do we do this? By enabling public programs and humanities experiences that deepen our understanding of ourselves and our world. NJCH is a grantmaker, program provider, partner, convener, and innovator. We work with statewide and community organizations to bring dynamic programming to the local level.



PROGRAM AREAS

- » **INCUBATION & ACTION GRANTS:** a robust funding program that provides opportunities to experiment with or implement public humanities projects
- » **COMMUNITY HISTORY:** an intensive education program for nonprofit organizations interested in documenting community stories, especially from voices often overlooked or marginalized
- » **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS - DEMOCRACY CONVERSATION PROJECT:** an interactive discussion program that convenes public audiences to explore the electoral process, voting rights, and other topics related to civic engagement and our democratic institutions
- » **MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET (MoMS):** a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service program, MoMS brings high quality pop-up museum exhibitions to statewide audiences



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