



THE
PROVIDENCE
ATHENÆUM

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10.24.17

PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM WELCOMES JON PARRISH PEEDE, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

PROVIDENCE, RI- The Providence Athenæum will welcome National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Acting Chairman Jon Parrish Peede on Friday, November 3, 11:30am-12:30pm, to tour the building and address a group of cultural leaders. The private event will be held in the Athenæum's historic Reading Room.

Peede was appointed to the position by President Donald J. Trump in July 2017. He joined the NEH in April and was the Senior Deputy Chairman of the agency. His previous positions include publisher of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* (VQR) at the University of Virginia, literature grants director at the National Endowment for the Arts, counselor to NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, director of the NEA Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience program, director of the NEA Big Read program, director of communications at Millsaps College, founding editor of *Millsaps Magazine*, and editor at Mercer University Press with a focus on the humanities. He has written speeches for a US president, a first lady, and a librarian of Congress.

"We are honored to host Acting Chairman Peede at the library as he shares his insights and outlooks to some of the region's brightest cultural leaders," said Athenæum Executive Director Matt Burriesci. "The National Endowment for the Humanities has a rich history of providing transformative support to cultural institutions across the country such as ours, and the humanities community is indebted to the endowment."

The Athenæum recently received a \$50,000 planning grant from the NEH's Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program. This grant will enable the library to conduct stage one of a multi-phase, comprehensive assessment of its historic building and systems, especially as they relate to the preservation and conservation of its rare collections. The library also regularly receives funding from both the RI Council for the Humanities, the independent state affiliate of the NEH, and the RI State Council on the Arts, affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts, in support of its unique cultural programming.

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About the Providence Athenæum: *The Providence Athenæum is an independent, member-supported library and cultural center located on Providence's historic Benefit Street. Over its nearly 200 years of existence, the library has welcomed illustrious writers, spirited thinkers, and energetic community members through its doors to engage in reading, conversation, and debate. At its heart, the Athenæum encourages a love of reading and learning to all. Learn more at provath.org.*

About the NEH: *Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this press release do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*