

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dig Into Our Special
Resource Issue

CONNECT



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jama Best, Executive Director

The Arkansas Humanities Council is pleased to offer this special edition of *Connect Magazine*.

In this issue, you'll find helpful resources available from a number of organizations and agencies that can assist you with projects through grant opportunities, consultation, training, and more.

So, please enjoy the issue. We hope it will empower, inspire, and help you achieve your goals.

ARKANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL



CONNECT WITH US

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On the cover: Survey archeologists record sites and excavate them, process artifacts, and share information about what we learn with kids and adults.

CONNECT is a publication of the Arkansas Humanities Council.

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The Smithsonian in Arkansas



Courtesy Historic Cane Hill

The Smithsonian exhibition *Habitat* is on view at Historic Cane Hill through November 26, 2022.

The Smithsonian is your national museum, but you don't need to visit Washington, D.C. to experience it. You can access the world's largest museum, education, and research complex in a community near you. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES|Affiliations) expands the reach and impact of the Smithsonian through collaborations with museums and other cultural and educational organizations across the country and right here in Arkansas. The programs, exhibitions, and services of SITES|Affiliations — including its Museum on Main Street program — underscore the importance of local stories in understanding national stories.

SITES

A leader in traveling exhibition services, SITES supports learning and engagement with exhibitions and educational resources for organizations large and small. Our offerings range from traditional exhibitions to build-it-yourself formats, as well as free poster

exhibitions for use in classrooms, libraries, and other venues.

Perhaps you learned about Victor Green and his innovative travel guide when Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock hosted the exhibition *The Negro Motorist Green Book* in 2021. Or maybe you plan a summer visit to the Historic Cane Hill Museum in Canehill to hike the beautifully forested trails and explore the outdoor exhibit *Habitat*, developed with Smithsonian Gardens. These are just two of the dozens of exhibitions and online resources on offer through sites.si.edu.

Museum on Main Street and Voices and Votes Another SITES program, Museum on Main Street (MoMS), works with state humanities councils to develop cultural resources and capacity in rural communities around small exhibitions. MoMS exhibitions and programs are designed to start dialogues, facilitate connections, and open doors to a community's history, culture, people, and sense of

local pride. Since its founding in 1994, MoMS exhibitions have traveled to approximately 1,900 communities in all 50 states and Guam.

In collaboration with the Arkansas Humanities Council, the MoMS' exhibition *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* will begin a year-long, state-wide tour in Spring 2023. The exhibition examines the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government "of, by and for the people," and how each generation since questions how to form "a more perfect union." Check it out when it comes to a location near you:

- Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia
- Arkansas State Capitol, Little Rock
- Delta Gateway Museum, Blytheville
- Old Independence Regional Museum, Batesville
- John Brown University, Siloam Springs
- Arts & Science Center of Southeast Arkansas, Pine Bluff

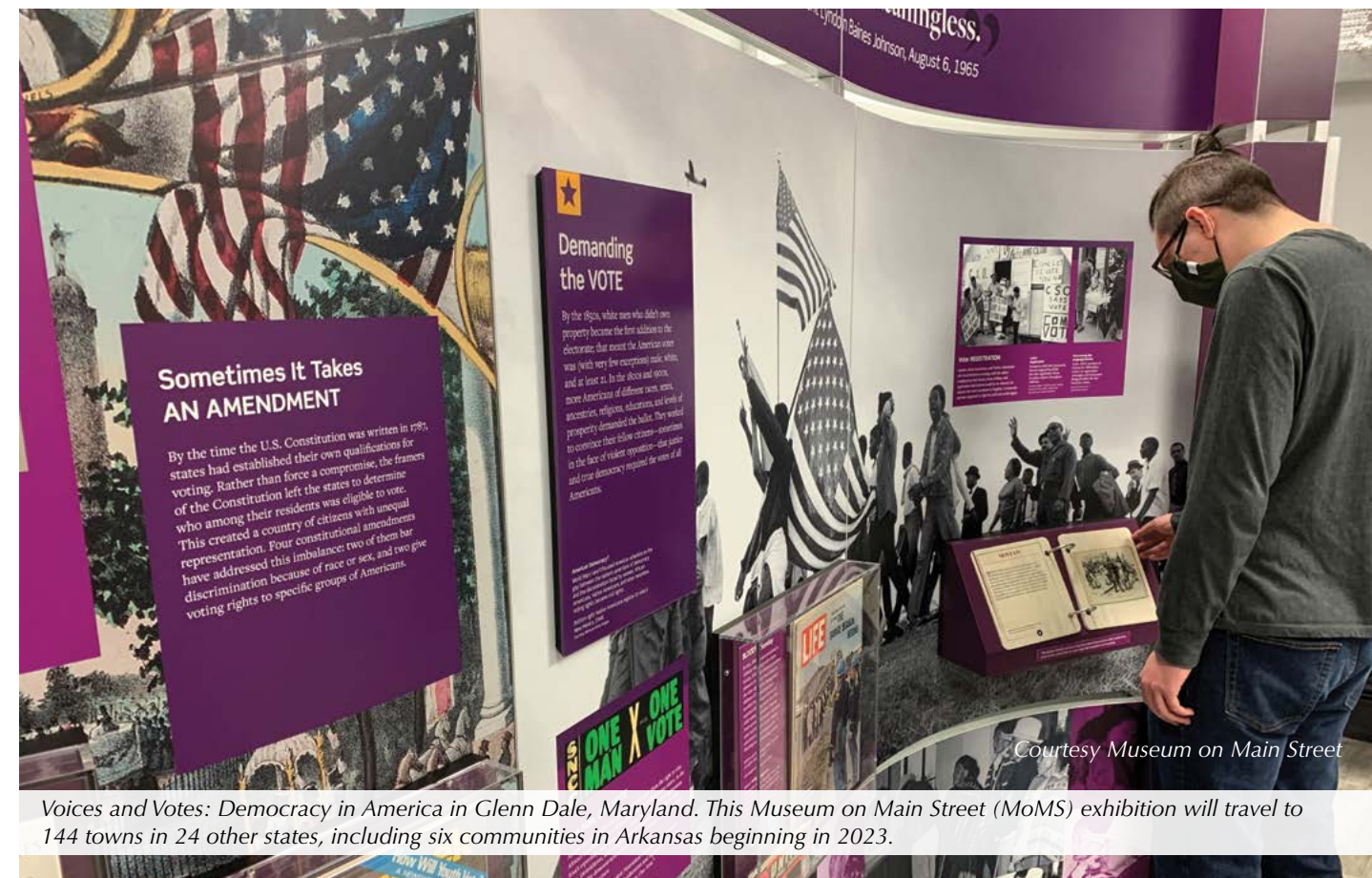
A local museum in Arkansas developed its own exhibition in association with the Smithsonian, using

MoMS' *Starter Kit: WORK*, a build-it-yourself exhibition opportunity. The Delta Gateway Museum in Blytheville created *Delta Work: Life on the Farm* by pairing local content with a national storyline provided by the Smithsonian. The result was a unique exhibition that created successful local partnerships, including financial support to help build a replica of a sharecropper's cabin in the gallery.

Stories from Main Street

MoMS invites you to share your own experiences by submitting material to *Stories from Main Street*, a digital project that gathers and shares stories about rural America. To date, thousands have contributed their histories and community narratives. Those stories, often unedited, are on social media, in MoMS' traveling exhibitions, and now in a podcast, *Smithsonian's Stories from Main Street*. Stories from Main Street incorporates students as well. Since 2012, we have engaged students in 25 states through our youth programs. In Arkansas, students in 11 schools worked with the Little Rock-based EAST Initiative, which inspires youth creativity and community

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Courtesy Museum on Main Street

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America in Glenn Dale, Maryland. This Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibition will travel to 144 towns in 24 other states, including six communities in Arkansas beginning in 2023.

involvement through use of technology STEM learning. They researched topics important to their towns' histories, conducted interviews, collected photos and footage, and assembled their work into a final digital project. Buffalo Island students created augmented reality tours for the community museum, and in Tontitown, youth created a tablet-based app focused on the food traditions of Italian immigrants.

Smithsonian Affiliations

Smithsonian Affiliations reaches millions of people through educational programs, traveling exhibitions, professional development, object loans, and community engagement initiatives in collaboration with its network of Affiliate organizations. The Mid-America Science Museum in Hot Springs and the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock are two of the more than 200 education and cultural Affiliate organizations in nearly every state, Puerto Rico, and Panama. Affiliate museums connect their communities with the Smithsonian and inspire visitors to become more informed and curious learners.

Mid-America Science Museum offers two Smithsonian internship opportunities focused on inspiring the next generation of leaders in social and environmental justice. Since 2021, the museum has been hosting the Smithsonian Digital Learning and Engagement internship, in collaboration with the Emerson Collective. In 2022, the museum participated in the Earth Optimism Youth Action and Leadership project, empowering and inspiring young people from



Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
Smithsonian Affiliations

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) – sites.si.edu

- *The Bias Inside Us* – biasinsideus.si.edu
- *The Negro Motorist Green Book* - negromotoristgreenbook.si.edu
- *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* – menofchange.si.edu

Smithsonian Affiliations – affiliations.si.edu

Museum on Main Street – museumonmainstreet.org

- Stories from Main Street story archive: museumonmainstreet.org/stories
- Smithsonian Stories from Main Street podcast — listen on your favorite podcast platform or museumonmainstreet.org/podcast

SITES|Affiliations resources on the Smithsonian Learning Lab —

<https://learninglab.si.edu/org/sites-affiliations>

under-resourced high schools to take action and become climate-literate leaders.

The Historic Arkansas Museum, in direct collaboration with the Caddo, Osage, and Quapaw Nations, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, created *We Walk in Two Worlds*, which tells the story of Arkansas's first people from early times to today. To tell this story of struggle and endurance, the permanent exhibition also includes approximately 158 objects, such as pottery, clothing, and weapons from the National Museum of the American Indian.

Go Digital

SITES|Affiliations exhibitions and resources are readily available online, enabling you to explore diverse topics from wherever you are. For example, you can learn about the harsh reality of travel for Blacks in mid-century America and the vibrant parallel world of African American-friendly businesses (*The Negro Motorist Green Book*); or the science and history behind bias (*The Bias Inside Us*); or revolutionary African American men who have made their mark on history and culture (*Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth*). Through the unique digital platform Smithsonian Learning Lab, teachers, students, and lifelong learners can discover authentic resources, create personalized learning experiences, and share their creativity and knowledge with others. The collections on the SITES|Affiliations Learning Lab page feature educational materials, objects, documents, and videos that spark curiosity and learning.

Arkansas Museums Association

Tourism is a major industry in Arkansas, generating thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in revenue, and millions in taxes. Despite the significant setbacks of the pandemic, record-breaking increases in the state's 2021 2% lodging and attractions tax revenue reveal the state's continuing appeal as a travel destination. Museums and cultural institutions play a major part in this success. They preserve their cultural and historic resources, foster communities, and provide direct and indirect economic benefits to their areas.

The Arkansas Museums Association was established in 1966 to support these vital institutions and their personnel. Its mission is "the promotion of professional standards in Arkansas museums, the encouragement of interaction between members, and the development of public support for and interest in Arkansas museums." Led by an elected executive board of directors and district representatives, this organization currently boasts 350 active members.

In addition to membership forums and district meetings the organization actively supports professional development. During the Covid-19 pandemic, members gained access to regular live and recorded online sessions on a wide variety of topics offered by professionals throughout the state. This program continues today and is a major benefit of organization membership. Plans for in-person workshops and training are currently in progress. The association also funds scholarships for professional training and conferences such as the Jekyll Island Museum Institute and the American Alliance of Museums Advocacy Day.

This year's Annual Meeting occurred in late March of 2022 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park after a two-year hiatus. Members attended a range of sessions including conducting oral histories, involvement in National History Day, and the economic impact of museums in small towns. A successful silent auction raised funds for scholarships and a productive business meeting featured guest speaker Executive Director Cathy Drew of the Ozark Gateway Tourism Council. The host location changes each year to maximize the accessibility of the conference to members around the state. The Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock will host the 2023 meeting.

Additional information may be found on the organization's website at www.ArkansasMuseums.org or through its Facebook page.



Cleaning silver for archiving purposes.



Preserving the Past for the Future: The Arkansas Archeological Survey

By Mel Zabecki, State Archeologist

The Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) is a division of the University of Arkansas System and is charged with interpreting and safeguarding information and materials related to past people who lived in what is now Arkansas. Created by Act 39 of the General Assembly of Arkansas of 1967, ARAS began as a small group of archeologists. ARAS has grown to be a state-wide resource with a staff of over 30 who work to promote the mission to study Arkansas's past, preserve and manage information about archeological sites, and share what we learn with the people of Arkansas. Study Arkansas's past

The Coordinating Office in Fayetteville houses the Director, State Archeologist, Education Outreach Coordinator, Registrar, Publications Editor, Commercial Graphic Artist, specialists in cemetery preservation, technology, geophysics, and other administrative staff.

ARAS also maintains ten archeological research stations around the state with archeologists who conduct research and fieldwork to further the understanding of different regions of the state. Station archeologists synthesize information from their territories using information from their research and by collaborating with archeologists who work for other agencies, as well as local citizens with varying interests in cultural resources protection.

Preserve and manage information about archeological sites

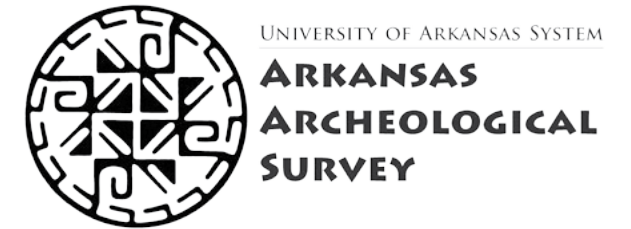
In Section 5 of the act that created ARAS, ARAS was designated as the official repository for information and materials resulting from archeological projects around the state. Because of this, ARAS receives copies of archeological site forms, field and lab work records, photographs, and the artifacts from projects completed

by archeologists. We also receive items from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, Arkansas State Parks, National Parks, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, contract archeology firms working for several other entities, and anyone else who performs archeological investigations here in Arkansas. All the records are integrated into ARAS's Automated Management of Archeological Site Data in Arkansas (AMASDA) database, a protected system with restricted access — for site and landowner protection. Artifacts from projects are also curated by ARAS under standards that evolve as technology and practices change. Information and artifacts are accessible to qualified archeologists and researchers who submit requests through the ARAS Registrar. The Registrar's office is also where site numbers are generated and logged, and where artifact collections get record numbers.

We share what we learn with the people of Arkansas.

Many ARAS research stations are located at academic institutions across the state, where ARAS archeologists often teach classes in anthropology, archeology, sociology, history, or other humanities/social science realms, and serve on master and doctoral student committees. Outside of academia, ARAS acts as a public conduit for archeology education in a myriad of ways. ARAS archeologists are called upon to do classroom visits that can sometimes last days and weeks in the case of in-depth programming. They offer site tours and talks for adult groups like historical societies, Rotary, museums, libraries, and master gardeners. They man tables at public events like farmers' markets and community festivals. They field emails, calls, and visits by concerned members of the public who ask about their finds. ARAS also has an active publications program, and while many of the publications are geared towards technical topics, a "Popular Series" is also produced for the general public. In a time when public and social media is rife with misinformation about ancient aliens and prehistoric giants buried in mounds, archeologists are kept very busy meeting the challenges of steering the public away from the fantastic and toward information derived from empirical evidence.

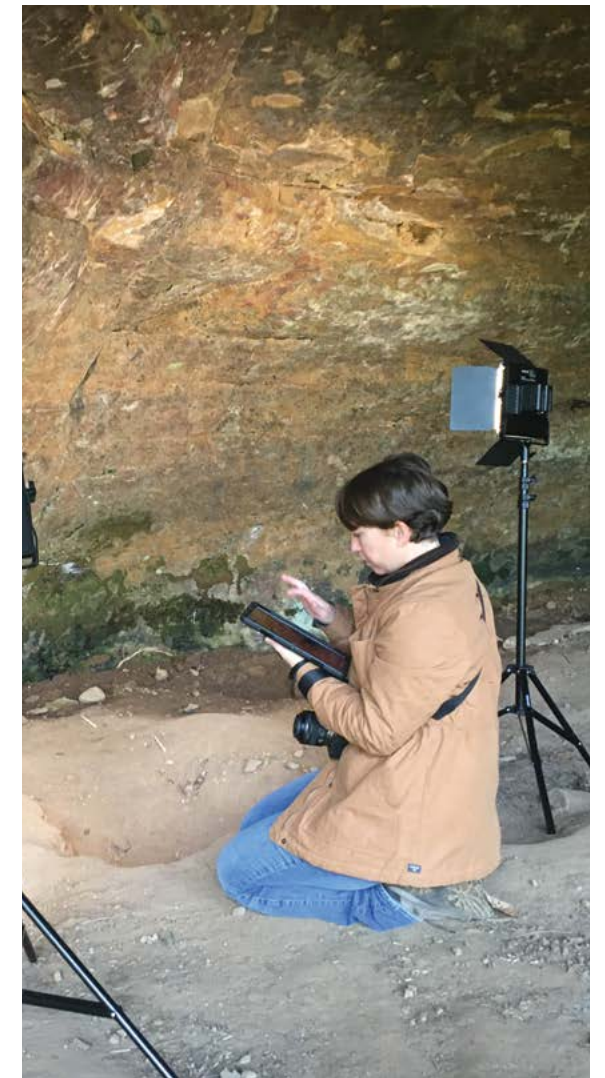
While many other state and federal agencies employ archeologists in Arkansas, ARAS is unique in that it is affiliated with a research institution, and so its priority is research and education, not governmental compliance. It is also unique in that it has an entirely volunteer army in the form of the Arkansas



ARAS's logo is based on a motif from a stone bowl, more info at <https://web.saumag.edu/aas-/outreach/the-aas-logo-the-kings-creek-bowl/>.



ARAS's 10 archaeological research stations are spread out to serve Arkansas' 75 counties. Arkansas school children have access to these resource centers for field trips.



Recording our findings to share with classrooms across Arkansas is a vital part of what we do.

Archeological Society, whose members assist ARAS archeologists in many aspects of their research agendas, and who have also made important archeological contributions themselves. Finally, ARAS works closely with the University of Arkansas Museum, which predates ARAS, to share best practices for curation, public relations, and research directions.

How does archeology fit into the humanities?

Archeology is a sub-discipline of anthropology, the study of humanity. Anthropology emerged out of the schools of sociology, psychology, and philosophy to attempt to explain how humanity works by comparing cultural characteristics across space and time. By exploring social institutions, belief systems, material culture, and more, anthropologists celebrate the diversity of the world's people. Archeologists celebrate the diversity of the world's past people by attempting to reconstruct earlier societies by applying concepts of what we understand about various lifeways of today to evidence that is left behind. We use the same theories and methods that anthropologists studying modern cultures do, with a little science thrown in, but we look deeper back to understand what it means to be human.

How does ARAS fit into Humanities Arkansas?

For a very long time, a member of ARAS has served on

the Board of Directors to function as a subject matter expert for grant reviews pertaining to historical and archeological topics. Before myself, ARAS staff on the Board included the late Jamie Brandon, George Sabo, the late Frank Schambach, and Tom Green. With a deep-history perspective, the archeologist on the Board brings to the table a voice that considers cross-cultural, multi-disciplinary, and ethical considerations. Almost all U.S. archeologists start with a good foundation of general anthropology before focusing on archeology, so having an archeologist on the Board is not that peculiar. Being anthropologists first and archeologists second, we can almost contribute doubly to the Board with our understanding of both modern and ancient cultures. Many ARAS archeologists also serve as humanities scholars for Humanities Arkansas grants, participating in the planning and execution of grants that are secured by applicants from many different institutions, academic and otherwise. Finally, ARAS archeologists have benefited in the past from Humanities Arkansas grants. From funding for creating traveling classroom boxes with replica artifacts to teaching students about past cultures to supporting the development of curricula and informational websites and films (and even slide sets - hello 1990s!), to funding for teacher workshops, Humanities Arkansas has helped ARAS succeed in furthering its mission for many years.

Engaging Arkansas

By Jeff LeMaster, Chief of Communications, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

To truly engage with Arkansas, one must engage its most valuable cultural assets. Our stories, customs, natural beauty, quality of place, and the vibrant personalities who inhabit The Natural State create the essence of the Arkansas experience.

Preserving, bolstering, and promoting those assets are the guiding ethics behind our various grant programs and are at the heart of what we do at the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. The wide array of offerings scattered across our three primary divisions — Parks, Heritage, and Tourism — provides a range of funding options to support the work of nonprofits, municipalities, museums, cultural centers, educators, and even small businesses — the fiber and flavor of our communities.

In our central office, one popular opportunity is our Small Museum Grant Program, which is open to history museums, historical societies, historic houses and sites, and military museums — any of which must have been in operation for two or more years and have an annual operating budget of \$250,000 or less. This grant awards up to \$2,500 to be used in the service of utilities, maintenance, exhibits, or archival supplies.

Deadlines for application are Oct. 20, 2022, and April 20, 2023.

Another great opportunity is our Arkansas Heritage Grant Program, which exists to create ongoing components of heritage-related celebrations. This grant is open to community-based nonprofits, and its uses include curriculum or teaching tools, exhibits, displays, live events or festivals, photographic essays, or roadside exhibits. The grant awards up to \$5,000 and has deadlines of Oct. 17, 2022, and June 17, 2023.

Also managed under the umbrella of our central office is the National History Day Travel Grant, which covers transportation, lodging, and meals for students participating in the National History Day National Contest. The maximum award is \$600, and the grant request must come from the public school district, charter school, or private school that has been invited to participate in the NHD National Contest representing Arkansas. Requests submitted by parents and/or guardians will not be considered. The deadline for applications for the upcoming school year is April 29, 2023.

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For more information, please visit <https://archeology.uark.edu/> and look at the current research ARAS archeologists are doing, but also check out our associated websites that offer a virtual museum, information on bluff shelters, rock art, ancient agriculture, Native American history, and more.

We also share information about Arkansas archeology on
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasArcheologicalSurvey/>
Twitter <https://twitter.com/ArkArcheoSurvey>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/arkansasarcheology/>

The Arkansas Archeological Society can be found here: <https://arkarch.org/>

The University of Arkansas Museum can be found here:
<https://fulbright.uark.edu/university-museum/>

Finally, please feel free to contact the author at mzabeck@uark.edu.

RESOURCE LINKS



More information about these grants can be found at <https://www.arkansasheritage.com/available-grants/division-of-arkansas-heritage-grants>.

Within our Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), there are four types of grant programs. The first is the **HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM**. The goal of this program is to commemorate the past by acknowledging the historically significant people, places, and events that have shaped our state and to confirm the importance of educating the public about these Arkansas treasures. The Historical Marker Program creates a visible and lasting tribute to our history, heritage, and shared identity as Arkansans. Eligible entities include civic groups and organizations such as chambers of commerce and historical societies. Individuals who wish to apply for a marker to commemorate an event or person pertaining to their land may not apply individually, but they may partner with an organization to apply. For a historic person, place, or event to be eligible for marker commemoration, the significance must have been attained at least 50 years ago, with exceptions made if the person, place, or event is of extraordinary historical significance. No living person will be commemorated, and applications are subject to approval by the Arkansas Historical Marker Program Review Committee. Historic markers are funded through the grant at one-half the cost of the markers. For markers



The Cleveland County Courthouse

with different text on both sides, the matching grant is \$1,235. For markers with the same text on both sides, the matching grant is \$1,180. Note that these grant amounts are established through May 2023. Applications are accepted year-round and are processed one at a time, generally with ten markers ordered per fiscal year.

THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROGRAM

encourages and promotes the preservation and continued use of Arkansas's historic courthouses by providing financial assistance for restoration, selected maintenance, and accessibility projects. Eligible county courthouses include those listed on the National Register of Historic Places (either individually or as a contributing resource in a historic district) and those that are not listed but are eligible for listing on the National Register, as determined by AHPP.

Eligible expenses include repair or replacement of failed masonry, windows, roofs, mechanical, plumbing, and/or electrical systems, and ADA compliance. Highest priority is assigned to projects mitigating a threat to a structure's integrity and survival. There is no maximum grant amount; funding levels are determined by the availability of funds from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council using Real Estate Transfer Tax funds. The deadline for application is the end of January 2023 (the exact date is yet to be determined).

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESTORATION

GRANTS were designed to encourage and promote the preservation of Arkansas's historic resources by providing financial assistance for the restoration of historic properties. The grants have three options:

The first is available for up to \$10,000 (2:1 cash match) for nonprofit, local government, and private properties that must be listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places and/or identified as noncontributing structures in a National Register District. All owners receiving Option 1 grant funds must agree to submit a completed National Register nomination with their final invoice.

The second option is available for \$10,000 or more (2:1 cash match) to nonprofit or government properties such as public and private schools, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, historical societies, local service organizations, churches, and city or

county governments. Any owner receiving Option 2 grant funds must sign and file an easement agreement with the local circuit or county clerk before grant funds are released.

The third option is available for \$5,000-\$9,999 (4:1 cash match) to nonprofits and units of local governments for cemetery projects including repair or replacement of failed masonry, windows, roofs, mechanical, plumbing and/or electrical systems, or ADA compliance.

The application deadline for the Historic Preservation Restoration Grants is early March 2023, with an exact date yet to be determined.

Finally, within Main Street Arkansas, which is part of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, there are a variety of grant opportunities for communities that are certified as part of Main Street Arkansas. These include funds to cover building rehabilitation, parks, streetscape improvements, and other design-related projects. **Designated Main Street Programs** receive \$25,000 annually, and **Downtown Network Programs** receive \$5,000 per year. There are also **Public Art Grants** that range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 with a 1:1 match. There are no deadlines for the grants, and prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Main Street Program for more information.

You can learn more about all of the grants within AHPP at

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/arkansas-preservation/about/available-grants>.

The Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant is offered by the Arkansas State Archives agency. This grant is for collecting materials for the Arkansas State Archives in regards to the following information: the history of Black Arkansans from the earliest times; encouraging historical work and research in the background of Black Arkansans to help young citizens of the state and all others appreciate their heritage; assisting with the performance of work in relation to the history of Black Arkansans, and; making programs and projects on the history and heritage of African Americans available to the general public. This grant has quarterly deadlines of Jan. 2, April 2, July 2 and Oct. 2. Eligible entities include groups or organizations formed for nonprofit or not-for-profit purposes. Organizations do not necessarily have to hold 501(c)3 status to apply.



Eligible expenses include honoraria, travel, supplies, materials, printing and duplicating, advertising and historical markers. Examples of eligible projects include: those that preserve, commemorate, disseminate, or enhance the heritage of African Americans in Arkansas; projects that generate or acquire archival material on African Americans in Arkansas; projects that have an ongoing or long-lasting impact on African American history (e.g., exhibit, archival collection, preservation effort, recurring event, historical marker); projects that document and protect community heritage, and; collaborative projects that promote the history and heritage of African Americans in Arkansas. The maximum award for this grant is up to \$3,500.

More information about the Curtis Sykes Memorial Grant is available at

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/arkansas-state-archives/arkansas-state-archives-about/available-grants>.

Within the Arkansas Arts Council (AAC), there are five categories of grants. The first is **GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT**, which is open to established nonprofit local arts agencies or single-discipline organizations to fund operational activities occurring from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Eligible applicant organizations must have an operating budget equal to or greater than \$50,000 and must employ at least a part-time director responsible for ongoing operations who has a salary indicated in administrative expenses. Examples of eligible expenses include administrative staff salaries, marketing, fundraising, rent, utilities, and general operating expenses. New or returning GOS applicants should first speak with the grants manager and then submit a FY24 GOS Letter of Intent application by

December 2, 2022. Once they are approved, they should then submit the full GOS application by January 20, 2023.

Grant amounts will be calculated from 12 percent to 7 percent of adjusted income total from an applicant's last completed fiscal year, factored by budget size. The General Operating Support request must be matched 2:1 by projected artistic expenditures in FY23 programming.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT FOR MAJOR ARTS PARTNERS

This grant is similar to the General Operating Support grant, but applicant organizations must have an operating budget equal to or greater than \$1 million, and eligible applicants must employ a full-time director responsible for ongoing operations and must spend at least 20 percent of their budget on educational outreach. Major Arts Partners General Operating Support applicants can request up to 5 percent of the average of their last three completed years' total incomes not to exceed \$75,000. The deadline for application is Jan. 20, 2023.

Arts in Education, is broken down into three specific grants. They are as follows:

In-School Residencies. This grant program has a goal of placing professional artists in residencies at specific school sites or nonprofit organizations to allow them to demonstrate their art forms in pre-K to 12th-grade curriculum areas during the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Eligible applicants must be one of the following: a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; a federal, state, or local government or governmental unit; a church or convention/association of churches; a hospital, a hospital service organization, or medical research affiliate, or; a public school or institution of higher learning. Awards of up to \$40,000 can be used for contracted administrative or artistic expenses related to the proposed program. The deadline for application is Jan. 31, 2023.

After-School/Summer Residencies. The goal of this grant program is to place approved Arts in Education roster artists outside of the school environment and beyond the school day or school year in residencies based in safe settings. Awards of up to \$10,000 are available for community/neighborhood centers, low-income housing projects, juvenile facilities, social service centers, parks/recreation areas, Boys and Girls

Clubs, or other community-based or governmental organizations that provide facilities and guidance during non-school hours. Funds must be used only for contracted administrative or artistic expenses related to the proposed program that provide positive alternatives for children and youth during non-school hours. The deadline for application is Jan. 31, 2023.

Arts Curriculum Projects. These grants help support projects that advance the goal of arts as a basic part of education. An Arts Curriculum Project can last from one day to one year at any point from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Awards of up to \$10,000 are available to schools and nonprofit or governmental organizations and institutions that help support projects that advance the goal of arts as a basic part of education. Eligible expenses include projects that enhance current arts curricula and assist in establishing ongoing arts programming and/or curricula in schools and organizations. The deadline for application is Jan. 31, 2023.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT SUPPORT

The goal of these grants is to assist with contracted costs of arts activities occurring at any point from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The art projects must involve some form of community outreach targeting one or more underserved/distinct community groups. Applications must involve at least two separate organizations working together on an arts activity. The lead applicant must be a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that does not receive operational support from the Arkansas Arts Council. Grant award payments are scheduled to accommodate the grantee's project to the extent possible. Grant funds are supplementary to the budget of any grantee, and applicants are encouraged to secure a range of financial commitments for the submitted proposal. Awards are granted up to \$10,000. The deadline to apply is Jan. 6, 2023.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are unconditional, non matching grants made directly to individual artists. Awarded annually, these fellowships recognize the artistic creative excellence of the recipient's work and enable the selected artists to devote more time and energy to creating their art and mastering their craft. Funding categories change each year. Up to 18 fellowships of \$5,000 may be awarded. Artists must be at least 21

years old and an Arkansas resident for at least one year at the time of application. The deadline to apply is April 14, 2023, and applications will reopen in December 2023.

More information about AAC's grants can be found at <https://www.arkansasheritage.com/arkansas-art-council/about/aac-grants>.

Arkansas State Parks offers two types of **OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS**. The first is a **Matching Grant**, which provides outdoor recreation opportunities to communities across the state. The annual deadline for this grant is the last Friday in August. Eligible applicants include cities and counties in Arkansas regardless of population size. Examples of eligible projects and expenses include pump-track installation, improved lighting, baseball field refurbishment, splash pads, pickleball courts, trails, and restroom facilities. The maximum award amount is \$250,000 on a \$500,000 project.

The second type of Outdoor Recreation Grant is the **FUN Park grant**. This grant also provides outdoor recreation opportunities to communities across the state but is only eligible for towns and unincorporated areas (through county sponsorship) with less than 2,500 people. Examples of eligible projects include creating pocket parks, providing new playground equipment, or establishing a community's first park. The maximum award for this grant in FY23 is \$100,000, and the application deadline is the last Friday in August.

More information about our Outdoor Recreation Grants is available at <https://www.outdoorgrants.com>.

Our Tourism Division offers two grants. The first is the **Tourism Attraction Feasibility Study Grant**. Tourism feasibility studies provide valuable insight into the potential of investing in the development of a tourism

attraction and may assist in obtaining funds from financial institutions. The annual deadlines for this grant are the last Fridays in July, September and November. Eligible applicants include incorporated cities and counties. Only one grant per fiscal year is allowed per applicant. Only one grant per project will be allowed during the life span of the project. The only use for this grant is to fund a tourism feasibility study, which is defined as "research conducted for the purpose of determining the possibility and potential of a specific tourism attraction within the city or county boundaries." Tourism attraction means a cultural or historical site, a recreational or entertainment facility, areas of natural phenomenon or scenic beauty, theme parks, amusement or entertainment parks, indoor or outdoor play or music shows, botanical gardens, or cultural or educational centers. The grant provides a 50 percent match up to \$15,000.

The second type of Tourism grant is the **Festival Advertising Grant**. This grant assists with festival advertising to stimulate tourism in small communities. Its annual deadline is March 1, and it is available to incorporated cities with a population of less than 10,500, as well as counties applying on behalf of a community with a population of less than 10,500. Examples of eligible expenses include festival advertising expenses such as magazine, newspaper, radio, television, digital or billboards. The grant provides a two-thirds match up to \$2,000. More information about our Tourism grants can be found at

<https://www.arkansas.com/industry-insider/grants>.

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism takes pride in offering these various grants, all of which add to the quality of life and quality of place in Arkansas.



Non-Profit Organizations Collaborate to Preserve Arkansas's African American History & Heritage

Article compiled by Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis



By being established, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Arkansas (AAHGS) and the Preservation of African American Cemeteries, Inc. (PAAC), these organizations are recognized and respected as the forerunners and pioneers that garnered statewide interest in the preservation of Arkansas's African American Cemeteries through community efforts, legislation and, state agencies. They have reached this status through their research, workshops, documented efforts, and grant funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council and National Endowment of the Humanities and the Arkansas Black History Advisory Committee now the (Black History Commission of Arkansas).

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) was founded in 1977 in Washington, DC., by James Dent Walker. The primary goals of AAHGS are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories. The Arkansas Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), founded by Ronnie Augustus Nichols, is one of 37 chapters located throughout the United States, with more than 2,500 registered members.

AAHGS was founded in 1997 by a group dedicated to preserving and sharing genealogical and historical research techniques, conducting educational

programs, and preparing exhibits. Their mission is to bring to light the history and heritage of Arkansas people of African descent through research, study, collaboration, documentation, and presentation. In addition to conducting genealogy workshops, hosting local and national genealogy conferences, and producing family, church, and community histories, AAHGS Arkansas sponsored two major research projects:

African American Funeral Homes: The Final Emancipation where more than 30,000 death records were collected from funeral homes; transcribed, indexed, and published in several volumes. **Black Cemeteries Uncovered: Connecting the Past** dedicated to the identification, collection, documentation, and preservation of African American cemeteries. More than 40,000 obituaries and tombstone inscriptions from more than 21 cemeteries within Pulaski and Faulkner Counties were transcribed, indexed, and published in 3 volumes and microfilmed by the Arkansas History Commission. This project, established in 1998, led the way for legislation to successfully appropriate funding.

For the first time in Arkansas history through the efforts of AAHGS, the advisor, Mr. Curtis Sykes (charter member of the North Little Rock History Commission, Chair of the Arkansas Black History Commission, and director of the Odd Fellows Cemetery Project, now deceased), along with collaboration from the Arkansas

Humanities Council and Arkansas Archeological Survey, employed Senator Tracy Steele to become the first legislator (2005) to successfully sponsor an appropriations bill (SB875, Act1520) to the Arkansas Archeological Survey. This bill helped local organizations identify and preserve poorly documented African American Cemeteries using archeological and historical research methods in the cumulative amount of more than \$200,000.

AAHGS also felt the presence of the study and collection of African American materials within the state of Arkansas was lacking at the Arkansas State Archives. There was a critical need for the State Archives to collect, preserve, and make available black historical materials, and to encourage research in Arkansas black history. Once again, through collaboration with Senator Steele and Mr. Sykes, HB562, Act1055 was introduced, which created the position of Coordinator of African American History under the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism for the Arkansas History Commission (now Arkansas State Archives).

The Preservation of African American Cemeteries (PAAC) was founded in 2003 as a non-profit organization managed and operated by a staff of dedicated volunteers. PAAC's co-founders, Phyllis Hammonds, Founder of Phillips, Lee, and St. Francis Counties African American Cemetery Group, (1998), and Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, President Emeritus of AAHGS and Project Director for Black Cemeteries Uncovered and The Final Emancipation, joined forces to establish this non-profit organization. PAAC's mission statement: To form a network of persons and/or groups committed to locating, researching, educating, documenting, reclaiming, and preserving African American Cemeteries. Our mission inspires leadership to lobby in the state legislature, create unique community engagement opportunities, host annual conferences and fundraisers, and provide scholarships for college-bound students from within the PAAC Junior Preservation Society.

PAAC is committed to recognizing cemeteries as places of both tribute and historical memory and connecting communities with their past. PAAC has



successfully shared methods and techniques of proper cemetery restoration and archeological assistance and networked with caretakers and cemetery associations across several states in proper preservation methods. The organization's successes have largely come from the dedication of members who volunteer their hours and subsidize their own travel throughout the state.

Leadership from PAAC has created an extensive network of community partners from the public and private sectors. Because of its tireless work and constant presence in preservation work, the organization's leadership was honored by the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas with the Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy Award, recognizing "the important work being done [by PAAC] throughout the state to preserve historic places that define Arkansas' distinctive history and contribute to the vitality of the state."

Continuing the legislative efforts of AAHGS, PAAC submitted to Senator Irma Hunter Brown and the 2007 Black Legislative Class a two-year pilot program requesting legislative funding to implement a regulating plan in the state of Arkansas for African American Cemeteries known as APIE:

Assess and Identify registered and unregistered cemeteries through research, documentation, and surveying for the development and preservation of historical information;

Plan of Action Development to coordinate and share

continued page 16

documented historical data with various state agencies, genealogical societies, History Commissions, and the community at large;

Implementation of regulating standards by training and developing cemetery associations;

Evaluate the progress of the cemetery annually by standards and reporting.

At the same time, AAHGS & PAAC were focused on the circumstances that threatened the continued existence of the historically Black cemetery, Haven of Rest, founded in 1932. Although our recorded documentation of Haven of Rest found headstones dating back as early as 1916, the cemetery was suffering from years of physical and financial neglect, lacked a clear owner, was controlled by a court-appointed receiver, and was more than \$1 million in debt. To show a history of financial problems, AAHGS was asked approximately 5 years earlier by the Attorney of the Arkansas Cemetery Board if the organization would be interested in taking over the cemetery. As a perpetual care cemetery that was no longer receiving funds from the Arkansas Cemetery Board, and with an operational cost exceeding \$120,000 per year, total operation and maintenance would be the responsibility of the organization, which was not plausible. Senate Bill 637, stating "An act to permit a city or county and the State of Arkansas to create a partnership to manage, operate, maintain, and preserve insolvent licensed perpetual care cemeteries," was sponsored instead by Senator Irma Hunter Brown and Representative Wilhelmina Lewellen. This bill would allow the State Cemetery Board to buy the property for \$1,000 and then enter a partnership with Little Rock to maintain the property. SB637 passed and became Act430.

Hope was not lost, so PAAC regrouped and developed a five-year plan for the Arkansas Cemetery Task Force Proposal. In 2009, during the State of Arkansas 87th General Assembly Regular Session, Senator Bookout introduced Senate Bill 983 on behalf of PAAC for an act to create a task force to identify all cemeteries in the state and report on the condition of cemeteries, and for other purposes which included providing education on documentation and preservation of cemeteries.

Unfortunately, SB983 died in the Senate Committee at

Sine Die adjournment. A befitting memorial service was held during PAAC's 2009 Memorial in May Cemetery Preservation Conference in honor of SB983.

A little graveyard humor for a life short-lived: Born March 9, 2009 – 4:39:09pm ~ Died May 1, 2009 – 12:34:40pm. To this day, PAAC has continued to emulate the traits of the task force proposal.

In 2015, during the 90th Arkansas General Assembly, PAAC again met with legislatures to discuss the desire for PAAC to receive funding directly to meet the needs of cemetery preservation as outlined in our Task Force proposal. While PAAC received no funding directly, Senator Linda Chesterfield introduced SB499, approved as Act625; AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES GENERAL IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION which included maintenance expenses for African American cemeteries.

While AAHGS and PAAC are forerunners in the preservation of Arkansas's African American Cemeteries, there is no better evidence of the current research demand regarding African American cemeteries than the legislation before Congress to establish the African American Burial Grounds Network Act (S. 2827). The bill authorizes a \$3 million grant program to aid efforts across the country to identify, document, preserve, research, and interpret historic African American burial grounds. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) introduced S. 3667 on February 16, 2022, in the Senate (117th Congress, 2021-2022). The following week, Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC) and Rep. Don McEachin (D-VA) were to introduce the same bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. The AABGNA was first introduced to the 116th Congress (2019-2022) by Representatives Adams and McEachin. So vital is the work of PAAC and similar organizations that U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) stated, "Preserving sites like these will encourage the study of U.S. history and will allow us to better remember these important chapters in our nation's story," the day he spoke to the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. PAAC, along with AAHGS and collaborating partner Preserve Arkansas, continues the focus and support of the African American Burial Grounds Network Act.

PAAC hosts a yearly 2-day conference, entitled *Memorial in May: Cemetery Preservation Conference*,

where individuals throughout Arkansas and surrounding states convene to discuss the problems that plague rural and community cemeteries and provide resources for the documentation and preservation of these sacred burial grounds. Since its establishment, PAAC has hosted conferences in various cities within Arkansas, partnering with colleges and universities, while addressing the need in other states and expanding the "Memorial in May" conferences to Alabama, Tennessee, and Oklahoma.

Currently, through funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council, PAAC is conducting a research project entitled *Project 365: Cemeteries Reveal the History of Early Black Communities*. The purpose of this project is to research, document, and publish the history and origin of 6 African American communities (Hensley, Woodson, Wrightsville, Higgins, Sweet Home, and College Station) along the route of State HWY 365 in Pulaski County, AR. To accomplish this task, researchers will use cemetery transcriptions, slave narratives, oral history, church histories, obituaries, photographs, and other means to trace how African American families either migrated or were born in these communities and their reasons for remaining. Documenting the important roles these enslaved, descendants of slaves, and free people of color made to their communities will allow future generations to learn about these pioneers and connect their communities to the past.

In 2009, PAAC established a Junior Preservation Society. The chartering members of PAAC Junior originated from third, fourth, and fifth-grade students at Martin Luther King Elementary East Lab, established as an internship for cemetery preservation, facilitator, and educator Deidre Douglas Williams. The goal with the students was to educate them in becoming youth advocates to work on increasing public awareness and activism in preserving, protecting, documenting, and restoring endangered and forgotten historic cemeteries, writing the significant histories of those interred, and publishing their findings. We are extremely proud to say that several of our students have remained with the society and are now in college. PAAC Junior can also be seen in the AETN documentary "Silent Storytellers." The documentary explores the history, culture, and importance of preserving Arkansas's cemeteries.



PAAC and the Arkansas Chapter of AAHGS currently maintain two online resources:

- <https://www.facebook.com/PAACIncorporated>
- <http://www.aahgs.org>
- Email: arkansas@aaahgs.org
Margaret Moss, *President*
- Email: paacarcemeteries@aol.com
Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis, *President*

Membership is by calendar year, and we welcome you to join!

Who is PAAC Junior?

The Preservation for African American Cemeteries Internship Program

As with all elements of our historic past, traditions are kept alive because they have been passed on from generation to generation. But somewhere along the way, the tradition of involving our youth in the commitment and dedication to the upkeep of our family gravesites was lost. For PAAC Junior members, an internship in African American cemetery preservation is a chance to ensure the stories of our forefathers live on. The members publish their findings through modern technology to youth and adults around the state of Arkansas.

The world can view the plight of Arkansas Cemeteries as PAAC Junior members provide the following:

TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

Developing a Junior Preservation Society website to encourage and increase the awareness of cemetery preservation for students, teachers, and parents throughout the state and other school programs. Sharing methods and techniques of proper cemetery restoration and archaeological assistance.

Assisting with mapping and surveying of cemeteries. Publishing a quarterly newsletter to show their active service to various communities as it relates to cemetery preservation.

Hosting educational programs for other youth groups and training the elder PAAC members in advanced areas of technology.

Filming oral histories and documentaries.
Creating Cemetery Maps where none exist.

HISTORICAL ASSISTANCE

Encouraging history teachers to create a curriculum noting famous Arkansans, their contributions to society, and the locations of burial.

Publishing articles about community founders and how the communities in which the student lives were founded.

Hosting programs with reenactments of historical figures.



PAAC Junior Scholarship Recipients

RECENT PAAC JUNIOR PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

AETN in filming the award-winning documentary *Silent Storytellers*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.

Arthur Agee Jr. Foundation

Black History Commission of Arkansas provides grant funding for mentoring workshops and research projects.

Cities of Brinkley, Jonesboro, and Little Rock

Kindness Is Free Foundation Youth Mentoring workshops with Herb "Flight Time" Lang, former Harlem Globetrotter

New Writers in Action with Mrs. Millie McGhee Morris to write a collaboration of family histories entitled *My Roots: Who Am I?*

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Madison-Bailey Scholarship, named after two PAAC Junior charter members, Madison Edmondson and Bailey Buck.

Through the years, PAAC Junior members have partnered with senior citizen groups, historical and genealogical societies, and cultural centers, and traveled to various states to promote cemetery preservation. In October of 2021, PAAC Junior presented at the AAHGS National Genealogy Conference and in May 2022, and two PAAC Junior members were presented with scholarships!

To learn more about PAAC Junior and how you can help to continue the legacy, visit us on Facebook or email us at paacarcemeteries@aol.com.



Ann Clements
Education Outreach Coordinator

The summer months mean AHC professional development workshops are happening statewide to help provide teachers with humanities resources for the classroom. Kathleen Pate, Education Specialist with the Clinton Presidential Library, and I have been traveling to education service co-ops, museums, and libraries in all four congressional districts to let you know about classroom grants, upcoming civic literacy projects, seminar series, 2022-23 school year opportunities to visit traveling National Archives and Smithsonian exhibits, and other exciting news. Workshops end on August 2nd – for a full listing of dates and registration links, visit www.arkansashumanitiescouncil.org.

And, if you could not attend a workshop this summer, please contact me at aclements@arkansashumanitiescouncil.org and I'll be happy to provide an in-service workshop for you and your colleagues. Also, be sure to like and follow our AHC Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest workshop and program news.

EDUCATIONAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

As you plan your units for the 2022-23 school year, please consider applying for one of the Council's educational grant opportunities. REACH grants offset costs for classroom projects, lesson plan development, and unit studies focusing on the humanities. REACH grants are also available to fund professional development for you and your colleagues — in-state, out-of-state or virtual!

Arkansas State Park Field Trip grants pay for classroom field trips to any of our state's fantastic 52 state parks. The Helen T. Leigh Museum Field Trip grant allows students to visit the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock. Mileage, bus costs, and substitute teacher salaries are all allowable expenses. Just book a humanities-related program with a park or museum interpreter and apply!

All grant applications and forms are available through the Foundation Grant Management System. You can log in or create an account here:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=arhc>

Need help or have questions related to applying for a grant? Please reach out to me or Jamie Middleton, Grants Project Administrator, at jmiddleton@arkansashumanitiescouncil.org.

FALL PROGRAMMING

Stay tuned for exciting new K-12 civic literacy professional development programming beginning in the fall. Centered around voting rights history, the programs will feature presentations from historians and scholars in the fields of Arkansas History, election law, political science, and others. Watch our website and Facebook page for details and dates.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! I look forward to working with you in the 2022-23 school year.

Partners for Inclusive Communities: Engaging Arkansas Communities to Improve Disability Access and Inclusion

Who We Are

Partners for Inclusive Communities (Partners) is part of the University of Arkansas. Administratively, we are located within the College of Education and Health Professions. We are an off-campus outreach program. Our office is located in Little Rock. Our core funding is provided by a grant from the Administration for Community Living. This grant establishes Partners as the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) for Arkansas. It supports activities focused on building the capacity of Arkansans to create more inclusive communities.

We also receive funding from other grants and contracts to carry out a wide variety of projects. The common thread of our projects is disability, access, and inclusion. We pursue opportunities that move us toward our vision of inclusion of people with disabilities in community life. We collaborate with community partners to promote disability access and inclusion through training, technical assistance, research, and resource development and dissemination.

We Believe:

- Disability is a natural part of the human experience.
- Disability should not take away a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society.

Our Focus

Our core grant is focused on inclusion and equity for people with developmental disabilities. However, our mission has a broader focus. We are engaged in a variety of other projects that address the barriers that impact all people with disabilities. Geographically, our primary focus is the state of Arkansas. Some of our projects have a broader focus and reach. People from across the United States and even in other countries participate in our training and benefit from our services.

What We Do

Our activities fall into four core function areas:

- **Interdisciplinary training:** We provide pre-service preparation and continuing education to graduate students pursuing careers in health-related professions.
- **Community services:** We provide quality services, training, and technical assistance to people with disabilities, family members, professionals, and others.
- **Research:** We research effective ways to improve access and inclusion in communities and organizations. We also provide research and evaluation services to social service organizations.
- **Information Dissemination:** We develop and share current information about disability, access, and inclusion. This information is shared through our websites, social media, videos, and electronic and print media.

Our Projects

Because we are funded through grants and contracts, we seek proposals that support our mission. In addition to federally funded projects, we also are happy to engage with people and organizations across Arkansas to improve access and inclusion. We have collaborated with state agencies, schools, colleges and universities, museums, parks, professional organizations, and cultural organizations. We would love for your organization to be next!

Below we highlight four of our projects that connect us with the humanities.

Increasing Digital Access in Arkansas

Through this project, we work to increase the capacity of organizations in Arkansas to design more accessible digital environments. This project is funded by iCAN Arkansas (ar-ican.org). We provide training and technical assistance on creating accessible documents, videos, virtual meetings or training, and websites. Improving accessibility in these areas removes barriers for people with disabilities, especially those who use assistive technology. This project has supported the contribution of the Access to the Humanities series in



Melanie Thornton and Julie Petty present at the University of Arkansas.

Connect Magazine and workshops provided to museum professionals across the state.

Marshallese Interpreting for Community Inclusion (MICI)

This project addresses language barriers and equitable access to disability services in the Marshallese community. The project provides training to interpreters who also serve as cultural liaisons for information on cross-cultural views on disability and accessing services. Partners collaborate with the Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI) and SeSo, Inc. on project activities. This project is supported by the AR Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Southwest ADA Center – Arkansas Affiliate

The overall goal of this project is to increase the capacity of Arkansas to provide access to people with disabilities through increasing knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and enhancing understanding of how to create more accessible and inclusive environments. The staff who work on this project are available to answer questions related to the ADA and to provide training on the ADA and accessibility. This project has a broad reach and has allowed us to provide training to museum professionals and assist cultural organizations in improving access to their buildings.

Welcome the Children

The goal of Welcome the Children is to provide early childhood professionals with quality training, coaching, and resources for supportive approaches to cultural diversity, inclusion, and communication. This training also includes the Arkansas Bilingual Interpreter Credential in Education (ABICE). This credential is for adults who are fluent in English and another oral language and who provide interpretation for meetings between educators and families of children from birth through 12th grade.

We would love to partner with more Arkansas organizations that are committed to improving access and inclusion for people with disabilities. Here are just a few things we can do for you and your organization:

- Present a session for a professional conference
- Provide in-service training for your staff
- Review your website and documents for accessibility
- Provide input on improving access to your facility
- Answer your questions about the ADA

For more information, visit our website at: uofapartners.uark.edu

Or contact: Melanie Thornton, Coordinator of Access and Equity Outreach, mthornt@uark.edu

The Best Deal in History

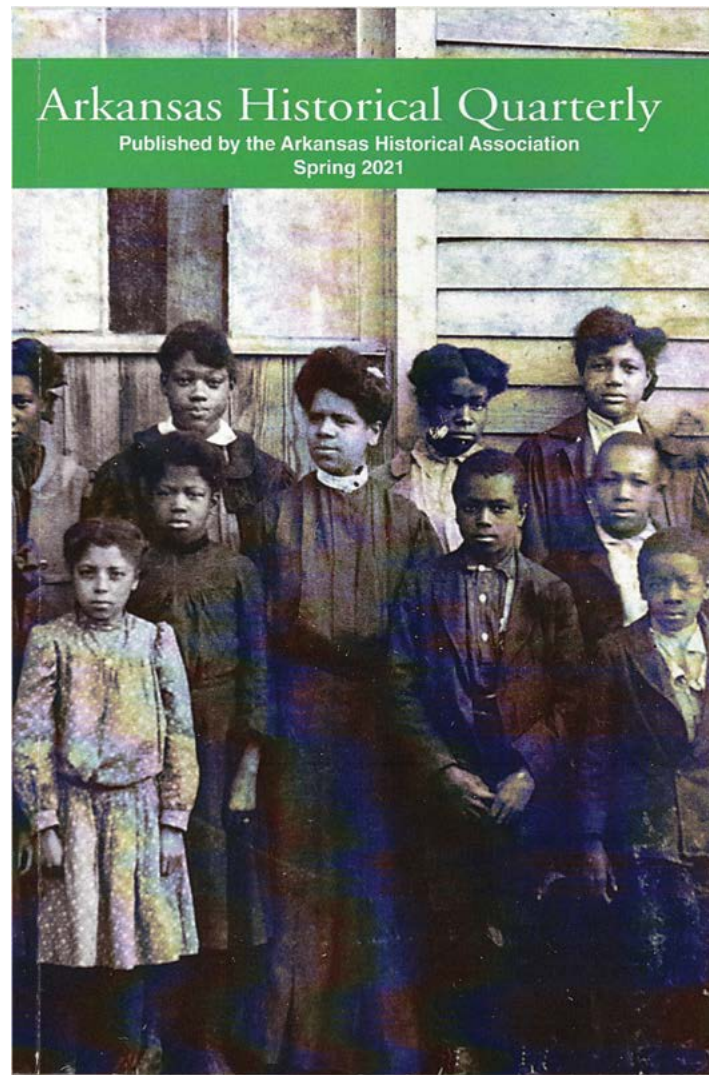


For a state its size, Arkansas offers generous helpings of its history to anyone interested. The Central Arkansas Library System's *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* is one of the best online resources of its kind. Just compare it to our neighboring states'

counterparts and you'll see. Fine museums dot the state — from Little Rock to Springdale, Smackover, Helena-West Helena, and beyond — not to mention Arkansas State University's extraordinary Heritage Sites, among them where Johnny Cash grew up and Ernest Hemingway wrote books. The state's archives—whether the Arkansas State Archives, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, or those attached to the state's universities — boast supremely talented staff. And Arkansas's statewide newspaper, the *Democrat-Gazette*, offers a weekly column by Tom Dillard, one of the true pioneers in the modern study of state history.

One of the most venerable toilers in this vineyard, though, is the Arkansas Historical Association (AHA), formed in 1941 as a successor to an identically named but genetically distinct organization that rose and fell between 1903 and 1911. The 100 Arkansans who gathered at Little Rock's Hotel Marion intended this new AHA "to promote interest in the history of Arkansas, to locate, collect, and preserve historical material, and to publish scarce and important source material, and also historical articles, news, and notes." In subsequent decades, with other institutions in the state excelling at some of these tasks, the Association pared its mission to a (still ambitious) promotion of "the preservation, writing, publishing, teaching, and understanding of Arkansas history through the publication of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and other activities."

The *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* first appeared in 1942 and has evolved over the following eight decades. Initially, it offered an eclectic mix of historical scholarship and pieces of a more personal or antiquarian bent. Yet in these early years, the *Quarterly* set itself apart from many states' historical journals by welcoming the work of African American scholars, such as Elsie M. Lewis (1947, 1954) and O. A. Rogers.



Rogers, in 1960, offered a revisionist take on the Elaine Race Massacre much more in keeping with modern scholars' understanding of the episode than the rebuttal it inspired, J. W. Butts and Dorothy James' now notorious "The Underlying Causes of the Elaine Riot of 1919" (1961). During Walter L. Brown's long tenure as editor (1959-1990), the *Quarterly* came to focus more exclusively on scholarly articles. It published some of the earliest studies of Arkansas's civil rights struggle (Numan Bartley's prescient analysis of the 1957 Central High crisis appeared even as Orval Faubus still sat in the Governor's Mansion). Under Brown — and since — the *Quarterly* has helped change the way the whole world thinks about the American Civil War, through articles emphasizing the importance of the trans-Mississippi theater and the centrality of guerrilla conflict — what Daniel Sutherland, in its autumn 1993 issue, called "the real war" in Arkansas. The *Quarterly*

occasionally offers special issues organized around themes, such as "The Legacy of Friedrich Gerstäcker" (spring 2014) or "Arkansas Women: Race, Reform, and the Right to Vote" (autumn 2020). More typically, though, readers will find individual issues wandering across centuries and subject matter. A recent edition, for example, featured an environmental history of the Quapaws in the eighteenth century, a study of the origins of Arkansas's Republican Party during the earliest days of Reconstruction, and a post-mortem on Arkansas's failure in 1919 to commemorate the centennial of its establishment as a territory. In addition to AHA members, the *Quarterly* is accessible to readers in thousands of national and international libraries.

Equally vital to the AHA's work as the journal, though, are its annual conferences, which the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities generously support. Arkansans — and Arkansas wannabes — from all walks of life assemble every spring, (except during World War Two and in pandemic-plagued 2020) to learn about and discuss Arkansas history, albeit virtually in 2021 and in a hybrid arrangement in 2022. Conferences are typically organized around a theme, ranging from "Sounds of Arkansas: Music and Musicians from the Bear State to the Natural State" (2006) to "Not Just Black and White: The Fight for Civil Rights in Arkansas" (2007), "Arkansas: Land of Eccentricity" (2008), "The Arkansas Environment" (2009), Arkansas's Civil War (2011-2015), "Collective Memory in the Natural State: Commemoration, Preservation, and Reconciliation" (2021), and "Natural States of Being: Gender and Sexuality in Arkansas History" (2022). AHA makes a point of not confining these conferences to Arkansas's largest cities so attendees can become better acquainted with communities around the state. Over the past fifteen years, AHA has met in Magnolia, Helena-West Helena, Pocahontas, Washington, West Memphis, Eureka Springs, and Stuttgart — as well as Little Rock, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, and Jonesboro. The setting always changes, but the atmosphere is always convivial.

For most of its eighty years, the AHA's business and editorial offices have been housed at the Department of History at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (in a nice touch, AHA is currently headquartered in one of the state's most historic buildings, Old Main). But it requires a state's worth of stalwarts to keep the association running. Its officers and trustees hail from

every corner of Arkansas and every sort of background. The *Quarterly* draws on the expertise of academics, public historians, and lay scholars from around the state, nation, and globe. And AHA relies on the support of the Arkansas Humanities Council, Arkansas Heritage, a division of the Department of Parks, Tourism, and Heritage, and AHA's many members. Membership is only \$20 a year, making AHA, as Past President Mark Christ never tires of exclaiming, "the best deal in history."

For further information about the AHA, visit arkansashistoricalassociation.org or contact the Arkansas Historical Association, 416 N. Campus Drive, MAIN 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 479-575-5884



Cherisse Jones-Branch addresses the 2022 AHA conference at Ferncliff Camp, Little Rock.

Courtesy Rachel Patton

NEH Grants Available

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States.

Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers.

NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and individual scholars. The grants:

- strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges
- facilitate research and original scholarship
- provide opportunities for lifelong learning
- preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources
- strengthen the institutional base of the humanities

What are the humanities?

“The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”
–National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

NEH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEH offers a variety of grant programs to individuals and organizations that do the highest quality work to promote the humanities.

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Deadline: July 19, 2022

Maximum Award Amount: Implementation projects: \$350,000/Foundation projects: \$50,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Catalogs, Databases, Digitized Collection, Encyclopedias, Web Resources

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutes

Deadline: August 10, 2022

Maximum award amount: Up to \$565,000 (\$385,000 in outright funds plus \$180,000 in Federal Matching Funds)

Availability: Organizations

Output: Fellowships

Public Humanities Projects

Deadline: August 10, 2022

Maximum award amount:

Planning: \$75,000

Implementation: \$400,000 (plus additional \$100,000 for Positions in the Public Humanities if you choose to apply for one)

Availability: Organizations

Output: Exhibition, Interpretive Plans

Media Projects

Deadline: August 10, 2022

Maximum award amount: \$75,000 for Development, \$700,000 for Production, \$1,000,000 for Chairman's Special Awards

Availability: Organizations

Output: Film/TV/Video, Online Video, Podcast, Radio Broadcast

Humanities Connections

Deadline: September 1, 2022

Maximum award amount: up to \$35,000 for Planning; up to \$150,000 for Implementation

Availability: Organizations

Output: Community Partnerships, Curriculum, Faculty Development, Linked Courses, Teaching Resources

Dialogues on the Experience of War

Deadline: September 1, 2022

Maximum award amount: \$100,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Community and/or Internal Partnerships, Discussion Series, Educational Resources, Facilitator Training

Dynamic Language Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants

Deadline: September 15, 2022

Availability: Organizations

Maximum award amount: Contact NEH

Output: Archival Documentation, Book Section, Dictionary, Digital Material and Publication, Grammar Book, Language Learning Resources

Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants

Deadline: September 27, 2022

Maximum award amount: \$1,000,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Buildings, Digital Infrastructure, Equipment

Archeological and Ethnographic Field Research

Deadline: September 28, 2022

Maximum award amount: \$150,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Article, Book, Book Section, Database/Archive/Digital Edition, Digital Material and Publication, Field Report, Public Lecture or Presentation

Collaborative Research

Deadline: November 30, 2022

Maximum award amount: Up to \$250,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Book, Conference, Digital Material and Publication, Other Scholarly Resource, Themed issue of a peer-reviewed journal, Workshop

Scholarly Editions and Scholarly Translations

Deadline: November 30, 2022

Maximum award amount: \$300,000; up to \$450,000 may be available for projects that respond to A More Perfect Union: NEH Special Initiative Advancing Civic Education and Celebrating the Nation's 250th Anniversary.

Availability: Organizations

Output: Book, Edition, Music edition, Translation

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Deadline: January 12, 2023

Maximum award amount: Planning: \$50,000

Implementation: \$350,000

Availability: Organizations

Output: Preservation Supplies/Equipment, Reports on Preventive Conservation

For more information on these and other grant opportunities through the National Endowment for the Humanities, go to <https://www.neh.gov/grants>.



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