

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sarah Colombo
Branch Services & Grants Manager
Sara Hightower Regional Library System
706-236-4600 ext. 4620
scolombo@shrls.org

ROME/FLOYD LIBRARY SELECTED FOR COMPETITIVE FEDERAL HUMANITIES GRANT
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Recover from the Coronavirus Pandemic

[ROME, GEORGIA] — The Rome/Floyd Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide 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 Rome/Floyd 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.

More than 370 libraries applied for the grant, according to ALA. [View the full list of selected libraries.](#)

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.

“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.”

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."

The Rome/Floyd Library will use the grant funds to build a StoryWalk© along the Heritage Trail System with assistance from the City of Rome, Floyd County, and TRED of Rome/Floyd. A StoryWalk© is a fun way to read and enjoy the outdoors, with children’s book pages placed along a route so families can read as they walk. The library will announce an official start date for the StoryWalk© soon. Follow the library’s [Facebook page](#) to stay up-to-date with the project.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

"The pandemic has had a negative impact on children's literacy in our community and across the entire country. Libraries have worked tirelessly during the pandemic to bring new and unique opportunities to promote children's literature while keeping safety in mind and this project is a perfect culmination of these efforts," said Library Director Delana Sissel. "We are so excited to be chosen for this wonderful opportunity. This grant will allow us to connect children and their families with reading in a unique way. Reading and early literacy can take place in any environment, even while walking on a nature trail along the Oostanula River."

The Sara Hightower Regional Library System serves Chattooga, Floyd, and Polk counties with six public libraries located in Summerville, Trion, Rome, Cave Spring, Rockmart, and Cedartown.

###