

BUCHANAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SELECTED FOR COMPETITIVE FEDERAL HUMANITIES GRANT

\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Recover from the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Buchanan County Public Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide and one of 3 in the state of Virginia for the American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries opportunity, an emergency relief program to assist libraries that have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Buchanan County Public Library will use funds to anchor itself in the community as a strong humanities institution. The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library deliver excellent programs and services related to culture, history, literature, and other humanities subjects.

The participating libraries, selected through a competitive, peer-reviewed application process, include public libraries, academic/college libraries, K-12 libraries, and tribal, special and prison libraries. The recipients represent 45 states and Puerto Rico and serve communities ranging in size from 642 residents in Weir, Kansas, to the city of Los Angeles. Libraries were chosen with an emphasis on reaching historically underserved and/or rural communities.

"Our library is very proud to be a recipient of this grant," said Library Director Sherry J. Bright. "We are committed to bringing the best guests, the best learning opportunities, and the best educational resources to the citizens of Buchanan County. Our library strives to maintain a level of excellence that is second to none. As our community comes out of the pandemic, we will be bold in reaffirming ourselves as a strong supporter of the humanities."

The library will use half of the grant funds to host a celebration of Southern writers in May and our romance writer's festival, Sizzle in the South, in August.

One quarter of the grant funds will be used for the Be Haunted Series. During the month of October, we will partner with schools to bring every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grader to our library for field trips for a haunted house experience inspired by the *Goosebumps* series written by R. L. Stine.

The library will use one quarter of the grant funding to digitize and preserve the history of Buchanan County. This will allow today's researchers easier access to materials while ensuring they will be available for future generations.

"Libraries have faced significant hardships throughout the pandemic —from budget cuts to staff furloughs to building closures — especially in our communities of the greatest need," said ALA President Patty Wong. "This crucial support from NEH will enable our beloved institutions, and the dedicated people who run them, to rebuild and emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever."



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021."

For more information, please call the Buchanan County Public Library at 276-935-5721.