



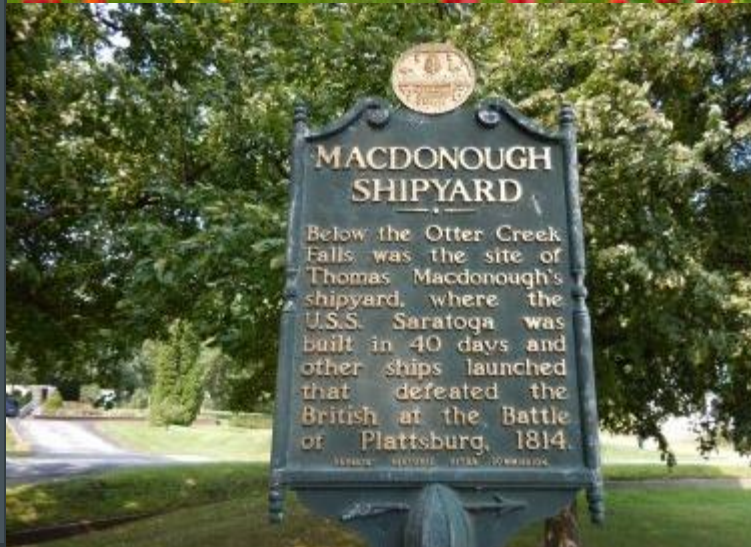
HUMANITIES IN THE HEART OF COMMUNITY

REPORT TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – 2/14/23

B.812 VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL

CHRISTOPHER KAUFMAN ILSTRUP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introductions



CULTURAL SECTOR REQUESTS FOR 2023:

- Provide \$150K in funding support to the Vermont Arts Council for the implementation of the Create VT Action Plan.
- Increase the statutory appropriation for the Art in State Buildings section of the capital bill from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
- Increase the base appropriation for Vermont Humanities to \$300,000.

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

- **Our Mission**

Using the humanities, we connect with people across Vermont to create just, vibrant, and resilient communities and to inspire a lifelong love of learning.

- **Our Vision**

Vermont's diverse people and cultures thrive as they explore bold ideas and complex challenges. Together we spark creativity, connection, insight, and transformation.



**VERMONT
HUMANITIES**

FIVE PILLARS OF THE NEH

- Advancing Racial Equity
- Confronting the Climate Crisis
- Restoring the United States of America's Global Standing
- Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Strengthening our Democracy

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT: HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM



Henry Sheldon Museum presents

The Elephant in the Room

Exploring the Future of Museums

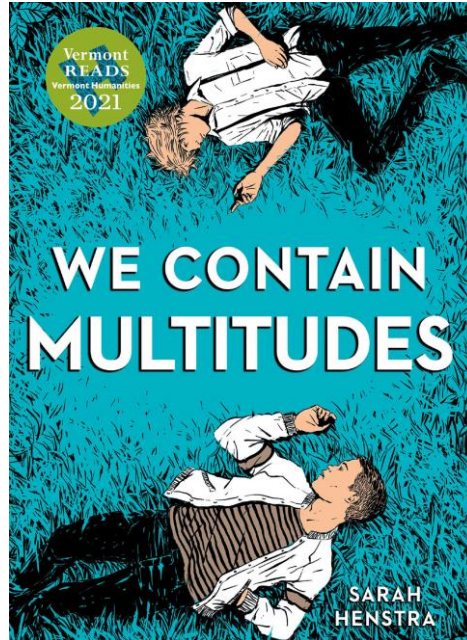
Wednesdays at 7pm EST • www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events



UWM-SARUP/Chipstone Design Build Studio 2017 (L) & 2018 (A)

We use the tools of humanistic inquiry to build community, strive for social justice, and make change in today's complicated moment.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: WE CONTAIN MULTITUDES

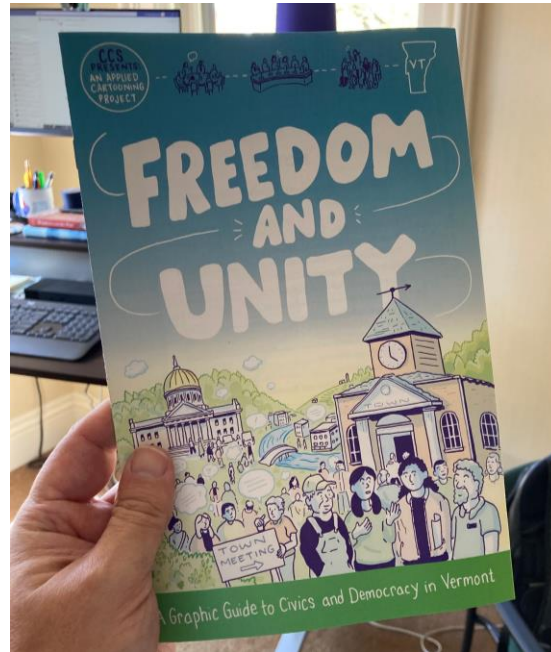


Sarah Henstra visited schools for Vermont Reads in early 2022 to discuss her LGBTQ+ young adult novel with students and teachers.

ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY ARE ESSENTIAL VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.3% of Vermont's total jobs are in the creative sector
- That equals 41,000 people working in these fields
- Nearly half are held by freelancers or self-employed entrepreneurs

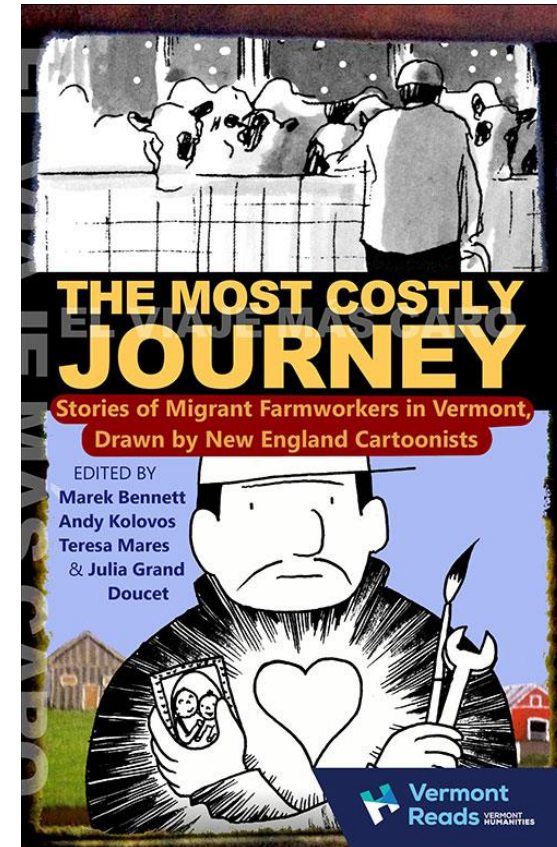
VERMONT HUMANITIES INVESTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY



- Statewide/One Book/All Readers Welcome
- Launched in 2003, 2023 is the 20th Anniversary
- 200 Communities have participated in the work
- It's not a book club! Communities must develop active projects beyond simply reading the book



STATEWIDE COLLABORATION



KEY PARTNERS

- Open Door Clinic
- Vermont Folklife
- UVM Extension
- UVM Migrant Education
- Center for Cartoon Studies
- Marek Bennett's Comics Workshop
- UVM Lane Series





VERMONT READS IS IMPACTFUL



- 5000 copies of the book are in circulation
- 85 different community groups have applied to host Vermont Reads projects to date.
- Partners include Schools, libraries, AmeriCorps, State Office of Racial Equity, Corrections, UVM Nursing.
- Book discussions, celebrations with migrant workers, comics workshops, speaker series, concerts.





THANK YOU!

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