

Natural and Cultural Resources Focus Area Grant History

FY 2019

The American Chestnut Foundation was awarded \$10,000 to further a proactive gene conservation project in which seeds will be collected from remnant, wild American chestnuts across the species range and transplanted in orchards, where they will be used for future breeding.

Asheville Art Museum was awarded \$30,000 to support pre-K through 12th grade and adult educational programs in conjunction with the upcoming exhibition *Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia*.

Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center was awarded \$10,000 to implement community programming related to the *Between Form and Content: Perspectives on Jacob Lawrence and Black Mountain College* exhibition, the first to open in its new location at 120 College Street.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area was awarded \$25,000 (contingent upon other funds) to complete the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, an initiative to increase income for craft artists and businesses, enhance cultural tourism, and improve economic opportunity in WNC.

Cowee Pottery School was awarded \$35,000 over two years to support the costs of purchasing two new kilns and hiring a part-time director.

MountainTrue was awarded \$8,500 to engage Judy Futch Consulting and Searchlight Consulting in strategic planning.

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards was awarded \$7,500 to engage Elly Wells Marketing + Project Management to create a communications strategy and timeline.

FY 2018

American Whitewater was awarded \$5,618 to continue the contracted facilitation needed by the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership during the final phases of the Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Management Plan revisions.

Asheville Symphony was awarded \$25,150 to support a recording project that brings the Symphony together with Grammy award-winning bluegrass band, Steep Canyon Rangers.

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation was awarded \$27,936 to purchase technology that would deter poaching of natural resources such as Ginseng, Galax, Bog Turtles, and Peregrines along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) was awarded \$7,500 to engage Design One for the purposes of marketing and re-branding. This grant will support the consolidation of CMLC and the Pacolet Area Conservancy.

Green Built Alliance was awarded \$25,000 to support marketing, outreach and education for the Blue Horizons Project formulated by the 15 organizations that comprise the Energy Innovation Task Force.

Jackson County Green Energy Park was awarded \$10,000 to assist with the development of a waste vegetable oil burner system that could be utilized by ceramicists, glassblowers, blacksmiths, and others who participate in the Fire Arts, which require high heat levels in their processes.

Nikwasi Initiative was awarded \$30,000 over two years to further develop the Cultural Corridor by supporting project management and coordinating functions of the Nikwasi Initiative. This effort is an unusual, if not unique, model of equal engagement between tribal and non-tribal participants around a co-developed and managed heritage-related community economic development project.

Parkway Playhouse was awarded \$7,500 to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in the development of a 2018-2022 strategic plan, which will be the organization's first.

Toe River Arts Council was awarded \$30,000 to begin fabrication and installation of the first gateway marker, which will be installed at the west entrance to the downtown area off 19E. The Glass Gateway Vision Plan calls for three glass markers of varying heights at the west and east entrances of Burnsville.

FY 2017

American Rivers was awarded \$65,000 over two years to plan the preliminary work needed to remove the Cullowhee Dam and create the Tuckaseegee River Blue Trail (TRBT). The TRBT plan will guide local efforts to enhance the river, promote family-friendly recreation, connect people to nature, and boost the local economy.

American Whitewater was awarded \$10,000 toward continued professional facilitation for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, a diverse collaborative group that has been working for nearly four years to develop consensus-based approaches to the management of the region's National Forests. Their work dovetails with the USFS's current effort to revise the management plans for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

Asheville Art Museum was awarded \$7,500 to engage Joyce Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick Communications to create a 20-month communications portfolio, including a timeline related to the Museum's construction and grand re-opening.

Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS) was awarded \$8,000 to develop a series of four short video vignettes that orient museum visitors to WNC's unique geological, ecological and cultural setting. AMOS hopes to educate and inspire residents and tourists to celebrate and protect WNC's unique natural landscapes.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area was awarded \$25,000 (contingent upon other funds) to help launch the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, a craft trail system for 25 WNC counties intended to increase income for artists and craft businesses, enhance cultural tourism, and improve local economies.

Carolina Public Press was awarded \$20,000 to provide in-depth, investigative and explanatory journalism on the present and future of the more than 1.1 million acres of national forests spanning WNC in a public awareness effort to inform and engage readers on one of the top issues facing the region.

Friends of the WNC Nature Center was awarded \$7,500 to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in business planning to take over management of the food and gift services at the Nature Center. This proposed

plan will create a long-term, sustainable source of income for the non-profit Friends, and will directly help to fulfill their mission.

Madison County was awarded \$50,000 over 5 years to create an art sculpture park along the greenway in Mars Hill in order to enliven the rural landscape, create a dynamic visual experience for residents and visitors, create more venues for public art in Madison County, increase opportunities for artists who work in the region, and connect a manufacturing history to an economic development future.

NC International Folk Festival / Folkmoot was awarded \$30,000 for the continuing development of the Folkmoot Center as a Multi-Cultural Exchange location.

The Center for Craft, Creativity and Design was awarded \$25,000 (a second award of \$12,325 for phase II was made on 9/8/17) toward a two-part feasibility assessment that will result in relevant and actionable data to inform and advance place-based affordable mixed-use developments for artists and the creative sector.

WNC Green Building Council was awarded \$7,500 to engage Design One for marketing and branding in order to determine a new name, logo, and tagline, as well as gain support in creating a marketing and outreach strategy.

FY 2016

Asheville Art Museum was awarded \$35,000 to deliver its Literacy Through Art program to students in rural WNC counties.

Asheville Downtown Association Foundation was awarded \$25,000 to support the rebranding of its Urban Trail marketing project, including a mobile-enabled website and curricula for school field trips.

Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center was awarded \$17,500 to support the 2016 M.C. Richards Centennial Celebration honoring the 100th birthday of poet, potter, author, visual artist, and educator M.C. Richards (1916-1999).

Carolina Public Press was awarded \$20,000 to provide in-depth, investigative and explanatory journalism on the present condition and future of our region's water systems and national forests.

Cowee Pottery School was awarded \$4,000 to purchase five new pottery wheels, splash pans, chairs, and other essential items in order to offer additional and larger classes.

Flat Rock Playhouse was awarded \$8,000 to engage David Mallette of Management Consultants for the Arts to facilitate Phase II of a strategic planning process.

Mainspring Conservation Trust was awarded \$30,000 to support continued facilitation costs for the next phase of Mountain Partners, an economic development and cultural heritage venture.

NC International Folk Festival / Folkmoot was awarded \$30,000 to continue planning and development of the Center for Multi-Cultural Exchange in an effort to transition from a two-week summer festival into a year-round community and cultural resource.

Toe River Arts Council was awarded \$7,500 to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in the development of a 2017-2020 strategic plan to guide future decision-making and clarify governance, financial structure, and its relationships with the Toe River Arts brand and other partners.

Tryon Fine Arts Center was awarded \$6,300 to offer an arts education program via an Artist in Residence at Tryon Elementary School.

FY 2015

Land Trust for the Little Tennessee was awarded \$42,391 to engage the Catalpa Group consulting firm in a project with potential cultural, environmental and economic benefits.

North Carolina Stage Company was awarded \$7,500 to engage Walker Wilson Consulting for facilitation of a 2015-2018 strategic planning process to give the organization a decision-making guide in order to grow its current and future offerings in a financially sustainable way.

Pack Place Performing Arts Center / Diana Wortham Theatre was awarded \$7,500 to engage Gary Landwirth for planning during the major restructuring of the Pack Place complex, including new financial and operational obligations to the city, increases in building management costs and duties, and the creation of two new performance venues, as well as maintenance, programming and management.

The Wilderness Society was awarded \$60,000 over two years to sustain the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, which was chartered in December 2013 to engage diverse interests in establishing common goals for forest management, recreation, cultural resource protection, and new wilderness designations, as well as to influence the USFS's Management Plan Revision for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests.

Toe River Arts Council was awarded \$50,000 toward consultant fees related to branding Mitchell and Yancey counties as one cultural arts entity. The project will support cultural district planning, beginning with branding and advancing to the establishment of an artist-designed, arts wayfinding system in the Toe River Valley.

Wild South was awarded \$50,000 for its Cultural Heritage Assistant (hired with support from CFWNC last year) who has increased staff capacity and markedly accelerated the success of Wild South's Cultural Heritage program.

FY 2014

Asheville Community Theatre was awarded \$30,000 to stabilize the Blomberg Building after a structural engineer determined the building needed several significant repairs to prevent it from eventual collapse. Adjacent to the main theatre, the Blomberg Building will house the organization's education programs once renovated.

Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association was awarded \$12,600 to fund the development of a mobile application to encourage and guide recreation activity in the most popular sections of Pisgah National Forest in Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties.

Exploring Joara Foundation was awarded \$50,000 to hire an executive director to expand educational programming and heritage tourism in Burke County. EJF supports work at the local Berry site, an archaeological dig located at the site of the Native American town of Joara, which was later Fort San Juan in the sixteenth-century.

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy/Blue Ridge Forever was awarded \$50,000 to assist in the Blue Ridge Forever land trust coalition efforts to permanently protect ten properties vital to the

natural and cultural heritage of the region. Grant funds will be utilized to provide \$5,000 sub-grants to BRF members to assist with transaction closing costs.

Wild South was awarded \$40,000 to accelerate the growth of its Cultural Heritage Program, which provides ongoing support for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians through educational resources and the archiving of historical documents, as well as participation in the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership to identify areas for protection in the USFS plan revision.

FY 2013

The Wilderness Society was awarded \$35,000 in two grants to provide professional facilitation services for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, a community-based collaboration for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests' plan revision, and to purchase Community Viz software with mapping tables.

Western North Carolina Alliance was awarded \$30,000 for a three-pronged approach of scientific research, public engagement and citizen volunteerism to build regional engagement in the U.S. Forest Service planning for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

FY 2012

HandMade in America was awarded \$75,000 to expand technical assistance and community development efforts as part of their Economic Development program for rural communities.

Town of Murphy was awarded \$1,250 to match grant funds for the Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program, which helps communities seek ways to overcome adversity by building on assets through the former NC Steps grant program.

Town of Rutherfordton was awarded \$1,250 to match grant funds for the Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program, which helps communities seek ways to overcome adversity by building on assets through the former NC Steps grant program.

WNC Nature Center / Friends of the WNC Nature Center was awarded \$50,000 for interpretive enhancements to the red wolf exhibit and to build a covered pavilion, two priority projects in the 2020 Vision and Master Site Plan for the nature park that serves the region.