The 2024 Massachusetts Governor’s Awards in the Humanities

Thursday, September 26, 2024
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, Boston
The Board of Directors of Mass Humanities, Executive Director Brian Boyles and Governor Maura Healey invite you to honor the recipients of this year’s Governor’s Awards in the Humanities.

Each year, Mass Humanities recognizes individuals whose public actions enhance civic life in the Commonwealth through a deep appreciation of the humanities.

**THIS YEAR WE WILL HONOR**

**Martín Espada**
for his work as a poet, editor, and essayist with a focus on using writing and storytelling to address pressing issues and reclaim historical narratives, including those of the Puerto Rican community in Massachusetts.

**Jackie Jenkins-Scott**
for her extensive career showcasing a steadfast dedication to utilizing the tools of the humanities and engaging in cross-disciplinary collaboration as a leader in higher education and public health.

**Bob Rivers**
for his contributions to the humanities and philanthropy by maintaining an emphasis on community investment as CEO & Chair of Eastern Bank, while championing social justice causes, especially LGBTQ+ rights, throughout his career, and motivating other business leaders to operate ethically.

**Cheryll Toney Holley**
for her ability to unite people through the strategic use of history, art, and cultural education with the goal of promoting social and economic justice for Massachusetts’ black and indigenous communities.

In addition to highlighting the important role of the public humanities in our democracy, the goal of the Governor’s Awards is to inspire all leaders and institutions to advance the values expressed in the mission of Mass Humanities.

At Mass Humanities, we create opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable commonwealth through the humanities. We believe that the practices of the humanities—telling, sharing, and reimagining stories—will help strengthen democratic values. Our grantees and partners are the architects who can help us achieve this goal.

COVER: ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE
“You need the humanities to answer those large questions about how we deal with our past. You need philosophy, religion, art, music, drama, you need it all. Here in Massachusetts, we must make an accounting for the past, for what our country was, because that has affected what it has become. And for that reason, I am so grateful to Mass Humanities for recognizing me and whatever small part I have played in deepening the humanities here in my dear Commonwealth.”

Margaret Burnham, 2023 Governor’s Award Recipient
Your sponsorship will support our core programs and some exciting advancements in our 50th year.

Expanding Massachusetts Stories
Supporting new narratives about the people and ideas that shape Massachusetts.

Coming up:
- Adding projects that illuminate responses to climate crisis
- Producing documentary films for New England Public Media
- Regional grantees convenings and community receptions

The Clemente Course
Adult students engage with the humanities and author their own pieces about our democracy. In partnership with Bard College and organizations from Brockton, Dorchester, Holyoke, New Bedford, Springfield, and Worcester.

Coming up:
- Program expansion in the Merrimack Valley
- Anthology of student essays in partnership with UMass Press

Museum On Main Street
A traveling exhibition and sustained funding to rural communities, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, resulting in impressive increases in community engagement and museum visits.

Coming up:
- New slate of hosts for the 2025-26 tour: “Votes and Voices”

Reading Frederick Douglass Together
Annual readings and discussions of the orator’s powerful 1852 speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” hosted by communities across the commonwealth.

Coming up:
- Participating for the first time in #DouglassWeek in Belfast, Ireland

We appreciate your consideration of support for this important work.

Sponsorship payments count toward the $3 million comprehensive “By and For the People” campaign.

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