SUPPORTING TEACHERS, INSPIRING RI STUDENTS

For more than a decade, the RIHS has been the organizational partner on all Teaching American History (TAH) grants obtained and implemented for 160 K-12 RI teachers, which means we have developed over $3.1 million in professional development programming (1,500+ hours) of training for our history teachers. Those teachers share their new knowledge with more than 25,000 students each year.

We received $132,000 in 2009 and $160,000 in 2011 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to host 2-week summer institutes for K-12 teachers from across the U.S. on the topic of New England and the slave trade. In 2014 we received $160,000 from the NEH to offer a 2-week institute for community-college faculty to set best practices for student engagement with historical materials. The RIHS has also produced 50 lesson plans and digitized hundreds of primary sources available for free on our website, and has given tours to 41,000+ students at our museums in the past decade.

SERVING RHODE ISLANDERS OF ALL ABILITIES

The Museum of Work & Culture is proud to have served individuals of all abilities since its opening in 1997. Beginning in 2011, staff noted a significant increase in tours for all-ability groups, correlating with 119% increase in autism diagnosis over the previous decade. To make the Museum more inclusive and accessible to all visitors, staff has worked with educators and experts in autism and child development to develop supportive tools and special programming.

SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATION

In 2015, we became a Smithsonian Affiliate (the only Affiliate in RI), which means that we are now able to borrow from the Smithsonian, bring in speakers from their 19 museums, receive professional development training for our staff, get research assistance, offer joint memberships, and connect our school districts with Smithsonian educational resources at no charge to them.
Statewide Economic Impact

RIHS Stats
- 200+ heritage organizations connected via RHODI
- 136 volunteers
- 32 employed staff

National Impact of Museums
- $2B museums spend on education
- $135B generated by nonprofit arts & culture industry
- 400K Americans employed by museums
- 4.1M full-time jobs supported by nonprofit arts & culture activity
- $21B museums contribute to American economy annually
- $22B returned in local, state, and federal income taxes
- 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural or heritage activities

In 2012, we received $160,000 from the Mellon Foundation to perform the first ever mapping of the history and heritage sector in Rhode Island called The RHODI Project (more info at www.rihs.org). Through the RHODI Project, we’ve connected with over 200 historic and heritage organizations, and 352 properties representing each of Rhode Island’s 39 cities and towns.

In 2014, with funding support from the Rhode Island Foundation and the Lodestar Foundation, we hired consultants to provide product and service recommendations for the next phase of RHODI. These recommendations included professional development training for the history and heritage sector on topics such as collections care, communication, and digitization, which is currently under way.

Did you know that RI has the largest concentration of historic landmarks in the nation?

History and heritage organizations are valuable economic assets than can unify communities, instill civic pride, and provide meaningful engagement. Rhode Island tourism, of which history and heritage is a vital part, supports 66,616 jobs and contributes $5.9 billion to the economy.

By reinforcing and building new connections between schools and local historic sites, we can grow the sector and offer solutions to help solve the crisis in history education.