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# Providence Unveils Long Overdue Lovecraft Statue

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By Annie Riordan

## Features:



Just over a year ago, I pulled up stakes from sunny, superficial California and replanted myself in Providence, RI. I had a lot of reasons for making such a drastic change, but I'm not gonna lie, either: I am a dead man's stalker. I partly moved here to be closer to Lovecraft. Imagine my shock upon arriving here in his hometown and discovering that the larger part of the population has absolutely NO IDEA who he was or what he has come to be. His headstone in Swan Point is tucked neatly behind the family plot, damn near invisible unless you know where to look. And only a small memorial plaque on College Hill marks that Howard was ever there at all.

However, with August a mere six months away and the NecronomiCON already booking space at the historic Biltmore, it seems like Providence is finally starting to take note of its long lost prodigal son.

And the festivities are kicking off unexpectedly early! Just a few days ago, my friend Bryan Moore - renowned artist, sculptor and sandwich-ower - had some VERY exciting news to share.

**Bryan:** Like many fans of the Old Gent from Providence, I just wanted to give a little something back to a great man who has given so much to grateful readers the decades over.

Being a sculptor, making the portrait of Lovecraft is the easy part. It was convincing the local brass in Providence that was the hard part. No one seemed to know or care who Lovecraft was. I went through half a dozen locations over the space of a year rejecting my proposal outright. One place even declined as they "didn't want hordes of Lovecraft fans turning the damn thing into a shrine". Yup, that was an actual response.

The saving grace for turning this idea into a reality came in the form of Niels Hobbs. Niels and his amazing team are hosting the aptly named "NecronomiCon" convention for HPL fans in Providence, Rhode Island in August, 2013. Niels knew how to go through the back door to get to the right people and sure enough, he made it happen with the astoundingly generous Alison Maxell of the Providence Athenaeum Library which Lovecraft actually visited! It took a little bit of convincing Alison that we wouldn't be "drawing down daemons from the stars" by having them accept the lifesize bronze bust of Lovecraft and she very graciously said yes.

The next step that really kicked things into high gear hard and fast was bringing aboard my dear friend Jovanka Vuckovic, who horror fans need no introduction to. I had initially asked Jovanka if she wouldn't mind taking a picture with a smaller version of the Lovecraft bust to sort of "give the thumbs up" as it were. By the time she and finished talking, she had convinced me to let her supervise the kickstarter fundraising campaign for the project. Who was I to say no? Like I COULD say no....like ANYONE could say no to Jovanka!

True to her word, she started making things happen FAST, faster than I ever dreamed of which really freed me up to focus primarily to doing what I do best, which is sculpting.

So, were off and running at this point and will launch the kickstarter campaign on May 1st. It's our sincere hope that if any of you ever enjoyed a terror-filled tale by the great H. P. Lovecraft, you'll join Jovanka and myself in making sure one of Providence's greatest sons is never forgotten and finally has the tribute that he's deserved for so long.

We look forward to seeing you in Providence!

You can read more about the statue [here](#) and find out more about the NecronomiCON [here](#).

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