



BOCA RATON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Susan Gillis, Curator, Boca Raton Historical Society

Phone: 561-395-6766 X104

Email: curator@bocahistory.org

Lashonda Curry, Communications Director, Florida Humanities

Phone: 727-873-2011 | Cell: 813-447-1752

Email: lcurry@flahum.org

Boca Raton Historical Society Receives Florida Humanities “American Rescue Plan” COVID Relief Funding

Boca Raton, Florida (December 2, 2021) — Florida Humanities, the statewide, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), has awarded the Boca Raton Historical Society a **\$24,500 grant** for general operating costs to help recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This grant will be used to assist with salaries for the Society, which has been adversely impacted by the pandemic due to loss of funds because of the elimination of fundraisers, attendance fees, and store sales over the past two years.

“The Florida Humanities American Rescue Plan grant will allow the Boca Raton Historical Society to continue our role as the principal repository and source for local history. We strongly believe that heritage education contributes to the identification and cohesion of community and culture in having an active role in the community,” says BRHS Curator Susan Gillis.

The NEH received \$135 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, which was approved by Congress this past spring. The state humanities councils, including Florida Humanities, each received a portion of the NEH award to support museums, archives, historic

sites and other humanities-focused nonprofits. The Boca Raton Historical Society was one of 129 organizations in Florida that was awarded ARP funding totaling \$1.88 million from Florida Humanities. The grants are intended to meet immediate operational needs in order for organizations to remain viable and maintain delivery of public humanities programming and resources in their communities. Florida Humanities received 188 applications for ARP funding, with nonprofits requesting the most funds for staffing and utilities.

These funds, said Florida Humanities Executive Director Dr. Nashid Madyun, provide a safety net for the organizations so they can focus on other priorities, such as fundraising and creating programming. “For smaller nonprofits, when bills are paid and staff are safe and intact, that type of alleviation is immeasurable,” he said. “Florida Humanities is honored to provide a lifeline to our state’s cultural and historic organizations, ensuring they continue to enrich their local communities, and the Sunshine State at large, for years to come.”

Funding for this grant was provided by Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and NEH’s Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this announcement do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Boca Raton Historical Society and The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum

The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is the home of the Boca Raton Historical Society, whose mission is to collect, preserve, and present information and artifacts relevant to the past and evolving history of Boca Raton and to maintain a visible role in the education and the advocacy of historic preservation in the community. Now open to the public Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, the museum is located in Historic Town Hall at 71 N. Federal Highway in downtown Boca Raton (33432). For more information, please call 561.395.6766 or visit www.BocaHistory.org.

About Florida Humanities

Florida Humanities, the statewide, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing the history, literature, culture, and personal stories that offer Floridians a better understanding of themselves, their communities, and their state. Since 1973, Florida Humanities has awarded more than \$16 million in support of statewide cultural resources and public programs strongly rooted in the humanities. These programs preserve Florida’s diverse history and heritage, promote civic engagement and community dialogue, and provide opportunities to reflect on the future of Florida. Learn more at www.FloridaHumanities.org.