

2022 Grants Awarded

Alabama Public Humanities Grants

The Alabama Humanities Alliance serves as the primary source of grants for public humanities projects statewide. We offer monthly Mini Grants (up to \$2,500), quarterly Major Grants (up to \$10,000), and annual Media Grants (up to \$15,000).

In 2022, AHA awarded **51 grants totaling more than \$300,000** to support public humanities programs across the state. Collectively, this funding helps to promote a greater appreciation and understanding of history, literature, philosophy, culture, civics, and more — and makes Alabama a more vibrant place to live.

Learn more about our grants:

Web: alabamahumanities.org/grants

Email: grust@alabamahumanities.org

Schedule a call: calendly.com/alabamahumanities

Overview: 2022 Grants Awarded

Mini Grants awarded: 25 | \$56,924.65

Designed for flexibility, Mini Grants feature a simplified and quicker application process to support a broad range of projects, including planning activities for future programs. Mini Grants do *not* require cost share matches.

Major Grants awarded: 20 | \$155,430.37

Major Grants represent the majority of AHA grant funding and support a broad range of projects statewide. Major Grants require a 1:1 cost share match, including cash and in-kind contributions.

Media Grants awarded: 6 | \$88,965.00

Media grants provide support for documentary films, television and radio programs, and digital or web-based projects such as podcasts. Media grants require a 2:1 cost share match, including cash and in-kind contributions.

Total 2022 funding awarded: 51 grants | \$301,320.02



MINI GRANTS – 2022

Belle Mont Celtic Fest | Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc.

Tuscumbia (Colbert)

The Belle Mont Celtic Fest, held at historic Belle Mont Mansion (circa 1828) in Tuscumbia, features nationally and internationally recognized musicians and historical scholars bringing the traditional music and culture of Scotland and Ireland to North Alabama, through musical performances, period life skill demonstrations, lectures, and interactive panel discussions that help to explain the historical influence of the Scots and the Irish people on the settlement of early Alabama.

Magic City Memories: An Interactive Timeline of Birmingham's LGBTQ History | Space One Eleven

Birmingham (Jefferson)

SOE collaborates with the Invisible Histories Project for an exhibition of LGBTQ life in Birmingham using information and ephemera from IHP's collections. The components are presented in an interactive timeline where community members are invited to add their stories. The exhibition is accompanied by a panel discussion featuring members of the LGBTQ community, designed to educate the public and encourage dialog about this history.

Past Faith: Archiving the Religious Communities of Alabama | University of Alabama Department of Political Science

Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa)

A series of public symposia, with an eye to creating a statewide community archive for small, rural Jewish communities across the state. This project aims to forge an initial network of collaborators and interested stakeholders: academics, lay and religious leaders, community members and their descendants; to form an initial assessment of the disposition of Jewish archives statewide and to identify and prioritize steps for future projects.



**Traditions of Southern Storytelling | Sand Mountain Cooperative
Education Center**

Arab (Marshall)

An interdisciplinary panel discussion on Southern traditions of oral history and storytelling. SMCEC's panel features three Southern humanities scholars with distinct yet overlapping approaches to storytelling, featuring representatives of the field of literary criticism, American studies and government, and civics-oriented journalism.

**The New Alabama Seal of Biliteracy: Language Study Rising
Workshop | American Association of Teachers of Spanish and
Portuguese**

Birmingham (Jefferson)

With the Alabama Seal of Biliteracy signed into law recently, teachers of world languages are eager to learn about what it means. How does it validate a student's proficiency in English and one or more other languages? How does proficiency serve (not erase) the humanities? Why does the Seal of Biliteracy increase language study? AATSP's day-long workshop for K-12 language teachers statewide explores these topics across languages through presentations and dialogue between scholars and teachers.

**Micah Mattix Poetry Lectures | Faulkner University — Center for
Great Books & Human Flourishing**

Montgomery (Montgomery)

Faulkner University brings Micah Mattix (Regent University) to its campus and to Troy University to deliver lectures on poetics and the continuing relevance of poetry in the 21st century.

Radio Moments | Friends of the Alabama Archives

Montgomery (Montgomery)

In August 2022, the Alabama Department of Archives & History opens a new exhibit on the history of radio in Alabama. To accompany the exhibit, the Friends of the Alabama Archives hosts a series of programs called "Radio Moments," which focuses on how radio influenced the culture, politics, and lives of Alabamians.



MOTHS: The Markers of Titusville's Historic Sites Project | Titusville Development Corporation, Inc.

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Titusville Development Corporation launches a web-based digital platform for learning about and sharing the history of the predominately African American community of Titusville, whose proximity to the largest employer in Alabama puts it at risk for gentrification and the loss of valued cultural resources. Principles and methods from community, public, and oral history are used to engage the community in preserving their own cultural heritage.

Be Gentle with Black Girls: Addressing Adultification Bias | Friends of the Birmingham Public Library, Inc.

Birmingham (Jefferson)

From scholarship to current events, Black girls are often presented as undeserving of care or compassion as compared to their white peers. This prejudice, known as adultification bias, harms Black girls, denies their innocence, and maligns their intentions. The Friends of the Birmingham Public Library presents “Be Gentle with Black Girls: Addressing Adultification Bias and Protecting Black Childhood,” a reading, panel discussion, and audience Q&A centered around Black girls’ lived experiences.

A Round Table Discussion of Justice Deferred: Race & the Supreme Court | Harper Councill Trenholm Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History

Montgomery (Montgomery)

A panel discussion of the book *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court* at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Panelists include book authors, scholars of civil rights and legal history, and a principal legal architect of the civil rights movement. Participants will gain awareness of the Supreme Court’s race-related jurisprudence through multiple humanities perspectives and become better-informed citizens.



**Planning Grant for *Huntsville's Voting Rights Vanguard* Documentary |
Historic Huntsville Foundation**

Huntsville (Madison)

Historic Huntsville Foundation plans for a documentary film that will show how a cadre of Black leaders emerged during the 1890s and waged a multi-generational fight to reclaim the civil and voting rights denied them by Jim Crow and Alabama's 1901 Constitution. Planning includes capturing time-sensitive interviews with people who knew these leaders, have direct knowledge of key events, and whose recollections are critical to our project and the historical record.

**Bluebeard's Castle: Podcasts Contextualizing Literature and Libretto
| Opera Huntsville**

Huntsville (Madison)

Opera Huntsville creates audience engagement materials in conjunction with its October 2022 production of Bartok's "Bluebeard's Castle." These media assets provide an exploration of the fairytale's source material, the opera's libretto, and discussions that explicate interpretive elements, psychological components, and more. They are designed for web distribution, creating lasting collateral that will be accessible both locally and for Opera Huntsville's global web audience.

"The Mexican Husband" Panel | Vinegar

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Vinegar presents a panel discussion, anchored by "The Mexican Husband," a play and exhibition that addresses the intersections of art, families, and immigration. The panel features scholar and artists, with discussion moderation by Vinegar and the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama.

**Learning and Teaching Difficult History in Our Community | Auburn
University Department of Curriculum and Teaching**

Auburn (Lee)

Auburn University pre-service teachers, Lee County educators, and related community organizations encounter the difficult histories of enslavement and Native American removal in a program at Pebble Hill, a former plantation cottage in Auburn, Alabama.



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An Indigenous history scholar and Pebble Hill director facilitates two events with primary source examination, learning stations, and exploration of hard history teaching frameworks to encourage lesson plan development for teaching this local historic site.

Laws of Life Essay Competition | Better Business Bureau Educational Foundation, Inc.

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Laws of Life Essay Competition is an academic activity that encourages dialogue among high school students, teachers, humanities scholars, and business leaders to advance positive, ethical principles such as transparency, humility, honesty, equity, and proactivity in the workplace. These values are life affirming, support positive citizenship, and are standard across all cultures. Students will learn what ethics and ethical behavior are and how they relate to successful business environments.

Food for Thought: Exploring Food in Alabama's History & Culture | Newbern Library Inc.

Newbern (Hale)

An event at the Newbern Library exploring the role of food in Alabama culture, past and present. Topics include traditional foods in our state's history and the local availability and influence of food in our present culture. The influence of West African and Egyptian cuisine on Southern cooking is also discussed. Participants will taste both traditional, familiar foods as well as local food prepared in unfamiliar, tasty ways. Local food options and resources will be discussed.

Rosa Parks Museum Book Talks | Troy University — Rosa Parks Museum

Montgomery (Montgomery)

The Rosa Parks Museum hosts a series of three author talks: two focused on Rosa Parks, her long life of activism, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott (by authors H.H. Leonards and Sheila McCauley-Keys); and one focused on the civil rights movement itself (from author Ernie Suggs and Ambassador Andrew Young). Books will also be given to participants at these events.



Mark Sloan and Jerry Siegel on the History of Photographing the South | Shelby County Arts Council

Columbiana (Shelby)

Independent curator Mark Sloan and photographer Jerry Siegel discuss the history of photographs of the South and their influence on Siegel's work in the exhibition, "The Promise of Living/The Tender Land." The talk streams live online and a recording of the talk will be made available for future reference. Siegel's exhibition takes its name from an Aaron Copeland opera inspired by James Agee and Walker Evan's book, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

The Figh Pickett Barnes School House 1996 "Relocation Reunion Roundtable" | Montgomery County Historical Society

Montgomery (Montgomery)

The December 2022 "Relocation Reunion Roundtable" brings together the principals who planned and executed the June 1996 relocation of Figh Pickett Barnes School House from its Clayton/Molton location to So. Court and Mildred Streets. The event publicizes the preservation and community cooperation that the relocation and saving of the house represented.

Curator Richard McCabe in conversation with photographer Jerry Siegel | Troy University — International Arts Center

Troy (Pike)

Curator of photography at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Richard McCabe, leads a hybrid live-virtual public conversation with Jerry Siegel during his exhibition, "The Promise of Living/The Tender Land" at Troy University's International Arts Center. The program focuses on Siegel's photography series featuring photos of Southern artists from his monograph "Facing South," alongside street and landscape photography from his monograph "Black Belt Color" through a Southern Gothic lens.



**Oral History of Anniston | Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun
County**

Anniston (Calhoun)

This project identifies lifelong and long-term residents of Anniston, Alabama, and records their stories, memories, and history of Anniston as it has developed over the years.

Writer Wednesdays | University Charter School

Livingston (Sumter)

Writer Wednesdays provide opportunities for middle and high school students to study place-based literature and meet writers and humanities scholars specializing in the literature and cultural aspects of Alabama. The University Charter School series hosts Alabama authors Rick Bragg and Emily Blejwas.

**Screening of *African Redemption: The Life and Legacy of Marcus Garvey* |
Central Alabama Caribbean American Organization**

Birmingham (Jefferson)

In recognition of Black History Month, the Central Alabama Caribbean American Organization presents the documentary *African Redemption: The Life and Legacy of Marcus Garvey*, paired with a public conversation and Q&A with a scholar of Marcus Garvey. Garvey, a much-revered, but lesser-known civil rights leader, championed Black empowerment and the “back to Africa” movement.

Beauty and the Mind | Troy University Department of Journalism

Troy (Pike)

Beauty and the Mind invites participants to think critically about mental health and about perceptions of beauty. In March 2023, the International Arts Center at Troy University also hosts a lunchtime discussion about the globalization of beauty.



McPherson-Mitchell Lecture in Southern History | Troy University

Department of History

Troy (Pike)

The Troy University Department of History hosts a roundtable discussion and film screening on the Africatown community of Mobile, Alabama, and the discovery of the *Clotilda* slave ship, which illegally brought their ancestors to this nation during the Civil War. Filmmakers, journalists, community members, and other participants discuss the historical and ongoing significance of this unique community, its origins, and its place in American history and society.

MAJOR GRANTS – 2022

Telling Our 1963 Stories to Improve Local Knowledge of Birmingham's Key Role in Civil Rights | Kids in Birmingham 1963

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The storytellers of Kids in Birmingham 1963 are witnesses to Birmingham's civil rights history. This project recruits more "Kids" storytellers to expand public presentations of the lived history we offer and improve public access to those stories through revisions to our website and media interviews. This grant expands on Kids' efforts to launch a coalition of educators interested in developing place-based lesson ideas that use our stories and invite us for public classroom visits.

Old Federal Road Storytelling Festival 2022 | The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project

Warrior Stand (Macon)

A public program at the c. 1850 Creekwood mansion that foregrounds Creekwood and the Federal Road as sites where people experienced complex interactions and events differently and often painfully. Topics include the Creek Nation, migration and settlement on the Alabama frontier, plantation life of enslavers and the enslaved, Black



land possession and dispossession, and descendants of formerly enslaved African Americans.

“Thornton Dial: I, Too, Am Alabama” | University of Alabama at Birmingham — Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts develops and presents the exhibition, “Thornton Dial: I, Too, Am Alabama,” the first solo museum exhibition of Dial’s works in his home state. Drawing on many never-before exhibited artworks, the exhibit showcases Dial’s artistry, humor, and dedication to his community and social justice. Presentation and panel topics will include the influence of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights era on African American vernacular artists, the African American artist community that developed in Alabama and their contributions to art history, and how Dial’s work came to be known, collected, and preserved.

Lecture Series on Liberty, Equality, and American Government | Jacksonville State University Department of Sociology and Political Science

Jacksonville (Calhoun)

The Tocqueville Lecture Series is a public and free lecture series that invites social science scholars with a humanities approach to present on the ideas of liberty and/or equality as they relate to other concepts important in the founding and continuation of American government. These hybrid (in person and virtual) lectures are accessible to the entire state of Alabama. The series hosts five lectures per year during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic calendars.

Southern Jewish Voices | Levite Jewish Community Center

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Everyone has a story that can provide insight into that person’s life and expose others to a broader understanding of our world. Southern Jewish Voices celebrates, records, and shares stories of being Jewish in Birmingham. Hosted in an intimate setting the series provides intelligent, insightful conversations. The impact of Southern Jewish Voices is building bridges — within our pluralistic Jewish community, with the broader non-Jewish community, and across generations.



Statewide American Character Program | Liberty Learning Foundation

Huntsville (Madison)

The Liberty Learning Foundation bring strong lessons of “civic character and civic responsibility” to students throughout Alabama school systems. LLF plans to maintain and grow their American Character program, designed for 7th graders, which encompasses the broad spectrum of the humanities by providing a deep dive into historical figures and their associated ethics, values, reason, and creative expression.

TLC Author Series — Advancing the Study of Humanities through Literature | The Literacy Council of Central Alabama

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Fifty-eight percent of adults in Central Alabama need improved literacy skills. Among other challenges, illiteracy limits people’s exposure to the humanities. Drawing from previous success from AHA-funded programs, The Literacy Council presents a new book series through a combination of lectures and panel discussions designed to encourage dialogue and critical thinking regarding humanities disciplines.

Cherry Street AME Church: A Beacon of Inspiration 145 Years and Beyond | Cherry Street AME Church

Dothan (Houston)

The church proposes a historical interpretation workshop and symposium to showcase the history of the church, its construction, architecture, and legacy as a haven for free expression culturally, religiously, and civically. A major session will be led by historian James Morgan III. Morgan’s great-great grandfather, the Rev. William Hightower, was the second full-time pastor of Cherry Street and architect of the current building.

Food for Thought | Friends of the Alabama Archives

Montgomery (Montgomery)

Food for Thought is a monthly Alabama history lecture series held on the third Thursday at noon in the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Food for Thought presentations feature humanities scholars discussing a wide variety of topics relating to the state of Alabama. Food for Thought is accompanied by a quarterly Book



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Talk series focusing on publications about Alabama history, culture, or archival work and the premiere of a new annual program to commemorate Juneteenth.

War and Remembrance: A Living History Series | Museum of Pell City

Pell City (St. Clair)

Partnering with Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home, Pell City Schools, Pell City Library and volunteers, the museum is interviewing 19 veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam wars, bringing history to life from personal experiences. Histories are transcribed and word-searchable for public access. Videos will be available through the museum, library, and for classroom use in Pell City Schools for teachers. Initially, at least five students will be chosen for hands-on learning through this work.

The Women of the Negro Leagues | Birmingham Negro Southern League Museum

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Women of the Negro Leagues is an interactive program that educates children and others about the roles of women who played professional baseball as a part of the Negro Leagues. The youth-oriented project not only educates children of the historical importance of the Negro Leagues and the women who contributed to that history, but gives them a hands-on experience through a traveling exhibit. In addition, NSLM educates a broader audience through book discussions and workshops.

Middle Eastern Exhibit | Vulcan Park Foundation

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Vulcan Park and Museum's Middle Eastern exhibit, which will be visited by approximately 150,000 visitors annually, is titled "Birmingham's Early Middle Eastern Community: Celebrating Life and Liturgy since 1910." The exhibit opens in February 2023. Created in collaboration with the St. Elias and St. George congregations, the exhibit features personal and liturgical artifacts highlighting the religious, economic, and social lives of the community.



Alabama Folk Podcast, Season Two | Alabama Folklife Association
Mobile (Mobile)

Season Two (6 episodes) of the Alabama Folk podcast aims to elevate under-documented cultures and traditions, engage statewide audiences in Alabama folklife, and highlight emerging Alabama makers. The podcast is for general audiences and features interviews with Alabama traditional artists who carry on traditions passed down through the generations. Diverse in background, community, and art form, artists represent rural and urban experience and Indigenous and immigrant voices.

Magic City Poetry Festival Programming | Magic City Poetry Festival
Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Magic City Poetry Festival is an annual celebration of poetry and community in Birmingham and across Alabama. AHA funding supports three events: “Poetry and History: A Conversation with Laura Secord and Kwoya Maples,” “Black Formalisms: Where Aesthetics and Southern Sensibilities Collide” (a virtual conversation with Marilyn Nelson and Harryette Mullen), and “Be Gentle with Black Girls: A Conversation and Workshop with Tania De’Shawn and Alabama Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones.”

The Hard Truth: Representation and the Arts Lecture Series |
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association

Montgomery (Montgomery)

“The Hard Truth: Representation in the Arts” is a four-part lecture series hosted by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. The series weaves together art, history, literature, psychology, diversity, representation, and museum studies to better serve underrepresented groups in their community. Each lecture tackles a different topic related to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion topics, with each program supported by a small exhibition pulled from the museum's permanent collection.

Placemaking Through Textiles | Project Threadways

Florence (Lauderdale)

The Placemaking Through Textiles project invites the community of Muscle Shoals and beyond to reckon with the local history of cotton production and manufacturing and tell a collective story of the region. Through presentations and an interactive exhibition



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at Florence's historic Pope's Tavern, Project Threadways explores, interprets, and (re)makes place through an inclusive process.

Go Tell It on Red Mountain | Red Mountain Park Foundation

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Go Tell It on Red Mountain is a scholar-led conversation series showcasing Birmingham's industrial history, various elements of Red Mountain, and company town life. Each conversation features a scholar who has extensive knowledge of industrial history, paired with a moderator who's a humanities professional and complements the respective scholar's research.

The Two Testaments Podcast: A Guided Journey through Jewish and Christian Scriptures with Leading Scholars in the Humanities | Samford University Department of Biblical and Religious Studies

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Each episode of the Two Testaments podcast features a leading humanities scholar who brings their expertise to guide listeners through a passage of the Hebrew Bible or New Testament as the hosts work through books from both collections each season, alternating between the books each week. The podcast gives listeners expert guidance in these ancient texts and educates them in the variety of scholarly and religious interpretations that they have inspired.

Our Story: An Alabama Writers' Symposium | University of North Alabama College of Education and Human Sciences

Florence (Lauderdale)

UNA hosts a two-day writers' workshop in Birmingham to explore the spaces and faces of the American South through the lens of the literature, poetry, and historical fiction written here. *NYT* best-selling authors and the poet laureate of North Carolina will guide the audience as they explore the various contexts within which Southern voices must be heard.



2023 Wiregrass Blues Honoree Program | Wiregrass Blues Society

Dothan (Houston)

The Wiregrass Blues Society Honoree Program highlights the life and career of influential and relevant musicians and musical figures in the Wiregrass. It includes several humanities-based components like public presentations, discussions, and a short documentary film production; each part explores how our cultural history, social climate, and geographical conditions affect the honoree's life and career. The 2023 honorees are Jackie Mills, David Adkins, and Gil Anthony.

MEDIA GRANTS – 2022

The Torch — Stories of the Holocaust Shared by Alabama Families | Alabama Holocaust Education Center

Birmingham (Jefferson)

It's been said that no one experienced the Holocaust the same way. AHEC's film project provides that perspective as four or five Alabamians tell how they experienced the Holocaust. Their stories are told with their family members who listen on and join in. Ultimately, the film showcases these survivors, in every sense of the word. They survived unspeakable terror and tragedy, made their way to Alabama, and thrived. The film will preserve their stories so they may be retold and never forgotten.

The New Iron Age Episode 1 | Sloss Furnaces Foundation

Birmingham (Jefferson)

Forging craft and philosophy with portraits of metal artists around the world, Sloss Furnace Foundation's documentary series follows an Alabama blacksmith's journey to improve his skill and cast new light upon an ancient tradition and what it means to us today. The first episode, set in Birmingham, addresses the tradition of ironwork through social history, its significance through art, and how it can provide insight into our everyday lives.



Bringing the Past to Life: Video for Blakeley's Touring App |

Historic Blakeley State Park

Spanish Fort (Baldwin)

Historic Blakeley State Park creates professional video content for the park's mobile-based touring app, which enhances understanding of key educational themes. The sights, sounds, and realities of battle, duty during a prolonged siege, and camp life become more tangible through these focused videos, which build on existing interpretive content in panels, printed materials, and the existing audio tour guide.

Prattville's Civil Rights History Short Film Documentary | Hiztorical Vision Productions

Opelika (Lee)

Prattville, Alabama, has an untold-but-inspiring civil rights history of social advocacy towards civil and human rights among African Americans in this historic town. Hiztorical Vision Productions creates an inspiring 45-minute short documentary highlighting Prattville's African American history, including the communities' efforts to pursue basic human rights during Jim Crow.

Beth El Civil Rights Experience Project | Temple Beth-El

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The Beth El Civil Rights Experience is a multimedia project exploring Birmingham's Jewish and civil rights histories. The project includes an audio tour, previously supported by the Alabama Humanities Alliance, public programming, and the development of an exhibit and documentary film on this subject. The film will draw on archival material and original interviews, and will be housed as part of the exhibit, as well as available for use beyond the physical space.

The Ground Crew Film Project, Phase 2 | The David and Channie Hall Foundation

Birmingham (Jefferson)

The David and Channie Hall Foundation focuses on the field coordinators, known as the "Ground Crew," who shaped history through strategic approaches in the 1960s voting rights movement. The film captures the logistical importance of the Campsites, explores the consequences that were suffered in the voting rights aftermath, and



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confronts the failures of movement leadership to protect, provide basic needs, and ensure financial stability for the participants who suffered the most after voting rights were won.

