

ARIZONA HUMANITIES PRESENTS

Hands  on Humanities  
A Virtual Awards Celebration

**Saturday, September 30, 2023**

**1:00 PM MST/AZ Time**

**SPONSORSHIP PACKET**

## Our Mission

Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning, and reflection.

## Arizona Humanities Celebrates Hands-On Humanities: A Virtual Awards Celebration

For more than 25 years, Arizona Humanities has honored and celebrated outstanding contributions to the humanities in our state by recognizing individuals and community organizations who have advanced the humanities in Arizona through their scholarship, leadership, support, and advocacy. We are delighted to honor this year's award recipients and are especially pleased to highlight two special community partners. The award recipients below help us bring the rich cultural history of Arizona to communities everywhere. We hope you will support this festive event and join us in celebrating the work of the award recipients and Arizona Humanities. Your sponsorship creates opportunities for Arizonans to explore our history, culture, and stories.

### 2023 Award Winners

**Anita Huizar-Hernández** – *Humanities Public Scholar*

**Sandy Chan** – *Friend of the Humanities*

**Stephanie Joyner** – *Humanities Rising Star*

**Ginette Rossi** – *K-12 Humanities Educator*

**Eshé N. Pickett** – *Outstanding Supporter*

**Rising Youth Theatre** – *Founder's Community Partner*

### Tickets

To register for the virtual event, visit the [Hands-On Humanities Eventbrite page](#).

All sponsors will receive a separate invitation to attend the in-person Awards reception. The virtual awards celebration will be screened, and award recipients will accept their awards in-person.

### Sponsorship Contact

Brenda Thomson, Executive Director

[bthomson@azhumanities.org](mailto:bthomson@azhumanities.org)

602-257-0335 x22

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**\$10,000**

### Premier Sponsor

- Opportunity to briefly address the event audience (virtual pre-recorded)
- Recognition as a Premier Sponsor
- Recognition in all promotional materials
- Banner recognition at the Awards Event (virtual pre-recorded)
- Logo recognition on AZ Humanities website
- Invitation to the in-person Awards reception
- Swag bag(s) for the table

**\$7,500**

### Partner Sponsor

- Recognition as a Partner Sponsor
- Banner recognition at the Awards Event (virtual pre-recorded)
- Recognition in all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on AZ Humanities website
- Invitation to the in-person Awards reception
- Swag bag(s) for the table

**\$5,000**

### Featured Sponsor

- Recognition as a Featured Sponsor
- Banner recognition at the Awards Event (virtual pre-recorded)
- Recognition in all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on AZ Humanities website
- Invitation to the in-person Awards reception
- Swag bag(s) for the table

**\$2,500**

### **Contributing Sponsor**

- Recognition as a Contributing Sponsor
- Banner recognition at the Awards Event (virtual pre-recorded)
- Recognition in all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on AZ Humanities website
- Invitation to the in-person Awards reception

**\$1,000**

### **Advocate Sponsor**

- Recognition as an Advocate Sponsor
- Banner recognition at the Awards Event (virtual pre-recorded)
- Recognition in all promotional materials
- Logo or individual name recognition on AZ Humanities website
- Invitation to the in-person Awards reception

## Public Humanities Scholars – Dan Shilling Award

*This award recognizes humanities scholars who have distinguished themselves by enhancing public understanding of the role the humanities play in transforming lives and strengthening communities, and have been recognized leaders in promoting the humanities.*

### Anita Huizar-Hernández



**Dr. Anita Huizar-Hernández**, Associate Professor in the School of International Letters & Cultures at ASU, is committed to elevating the stories and histories of Arizona’s diverse communities through the public humanities. She is both a mentor to her students and a strong advocate for public outreach in the humanities. Her research and teaching focus on the ways literature, film, and other forms of expressive culture have consolidated or challenged myths about Arizona, the West, and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Her book *Forging Arizona: A History of the Peralta Land Grant and Racial Identity in the West*, tells the story of a falsified land grant claim in the nineteenth century that encompassed a large part of Arizona and New Mexico. She is a leader in opening access to the humanities through collaborative and innovative digital projects that tell the stories of the people of the Borderlands. One such project is “Detained: Voices from the Migrant Incarceration System,” a digital public archive that captures and shares the stories of asylum seekers and undocumented migrants incarcerated in Arizona.

## Friend of the Humanities – Juliana Yoder Award

*This award recognizes individuals who have made a lasting contribution to the cultural life of their communities through their active support of and involvement in promoting the humanities.*

### Sandy Chan



**Sandy Chan**, academic librarian at Pima Community College for 25 years and former president of the Arizona Genealogical Society, has volunteered for years at the Arizona Historical Society’s Library and Archives in Tucson. In collaboration with the Arizona Historical Society and the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, Chan helped develop the Chinese History Lab. She currently gives educational presentations to students as part of the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center’s Field Trip Program. She has worked with the Vail Preservation Society on projects focused on Chinese laborers who built the railroad through Southern Arizona, and has also presented research on the history of the Tucson Chinese community for many cultural organizations. Chan maintains a website that shares her research on the history and contributions of the Chinese community with the public. Chan is the ultimate community historian. Her volunteer work, collaboration, and leadership in the public humanities has helped to preserve and share the stories of the Chinese community in Southern Arizona.

## Humanities Rising Star Award

*This award recognizes a young professional, student, or volunteer with outstanding creative approaches to engaging the public with the humanities, and whose humanities scholarship and public service has enhanced public understanding of the humanities.*

### Stephanie Joyner



**Stephanie Joyner**, Pinal County Historical Society's (PCHS) first Executive Director, has assembled a network of loyal volunteers and built a small but impactful modern museum for the community in Florence. The museum has become a community gathering place that reflects the broad community it serves. Joyner is an advocate for diversity and inclusion and has implemented these core values at the museum. She has created bilingual signage to reach Spanish-speaking Florence residents, designed exhibits focused on the history of local women, and pivoted to virtual programs to reach wider audiences. Joyner wears many hats in her position—from organizing exhibits and programs to fundraising and

operations. Outside of PCHS, she has consistently participated in Museum Advocacy Days to secure federal funding for rural communities. She regularly organizes meetings for Pinal County museums so that they can support each other, and she still finds time to volunteer with the San Tan Historical Society

## K-12 Humanities Educator Award

*This award recognizes an outstanding K-12 educator who engages students with the humanities through teaching in the classroom or leading humanities-based school programs.*

### Ginette Rossi



**Ginette Rossi**, a secondary English Language Arts teacher at the Arizona School for the Arts, and a doctoral student in English Education, is known for her innovative, inclusive, and humanities-based classroom programs. Her colleagues describe Rossi as a transformative educator who brings culturally relevant literature to her classroom that reflects diverse lived experiences. One example is the Book Bistro program that promotes active student engagement through sharing books with peers. It incorporates spoken word poetry, writing, and performance in collaboration with Phonetic Spit, a local nonprofit. Rossi's teaching weaves together history, literature, poetry, and more to encompass the full range

of the humanities. She is committed to mentoring and supporting her students by connecting them to community groups, publishers, and other resources. Rossi also mentors future teachers as a faculty associate at ASU. Rossi's leadership includes service on the board of the Arizona English Teachers Association and as Co-Director of the Central Arizona Writing Project, which provides professional development to Arizona teachers.

## Outstanding Supporter Award

*At the discretion of Arizona Humanities, this award recognizes individuals or organizations that have provided outstanding funding or support of the humanities that has expanded the reach of public humanities throughout Arizona.*

### **Eshé N. Pickett**



**Eshé N. Pickett**, System Software Architect with Intel Corporation, has been a staunch supporter of Arizona Humanities since she first joined the board in 2015 as a Manifesto Project volunteer apprentice. Pickett is a technologist and community activist who advocates for civil and civic engagement. She volunteers on committees and serves on the boards of organizations that advance human connection. Her STEM background and love of reading and writing inform her passions. Pickett's advocacy and support for Arizona Humanities is beyond measure, whether hosting

fundraisers, launching a Pen Zen writer's group, inspiring corporate and employee contributions, or sharing her technological expertise with the board and staff. Pickett's support and contributions have been outstanding and her commitment to advancing the humanities unwavering.

## Founder's Community Partner Award

*At the discretion of Arizona Humanities, this award recognizes an individual or organization that has partnered with Arizona Humanities or other cultural organizations to further public humanities through sustained collaboration and exemplary community outreach.*

### **Rising Youth Theatre**



**Rising Youth Theatre** utilizes the arts to spark community conversations around topics that matter including race, mental health, student pushout, and more through original plays and their school residency programs. At its core Rising Youth Theatre is a youth leadership program that believes young people are already capable of being decision makers and agents of change. Young people work in leadership positions as staff, board members and in creative spaces. Their approach is not only youth centered, but youth driven. Arizona Humanities has supported Rising

Youth Theatre programs since 2014, programs that have been consistently innovative, imaginative, and impactful. The company received the 2012 Mayor's Arts Award from Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and the 2014 Outstanding Children's Theatre Award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. They have also received major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America, Arizona Commission on the Arts, and Thunderbirds Charities.

## 2023 Award Nominees

### Humanities Public Scholar Nominees

*Albrecht Classen, Ayanna Thompson, Björn Krondorfer, Clottee Hammons, David Martinez, Rory Gilbert, Tina Marie Ferguson, Tyler Peterson, William Hesse*

### Friend of the Humanities Nominees

*Anthony Fusco, Barba Williams, Rory Gilbert, Tina Marie Ferguson, Veterans Heritage Project*

### Humanities Rising Star Nominees

*Adam Romano, Denise "Dennis" Dominguez, Melissa Valenzuela*

### K-12 Humanities Educator Nominees

*Elyse April, Nancie Lindblom, Savannah Galaviz-Tranguch*

## Past Awards Recipients

### Humanities Public Humanities Scholar Award

2022 – Ricardo Guthrie, Ph.D.

2021 – Michael Brescia, Ph.D.

2020 – Paul Hirt, Ph.D.

2019 – Natalie Diaz

2019 – Joan McGregor

2018 – Liz Warren

2017 – James Blasingame, Ph.D.

2015 – Alberto Álvaro Ríos

2015 – Paul Espinosa, Ph.D.

2014 – David William Foster, Ph.D.

2013 – Gloria H. Cuádriz, Ph.D.

2012 – Nancy Dallet

2012 – Elena Diaz Bjorkquist

2010 – Celestino Fernández

2009 – Charles Tatum, Ph.D.

2007 – Karen J. Leong, Ph.D.

2006 – Laura Tohe, Ph.D.

2005 – Matthew Whitaker, Ph.D.

2004 – Mary Melcher, Ph.D.

2003 – Judy Nolte Temple, Ph.D.

2002 – Elizabeth Larson-Keagy, Ph.D.

2001 – Neal A. Lester, Ph.D.

2000 – Patricia Preciado Martin

1999 – Peter Iverson, Ph.D.

1998 – L. Chris Smith, Ph.D.

1996 – Joann Kealiinohomoku, Ph.D.

1995 – Christine Marin, Ph.D.

1994 – Jay Cravath, Ph.D.

1993 – Robert Trennert, Ph.D.

1992 – James Griffith, Ph.D.

1991 – Mary L. Rothschild, Ph.D.

1990 – James Byrkit, Ph.D.

### Friend of the Humanities Award

2022 – Jean Baxter

2021 – Christine Marin, Ph.D.

2020 – J.J. Lamb

2020 – Aguila Youth Leadership Institute

2019 – Kevin Schindler

2018 – Almira Poudrier, Ph.D.

2017 – Barbara Hatch

2015 – Michael Vincent, Ph.D.

2014 – Project Humanities, Arizona State University

2013 – Gail Browne

2013 – Tucson Historic

Preservation Foundation

2012 – Arizona Town Hall

2010 – William Fry, Ph.D.

2009 – Winifred Bundy, Singing Wind Bookshop

2007 – Changing Hands Bookstore

2006 – Arizona Office of Tourism

2005 – James R. Carruthers, Ed.D.

2004 – Noel Stowe, Ph.D.

2003 – KAET-TV, Channel 8

2002 – Salt River Project

2001 – Arizona State Library,

Archives & Public Records

2000 – The Arizona Republic and Jack W. Whiteman (posthumous award)

1999 – Arizona State Representative Carolyn Allen and United States Congressman Jim Kolbe

1998 – Elsa Paine Mulher

### Humanities Rising Star Award

2022 – Amber McCrary

2021 – Paul Alan Talierno

2020 – Rosaura Magaña

2019 – Rachel Egboro

2018 – Dagoberto Bailon

2017 – Nancy Liliana Godoy

2015 – Rivka Rocchio

2014 – Tyler Wayne Vertrees

2013 – Myrlin Hepworth

2013 – Jaclyn Roessel



### **Outstanding Speaker Award**

2022 – Rosemarie Dombrowski, Ph.D.  
2021 – Akua Duku Anokye, Ph.D.  
2021 – Zarco Guerrero

### **Outstanding Supporter Award**

2022 Janice Klein  
2021 James and Judith Walsh  
2020 Judith Hardes  
2019 Rodo Sofranac  
2018 The Shackelford Family

### **Founder’s Community Partner Award**

2022 Arizona Jewish Historical Society  
2021 Thomas J. Davis, Ph.D., J.D.  
2020 Karen O’Keefe  
2019 Morning Star Leaders, Inc.  
Megan LaRose, Debbie Nez-Manuel, Royce Manuel  
2018 Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

### ***Distinguished Organizations***

2007 Pima County Library  
2006 Phoenix Burton Barr Central Library  
2005 Museum Association of Arizona  
2004 Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott  
2003 Hassayampa Institute for Creative Writing at Yavapai College

2002 Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson  
2001 Historic Sahuaro Ranch Foundation, Glendale  
2000 Parker Public Library  
1999 Arizona Historical Society, Southern Arizona Division  
1998 Scottsdale Cultural Council  
1996 Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum  
1995 Arizona State Museum

1994 The Heard Museum  
1993 Yuma County Library District  
1992 Mohave Museum of History and Arts  
1991 Casa Grande Valley Historical Society Museum  
1990 Glendale Public Library, Apache Junction Public Library (co-recipients)