What is the Center for the Book?

The Center for the Book is a program of the Library of Congress. The Center at the LOC promotes books and libraries, literacy and reading, and poetry and literature. It also administers the Poetry and Literature Center.

Programs run by the Library of Congress include Library of Congress Literacy Awards, Discover Great Places Through Reading, and the National Book Festival, to name a few.
What is the Connecticut Center for the Book?

Connecticut Center for the Book is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress. Each state has its own Center. Some are hosted by state humanities councils, some by their state library system, some by a county library system, some are supported by their state’s library association, and some are standalone.

Financially some are supported by IMLS and some by the humanities council they live with. Some have half-time staff, some full, and some are volunteer run.
In other words:
There is no right answer.

Each state is set up differently.
So, what’s up with the Connecticut Center?

The Connecticut Center has had a number of different homes since coming to the state, but is currently housed with Connecticut Humanities. At present, nine Centers have this relationship with their state’s humanities council.

- Colorado Humanities
- Connecticut Humanities
- Kentucky Humanities
- Maine Humanities
- Maryland Humanities
- Humanities Montana
- Humanities Tennessee
- Utah Humanities
- Virginia
Relationship with CT Humanities

Connecticut Center for the Book is a program of CT Humanities.

It’s a good match. Many humanities councils have their own statewide initiatives that share similar goals with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, or provide grants to organizations that do similar programming, or develop partnerships with organizations that promote reading, writing, storytelling and other literary efforts.
Programs of Connecticut Center for the Book

Route 1 Reads

Book Voyagers

Literary Landmarks

Online Directory of Authors, Libraries, Booksellers, Writing Programs, and Literary Events

Connecticut Book Awards
Route One Reads initiative is a partnership between 16 affiliate Centers for the Book to promote books that illuminate important aspects of their states or commonwealths for readers travelling this meandering highway.
Book Voyagers is a series of packaged programs designed to promote reading and encourage families to create literature-rich home environments. Experienced program facilitators work with libraries, schools and other community organizations to help parents and children build reading skills and bring stories to life.
Literary Landmarks

A program of United for Libraries

Literary Landmarks is dedicated to identifying and highlighting literary sites. It ties in neatly with a program that CT Humanities has underway called ConnTours, a mobile app containing thematic tours, including a Literary Trail.
Authors, booksellers, libraries, writing programs, events - these make up the CT Center for the Book directory.

We encourage authors to self-submit to the directory so they may edit their own listings. There are some criteria which are listed here on our website. We are a stickler for their book being listed in the Library of Congress catalog.
Connecticut Book Awards

- Annual event - held in the fall
- Submission open to anyone who:
  - currently resides in Connecticut
  - has been a resident for three or more years
  - who was born in Connecticut
  - who writes about Connecticut
- Books submitted are for the previous calendar year.

- Categories
  - Fiction
  - Nonfiction
  - Poetry
  - Young Readers broken into three subcategories: Picture Books, Fiction, and Nonfiction.
  - Bruce Fraser Spirit of Connecticut Award, a special category just introduced this year which celebrates Connecticut's sense of place.
Connecticut Book Awards recognize the best books about Connecticut or by authors and illustrators from Connecticut.

Updated guidelines will be available on December 1, 2019 on the CT Center for the Book website and we will start accepting submissions for books published in 2019 on January 2, 2020.

2019 Connecticut Book Awards
October 20, 2019
Keynote Speaker: Philip Caputo
Emcee: Ann Nyberg
Tickets: $25.00
Does the Center have any funding to offer?

Sadly, no.
BUT CT Humanities DOES.

The following is a sampling of literary programs supported by CT Humanities one way or another in recent years:

Discussion Series: Bristol Public Library/Friends of Bristol Public Library

Arts & Ideas

Connecticut Literary Festival

One Book, One Region Programs

Connecticut Author’s Trail

Sunken Garden Poetry Festival
Exploring how we can work together.

We are currently working on a plan to get book award finalists and winners out on the road over the next year.

Would libraries want this kind of a program?

Can libraries spread the word about the Center to patrons?
Q & A
Thank You!

I appreciate your time today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my colleagues.

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