

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MASSACHUSETTS
FOUNDATION FOR THE
Humanities
Bringing Ideas to Life

BOSTON-AREA HUMANITIES GRANTS AWARDED

Northampton, MA - The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities has awarded matching grants totaling \$109,972 in support of thirteen humanities projects in communities across the state, including seven to organizations in the Boston area, listed below. Four of the Boston-area grants, totaling \$34,382, were made under the thematic initiative "Liberty and Justice for All" (LJA), for projects that explore these fundamental principles in American political life and their interplay, past and present.

Archaeological Institute of America, Boston \$5,000

To support the second annual archaeology fair at the Museum of Science on October 10 and 11, 2008, at which Massachusetts archaeologists will present a range of activities, including living history, stone tool creation, a Mesoamerican ball game, as well as archaeological astronomy at the planetarium.

Contact Ben Thomas, (617) 353-8708, <mailto:bthomas@aia.bu.edu>

Primary Source, Cambridge LJA \$10,000

Toward a weeklong teacher institute, *Teaching for a Global Understanding in the 21st Century*, designed to expose K-12 teachers to interdisciplinary content, concepts and technology that will aid in the teaching of world issues such as the globalization of culture.

Contact Julia de la Torre, (617) 923-9933, <mailto:julia@primarysource.org>

Film Arts Foundation, Cambridge/San Francisco LJA \$10,000

To support Ebb Pod Productions for a discussion-length version of the film, *Traces of the Trade*, for use in community dialogues. The documentary follows filmmaker Katrina Browne and other descendants of the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history, as they explore the implications of their ancestry.

Contact Katrina Browne, (617) 349-0019, <mailto:kbrowne@tracesofthetrade.org>

Theatre Espresso, Jamaica Plain LJA \$10,000

For the production of a new, interactive courtroom play for middle school student audiences called *The Nine Who Dared: Crisis in Little Rock* about the desegregation crisis of 1957, to be performed at the John Adams Courthouse and the Abiel Smith School.

Contact Derek Nelson, (617) 899-3222, <mailto:dstonenelson@aol.com>

Center for Independent Documentary, Sharon \$10,000

for a script and trailer of *The Life and Times of L'il Abner and Al Capp*. This film documents the popular comic strip as a reflection of the changing times and evolving political and social views of its creator from the late 1930s to the 1970s.

Contact Caitlin Manning, (415) 641-5529, or mailto:caitlin_manning@csumb.edu

The Welcome Project, Somerville LJA \$4,382

For *Immigrant City: Youth Storytelling Program*, a six-week summer program in which 13- to 17-year-olds explore their own and others' immigration stories and learn to tell them by journaling, interviewing, photography and in creating a photo-documentary.

Contact Warren Goldstein-Gelb, (617) 623-6633, <mailto:warrengg@gmail.com>

Documentary Educational Resources, Watertown \$10,000

To support filmmaker Susan Adele Edwards in pre-production work on *Marion Stoddart: Work of 1000*, a film documenting the life of this Massachusetts activist who led the effort to clean up the Nashua River and pass the Massachusetts Clean Water Act in the 1960s.

Contact Susan Adele Edwards, (978) 433-5697, <mailto:sedwards@extramile.com>

The Northampton-based Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Mass Humanities conducts and supports projects that use history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to strengthen and enhance civic life across the Commonwealth. For further information about Mass Humanities initiatives, grant deadlines, and awarded grants, visit: www.masshumanities.org

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