



University of Connecticut  
*Greater Hartford Campus*

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February 12, 2016

Statement in Support of Funding for Connecticut Humanities

My name is Walter Woodward. I am the state historian of Connecticut and an associate professor of history at the University of Connecticut. As our state faces yet another budget crisis, I am here to speak on behalf of one of the state's absolutely critical history resources – CT Humanities. The governor's budget revisions zero out funding for CT Humanities and throw it into a group with 52 other organizations. Each will apply to share in a dramatically reduced funding pool allocated by the State Comptroller's office. There are no guidelines set for how or on what basis those allocations will be made. As a result, CT Humanities - one of the organizations most responsible, reliable, and efficient, in managing state, faces a terribly uncertain, and potentially disastrous future. The effects of that uncertainty are, even as I speak, rippling through to virtually every history and heritage organization in the state.

Ct Humanities is not like most other line item organizations. It

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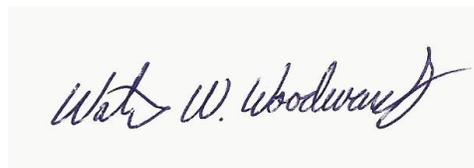
Telephone: (860) 570-9089  
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combines federal and state funding to provide competitive, merit-based grants to heritage and cultural organizations. It is the only source of such

support for hundreds of state history and humanities nonprofits, and it has been a very capable steward for more than 20 years. Even so, state support for CT Humanities has already eroded by 30%. The organization has cut staff and overhead, and revised programs. What remains are the best of the best: History Day, a statewide history event involving thousands of grade 6 – 12 students; support for the statewide Connecticut League of History organizations; co-publication of *Connecticut Explored*, the state’s history magazine; Connecticut History.org – the state’s online digital history resource; and “Teach It” – an online teacher curriculum program to help Connecticut’s teachers teach state history to their students, and of course, grant-funding for history and heritage institutions statewide,

If there must be more cuts – and I do not envy you the difficult choices you must make – I urge that you carefully consider the statewide reach, long-term effectiveness and efficiency, and singular nature of the support given the history and heritage community by CT Humanities. Most of all, I would ask that *you* make the decision about cuts, without dismantling a merit based program that has a proven record of optimizing state resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter W. Woodward". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored rectangular background.

Walter Woodward  
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