

Hoboken Public Library among 200 libraries nationwide to receive American Rescue Plan humanities funding

Hoboken, NJ February 17, 2022 – The Hoboken Public Library will be awarded a \$10,000 grant in humanities funding, part of an American Library Association (ALA) grantmaking program to deliver relief to libraries recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Hoboken Library will use the grant money to reinforce its role as the city's vibrant center of learning, communication, and connection.



“Our commitment to service never wavered during the pandemic,” said Library Director Jennie Pu, “and we are going to use these funds to amplify and uplift all voices in our community, enabling all to tell and share their stories through an oral history project. We’ll interview underserved residents, learning how they coped with the pandemic, how their lives changed, and what unexpected challenges they had to face. This will be transcribed and digitized to create a historical record of the effect COVID has had on Hoboken’s residents. This is a new and exciting part of our humanities programs.

“Credit for this accomplishment goes to two of our librarians, Stephanie Diorio and Ethan Galvin,” Director Pu explained. “They crafted an application that clearly made the case that our library – *our community* -- was deserving of the additional services this grant would provide.”

According to the ALA, the Hoboken Public Library was “selected through a competitive, peer-reviewed application process, including public libraries, academic/college libraries, K-12 libraries, and tribal, special and prison libraries. The recipients represent 45 states and Puerto Rico and serve communities ranging in size from 642 residents in Weir, Kansas, to the city of Los Angeles. Libraries were chosen with an emphasis on reaching historically underserved and/or rural communities.”

Hoboken is one of eight libraries in New Jersey to receive the award; the others include the Boonton Holmes Public Library, Linden Free Public Library, and the Trenton Free Public Library.

“Libraries have faced significant hardships throughout the pandemic —from budget cuts to staff furloughs to building closures — especially in our communities of the greatest need,” said ALA President Patty Wong. “This crucial support from NEH will enable our beloved institutions, and the dedicated people who run them, to rebuild and emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever.”

About the Hoboken Public Library

Founded in 1890, the Library is a cultural and educational centerpiece of the City of Hoboken, NJ. Its mission is to connect people with each other, ideas, and opportunities, and to support lifelong learning, personal growth, and community development. Full details on the Library, its

programs and services, and collections – including a renowned Local History Collection – are available at www.HobokenLibrary.org. The Library building is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government, and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit www.ala.org. (<http://www.ala.org/>)

About the ALA Public Programs Office

The ALA Public Programs Office empowers libraries to create vibrant hubs of learning, conversation and connection in communities of all types. Learn more at www.ala.org/ppo. (<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/ppo>)

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov (<http://www.neh.gov/>).

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