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www.TheHistoryCenter.net

from generation to generation

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Endowment for the Humanities awards Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) grant to The History Center in Tompkins County.

ITHACA, NY. June 30th, 2020 - The History Center in Tompkins County was awarded a COVID-19 relief grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities last week. The federal support is critical for The History Center as they navigate the ongoing public health and economic crisis. The successful *Youth Program Resiliency, and Community Archives and Exhibits* application provides support for a selection of fall humanities programs, ongoing archival work, and the creation of supplemental digital content for the exhibit hall. The total award of \$79,814 is designated primarily for staff expenses, occupancy, and programmatic costs.

The NEH funding is critical to the long term viability of The History Center. By supporting the primary pillars of the organization's work, the NEH CARES Grant positions the local history museum to continue serving the community. Its impact extends far beyond the continuation of core humanities programs like the living history experience at the *Eight Square School House*. It maintains jobs in Ithaca for Tompkins County residents, and will allow The History Center to reopen in a safe and limited capacity when local public health conditions allow.

Unfortunately, as the current crisis wears on, the need for help far exceeds the currently available relief funds. The American Alliance for Museums predicted that we could lose up to 30% of American museums permanently as a result of COVID-19. The performing arts are facing equally – if not more so – devastating consequences. If you are in a position to do so, please reach out with a gift to a local arts and culture institution that impacts your life. It's going to require everybody working together in order to ensure that our museums, stages, studios, and performers are still with us on the other side. The entire family at The History Center in Tompkins County is deeply grateful to the NEH for their support.

The History Center in Tompkins County helps communities use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future.

For additional information, please contact:

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