



## Alabama Public Humanities Grants: 2025 Grants Awarded

The Alabama Humanities Alliance serves as the primary source of grants for public humanities programming statewide.

Typically, AHA offers Mini Grants (up to \$2,500), Major Grants (up to \$10,000), and annual Media Grants (up to \$15,000). However, in 2025, federal funding cuts disrupted AHA's grantmaking capacity, reducing our 2025 offerings to Mini Grants alone.

For the year, AHA awarded 36 grants, totaling more than \$83,000 in support of public humanities programming statewide. Collectively, this funding helps to promote a greater appreciation and understanding of our shared history, literature, philosophy, arts and culture, civics, and more.

[Read more about our grantmaking impact in 2025.](#)

### Learn about AHA's 2026 grants offerings:

[Visit our website](#) | [Email our grants director](#) | [Schedule a call](#)

### Year in Review – AHA Grants in 2025

**Mini Grants awarded: 36 | \$83,084.70**

Learn more about our 2025 grant recipients on the pages beyond.

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## MINI GRANTS - 2025

### **The Invisible Hand of Diplomacy: Shaping Our World**

*Global Ties Alabama | Huntsville*

Celebrating 60 years of service, Global Ties Alabama partners with the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training to bring an engaging U.S. diplomatic exhibit to Alabama. The exhibit highlights key U.S. diplomatic moments, paired with a “Century of Service” presentation by a seasoned Foreign Service Officer that delves into the personal – often unheard – stories of diplomats, revealing the power of human connection in shaping our world.

### **Hoover-AHEAD 2025 Community Engagement**

*Hoover-AHEAD | Hoover*

Since its founding in 2019, Hoover-AHEAD has sought to engage our community in cross-cultural educational activities. This grant funding provides foundational support for community forums and events that help participants and readers to better understand the diverse cultures and backgrounds in the Hoover community and beyond.

### **Monroeville Literary Festival - 2025**

*Monroe County Heritage Museum | Monroeville*

The Monroeville Literary Festival is a two-day event hosted by the Monroe County Museum; the 2025 edition features honorees Cassandra King and Suzanne Hudson. Visitors from across the state and beyond attend the event, not only to meet authors and hear their stories, but also to walk in the footsteps of Monroeville’s famous authors. Visitors will attend lectures, book reviews, workshops and book signings.

### **STAIR, Thank You Books & AHA Present Katherine Applegate**

*STAIR of Birmingham | Birmingham*

STAIR of Birmingham and Thank You Books host award-winning author Katherine Applegate for a special reading of *Odder*. Partnering schools, including Shades Cahaba, i3 Academy, and Avondale Elementary, ensure students receive copies of the book. The day fosters a love of reading, connects literature to conservation, and enhances literacy.

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## Ensley Childhood Project

*Renew Birmingham | Birmingham*

The Ensley Childhood Project is a humanities gallery dedicated to displaying the history of the childhoods of residents from the Ensley community located in the greater Birmingham area. The resulting photobook gallery will kick off community conversations and offer an intimate look of the childhood stories and people who shaped Ensley.

## Alabama Coal Miners Digital Archive

*The University of Alabama | Tuscaloosa*

This project offers a history scan day in partnership with coal miners from Tuscaloosa County to preserve their records, images, objects, and stories. Our team will assist miners through the scanning process and gather stories about the objects, creating data for a digital archive. Following the scanning session, project scholar Kristina Mullenix will offer a public talk on the history of mining in Tuscaloosa County.

## The Civic Tapestry: Weaving History into Public Life

*Troy University | Troy*

The Office of Civic Engagement seeks to provide an opportunity for local youth to better understand the critical role of history in public life by exploring local and civil rights history through an intergenerational oral history initiative and visit to the EJI's Legacy Museum.

## Molten Moments: Curatorial Conversations at Vulcan Park and Museum

*Vulcan Park Foundation | Birmingham*

New in 2025, Molten Moments is an after-hours series at Vulcan Park & Museum, featuring engaging curatorial talks about artifacts and histories tied to Birmingham's past. Each event will offer guests an interactive and intimate storytelling experience with historians and curators. One such conversation, inspired by the Museum's current exhibit, *From Steel to Stage: The History of Theatre in Birmingham*, will explore the evolution of local theatre from early vaudeville houses to modern playhouses.

## *Alabama Folk Podcast, Season Four:*

### **Six Episodes to Elevate Alabama Folklife in 2025**

*Alabama Folklife Association, Inc. | Statewide*

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This project supports production of Season 4 of the *Alabama Folk* podcast, purposed to explore Alabama's many cultures and traditions and engage statewide audiences in Alabama folklife. Designed for a general audience, the podcast features deep interviews with Alabama artists who carry on traditions passed down through the generations or shared in community, with a focus on voices we don't often hear. Six episodes comprise Season 4, showcasing artists diverse in experience, artform, and geography.

## **Alabama Genealogical Society Summer Seminar**

*Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc. | Statewide (Gadsden)*

This seminar's theme is "The Analytical Thinking and Strategies You Need for Genetic Genealogy Success" and it's open to genealogists and all interested in family history in Alabama and beyond. This Gadsden-based hybrid event features four DNA research lectures by nationally recognized expert Kelli Bergheimer. George Wallace Jr. also speaks on the value of preserving family history. Sessions stream live on YouTube, too.

## **Documentary: *Deep Roots, Strong Souls: Anniston's Black Heritage***

*Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County | Anniston*

The history of Anniston runs deep, but often overlooked are the contributions of Anniston's Black population in the city's growth. The goal of this project is to create a documentary utilizing Library resources (photos, oral histories, research materials) and have an experienced videographer, Neal "Buddy" Vickers, create a documentary, to premiere at the Library during February 2026 for Black History Month.

## **Creating Voices of Resilience: A Junior High Learning Experience**

*Sixteenth Street Baptist Church | Birmingham*

"Voices of Resilience" is a live drama to be presented in observance of the 16th Street bombing on September 15, 1963, followed with a discussion by, and for, teenagers. The drama will be filmed for future presentations with an ensemble cast portraying the four girls who lost their lives in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. The production aims to educate junior high students about the historical significance of this event and the importance of knowledge and resilience in the face of adversity.

## ***InChoir: Conversations about Choral Music, the Arts, and Life (Season Three)***

*Troy University | Troy*

In the podcast, *InChoir: Conversations about Choral Music, the Arts and Life*, we go directly to choral composers to learn how they explore sound, universal texts, and shared

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human experiences in their choral compositions — to hear the ‘stories behind their songs.’ Grant funding assists in the production of Season 3 and helps expand our outreach in social media and print publications in the fields of Music Education and/or Choral Music in Alabama and beyond.

## ***CONSTRUCTIONS: Contemporary Fiber***

*Wiregrass Museum of Art | Dothan*

This exhibit incorporates pieces by 20 artists from across the United States who work with fiber art in different ways. Some works utilize primitive materials; others some of the most technologically advanced materials available. Each piece uses weaving, sewing, dyes, printing, and found objects to tell stories, recount history, and repurpose found objects. This funding enhances the exhibition with scholar-directed artist interviews and talks shared live in the museum, online, and in a printed catalog.

## **After-School Blues Clubs**

*Alabama Blues Project | Tuscaloosa*

The Alabama Blues Project’s After-School Blues Clubs introduce children to blues music as an art form and teach how it has influenced modern music. During the 10-week programs, students learn biographies of Alabama’s blues legends and get hands-on experience with instruments. Participants learn the history of how instruments were made and the socioeconomic conditions that influenced the creation of the blues. Programs culminate with free public concerts to showcase what’s been learned.

## **People of the Coosa**

*Coosa Riverkeeper | Statewide*

*People of the Coosa* is a documentary and photo/short-form content series highlighting the diverse individuals connected to the Coosa River. The folks in the Coosa River watershed come from all walks of life, and have incredible, untold stories that deserve to be heard. We want to provide a platform that allows individuals to express their story or something impactful about their relationship with the community and the Coosa River. This project is inspired by “Humans of New York.”

## **Higher Ground Society’s Freedom Schools 2025**

*Higher Ground Society | Auburn*

Inspired by the Freedom Schools of the 1960s, Higher Ground Society will host three intensive Saturday community education workshops examining omitted people, places,

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events, philosophies, and practices that shaped the civil rights movement. Led by scholars with deep knowledge and experience with Alabama and its history, the Freedom School workshops draw connections between past and present social challenges within American society, emphasizing community and education.

## Behind the Ink

*Me Time Book Club | Birmingham*

Behind the Ink aims to foster a love for reading and provide a platform for both emerging and established authors to connect with the community. Our event features panels and workshops for hundreds of readers and writers of all ages., as well as author signings with writers from a wide range of genres. We also offer a marketplace for booksellers, publishers, and literary organizations.

## Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Documentary

*Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History and Reconciliation Foundation | Tuscaloosa*

This documentary explores Tuscaloosa's civil rights history, highlighting pivotal events like the Stand in the Schoolhouse Door and Bloody Tuesday. It features stories from iconic and unsung heroes, personal interviews, and visits to historic sites like First African Baptist Church. Through these narratives, it deepens emotional and historical understanding and connects past struggles to today's fights for justice.

## Public Conversation: Elnora Spencer and Dr. Stacy Morgan

*ArtsRevive | Selma*

ArtsRevive hosts a discussion between artist and acclaimed blues singer, Elnora Spencer, and University of Alabama professor, Stacy Morgan, moderated by curator Paul Barrett. The discussion takes place in tandem with a solo presentation of Spencer's paintings at Gallery 905 in November-December 2025, along with a live concert at ArtsRevive on November 13, 2025. The discussion will cover topics including musician painters such as Miles Davis and the history of blues music in popular culture.

## 2025 Airing of the Quilts Festival

*Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy | Alberta*

The Gee's Bend Airing of the Quilts Festival is an annual celebration of the history of this community and its quilt-making tradition. This event provides festivalgoers the opportunity to learn local history from enslavement to the present day, participate in workshops and exhibitions, guided tours, and more. Renowned for their bold designs

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that harken back to days of scarce resources and basic necessities of life. This event offers an authentic experience of this vibrant arts and historic community.

## **Lunch & Learn Series on History of Hartselle and Morgan County**

*Hartselle Historical Society | Hartselle*

The Hartselle Historical Society's Lunch & Learn Series brings in knowledgeable local historians to speak about the people, places, and events that have shaped this community. Presenters include archivists, curators, and directors of historical repositories, local educators and historians, businessmen, and members of founding families who will weave together a picture of Hartselle's history from before its official incorporation to the present day.

## **Seed to Fashion – Then and Now**

*Alabama African American Civil Rights Heritage Sites Consortium | Statewide (Montgomery)*  
This program, held the day before the 2025 SEMC conference in Montgomery, offers an opportunity for the local community and museum professionals coming to the city to explore the history of Centennial Hill, one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in the city. Tours of the neighborhood include visits to the Dr. Richard Harris House and Dexter Avenue Parsonage. Participants can also explore the Consortium's traveling exhibition series and learn more about our programs.

## **Weaving the Threads of Our Shared History**

*Friends of the Legacy Project | Montevallo*

Richard S. Cain, Linda L. Thompson, and Melanie S. Morrison share about their collaborative efforts learn more about the lives of their ancestors in pre-Civil War Montevallo. The ancestors of Richard and Linda were enslaved by Melanie's slaveholding kin. Through a mutual commitment to truth-telling and the sharing of oral histories and archival documents, they unearthed discoveries about their families and expanded their knowledge of the history of life, slavery, and more in Shelby County.

## **A Black History Month Conversation: Drs. Deborah Plant and Hannah Durkin**

*All Things Africatown Community Corporation | Mobile*

This project will feature two authors to provide diverse perspectives on the *Clotilda*/Africatown story, and engage the audience in a Q&A session to further educate. The authors are Deborah Plant, Ph.D., editor of the Zora Neale Hurston interview of Cudjo Lewis in which he recounted his life story from West Africa to

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Mobile; and author Hannah Durkin, Ph.D., who tells the stories of those survivors sold into slavery across Alabama.

## **Threads of Memory: A Year of Art, History, and Heritage in Montgomery**

*Montgomery County Historical Society | Montgomery*

Threads of Memory is a yearlong exploration of Southern identity, public memory, and cultural heritage in Montgomery. Through special exhibitions and humanities-centered programs, the project invites diverse audiences to engage with the region's history and artistic legacy. Scholars guide interpretation and public dialogue, ensuring accessible, rigorous inquiry into the forces that have shaped life in the American South.

## **Selma Historic Photo Banner Project**

*Selma Redevelopment Authority | Selma*

The most obvious draw in downtown Selma is the Edmund Pettus Bridge, globally known for Bloody Sunday in 1965. Many visitors come to Selma, walk across the bridge, and then leave. This project provides visitors and residents alike with a view into Selma's history by using historic photographs on banners along key thoroughfares. These photographs link to narratives providing historical context and information. Additionally, the library will host a connected exhibit and public lecture.

## **2026 Southern Studies Conference – Keynote Speakers**

*Auburn University at Montgomery | Montgomery*

This annual, interdisciplinary gathering focuses on the politics, history, literature, culture, and arts of the American South. It consists of panels and roundtables presenting and discussing original scholarship or creative works, artistic and poster exhibits, and keynote lectures. AHA funding supports our February 2026 conference, specifically our keynote speakers: musician Emily Ellis and poet Ashley M. Jones.

## ***Voices of Alabama Families:***

### **A Podcast Series on Early Childhood Culture, Learning, and Belonging**

*Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services | Mobile*

*Voices of Alabama Families: A Podcast Series on Early Childhood Culture, Learning & Belonging* explores how Alabama's history, culture, and community values shape family life and early learning. Produced by Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services, the series features parents, educators, and humanities scholars in conversation about belonging, identity, and the shared stories that connect us across generations.

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## **2026 Alabama Authors Day: "Alabama in Myth and Memory"**

*Historic Blakeley Authority | Spanish Fort*

Alabama Authors Day is an annual event showcasing statewide writers of fiction and nonfiction with a focus on those researching Alabama's cultural and natural heritage. The day features author presentations and book signings by local writers, combined with cruises into the waters of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Organized by Historic Blakeley State Park, Alabama Authors Day happens thanks to the partnership of other regional heritage institutions.

## **International Film Festival 2026**

*University of North Alabama | Florence*

The Department of Foreign Languages at the University of North Alabama celebrates the diversity and cultures of the countries in which our languages are spoken. The funding requested will cover the fees for the public viewing licenses of films in Spanish, French, and German (all with English subtitles) that will be shown during the International Film Festival in March 2026. Faculty in different departments will facilitate Q&A discussion after each movie. The event is free and open to the public.

## ***Thinking Animals***

*University of South Alabama | Mobile*

A podcast and web series discussing the understanding of animals and animal minds as revealed through art, story, and philosophy, and how that understanding is colored by our current scientific knowledge.

## **Foundations of Music Theory for High School Artists**

*Arts Access Alabama | Daphne*

This program offers free, humanities-based instruction in music literacy, theory, and analysis for Alabama students preparing for arts study after high school. Through interactive lessons, students explore music's cultural and historical context while building essential skills for college-level arts programs, expanding access for learners from diverse backgrounds.

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## **A History of Alabama Presbyterian Women: Their Contributions to Women's History and Southern Literature**

*Government Street Presbyterian Church | Mobile*

This project has three components — a temporary exhibit, an oral history project, and a public program featuring a humanities scholar, Dr. Carrie Helms, speaking on Southern church cookbooks and their contribution to Southern culture and literature. A small traveling exhibit may also be created from components of the on-site display.

## **Celebrating Voices and Vision: An Open Mic Event**

*The University of Alabama in Huntsville | Huntsville*

"Celebrating Voices and Vision" takes place Feb. 21, 2026 , at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. This will be a cultural and literary program featuring an open mic event, art exhibit, and a scholarly discussion on the intersection of creativity, identity, and writing. This will be an immersive event celebrating voices of the past with vision for the future, including figures such as Frederick Douglass.

## **4000 Years of Exile and Migration: The Story of the Jews from Canaan to the Present**

*Troy University | Troy*

Lauren Bairnsfather, Ph.D., a Holocaust educator and CEO of The Anne Frank Center USA, will visit Temple Emanu-El in Dothan, two Troy University campuses in Troy and Montgomery, and the Alabama Holocaust Education Center in Birmingham to give a lecture on the history and diversity of the Jewish diaspora, with special emphasis on Holocaust history through the experience of Anne Frank's family.