



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connecticut Humanities Council Approves Grant for Fairfield Museum and History Center

FAIRFIELD (August 8) The Connecticut Humanities Council has approved a \$75,250 grant to the Fairfield Museum and History Center. The grant, awarded through the Cultural Heritage Development Fund of the Connecticut Humanities Council supports costs associated with the museum's inaugural exhibition, entitled *Landscape of Change*. Receipt of this grant is important recognition of the goals of the museum.

Landscape of Change tells the story of Fairfield and its changing identity across 375 years. The exhibition reflects areas of American experience from the late period of Native American occupation through to the mid-20th century. Through more than 100 of the Museum's best and rarest artifacts, visitors will explore topics that highlight the development of the town at different periods in its history. Visitors will learn about the 1779 burning of Fairfield by British invaders, colonial era witchcraft trials, early settlement patterns, the struggle between the Patriots and Loyalists, Native American life, and the maritime and agricultural history of our area, among other topics.

Programs and events tied to the themes of the exhibition will be offered at the museum throughout the year. Adults can look forward to lectures, gallery talks, workshops and more. Teachers will find the exhibit supports school curriculum, and can choose from programs that reinforce classroom learning offered by the museum. Families can count on programs and events that provide culture and education in an entertaining manner.

"We are grateful to the Connecticut Humanities Council for this significant grant award, as it allows the Fairfield Museum and History Center to present the story of Fairfield's changing history in an engaging exhibition that features the best of our collection. The exhibition and the museum will be a vital touchstone and cultural resource for the entire region," said Michael Jehle, executive director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

The Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC) is a statewide non-profit institution located in Middletown, Connecticut that focuses its work on two time-honored traditions in the humanities – reflective of literature and exploration of history. CHC reading programs like *Motheread/Fatheread* and Book Voyagers help parents and children strengthen family bonds and reading together while encouraging children to become lifelong, avid readers on their own. CHC heritage programs, often conducted in partnership with state and regional cultural



organizations, fund exhibits, walking tours, cultural festivals, and community humanities projects that explore Connecticut's diverse local heritage, as well as American and world history. Each year, the CHC produces and funds over \$2 million in cultural programming that enriches the lives of state residents and visitors statewide.

The Fairfield Museum and History Center opens to the public on September 16, 2007. Mark your calendars for day of free family fun, complete with a parade, arts and crafts demonstrations, food, music, family entertainment, and of course a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark this momentous event. Admission is free to the museum for the day, as everyone is invited to come explore the galleries, library, reading room, educational classroom, courtyard, museum shop, and public meeting spaces. The museum is located at 370 Beach Road in Fairfield. The celebration begins at noon and continues until 4pm.

For more information about the Fairfield Museum and History Center, please visit www.fairfieldhs.org or call 203-259-1598. For more information on the Connecticut Humanities Council and its programs, please visit www.cheritage.org or call 860-685-2260.

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