

**LSTA Project Report****State:** *Vermont***Fiscal Year:** *2012***General Information****Title:** Cultural Programming for Adults: Grant Programs for Public Libraries**State Project Code:** LIB-12\_11**Start Date:** 07/01/2012**End Date:** 06/30/2013**Abstract:**

Vermont public libraries provide a wealth of programming for adults in local communities and have for many years enjoyed a partnership with the Vermont Council on the Humanities (VHC) to provide scholar-led book discussions and a variety of programs featuring guest presenters in the humanities. In Vermont FY2013 the VHC continued the successful "First Wednesdays" series of outstanding speakers in nine public libraries on topics of the humanities, including history, current events, literature and the social sciences. Speakers in the series include authors, poets, musicians, historians and scholars in a variety of fields, many of whom are known nationally. The Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) again partnered with the VHC to sponsor these programs, held once each month (8 programs scheduled in October-May). LSTA funding provided grants of \$500 to each library and libraries pay the remainder of the local matching funds; the balance is paid by the VHC. In Vermont FY13 VTLIB supported the programs at nine Vermont public libraries in: Middlebury, Brattleboro, Essex Junction, St. Johnsbury, Montpelier, Newport, Norwich, Rutland and Manchester. The VTLIB sponsorship included a payment of \$4000 (state general funds) to the VHC and grants of \$500 (LSTA) to each of the nine libraries to help defray the cost of their programs. Eight libraries each paid VHC \$3000, (including our grant of \$500) to host the series in their towns. The ninth library (Goodrich Memorial Library in Newport) paid \$1750 for the series (including our \$500 grant).

**State Goal:** Vermonters will have access to a wide range of high quality library services to meet their lifelong learning, informational, recreational, and occupational needs and interests

**General Information Comments****Project Director****Director Name:** Martha Reid**Director Phone:** 802-828-3265**Director Email:** martha.reid@state.vt.us

**Grantee**

Vermont Department of Libraries

**Project Outcomes****List any important findings or outcomes from your project:**

The First Wednesday programs were held October 2012 - May 2013 in nine public libraries. Each library had a different roster of speakers in the series. The average attendance per program across the nine libraries was 77 attendees, but attendance varied month to month from a low average of 65 to a high average of 117. Individual library attendance ranged from 16 ("Ask Us Who We Are") to 220 ("An Evening with Gershwin"). Total attendance for the season was 5,452. Comments from attendees included: "Speaker was engaging and he is such an expert on this history! I learned a great deal and now want to read his book," "[These programs] bring a richness to the community - like nothing else," "I believe firmly in free access to lifelong learning and the 1st Wednesday series is a wonderful example of adult education."

**Please briefly describe importance of findings.**

Feedback from attendees consistently reaffirms the value of cultural programming to bring people together for learning in public libraries, focused around common interests in the Humanities. Attendance records at each library shows that these programs attract residents of other nearby communities -- and even from other states and Canada.

**What methods did you use to determine your findings?**

Survey

Review of Administrative Data

Participant Observation

**Based on outputs, outcomes and/or other results, explain any significant lessons learned from these findings for either the SLAA or others in the LIS field.**

People value the series for both adult/lifelong learning and for the community aspect. Surveys consistently mention these two benefits.

<b>Do you anticipate continuing this project after the current reporting period ends?</b>	Yes
<b>Do you anticipate any change in level of effort?</b>	No
<b>Do you anticipate any change in the project's scope?</b>	No
<b>Do you anticipate any other changes in the project?</b>	No

**Additional Materials**

- 1stWedBrochureVHC2012-2013.pdf

**Intent(s)**

Improve users' general knowledge and skills.

- Arts, Culture & Humanities

**Project Tags**

Vermont Humanities Council; Cultural Programs; Humanities; 1st Wednesday Series

**Did your project include any of the following? :****Compliance with IMLS Grant Conditions**

Advertising, Public Relations, and/or Promotional Materials	No
Fund raising and/or Proposal writing	No
Lobbying and/or Advocacy	No
Food and/or Entertainment	No
Construction and/or Renovation	No
Indirect Costs (Overhead)	No

**Budget Information**

	Description	LSTA	Match - State	Match- Other	Total
	<b>Salaries/Wages</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Consultant fees</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Travel</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Supplies/materials</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Equipment</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Services</b>	\$4500	\$0	\$0	\$4500
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4500</b>			<b>\$4500</b>