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**CT Filmmakers Receive Funding for
Community-Based Celebrations of James Baldwin's Centennial**

Easton, CT — The James Baldwin Project—founded in 2014 by Connecticut filmmakers Karen Thorsen & Douglas K. Dempsey—has received two significant grants: a 2023 Planning Grant from CT Humanities (CTH) and a 2023 grant for Operating Support from the CT Cultural Fund. The funds will be dedicated to community outreach and engagement across the state, celebrating the 2024-2025 Centennial of civil rights activist / best-selling author James Baldwin.

The official mission of the Baldwin Project is:

"To open minds and change lives, with James Baldwin as catalyst. To engage diverse communities, to inspire dialogue across differences, to encourage citizen-activists and nourish their sense of self-worth. To ensure that Baldwin's still painfully relevant message—a clarion call for equality, for understanding that inequality and injustice impact ALL of us—will be heard and debated by those who need it most. To expand understanding of ourselves ... and each other."

As Producer/Director of the award-winning film classic, JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET, Thorsen is beyond grateful.

"These grants will allow us to bring dozens of Baldwin-related events—a mix of film screenings, live events, exhibits, workshops + talkbacks, all free to the public, all designed to encourage active engagement—to new communities and new generations."

The Baldwin Project's CTH grant was one of seven Planning and Implementation grants awarded in February, 2023. An independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, CTH connects people to the humanities through grants, partnerships, and collaborative programs. All CTH projects, administration, and program development are supported by state and federal matching funds, community foundations and gifts from private sources. Learn more by visiting cthumanities.org.

In addition, the James Baldwin Project was one of 723 organizations in Connecticut awarded a CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant. Totaling more than \$8.5M, these grants are part of a two-year, \$30.7M investment in arts, humanities, and cultural nonprofits by the CT General Assembly and approved by Governor Ned Lamont. Funding for these grants is provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA).

For more information about the James Baldwin Project—and how to bring a Baldwin Centennial event to YOUR community—please see the Live Events page on our website, www.JamesBaldwinProject.org.