

Shining a Light on BIPOC History in N.H.

UNH's Center for the Humanities receives pair of grants

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Monday, April 18, 2022



ALEXANDRA MARTIN, DENISE POULIOT AND JORDAN SCHMOLKA HELP BUILD A WIGWAM. (COURTESY OF STRAWBERY BANKE)

The [Center for the Humanities](#) at UNH has received two grants that will help advance projects related to celebrating the history of BIPOC populations in New Hampshire.

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) has awarded the center a \$50,000 grant from its Telling the Full History Preservation Fund, and the [American Council of Learned Societies](#) (ACLS) has given the center a \$135,000 Sustaining

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Public Engagement Grant.

The grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will help create “Homelands: An Augmented Reality App Interpreting Indigenous Heritage in New Hampshire,” a project set to be undertaken in collaboration with the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective (INHCC) and Film Unbound (the latter of which will create the app).

The ACLS grant will support a project focused on “BIPOC Monumentality in New Hampshire” in collaboration with the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) and the INHCC.

Both projects will be led by SvetLana Peshkova, associate professor in the department of anthropology, and Stephen Trzaskoma, director of The Center for the Humanities and professor of classics. Peshkova will serve as principal investigator on the Homelands project, with Trzaskoma acting as co-principal investigator, and the two will flip roles on the BIPOC Monumentality project.



PROJECT LEADER SVETLANA PESHKOVA (BACK ROW, SIXTH FROM LEFT) AND LEAD TEAM MEMBERS/CONSULTANTS ALEXANDRA MARTIN (BACK ROW, SEVENTH FROM LEFT), PAUL POULIOT (BACK ROW, FOURTH FROM LEFT), AND DENISE POULIOT (BACK ROW, FIFTH FROM LEFT), WITH “CO-CONSPIRATORS” IN THE

“The Center for the Humanities is proud to be undertaking these two projects, working alongside the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and the Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective,” Trzaskoma says. “The grants are both a recognition of the incredible humanities-based work that community partners and UNH faculty, staff and students collaborate on, as well as a

INDIGENOUS NEW HAMPSHIRE
COLLABORATIVE COLLECTIVE.
(COURTESY PHOTO)

way for us to secure
resources to do even more
of it. We are particularly
pleased that the funding will
help increase the visibility

and accessibility for all New Hampshire residents of the important
but often unrecognized culture and history of the state as it relates
to Indigenous and Black communities.”

The Homelands project will create augmented reality overlays for
three sites – Strawberry Banke Museum, Odiorne Point and Star
Island – and will consist of animations of indigenous lifeways
(such as wigwams, fishing, foraging, hunting, etc.) and interpretive
educational text informed by INHCC’s own Storymap that will
populate the landscape when viewed through the Homelands App
on a mobile device.

The grant is one of 80 given to select organizations nationwide to
support projects that help preserve, interpret and activate historic
places to tell the stories of underrepresented groups in our nation.

“As New Hampshire approaches the 400th anniversary of the
European colonial settlement in this part of North America, we, to
a large extent, remain uninformed about Indigenous heritage,
which in many cases was intentionally erased,” Peshkova says.

“This app will help us to continue working toward expanding local
knowledge about historical and contemporary life-ways of
Indigenous communities in the region.”

The aim of the “BIPOC
Monumentality in New
Hampshire” endeavor is to
revitalize projects shared by
UNH, BHTNH and INHCC
that have suffered setbacks
as a result of the COVID-19



pandemic over the last two years. “These projects center on a variety of monuments and related activities in the state of New Hampshire devoted to the history and cultural presence of underrepresented communities and include markers, story maps, land connections and conversations,” according to the announcement on the ALCS website announcing the grant.

“Although the markers, maps and virtual realities created through these two projects will help us acknowledge the fuller historical reality of physical sites, our work aims not solely to commemorate the past but also to honor the ongoing presence of underrepresented communities in New Hampshire, bringing their experiences, knowledge and resiliency to bear in the context of conversations about our shared future,” Trzaskoma says.

WRITTEN [Keith Testa](#) | Communications and Public Affairs

BY:

“BIPOC MONUMENTALITY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE” LEAD TEAM MEMBER JERRIANNE BOGGIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (MIDDLE RIGHT), AT THE UNVEILING OF THE POMP AND CANDACE SPRING MARKER IN PORTSMOUTH IN NOVEMBER 2021. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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