

THE 2022 HELEN AND MARTIN SCHWARTZ PRIZE NOMINATION



OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES
**TULSA RACE MASSACRE CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION INITIATIVE**



OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES SCHWARTZ PRIZE NOMINATION STATEMENT

Oklahoma Humanities respectfully nominates our Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commemoration Initiative for consideration of the 2022 Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for outstanding work in the public humanities.

This multi-year, multi-faceted combination of grants, programs, and partnerships cannot fit neatly in the current Schwartz Prize categories of “Council-conducted projects” and “Grant-funded projects,” and therefore we submit it for consideration in both categories (as per Federation Staff guidance).

The year 2021 marked the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst acts of racial violence in American history, yet largely unknown among Americans and even Oklahomans. The myriad aspects of Oklahoma Humanities’ initiative culminated in 2021, but the planning and execution was years in the making.

Involving more than 50 organizations and partners and serving millions (perhaps hundreds of millions in the future), the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commemoration Initiative: increased awareness of the Massacre and its impact on Oklahoma and the nation; expanded knowledge and understanding about the lasting legacy of destruction and rebirth in Tulsa’s Historic Greenwood District and Black Wall Street; and highlighted the role of the humanities as critical guardrails for difficult conversations around race and reconciliation.

The impact—with programs and scholar lectures living in perpetuity on the internet, and in “bricks and mortar” to be visited and studied for generations to come—is infinite.



An aerial view of the destruction of several blocks of the Greenwood District following the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This image is a section of a larger panoramic photograph in the collection (1984.002.001). Via the Tulsa Historical Society



THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE: A TROUBLING HISTORY

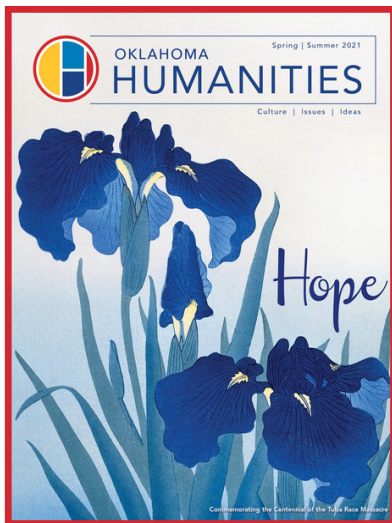
African Americans played a central role in Oklahoma’s history, from the Freedmen associated with the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations to the all-Black towns that sprang up and prospered across Oklahoma and Indian Territories. Today, thirteen of these towns still survive.

Tulsa’s Greenwood community was an intersection of this complex history, yet knowledge of the Tulsa Race Massacre (historically and inaccurately referred to as the Tulsa Race “Riot”) has not been well known, despite the significant and lasting impact on the city and citizens of Tulsa, the African American community, the state of Oklahoma, and the larger national conversation on social justice.

In 1921, a series of events fueled by racism and hatred resulted in the systematic destruction of the historically Black Greenwood community, the deaths of an estimated 300 African American men, women, and children, and left an estimated 10,000 Black residents homeless. The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre was a watershed event in the history of Tulsa, resulting in the traumatic destruction of Black lives and wealth by white supremacist violence. The city and state are still grappling with the history and legacy of the events.

“We lost everything that day.... Greenwood represented all the best of what was possible for Black people in America.... We and our history have been forgotten.”

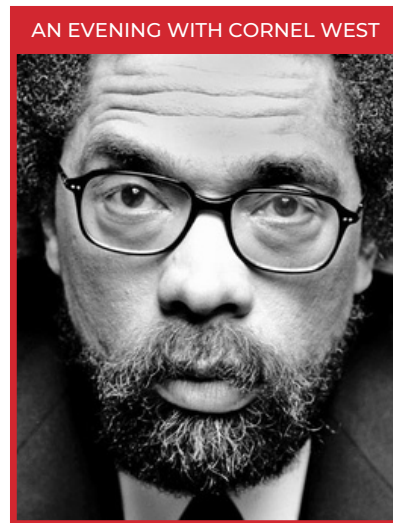
Ms. Viola Fletcher, survivor, in her testimony to Congress on May 19, 2021



Council-Conducted
Projects



Partnerships



Grant-Funded
Projects

INITIATIVE COMPONENTS

As conversations on how to commemorate the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial developed among community organizers in years leading up to their planned events, the Oklahoma Humanities Board of Trustees and staff recognized an opportunity to coordinate and leverage some of those efforts to reach wider audiences. National attention would be on Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 2021 and Oklahoma Humanities could convene and amplify some of those vital conversations.

Then came the deaths of George Floyd and other Black Americans in 2020, resulting in national protests and calls for long-denied social justice. It was a difficult time for our country, one that revealed the extreme racial, cultural, and political divisions that impede equality and opportunity for all.

Seeing the need for a comprehensive, humanities-based public programming response, Oklahoma Humanities focused council-conducted projects and grantmaking on the examination and interpretation of the historical events of the Massacre, its transgenerational legacy, and the commemorations that would seek to initiate healing. We further recognized spontaneous partnership opportunities that, with our support, would be capacity-building—an investment in future conversations and experiences that would continue to reap fresh perspectives.

Our aim was to broaden statewide commemorations while also bringing context to the increasingly charged national dialogue. The resulting council programs, community grants, and partnerships reached a wider, international audience on a larger scale than any efforts in Oklahoma Humanities’ history and will continue to impact our work as we cultivate these flourishing collaborations.



FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Oklahoma Humanities used a combination of federally funded grants and privately raised dollars to meet the needs of this far-reaching, multi-faceted initiative. Projects listed as “Grant-Funded” were community grants funded exclusively through the National Endowment for the Humanities General Operating Support Grant for State Humanities Councils, which supported scholar honoraria, publicity, supplies, travel, and other federally approved costs. “Council-Conducted” projects were funded by individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and family foundation support. Many of these funders support our work on an ongoing, annual basis. “Partnerships” used a combination of NEH federal funding and private support.

GRANT-FUNDED



Over \$50,000 total Oklahoma Humanities community grants redistributed from NEH General Operating Support Grant

PARTNERSHIPS



Funded by a combination of federal funds and privately raised dollars

COUNCIL-CONDUCTED



Funded by private family foundations, local corporations, and individual donors



THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

OUR GOALS: COLLABORATIVE BY DESIGN

Oklahoma Humanities participated in a large statewide collaboration of scholars, organizations, citizens, and civic leaders collectively organized for the task of memorializing the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre in 2021. This considerable and significant statewide collaboration has been working together with the sole purpose of telling the story of historic Greenwood and the Tulsa Race Massacre. Oklahoma Humanities worked in collaboration with numerous agencies and individuals to ensure community representation, equity, inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility in programming goals and impacts.

Oklahoma Humanities has been an active funder and community partner in Tulsa with over 50 years of well-developed relationships. The organization was well-poised to collaborate with a multitude of diverse partners to both respond to community needs through grants and speak to the community through Council-conducted programs. With numerous current and former Board Members serving on the State Centennial Commission and acting as community leaders, Oklahoma Humanities had a unique opportunity to collaborate on the statewide Centennial efforts. The initiative's aims and objectives were to:

- Commemorate the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial and increase knowledge of its impact, legacy, and lessons through council grants, projects, and partnerships
- Augment and amplify statewide planning and implementation of Commemoration events
- Reach new and underserved audiences through strategic collaborations

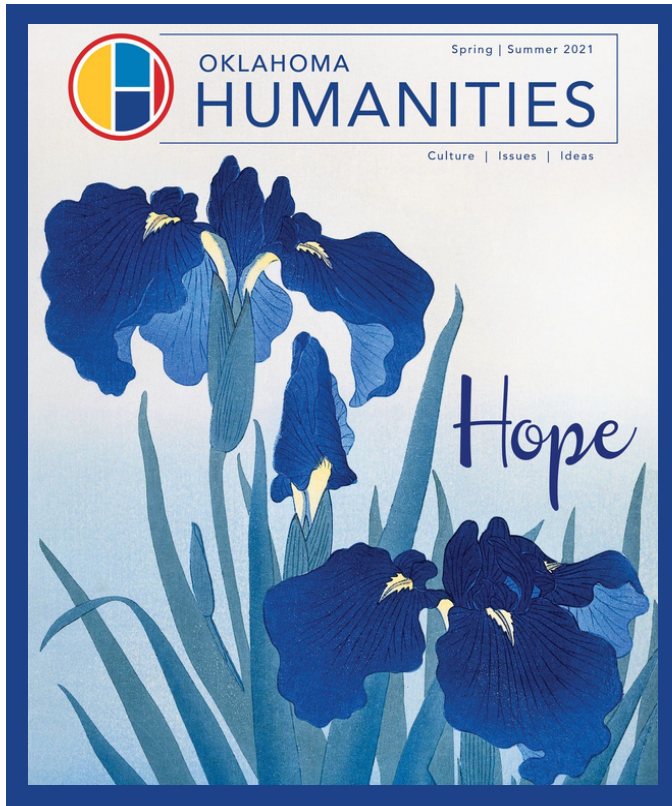




COUNCIL-CONDUCTED PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS PAGES 7-13

Oklahoma Humanities council-conducted projects and partnerships combined the expertise of council staff, humanities scholars, and community organizations. The work focused on expanding existing programs, creating engaging content, establishing partnerships to serve new audiences, and encouraging capacity-building developments that would sustain humanities education well into the future. Our pre-existing infrastructure of council programming and a diverse revenue portfolio meant these projects were well-positioned for success. Input and direction from OH staff and our quick response to evolving partnership opportunities resulted in mutually beneficial outcomes for all.

OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES MAGAZINE HOPE ISSUE, SPRING/SUMMER 2021



Combined audience
of at least 255,208



Project budget = \$26,500



Supported by private
donors and foundations



Sustainable =
Low cost (\$1.75/copy)



[READ THE ISSUE](#)

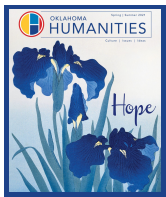
Oklahoma Humanities magazine is an award-winning collection of culture, issues, and ideas. The publication is ad-free, supported by donors, and distributed as free educational public programming to all 77 Oklahoma counties and 5 congressional districts. Our circulation serves 12,000 homes, libraries, and cultural organizations, including 39 tribal nations, 14 veterans centers, and readers and humanities councils in all 50 states, with additional distribution to public school teachers and through selected events.

Our 15-year track record has garnered 78 state and regional honors for excellence in writing, design, and best publication. All issues of the magazine are archived on our website for free public access in perpetuity.

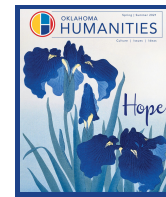


[VIEW THE ARCHIVES](#)

Oklahoma Humanities magazine is not a newsletter—it is a program filled with thoughtful scholar-written content. Each issue centers on a specific theme, resulting in a wide-ranging “conversation” informed by multiple, diverse perspectives. Esteemed authors, artists, and archives contribute content for free, making the publication utterly sustainable at a cost of only \$1.75 per copy. (cont.)



OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES MAGAZINE HOPE ISSUE, SPRING/SUMMER 2021



The magazine is a flagship program and has become “the face” of Oklahoma Humanities programming and excellence, steadily increasing our visibility and credibility through 15 years of award-winning publication. As such, the magazine was well-positioned to partner with other key entities in collaborations that expanded our reach to new audiences on a national and international scale.

A special issue of *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine, centered on the theme of HOPE, framed and commemorated the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre with reflections from some of Oklahoma’s most distinguished scholars. These thought-leaders studied, interpreted, and contextualized the patterns of oppression that haunt our history, making way for fresh perspectives, dialogue—and hope.

To expand the program’s reach, cross-promotion and co-published content was created in cooperation with international literary journal *World Literature Today* (see pg. 9). Free copies were distributed to attendees of the OH grant-funded symposium organized by The University of Oklahoma (see pg. 22) and to the partnership-funded symposium hosted by the John Hope Franklin Center (see pg. 15). Further, class sets were made available to teachers and stacks were distributed through Tulsa-specific libraries, cultural organizations, and museums.

Featured Articles

Toward “One Tulsa” by Hannibal B. Johnson

Contextualizes Tulsa’s struggle for reconciliation along the arc of oppression against Black Americans, from slavery through the present day. Excerpted in *World Literature Today*.

Photographing the Tulsa Massacre by Daniel Simon

A conversation with historian Karlos K. Hill on the power of photography. Excerpted from *World Literature Today*.

Djeli by Kalenda Eaton

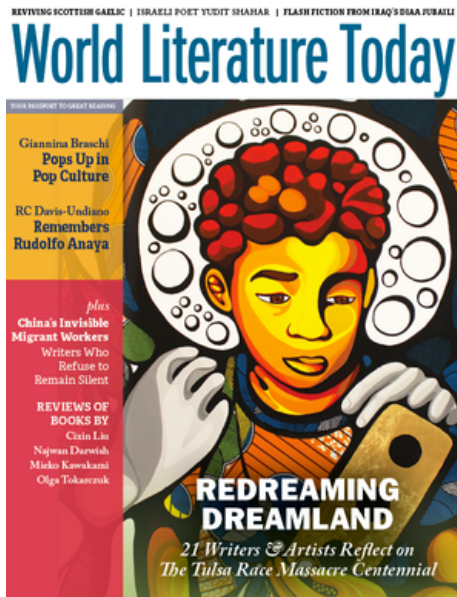
Honors family history and storytelling traditions carried by Black women. Co-published in *World Literature Today*.

Reflections on a Beleaguered Symbol by Tonnia L. Anderson

Explores the intersection of history, heritage, and hate associated with the Confederate flag. Winner for best magazine feature writing, Great Plains Journalism Awards.

Breaking Down Barriers by David W. Levy

Documents the struggle to end segregated education through the experience of George McLaurin, the first African American to attend The University of Oklahoma.



OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES MAGAZINE + WORLD LITERATURE TODAY CO-PUBLISHED THEME AND CONTENT



Reached new international audiences



Expanded public access to scholars



No-cost project wrapped into HOPE magazine resources (see pgs. 7-8)



[READ THE ISSUE](#)

To expand the reach of our Spring/Summer 2021 HOPE issue, *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine editor Carla Walker initiated a first-time project with editor Daniel Simon of *World Literature Today*, the renowned literary journal of The University of Oklahoma. It was a bold idea to co-publish commemorative content that would expand access to scholars and cross-promote our publications to each other's readerships. Feature articles were printed or excerpted in both magazines and print ads directing readers to free content online were published in the respective issues. *World Literature Today* has been recognized by the Nobel Prize committee as "one of the best edited and most informative literary publications in the world." It has an annual print and digital readership of nearly 900,000 and an international audience primarily from the United States, United Kingdom, India, Canada, and the Philippines.

The Spring 2021 "Redreaming Dreamland" issue of *World Literature Today* commemorated the centennial of the Massacre while also emphasizing the current state of African American multicultural vitality in the 21st century, anchored in Oklahoma but rippling out on a global scale. Contributing writers included, among others: National Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, Pulitzer Prize Winner Tracy K. Smith, and University of Oklahoma scholars Rilla Askew, Karlos K. Hill, and Kalenda Eaton.

The partnership extended *Oklahoma Humanities'* reach to a new, international audience. *World Literature Today* readers were likewise introduced to our work as a state humanities council. The results were award-winning. At the regional Great Plains Journalism Awards, our HOPE issue took top honors for feature writing and was designated a finalist for Great Plains Magazine of the Year.



OETA PUBLIC TELEVISION + OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES MAGAZINE DOCUMENTARY FILMS/SUBSCRIPTION PROJECT



Project budget = \$5,000



Combined audience of
over 300 million viewers



Supported by private
donors and foundations



Emmy award-winning



Aired nationally in 30 states



**WATCH EMMY-
AWARDED FILM**

Oklahoma Humanities proudly collaborated with OETA, Oklahoma’s local PBS affiliate, on two moving documentaries that reflected on the Tulsa Race Massacre and coincided with the centennial anniversary. OETA produced an announcement (which introduced each telecast of the films) that displayed our HOPE issue cover while identifying *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine as the program sponsor. The announcement invited viewers to visit our website to sign up for a free magazine subscription, exposing them to the wider scope of Oklahoma Humanities programs and grant opportunities. The project sponsored:

Tulsa Race Massacre: 100 Years Later premiered on May 31, 2021, the anniversary of the tragedy. The OETA-produced documentary shares the history of the 1921 Massacre and the stories of contemporary Tulsa artists who are working and creating in the revitalized Greenwood District. The film was picked up nationally and aired in 30 states, a total of 268 telecasts reaching 300 million viewers. It won multiple local, regional, and national awards including two Emmy Awards.

Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten looks back at the explosion of violence when the once prosperous neighborhood known as “Black Wall Street” was destroyed by a mob of white residents. Narrated by Emmy-winning journalist Michel Martin, the documentary also chronicles present-day public efforts to memorialize the Tulsa Race Massacre and other racial violence around the country, and how Black and white communities view such efforts.



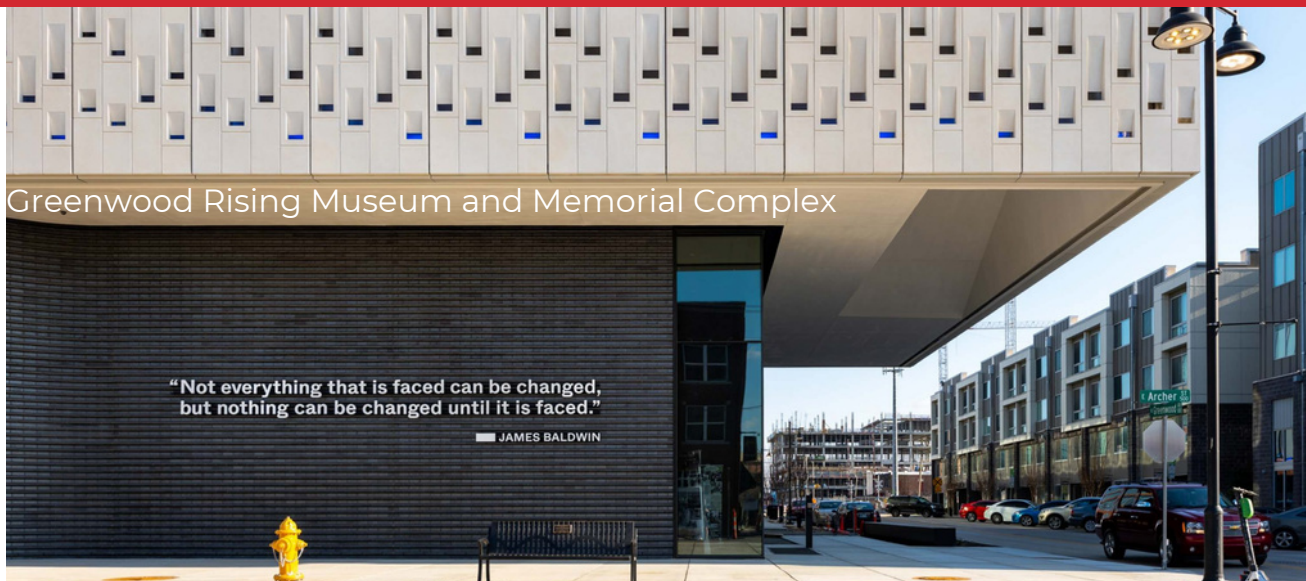


**OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES + HBO
THE POWER OF COLLABORATION**

In 2019, HBO aired its highly anticipated, Peabody Award-winning, Afrofuturism series titled *Watchmen*. The first episode shocked audiences with a historical reenactment of the violent chaos of the Tulsa Race Massacre. Within minutes, #BlackWallStreet, #RaceMassacre, and #Greenwood were all trending worldwide on Twitter. The response was enormous, turning global attention to Tulsa, Oklahoma, as we implemented plans to commemorate the Massacre 100 years later.

 [**HEAR LINDELOF'S MESSAGE**](#)





Project budget = \$19,021



Capacity-building investment in public humanities education



Unique, far-reaching collaboration



Supported by federal funding, private donors, and foundations

GREENWOOD RISING MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL COMPLEX

Watchmen producer Damon Lindelof was so moved by the story of the Race Massacre and the Tulsa community that he decided to act. Lindelof donated \$19,021 (echoing the Massacre date of 1921) and issued a challenge for community matching funds to support the Greenwood Rising Museum and Memorial Complex. The Oklahoma Humanities Board and staff were contacted about the call for matching funds and saw the opportunity for increased impact and capacity building. The OH Board decided to match the Lindelof donation, immediately responding with \$19,021 in grant funding. With over \$40,000 in seed funding, the Museum was able to catalyze a statewide fundraising effort. The successful campaign ultimately raised more than 35 million dollars.

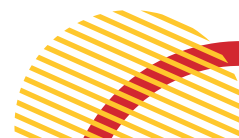
The Greenwood Rising Museum and Memorial Complex features state-of-the-art immersive experiences to help visitors explore historic Greenwood, the events of the Massacre, and the path to community healing and reconciliation. Oklahoma Humanities is one of many funders across the globe supporting this vital educational and cultural organization. Today, the Museum and Memorial Complex is the flagship Tulsa Race Massacre museum in the world. In its dedicated efforts to be inclusive, the Museum provides entry free of charge.



[EXPLORE GREENWOOD RISING](#)



[READ NEWS COVERAGE](#)



THE JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN CENTER'S 2021 SYMPOSIUM ON RECONCILIATION



Project budget = \$5,000



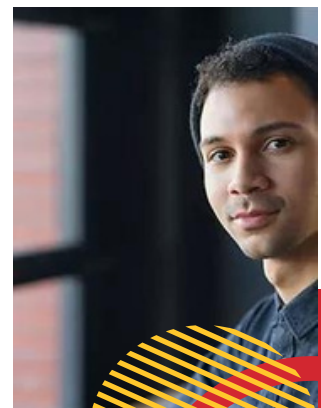
Over 6,000 served



Over 200 copies of *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine distributed



<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>This Oklahoma Humanities partnership supported the 2021 John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation's 2021 Symposium on Reconciliation. The event featured Isabel Wilkerson, Cornel West, Ed Dwight, Anneliese Bruner, Dr. Daina Ramey Berry, Caroline Randall Williams, Dr. Turkiya Lowe, Scott Ellsworth, Samuel Sinyangwe, and many more. With a national virtual audience, this vital humanities-based public program was a key event in the 2021 statewide commemoration programming.</p>
<p>Partner snapshot</p>	<p>The John Hope Franklin Center's mission is to promote reconciliation and generate trust through scholarly work and constructive community engagement. A long-standing community leader and collaborator in Tulsa and specifically the Black community, the Center is nationally known for its annual symposium and other community events. Oklahoma Humanities has funded the Symposium every year since 2010, and frequently partners with the Center on key race and reconciliation projects.</p>





GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS PAGES 15-24



Over \$50,000 in
Oklahoma Humanities
Grant funds



Over \$250,000 in
local program
cost-share investment



Over 150,000
individuals Served

Oklahoma Humanities funded six organizations through our community grants program, resulting in dozens of local programs focused on commemorating and interpreting the Tulsa Race Massacre. Organizations included: Tulsa Public Schools, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Historical Society & Museum, Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (Tulsa), The University of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Mental Health Association. Grant-funded projects served the greater Tulsa community, as well as statewide and national audiences, and many aspects of the funded programming continue to serve as digital resources online. Funding for these grants was provided exclusively through the National Endowment for the Humanities General Operating Support Grant for State Humanities Councils. Funds were used for scholar honoraria, publicity, supplies, travel, or other federally approved costs.

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEBATE "THE RACE MASSACRE & REPARATIONS" GRANT RECIPIENT: THE TULSA DEBATE LEAGUE



\$10,000 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Targeted underserved audience



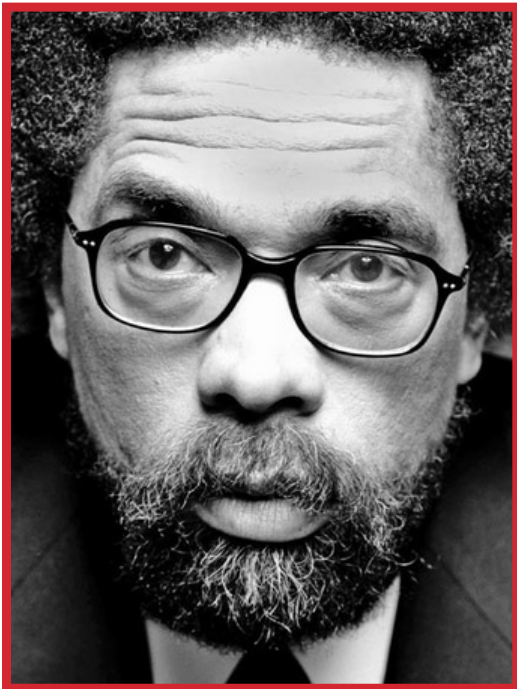
Over \$11,000 in local cost-share investment



Over 600 individuals served

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>This Oklahoma Humanities grant funded the 2021 public-school debate program "The Tulsa Race Massacre and Reparations," hosted by the Tulsa Debate League and moderated by national Massacre scholar Hannibal Johnson. Tulsa Public Schools students formally debated the idea of reparations for Massacre survivors. The students were required to research the history of the Massacre, the history of reparations in America, and the long-term economic and communal impact of the Massacre on Tulsa's Black community. The program additionally consisted of a panel discussion by humanities scholars to inform the context of the debate. Serving over 500 participants, this program resulted in greater awareness of the Massacre and allowed under-resourced schools to participate in extra-curricular humanities-based programs.</p>
<p>Grant Recipient Snapshot</p>	<p>The Tulsa Debate League is a nonprofit "urban debate league" supporting debate education in under-resourced public schools in the Tulsa area. The League's mission is to expand access to debate programs that build the critical thinking, communication, and literacy skills needed to succeed in college and careers and to become engaged citizens in our democracy. The League: organizes debate competitions; provides student instruction through classes, workshops, and summer camps; offers professional development and curriculum support to teachers; and funds travel and other expenses such as research materials and supplies. Founded in 2013 as a fund to support Tulsa Central High School, the League grew to serve 35 Tulsa Public Schools.</p>





**HEALING FROM HISTORICAL TRAUMA:
AN EVENING WITH DR. CORNEL WEST
GRANT RECIPIENT:
OKLAHOMA MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**



\$5,000 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Targeted underserved audience



Over \$23,000 in local cost-share investment



Over 3,600 individuals served



Over 90% of program participants reported increased knowledge and an appreciation of new perspectives

Project Summary

This Oklahoma Humanities grant funded the 2021 virtual lecture and discussion featuring Tulsa-born Cornel West. Dr. West spoke about historical trauma and community healing as a path toward necessary reconciliation, and about transformational healing and repairing communities affected by racism and bigotry. Dr. West is the Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard University and holds the title of Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. The event coincided with several other key Tulsa commemorative events and served over 3,600 unique individuals.

Demonstrated Commitment to Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Accessible Programming: Oklahoma Humanities and numerous community partners working to enable this event were intentional in ensuring this event was free, open to the public, and accessible. This program took place during several COVID-19 surges across Oklahoma. Acknowledging that underserved Black communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in Oklahoma, it was imperative that this event shifted to a virtual format. Dr. West agreed to present via zoom and all participants were allowed to join free of charge. In addition to the immediate positive impacts of hearing Dr. West, the event forged new community alliances between traditional humanities organizations and new partners including the Mental Health Association. The event garnered national attention and was well attended.



TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REMEMBERS: LEGACY OF GREENWOOD AND OUR SHARED RACIAL HEALING GRANT RECIPIENT: TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



\$8,600 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Over \$14,000 in local cost-share investment



12 local events spanning more than a year



Over 2,400 individuals served



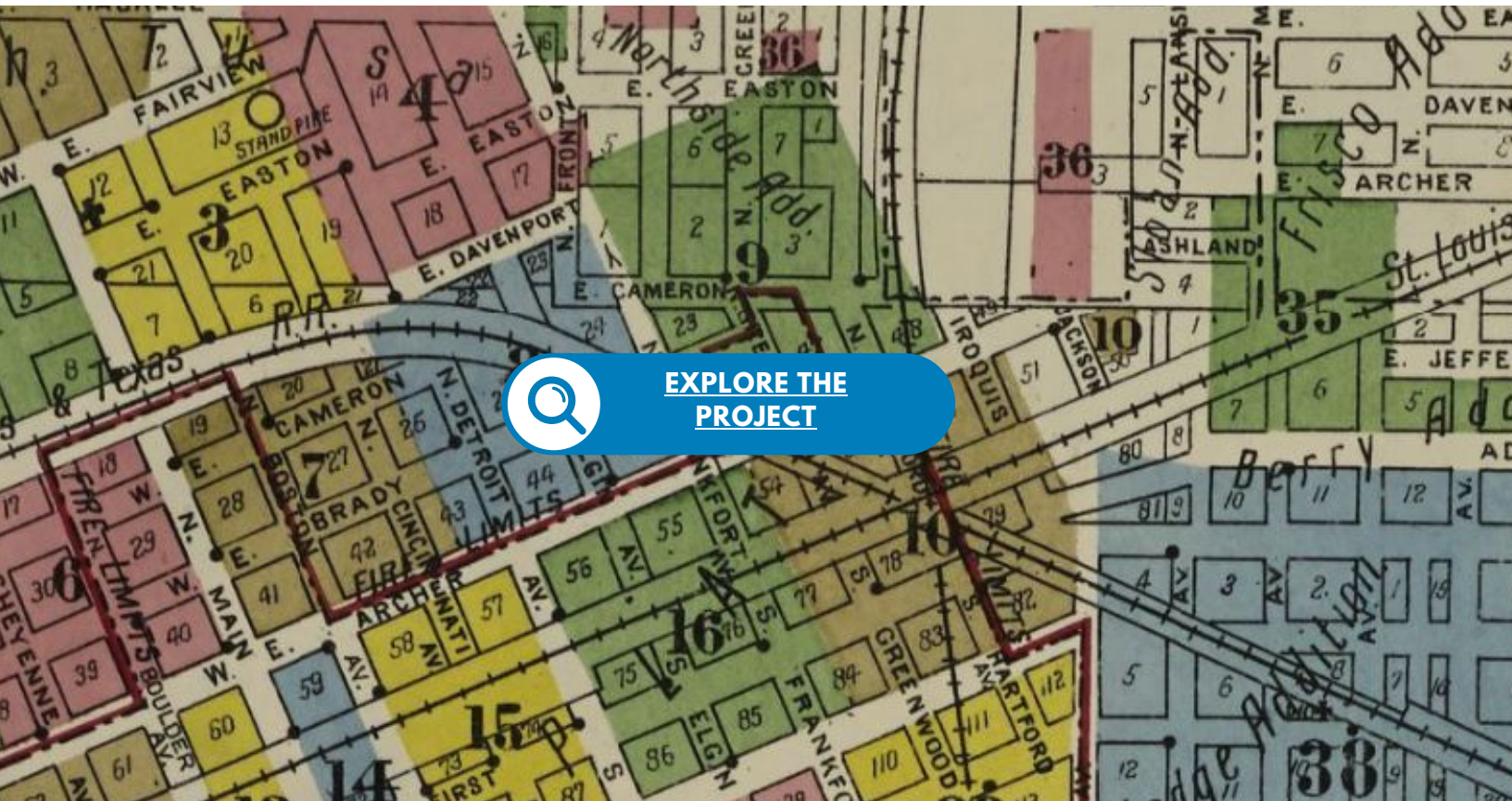
Targeted underserved audiences: Community Colleges, historically-Black communities, undertold stories

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>This Oklahoma Humanities grant funded a year-long series of 12 events in collaboration with Tulsa Community College. Events included a community summit, a 28-Day Racial Healing Journey, a Black History Month exhibit, guided bus tours of Greenwood including a mapping project of the Greenwood district, a virtual dialogue series, a town hall event, panel discussions, podcasts, and community reflection sessions.</p>
<p>Project Highlight</p>	<p><i>Greenwood Virtual Community Conversations Series</i> was a three-day series of virtual conversations with scholars who walked participants through the historic 1920's Black Wall Street to the current Greenwood District. Scholars Shirley Nero, retired history educator and past Board Member for the Oklahoma Historical Society, along with Dr. Vivian Clark-Adams and Jimmie White, retired educators and both having served as official members of the Oklahoma Race Massacre/Riot Commission, led the virtual conversations. The three-day series looked back at the roughly 35-40 block area known to many as Black Wall Street, including the place of churches and the role of cultural centers and museums in preserving the Greenwood District history. The virtual conversations are about 70-minute sessions with Q&A.</p>



TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REMEMBERS PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: MAPPING GREENWOOD

The Greenwood Mapping Project is a virtual tour that guides individuals through the events of the Tulsa Race Massacre. The tour emphasizes ways in which the Greenwood community continues to rebuild. This project has been developed by Tulsa Community College students across multiple classes and semesters, guided by TCC faculty.



Event Name	Event Descriptions and Access Links	Number of Attendees
The Call: African American Male Greenwood Summit	4 part video series. On Jan, 18, 2021, TCC and Tulsa African American male students (high school and college age) learned the benefits of pursuing higher education, as well as connecting the legacy of the Historic Greenwood District and Black Wall Street History to plans of excellence in life and education. Videos may be viewed at https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood/events	43
28-Day Healing Journey	https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood	24
21 Greenwood Posters Exhibit	Michael Singleton, Dr. Kirsten Marangoni, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion coordinated 21 images that will be physically displayed across the four TCC campuses, along with a virtual display of the images. The exhibit showcases the people and places of Greenwood.	515
21+ Voices Greenwood Reflections Podcast	Our 21+ Voices Project highlights community perspectives regarding the Historic Greenwood District as we commemorate the tragic memory of the 1921 Race Massacre, while also acknowledging the tenacity, resilience, and legacy of the members of the Greenwood community.	765
Afternoons of African American Awareness	"Afternoons of African American Awareness" series focuses on the Tulsa Race Massacre and is presented by the TCC African American Student Association and Student Life. These virtual events were hosted on Zoom throughout February 2021 and were open to TCC students, faculty, staff, and the public. Speakers included Professor Quraysh Ali Lansana, Jennifer Latham, Dr. Karlos K. Hill, and Reverend Dr. Robert R.A. Turner	75
Tulsa Town Hall	Featuring Henry Louis Gates, Jr. https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood/events#projects	550
Virtual Remembering Greenwood Lecture	https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood	197
Remembering Greenwood Lecture Series	https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood	35
Mapping Greenwood Launch	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e8ff63863e7d4b18802eda14aaf10e39	85
Greenwood Panel Lecture	Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity	53
Greenwood Digital Creators Showcase	https://www.tulsacc.edu/greenwood/events#projects	65
TOTAL		2,407

"THE SPIRIT OF GREENWOOD" TULSA RACE MASSACRE TRAVELING EXHIBIT GRANT RECIPIENT: THE TULSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM



\$8,500 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Targeted underserved audience



Over \$16,000 in local cost-share investment



Over 76,000 individuals served

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>This Oklahoma Humanities grant funded the 2021 traveling exhibit "The Spirit of Greenwood" which served 11 statewide communities for a total of over 76,000 individuals. The exhibit explored and interpreted the history and impacts of the Tulsa Race Massacre on the Greenwood community. The exhibit featured historical photographs, survivor quotes, and interpretive content curated by a team of humanities scholars.</p>	
<p>Communities Served</p>	<p>Claremore Miami Pryor Muldrow Muskogee Hulbert</p>	<p>Delaware County Library Tahlequah Warner Grove Tulsa</p>



COURTESY MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

“
This exhibit was so moving. Many of us sat and stared at the panels.
 ”
 Exhibit attendee



[VIEW THE EXHIBIT OUTLINE](#)

THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE IN POPULAR CULTURE "BITTER ROOT" COMICS PANEL GRANT RECIPIENT: THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE



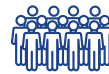
\$3,500 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Targeted underserved audience



Over \$3,000 in local cost-share investment



Over 75 individuals served

<p>Project Summary</p>	<p>This Oklahoma Humanities grant funded the 2021 panel discussion that examined the Tulsa Race Massacre's depictions in popular culture over the last century. The discussion featured humanities scholars, comic book authors, and more. The event also highlighted traditionally under-recognized Black artists and authors telling the story of the Massacre locally and nationally, including the author of <i>Bitter Root</i>, a comic book based on a science-fiction reinterpretation of the Massacre.</p>
<p>Program detail via the Project Director</p>	<p>"Created by David F. Walker, Chuck Brown, Sanford Greene, and edited by John Jennings, <i>Bitter Root</i> exists in a fictional world that merges afrofuturism, steampunk, historical narrative, and horror. The series follows the Sangerye family as they hunt monsters transformed by hate, fear, and racism."</p>



TULSA RACE MASSACRE SYMPOSIUM "REFLECTING ON THE PAST: FACING THE FUTURE" GRANT RECIPIENT: THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA



\$7,500 in Oklahoma Humanities Grant funds



Over 1,500 individuals served



Over \$36,000 in local cost-share investment



Over 200 copies of *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine distributed



Project Summary	To commemorate the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, The University of Oklahoma hosted <i>Reflecting on the Past: Facing the Future</i> , a three-day symposium of in-person and online events that were all live-streamed to make them more accessible due to COVID-19. Programming included: panel discussions with authors, scholars, and OU faculty and students; a keynote speech by Pulitzer Prize winner and two-term U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith; plenary talks; an interpretative dance performance; and selected readings by authors. All events were free and open to the public and almost all included questions and answer sessions with the audience.
Grant Recipient Snapshot	"The mission of The University of Oklahoma is to provide the best possible educational experience for their students through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service to the state and society. Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma, just 20 mins. south of Oklahoma City. OU's Norman undergraduate population is slightly more than 20,000, giving students a major university experience in a private college atmosphere. With three campuses in Oklahoma, OU also offers study abroad opportunities at several locations and OU campuses overseas. Many of the degree programs are ranked best in the nation and provide real-world experiences for students."



"CHARTING A COURSE FOR TRUE NORTH" ORIGINAL POEM BY CAROLINE LOWERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*From remarks delivered at the University of Oklahoma's
Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Symposium, April 8, 2021*

As we reflect on, commemorate, and memorialize
the events of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre,
let us look to The Humanities.

The humanities serve as a temporally unbound compass,
helping us navigate our past, present, and future—
looking to the distant past to see our inevitable futures—
navigation that is vital to our society, our democracy, our legacy.

How can we change our course if we do not know our bearings?
How can we know our bearings if we do not know where we started?

The humanities point us True North
as we lay a course toward reconciliation
through civil discourse. True North
that cannot divorce the recourse
of past tragedies,
even as we hope for new trajectories.
Longitudes and latitudes of attitudes,
perceptions, misinformation, and misrepresentations.

As historians we carry this compass
not knowing what obstacles we may meet,
not knowing how to proceed or how to heed
the howling warnings of past misdeeds.

For there is no future without reconciliation of the past.
There cannot be change without the acknowledgment that
change is needed.

The humanities give us hope,
not from a place of naivety, but hope
as the ultimate act of faith in our humanity.

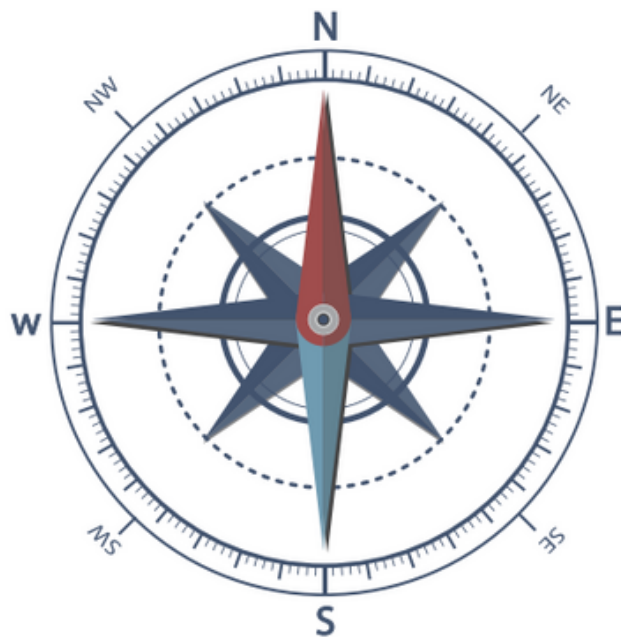
And—if "hope is the thing with feathers,"
then grief is the thing with tethers tying us together
as we work toward a better future for all.

How can we traverse the deepest valleys of our past?
How can we climb the seemingly unsurmountable mountains
of societal division?
How can we navigate the barren deserts of hate?

The humanities are our compass.
The humanities lead the way.

The National Endowment for the Humanities'
founding legislation declares:
"Democracy demands wisdom."
I humbly suggest we add "reconciliation."

So yes, let us remember the bodies that were buried.
And yes, let us be outraged at the redacted obituaries.
And yes, let us remember in a month other than February
that the story of this tragedy is the story of us.
And the story of hope is the story of us.



**WATCH THE
REMARKS**



**"I DREAM OF GREENWOOD" COMMUNITY DANCE PROJECT
AND CLASSROOM CURRICULUM
TULSA RACE MASSACRE SYMPOSIUM:
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**

"I Dream of Greenwood" is a dance inspired by the personal accounts of survivors of the Tulsa Massacre of 1921, as told to historian and activist Eddie Faye Gates and featured in her book "Riot on Greenwood." The dance moves through the dreamscapes of the children who inherited both the rich legacy of a thriving community and the trauma of one of the worst single acts of racial violence in American history. Through their eyes we hope to relive, remember, and restore. Participating highschool students made use of the free curriculum guide and community dance project resources to explore the Race Massacre in new and collaborative ways. The curriculum guide was written by Dr. Karlos Hill and Dr. Kalenda Eaton of the University of Oklahoma's Clara Luper Department of African and African American Studies, along with Daniel Simon, assistant director and Editor in Chief of *World Literature Today*.





**OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES
TULSA RACE MASSACRE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION INITIATIVE
IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES
PAGES 26-29**

It is difficult to overstate the impact of this far-reaching Initiative. Indeed, we have not yet seen how students and scholars in the future will access, interpret, and reinterpret the content created through the events and experiences funded by Oklahoma Humanities Initiative-inspired grants, projects, and partnerships. In the following pages, you will see small reports of life-changing outcomes.

In the wake of somber tragedies like the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, in the wake of our modern racial, political, and moral divisions, how do we move forward? In the words of Oklahoma Humanities Executive Director Caroline Lowery (page 23), “The humanities point us True North as we lay a course toward reconciliation through civil discourse. For there is no future without reconciliation of the past. There cannot be change without the acknowledgment that change is needed.” These are the principles that guide our work, that helped Oklahoma Humanities augment and amplify the efforts of thousands to benefit millions around the world.

As a result of our Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commemoration Initiative, scores of scholar-generated, public-serving presentations, films, exhibits, school curricula, and other resources will “live” online for future engagement and study. Our capacity-building funds will continue to influence all who visit the Greenwood Rising Museum and Memorial Complex. The conversations and insights inspired in all those who attended Initiative-funded experiences will steer future thought and actions. Taking these things together, imagining future outcomes, we respectfully submit that the impact is infinite.

Creative Collaborations and Partnerships:
The Sustainable Power of “Yes, And”

In the year leading up to and including 2021 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commemoration events, Oklahoma Humanities collaborated with a wide network of partners. These new relationships will impact and augment all of our work going forward. By joining hands, limited funds yield far-reaching results and expand access as we leverage friendships and partnerships with the generosity of donors. Just a sample of these friends include: esteemed state and national humanities scholars; civic leaders; cultural and educational organizations (state and local historical societies, arts and humanities councils, museums, libraries, public school systems, colleges, and universities); Tulsa’s African American leaders and community members (legislators and government leaders, local pastors, current Greenwood District citizens, and relatives of Massacre survivors); the philanthropic sector (George Kaiser Family Foundation, corporate supporters, and individual donors); official State Centennial Commission members; the wider general public; and our current and former members of the Oklahoma Humanities Board of Trustees.

“
Honest reflection on our history and meaningful dialogue are some of the ways we can continue building an inclusive culture on our campus and beyond.
”
Joseph Harroz, OU President



Commitment to Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Accessible Programming

Inclusion, diversity, and accessibility were infused across all aspects of council-funded projects and partnerships under the Initiative, but two grant-funded projects, in particular, demonstrate these attributes:

- **Supporting Equitable Opportunities** (Grant-Funded Project #1, pg. 15): The Tulsa Debate League was founded as an “urban” debate league to serve those excluded from traditional academic systems rooted in white privilege. Specifically serving Tulsa Public Schools, all schools in the program qualify for a school-wide Title 1 program, meaning that greater than 40% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. At most schools, over 85% of students meet the identified poverty level. Oklahoma Humanities grant funds supported student transportation, scholar honoraria, supplies, and facilities to ensure that program participation was free and open to all students. Providing this program without economic barriers for participation was particularly important given the community served.
- **Technology and Accessibility** (Grant-Funded Project #3, pg. 17): Tulsa Community College’s multi-faceted programming and events connected the general public and thousands of its predominantly first-time-entering college students with multiple humanities scholars for panel discussions, classroom conversations, and presentations, many of which used Zoom and other technologies to create wider inclusivity and give broader, no-cost online access to recorded dialogue and exhibit projects. Among the many topics discussed was the role of Black Churches before, during, and after the Massacre, and the current role of Black Churches that serve as beacons of hope and healing 100 years later.

“

This public debate is an opportunity for our students to show the community – and the country – the power of constructive dialogue and deliberation around this critical issue: the legacy of racial trauma in America. By offering a stage for students and important public intellectuals..., we hope to elevate the dialogue and spotlight this important discussion.

**Ross Faith, Executive Director
Tulsa Debate League**

”

Connecting People and Scholars

Oklahoma Humanities, as a matter of course in all our work, cultivates the participation of scholars in the public humanities. We support general-public access to scholars' knowledge through programs and experiences that create dialogue and inspire new perspectives. The previous pages outline creative ways that grantees and project directors connected scholars with their constituents. For those who could not attend the programs, or who lacked financial resources for access through technology, there was (and is) the old-school, hard-copy "conversations" in the pages of our magazine. The Oklahoma Humanities Initiative strove to meet audiences wherever they are: at home, at school, at work, at the local library, or in the closest veterans center. It is not just a "project"—it is our ideal.

"The truth of the matter is for 50 years the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre was actively suppressed." -Dr. Scott Ellsworth

“

Fantastic for my high school students. The dance was spellbinding, then the intellectual conversation between the dancers, choreographers, poet, and chairman was such an excellent example of strong academic discourse for my kids.

OU Symposium attendee

”

“

I greatly appreciate the insights and knowledge shared by the speakers and panelists. The opportunity to ask questions and for discussion at the end of each session added so much value. The moderators did an excellent job navigating the discussions.

OU Faculty

”



Cultivating New and Underserved Audiences

Grantees and partners were encouraged to engage in (and accomplished) marketing to wider public and underserved audiences, which resulted in participation from Black and other under-represented citizens, socio-economically disadvantaged communities, rural and urban populations, public school students, Historically-Black Colleges and Universities, and Community Colleges. Additionally, we distributed copies of the HOPE edition of *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine through organizations serving these communities and/or addressing the Centennial with their own programming. These collaborations included, among others: the Greenwood Cultural Center and the Greenwood Welcome Center located in downtown Tulsa’s historic Greenwood District, as well as distributing stacks to every branch of the Tulsa City-County Library System and Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System—a total of 43 libraries. Some of these branches primarily serve constituencies we do not reach as frequently, including but not limited to African American, Hispanic, and lower-income populations.

“America will never be at its best if it does not confront its worst.”

-Dr. Cornel West

“*The conversations spurred so much new thinking and reading for me. I’ve studied on this before, and the symposium showed me aspects of the massacre that I had not previously considered.*”

OU Symposium attendee”

“*I loved that the symposium provided history through presentations regarding the tragic event. I also enjoyed the students presenting and using the platform to express themselves through social media publications.*”

OU Symposium attendee”

“*It was amazing!!! Definitely different and not what I was expecting but it brought me to tears.*”

OU Symposium attendee”

"The Tulsa Race Massacre is another example of how a tragic event in America's past was minimized to an inhumane perspective. This viewpoint purposely ignored the termination of several hundred African Americans, the burning to the ground of a growing and thriving predominantly Black town and, for almost a century, the overlooking of American history. In the spirit of bridging gaps and bringing more attention to human experiences, the Oklahoma Humanities Council Board and staff are invested in creating and sustaining spaces that humanize our past and present, which in turn prepares us for a vibrant and inclusive future."



**SUZETTE CHANG, CHAIR
OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



**DR. SCOTT LAMASCUS, CHAIR
OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2019-2020**

"Leaders see things over the horizon, not just the immediate threats and opportunities already at our feet. Oklahoma Humanities and its stakeholders looked forward and brought leadership to bear on the future in a positive way! Early on, the Oklahoma Humanities Board and staff saw the centennial of this tragic event as a chance to help tell a story that had shamefully been neglected or even obscured by some. Our work with partners brought national humanities scholars, community experts, and cultural partners to the scene to help tell the story. Our early funding commitments were leverage for the broader project, bringing unprecedented collaboration between funding partners across the state and nation. The results were stunningly successful! The collaborations took documentary coverage across the U.S. to millions of viewers, the in-person audiences were enthusiastic, and scholars and experts arrived from across the nation. Our Board remains proud of that early vote to make this project our top priority before most could see the possibilities and needs. Oklahoma Humanities funding and people were one hub of the wheel that advanced much progress in our communities."



**DR. KALENDA EATON, TULSA RACE MASSACRE HUMANITIES SCHOLAR
AND CURRENT OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES BOARD MEMBER**



"The diverse calendar of events commemorating the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre and its aftermath reflected the best of who we are as a state and nation. Oklahoma Humanities gave local communities room to gather and examine the impact of the massacre then and now. Central to this support were opportunities for members of marginalized communities to participate in discussions about the Democratic ideals of this country.

The sponsored programming provided education, introspection, reflection, and pathways for healing and understanding. We witnessed the impactful engagement at poetry readings, dance performances, student-led debates, panels on activism and pedagogy, and events that simply provided space for people to "sit" with the history.

The programming around the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre was nothing short of monumental and its positive impact still resonates today. "



DR. DEWAYNE DICKENS, TULSA RACE MASSACRE HUMANITIES SCHOLAR, CENTENNIAL COMMISSION MEMBER, AND FORMER OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES BOARD MEMBER

Dear Schwartz Award Committee:

It is with pleasure that I support Oklahoma Humanities for the 2022 Schwartz Prize due to its outstanding public humanities programs surrounding the Centennial commemorations of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Oklahoma Humanities served as a beacon among funding efforts to support the efforts of the many groups commemorating the Tulsa Race Massacre.

Regarding my background as a supporter, I have been a professor and diversity practitioner at Tulsa Community College for 20 years, along with serving as a facilitator of courageous conversations across the City of Tulsa for the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation as a Board Member and Chair of the Curriculum Development Team and annual Symposium on Race and Reconciliation, along with serving as a Commissioner on the Greater Tulsa African American Affairs Commission, and the professional development provider on topics such as the Tulsa Race Massacre for the Oklahoma State University Writing Project (a state affiliate of the National Writing Project).

Representing a few of the Oklahoma Humanities-sponsored activities for the 100-year commemoration events, I was able to see the direct efforts of Oklahoma Humanities' financial and scholarly contributions through the Greenwood Rising History Center, the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation National Symposium, and the Tulsa Community College yearlong community engagement project to remember the contributions of the place and known through Greenwood.

Oklahoma Humanities provided funding to support the excellent work of the Greenwood Rising History Center, a bi-partisan created Center that tells the remarkable and resilient story of the Greenwood community by bringing the story of Tulsa's Black Wall Street to life through interactive exhibits, docent-led tours, exhibits that document the 100-years and beyond achievements and struggles of the Greenwood community, along with community space for reflection, dialogue, and commitment to reconciling work. The Center's proximity along Greenwood Avenue and directly connected to the often-referenced "Deep Greenwood Area" allows it to serve as a significant convener of visitors, race massacre descendants, students, historians, and community members from Tulsa, the nation, and global citizens – all with the purpose of learning from each other with the shared, rich history of Tulsa's Greenwood and Black Wall Street areas.

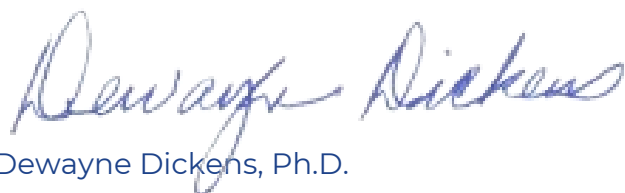


DR. DEWAYNE DICKENS (CONTINUED)


As a liaison member for the Greenwood Rising History Center Board through my role at Tulsa Community College, I can amplify the appreciation for the much-needed support from Oklahoma Humanities. Oklahoma Humanities also provided financial support for the John Hope Franklin Center's national symposium – for which I am the national chair. The scholars showcased within the symposium represent assembling premier humanities scholars who have helped frame the discussion of the significance of the Greenwood history within Tulsa, Oklahoma, the nation, and the world. Since the event was both online and in person, with viewers from Oklahoma to Germany and nations within Africa, the work of Oklahoma Humanities reached across the globe with renowned scholars such as Isabel Wilkerson, Daina Ramey Berry, Scott Ellsworth, Eli Saslow, and Cornel West.

An additional series of events I worked with was the Tulsa Community College (TCC) “Remembering Greenwood” event – in partnership with Major Grant funding from Oklahoma Humanities – for which I served as the Project Director. The TCC project goals to plan and execute a year-long commemoration of the 1921 Race Massacre in honor of its 100th anniversary were successful. Through local and national narratives about Greenwood, the multiple projects connected community members and renowned humanities scholars by focusing on racial healing and relationship building. Multiple voices were brought together through a Community Summit, a 28-Day Racial Healing Journey, a Black History Month Exhibit, Facilitated Tours of Greenwood including a mapping project of the Greenwood district, a Virtual Dialogue Series, a Town Hall Event, Panel Discussions, and Community Reflection Sessions. This work was funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the TCC Foundation, and Tulsa Community College.

For specific benefits to the field of local and state history, because of funding and scholarly resources from Oklahoma Humanities, the students, families, visitors, scholars, and the larger national community had increased opportunities to explore the rich history of Greenwood and Black Wall Street, learning from its accomplishments and struggles. Without Oklahoma Humanities, Tulsa and Oklahoma would feel the continued hurt of a silent story, of an unknown dream that the people of Greenwood represent. The ongoing enhancements, additional curating, scholarship, and discussion that will happen because of the support and resources of Oklahoma Humanities will cultivate a pathway to reconciliation and healing based on truthful recognition of Tulsa's dark and rich past. I offer my full support of Oklahoma Humanities for the Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize.



Dewayne Dickens, Ph.D.



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