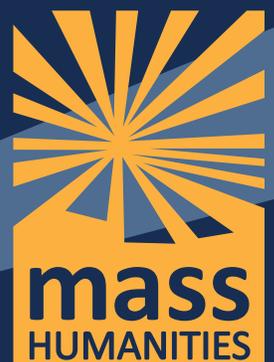


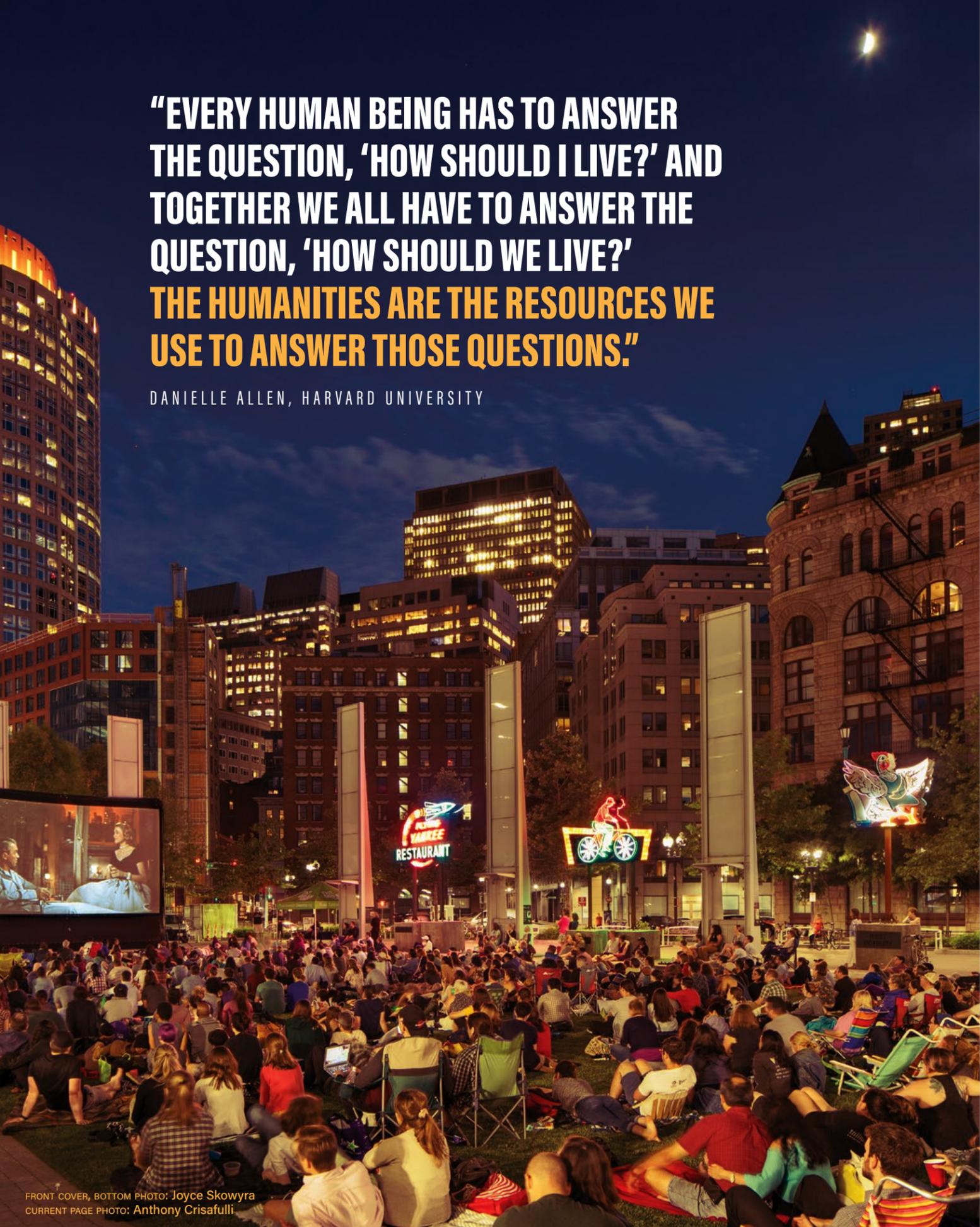


2018 ANNUAL REPORT
DEMOCRACY DEMANDS WISDOM



“EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, ‘HOW SHOULD I LIVE?’ AND TOGETHER WE ALL HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, ‘HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?’ THE HUMANITIES ARE THE RESOURCES WE USE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS.”

DANIELLE ALLEN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN BOYLES



Welcome to our annual report on the work of Mass Humanities. In 2018 the organization continued to serve as a beacon for scholars, educators, and partners across the Commonwealth, and for my own family. In October, I received a warm welcome as executive director from our talented staff and dedicated

board. Many of you welcomed me into your neighborhoods and institutions, sharing your stories and dinner tables. Together we'll chart the course for this organization, secure in the friendships, reputation, and wise stewardship established over forty-five years of collective effort.

I succeeded David Tebaldi, a giant in the field of public humanities whose legacy fundamentally shaped civic life in his home state. It's an honor to call David a friend and mentor, and I'm humbled by the charge of filling his shoes. Our lunch conversations are master classes in public service, a time when I learn from thirty-three years of experience mixed with great humor, honesty, and expertise.

The following report offers you a chance to see what I see every day as a representative of Mass Humanities: the genius of Massachusetts. People in the Commonwealth demonstrate an unmatched curiosity, a hearty willingness to explore history with rigor, to fill the public square with scholarship and context, to confront our challenges by convening instead of separating. The diversity of our grantees is a reflection of the diversity of our communities. I've dined on Indian food in Pittsfield, quahogs in New Bedford, and empanadas in Worcester; I recommend them all. As you flip through these pages, I hope you'll reflect on your own towns and cities. I invite you to send us your recommendations, not just for lunch but for the places where the humanities can bloom. Massachusetts, I've learned, is incredibly fertile.

Speaking of welcomes, we applauded this year's increases in funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mass Cultural Council, and private foundations and donors, all of which add up to more support for the projects and programs that make this a special place to live.

Of all the lessons I learned in my first few months here, a central theme became clear: the demand for the humanities—for civil dialogues on our present, brave re-examinations of the past, vigorous imaginings of our future—has never been more urgent. We're proud to offer this report, and inspired by the countless people who work so hard for the humanities in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Brian Boyles

FROM BOARD CHAIR TOM PUTNAM

I just spent a delightful day in Northampton meeting with Brian Boyles, our new executive director, and the entire staff of Mass Humanities.



I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION OR MORE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS.

I happen to be in a new job myself, having moved last spring from my former role as director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and now serve as director of the Concord Museum. And so my focus has also shifted from the history of the 20th century to chronicling the American Revolution and the Transcendentalists of the mid-19th century.

The move has allowed me to reconnect with Mass Humanities in new ways including some joint programming related to our Reading Frederick Douglass Together program and an event in Concord with Yale historian David Blight, author of the new biography, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

Douglass believed deeply in fostering dialogue and forging alliances across racial and ideological divides. In fact he split with the more radical abolitionists of his time who rejected the Constitution and thundered, "No union with slaveholders." In his own life, Douglass famously met and reconciled with his own former owner and once stated, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong." He was one of the few men to speak at Seneca Falls in support of women's suffrage.

To me this is at the heart of the work of Mass Humanities: fostering dialogue, forging alliances, uniting with others to strengthen our democracy and expand economic, civil, and human rights for all.

What could be more important in times as challenging as these?

Come join us where and when you can.

Sincerely,

Tom Putnam



GRANTS PROGRAM

NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC RADIO MEDIA LAB offered a free after-school program in journalism, radio/web production, and storytelling for high school students from Springfield and Holyoke. Students produced their own audio narratives, sharing the way they view the world.

Photo: Joyce Skowrya

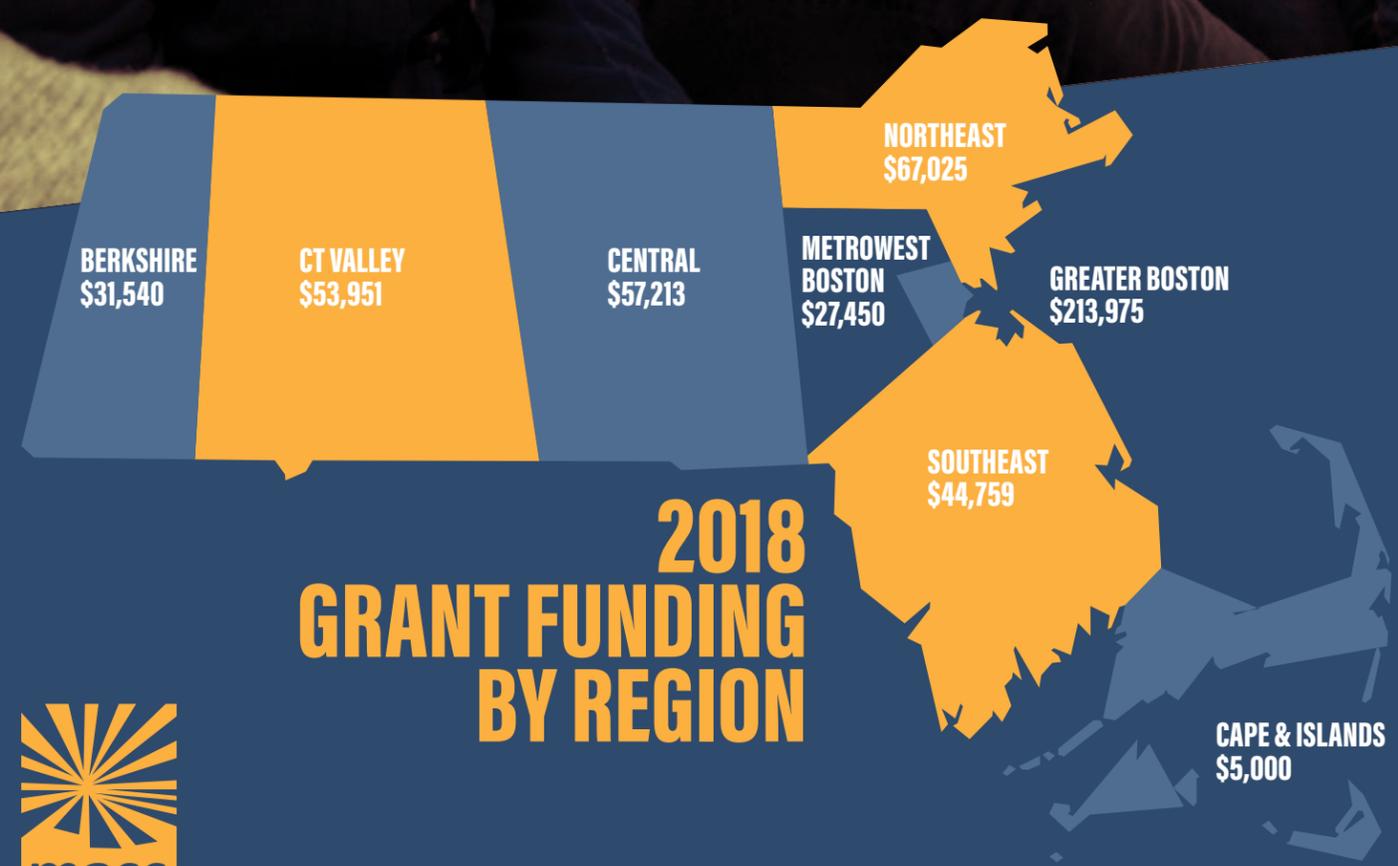
BUILDING COMMUNITIES.

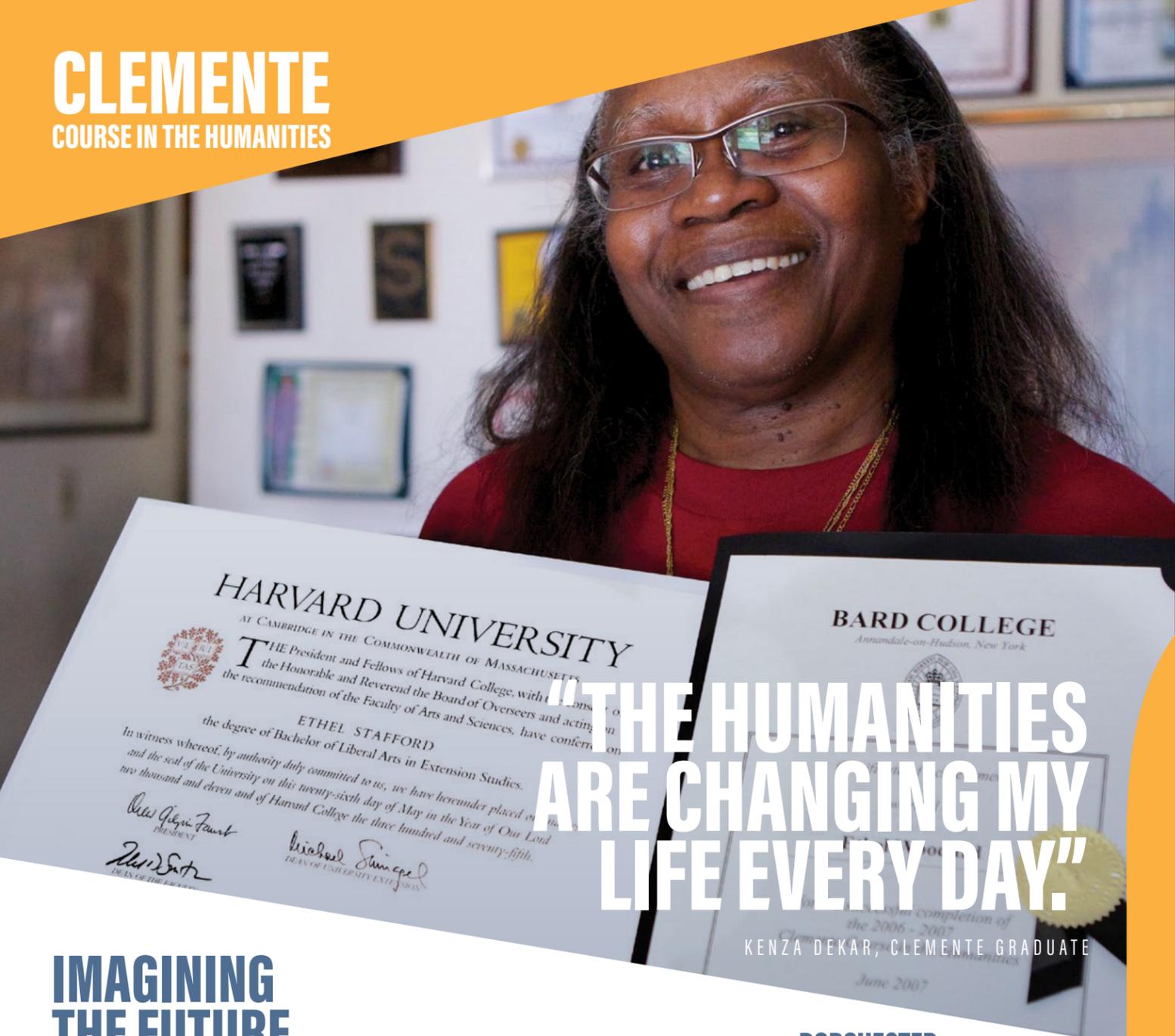
Our grants strengthen the presence of the humanities in public life. In every corner of Massachusetts, we help people celebrate their stories, reflect on issues in their neighborhoods, and imagine the future for themselves and their families.

Mass Humanities made 76 grants in 2018, providing \$525,763 to 49 communities across the Commonwealth. We funded oral histories, museum exhibits, community discussions, workshops, documentary films and more.

GRANTS

SHARON PUBLIC LIBRARY held a six-week reading and discussion series for children and their caregivers intended to spark conversations on immigration.





**"THE HUMANITIES
ARE CHANGING MY
LIFE EVERY DAY."**

KENZA DEKAR, CLEMENTE GRADUATE

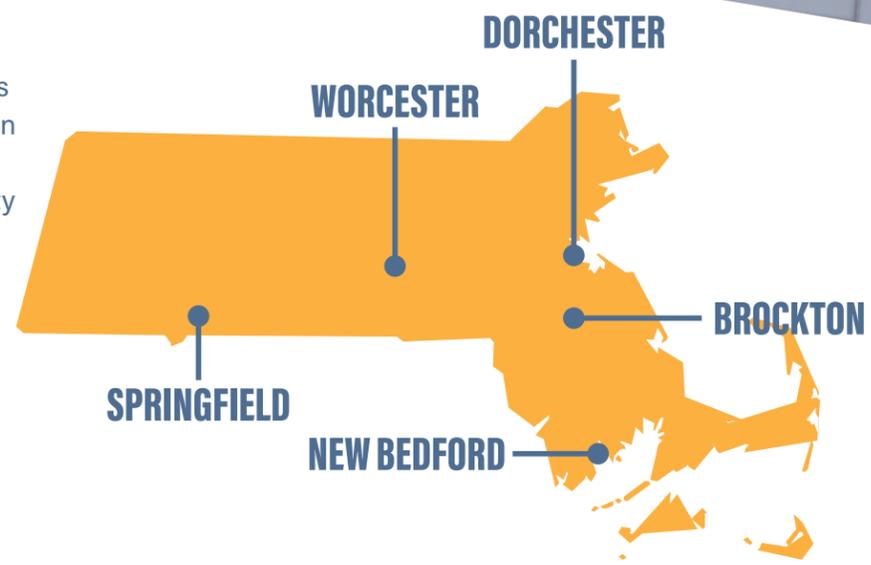


**"IT'S HELPED ME TO THINK BETTER, MORE
EFFECTIVELY — TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.
MOST OF ALL, IT'S HELPED ME TO BE A
BETTER PERSON, A BETTER FATHER, BETTER
GRANDFATHER, BETTER FRIEND."**

CARL CHANDLER, CLEMENTE GRADUATE

**IMAGINING
THE FUTURE.**

The Clemente Course in the Humanities is a free, year-long, college-level introduction to the humanities for low-income adults. The course offers students the opportunity to learn, reflect, and gain the insights and skills unique to the humanities.



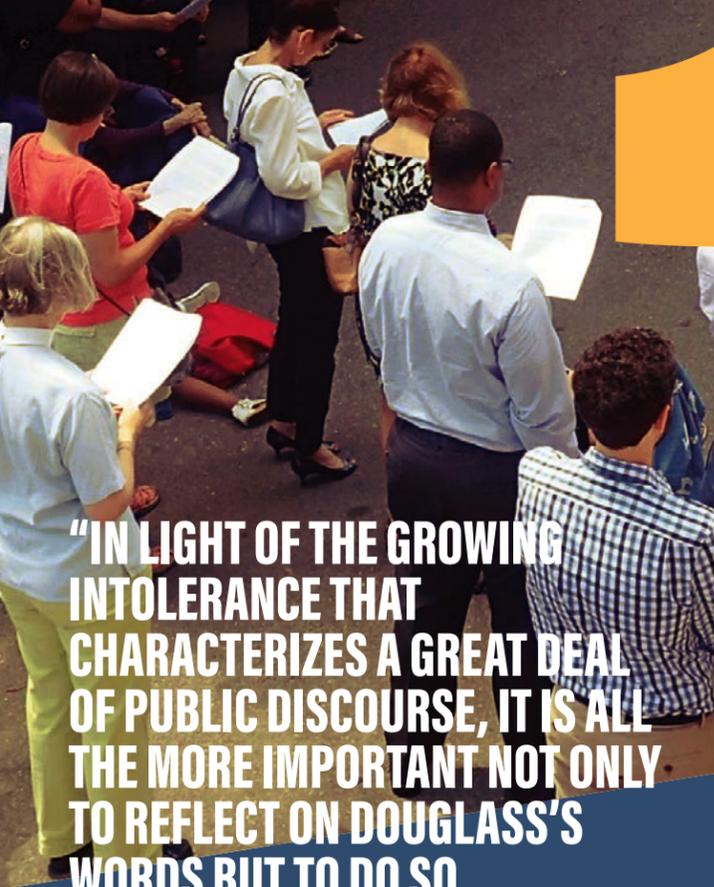
**02
NEW GRADUATES**



READING

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

TOGETHER

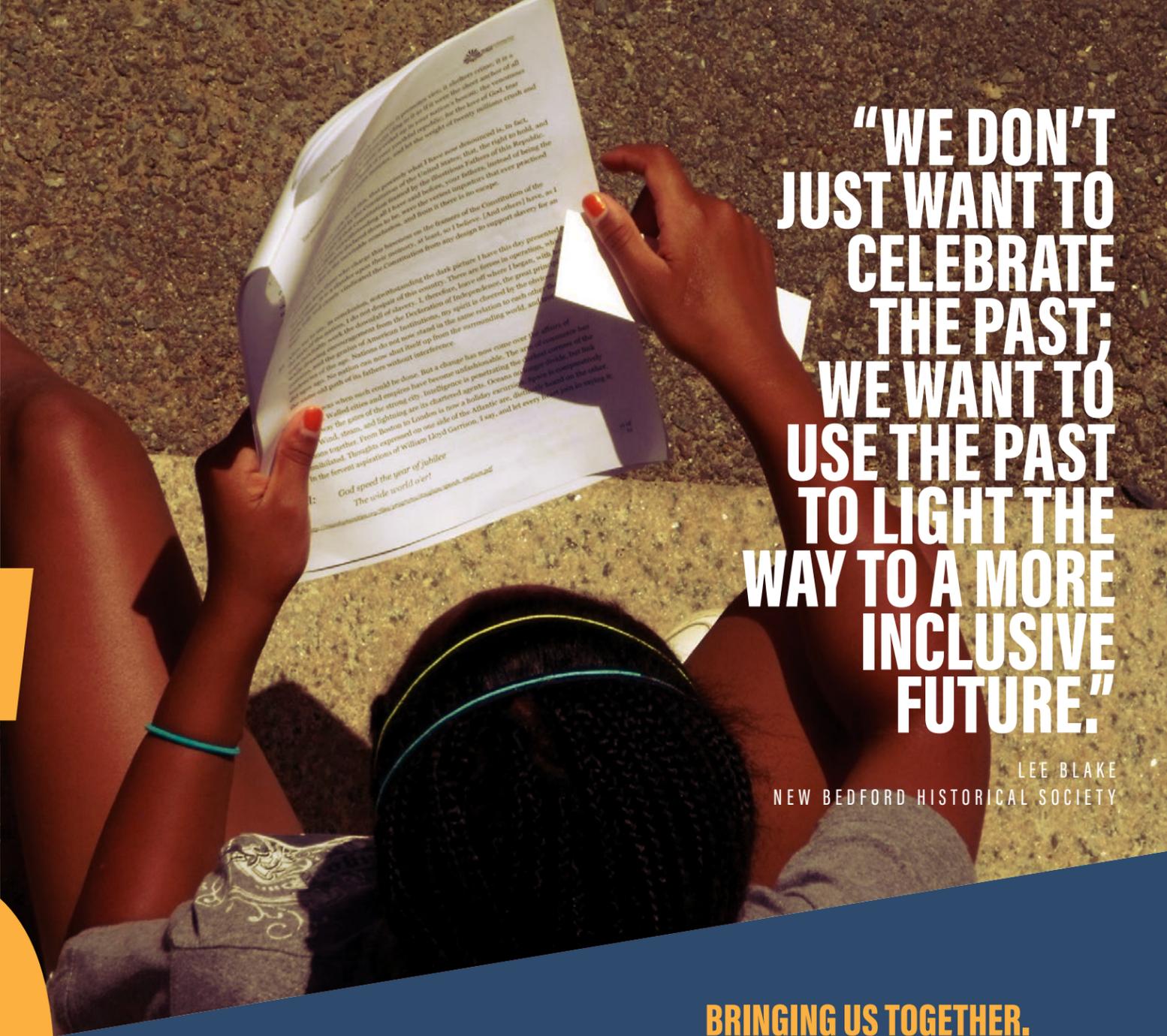


"IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING INTOLERANCE THAT CHARACTERIZES A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLIC DISCOURSE, IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO REFLECT ON DOUGLASS'S WORDS BUT TO DO SO IN COMMUNITY."

DAVID HARRIS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

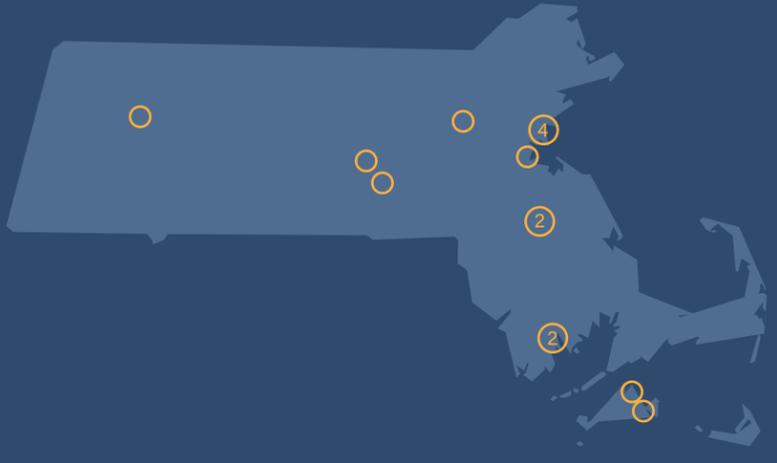
PUBLIC EVENTS

150



"WE DON'T JUST WANT TO CELEBRATE THE PAST; WE WANT TO USE THE PAST TO LIGHT THE WAY TO A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE."

LEE BLAKE
NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



BRINGING US TOGETHER.

Each year we support public readings of Frederick Douglass's speech, *"What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"* in communities across the state both large and small. The speech challenges us to think about our nation's history, opening up discourse between community members about race, citizenship, and our responsibilities to our past and to each other.



CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE

On October 28, following a successful forum at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute on the role of the humanities in addressing climate change, David Harris, Nancy Netzer, David Tebaldi, and Ellen Dunlap were recognized as winners of the 2018 Massachusetts Governor's Awards in the Humanities. The annual ceremony celebrates those whose public actions, grounded in an appreciation of the humanities, have enhanced civic life in the Commonwealth.

PASSING THE TORCH.

David Tebaldi stepped down after 33 years at the helm, with the torch being passed to Brian Boyles at our annual benefit dinner. To honor David's legacy, we established The David Tebaldi Fund to ensure the continuation of a programming emphasis on inclusion.

\$523,007

GIVEN TO MASS HUMANITIES





MASS MOMENTS continued to grow in 2018, building on the 2017 website revamp. The site makes it easy to explore the Commonwealth's history, bringing people a new story from the Bay State's past every day of the year.

Visit massmoments.org.

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David Tebaldi

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National Endowment for the Humanities:
\$909,570

Massachusetts Cultural Council:
\$682,626

\$25,000+

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\$10,000+

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ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	1,447,224
Certificates of deposit	513,863
Grants receivable	61,632
Prepaid expenses	13,278
Pledges receivable - within one year	21,000

Total Current Assets **\$2,056,997**

Capital Assets-At Cost	
Leasehold improvements	32,032
Equipment	11,430
Computer software	7,910
Vehicle	—

Less – accumulated depreciation (51,372)

Total Capital Assets **—**

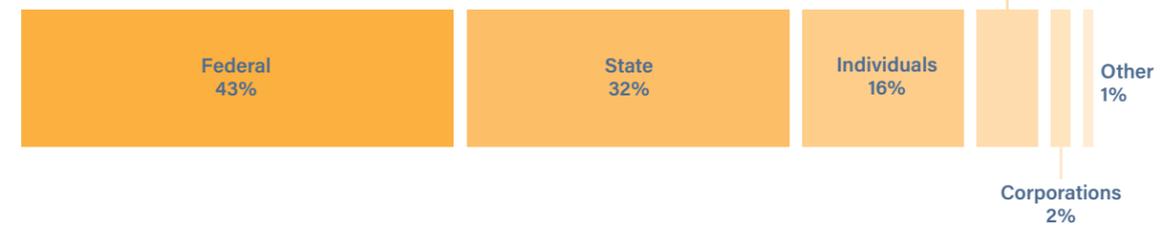
Other Assets	
Investments	2,037,810
Cash – donor restricted	—
Cash – board designated	—

Total Other Assets **\$2,037,810**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$4,094,807**

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets
(including net assets released from restrictions)

REVENUE: \$2,138,868



EXPENSES: \$1,892,821



LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Regrants payable	200,824
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	87,938

Total Current Liabilities & Total Liabilities **\$288,762**

Net Assets	
Unrestricted	1,063,943
Unrestricted-board designated	114,815
Temporarily restricted	862,724
Permanently restricted	1,764,563

Total Net Assets **\$3,806,045**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$4,094,807**



MASS HUMANITIES promotes the use of history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to deepen our understanding of the issues of the day, strengthen our sense of common purpose, and enrich individual and community life.



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