



New York Council for the Humanities May 2010

Vote for the Council in the Pepsi Refresh Project!



Speaker Chaz Mena with students at the Academy of Urban Planning in Brooklyn after his lecture, "José Martí: Chronicler of New York City."

We need your vote! The Council has entered the Pepsi Refresh Project win a [\\$50,000 grant to fund *Speakers in the Schools*](#). Help us enhance classrooms with presentations by top experts, promoting critical thinking through the humanities. The program has already reached 8,300 students and teachers; the grant would allow us to expand the program to 10,000 more.

How can you help?

- Set up an account and vote to [inspire creativity and ideas among 10,000 high schoolers](#) once daily during the month of May.
- Spread the word to family, friends, and co-workers.

To win, we need to be among the top ten vote-getters in a huge pool of other wonderful ideas in our grant category, so [every vote counts!](#)

New York Times: "Book Clubs for Doctors Show Human Side of Medicine"



Participants at VA Harbor Healthcare System, New York City. Video conferencing allows two other campuses to participate.

The New York Times recently [covered *Literature & Medicine*](#), a reading and discussion program for health care providers. The growing medical humanities movement applies humanities skills to the medical field in order to increase empathy, improve communication, and humanize patient care.

The Council is currently offering *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care* for VA hospital caregivers. Guided by a skilled facilitator, participants use literature to explore the patient experience and to reflect on their own roles as health care providers. *Literature & Medicine* programs are currently active at the VA Northport on Long Island and at the VA Harbor Healthcare System in New York City. [Learn more on our website](#), and see posts about the program on the [Northport VA Medical Library blog](#).

Action Alert: New York State Legislature



From L to R: Sara Ogger, Ralph Blasting, Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, Ed Sutton, and Marion Roach Smith at Humanities Advocacy Day in Albany.

After a great Humanities Advocacy Day in Albany, we continue to lead a grassroots effort to urge our state legislators to restore our state funding. This year we are facing a possible cut of 50% or more, but you can help save our state funds by [writing to your legislators](#).

Over 275 of you have already written your legislators - THANK YOU! - and recently, Assemblymembers Jonathan Bing, Jack Quinn, and Joan Millman joined Assemblymembers Linda Rosenthal and Steve Englebright in championing restoration - proof that your letters are being heard! There is still time to help ensure that New Yorkers continue to benefit from free public lectures, reading and discussion groups, and more by taking action

[here](#).

Mini Grants available for budding projects



Have an idea for a humanities program? Already have a program in place? [Apply for a Mini Grant!](#)

Mini Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to provide support for public programs presented by tax-exempt organizations across the state. These grants can also cover the cost of planning, such as bringing in consultants and scholars to discuss ideas with your staff. If planning is already in the works, the grant can help make your project a reality. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis, but the application must be received by the Council at least eight weeks before your first event date.

Recently, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester hosted a screening of the documentary film, "Who Does She Think She Is?" which was supported in part by a Mini Grant. To learn more about this project, please [visit our press page](#).

Want to see what others have done? [Check out our Flickr page](#), where we have begun to feature both Major and Mini Grant projects!

Upcoming Deadlines

Anytime - [Mini Grants](#) (apply at least 8 weeks before start of project)
[Speakers in the Schools](#) (apply at least 5 weeks before event date)
[Speakers in the Humanities](#) (apply at least 8 weeks before event date)

May 15 - [Together -- Book Talk for Kids and Parents](#) Applications for fall programs due
Jun 11 - [Reading Between the Lines](#) Applications for fall programs due
Jun 18 - [Reading & Discussion Grants](#) (for organizations who have previously hosted *RBTL*) Applications for fall programs due
Jun 25 - [Meaning of Service](#) Applications for fall programs due

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