



FINANCE, ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall  
January 27, 2022  
5:30 PM

**A. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2023-2029
2. American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries - Library Director

**B. MORE TIME ITEMS**

1. Councilor Filiault - Charter Amendment Related to Municipal Primary
2. Councilor Filiault - Rooms and Meals Tax Decrease
3. Councilors Remy, Bosley and Giacomo - Continued Remote Participation

**NON PUBLIC SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

# City of Keene, New Hampshire

## 2023-2029 Capital Improvement Program

### FOP Review January 27, 2022

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## CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.2.

**Meeting Date:** January 27, 2022

**To:** Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

**From:** Martine Fiske, Library Director

**Through:**

**Subject:** **American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries - Library Director**

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**Recommendation:**

Move that the Finance Organization and Personnel recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and expend a grant of \$10,000 from the American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries award in support of library programs.

**Attachments:**

None

**Background:**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is distributing \$2 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to help anchor libraries as strong humanities institutions as they emerge and rebuild from the pandemic. The American Library Association (ALA) will distribute up to 200 competitive ARP grants of \$10,000 each to libraries. Their emphasis is on reaching libraries in historically underserved and/or rural communities.

Keene Public Library has been dependent upon the Friends of the Library for all funds related to programs and program equipment. During the pandemic, a significant portion of those program funds purchased equipment and software subscriptions for online virtual programming. This grant will allow the Library to restart the annual Chautauqua, last held in 2018, as a hybrid in-person and virtual program.

Chautauqua was an adult educational and social movement in the United States, highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There have been several versions in Keene over the years, with the most recent done in partnership between the Keene Public Library, the Historical Society of Cheshire County, and Horatio Colony House Museum. The events have been hosted at the Keene Public Library since 2008.

This summer's events will focus on the history of race relations during the Jim Crow era. Programs will include historical impersonation presentations, lectures, book discussions, workshops and exhibits done in partnership with the Historical Society of Cheshire County and with visits to Keene elementary schools. In addition, about 40% of the funds will go toward the purchase of audio-visual equipment for the large event spaces at the Library.

Funds will be distributed on February 28 and all funds must be expended by August 31, 2022.