



The National Endowment for the Humanities



National Humanities Alliance





National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding preserves our cultural heritage, strengthens education, and connects us with our history and culture.

In every district, Americans benefit from rich humanities research, vibrant humanities teaching, and access to books, documentaries, podcasts, exhibitions, and digital resources that are supported by NEH grants.



(Left) With NEH funding, the University of Scranton hosted a story exchange on immigration and citizenship. Image courtesy of the University of Scranton. (Right) A group from the Baber AME Church visits the Clarissa Uprooted exhibition in Rochester, New York. Image courtesy of Teen Empowerment. Photo Credit: Jennifer Bannister.

Building Strong Communities

NEH funding brings communities together, providing opportunities to explore local histories, engage in conversation on shared interests, and learn from one another. These opportunities build pride and trust among community members, strengthening towns, cities, and regions throughout the country.

- Community conversation programs help communities from Scranton, Pennsylvania, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, find common ground around history and culture. For example, the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee, hosted “Freedom Stories: Unearthing the Black Heritage of Appalachia,” which featured discussions among Black storytellers, scholars, and community leaders. Ninety-three percent of respondents to a post-program survey indicated they were motivated to listen to the stories of people whose backgrounds were different from their own after participating in this program.
- *Dialogues on the Experience of War* programs offer Veterans the opportunity to connect over their shared experiences and have helped bridge the divide between Veterans and civilians. Across nine programs, 96 percent of respondents agreed that resources used in their programs raised issues relevant to their experiences. Seventy-nine percent of Veteran respondents to the survey indicated that their program made them more likely to seek help if they needed it.
- NEH-funded programs help communities celebrate and honor their diverse histories and cultures. NEH funding for the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum in Matewan, West Virginia, has enabled the museum to tell the story of the region’s struggle to unionize the Southern coalfields. In Rochester, New York, an NEH grant to Teen Empowerment, a community organization, allowed it to create an exhibition dedicated to the history of Clarissa Street—a once-flourishing African American community in the city. Eighty-seven percent of respondents to an exhibition survey agreed that they encountered new perspectives on Rochester’s history and that they were able to see connections between the history shown in the exhibition and issues facing Rochester today.
- NEH funding helps build community spaces—libraries, museums, and historic sites that provide opportunities for members of the public to gather. The Rice Public Library in Kittery, Maine, expanded its 1888 building and made it more accessible, providing space for community members to engage in public programs. Meanwhile, the Seward Community Library & Museum in Alaska is the only public space in Seward that welcomes people of all ages for free.

“For forty years I have been looking for words to describe my experience and I finally found them right here in this ancient book [*The Odyssey*].”

— VETERAN PARTICIPANT,
DIALOGUES ON THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR



(Left) A Tuskegee University student visits “The Soul of Zora: A Literary Legacy Through Quilts.” Image courtesy of Tuskegee University. (Center) Participants in an NEH summer program for teachers hosted by Crow Canyon Archaeological Center learn about the history and culture of the Pueblo people. Image courtesy of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. (Right) Educators in a summer program visit Dockery Farms in the Mississippi Delta. Image courtesy of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University.

Enriching Education and Lifelong Learning

Throughout the U.S., NEH funding advances education in culture, history, languages, writing, literature, religious studies, philosophy, and other subjects at every level, from pre-K to lifelong learning opportunities for adults.

- NEH-funded summer workshops provide professional development opportunities for K-12 educators representing every state and district. These in-depth learning opportunities offer insight into Native American cultures, Revolutionary War history, the Civil Rights era, and more. Nationally, these professional development programs provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods. Since 2012 alone, these programs have reached more than 11,000 teachers, ultimately enriching the classroom experience for an estimated 2 million students.
- NEH funding helps minority-serving higher education institutions develop new curricula and provide professional development opportunities for their faculty. A program at Tuskegee University helped faculty integrate the region’s rich literary legacy into a wide range of classes, helping students and faculty alike gain a deeper appreciation for the local community and the challenges faced by rural areas.
- With NEH funding, humanities institutions such as libraries, museums, and historic sites offer lifelong learning opportunities to people of all ages in their communities, whether through museum exhibitions, lectures, tours, podcasts, documentary films, or conversation programs. In 2024 and 2025, a partnership with the Library of America is bringing programs celebrating the launch of the new anthology *Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology* to libraries and cultural organizations throughout the U.S.

In 2019, the National Humanities Alliance partnered with 14 NEH summer professional development programs for teachers to document their impact. Surveys were administered before, immediately after, and one year after the programs.

100%
of respondents reported experiencing professional growth as a result of the program.

98%
of respondents said that they would recommend participating in an NEH workshop to a colleague.

86%
of respondents reported sharing resources from the program with other teachers at their school.



(Left) NEH funding helped Linda Wood interview Muskogee Elders, creating Documenting Spoken Muskogee, a language archive and cultural resource. Photo Credit: Jack Martin. (Right) National Heritage Responder Robert Herkovitz visits a mold-infested institution in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017. Image courtesy of the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.

Preserving Local and Living Heritage

Every community possesses tangible and intangible cultural heritage that is vulnerable to a range of threats. NEH funding helps preserve local and living cultural heritage, benefiting both present-day communities and future generations.

- NEH funding supports preservation activities, such as upgrades to storage facilities that are crucial for the preservation of cultural heritage yet rarely funded by others. Since 2006, more than 1,500 grants have helped small and mid-sized institutions such as the Museum of the Aleutians in Unalaska, Alaska, and the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center in Massachusetts preserve their collections. Meanwhile, NEH funding has helped organizations from Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona, to the Providence Public Library in Rhode Island upgrade their HVAC systems and improve their storage facilities.
- NEH funding helps Indigenous American communities and their partners document and revitalize endangered languages, supporting a vital aspect of Indigenous culture and identity. Grants have helped document Plains Apache, Spoken Muskogee, Coeur d'Alene, Klallam, Native Hawaiian, and many other Indigenous languages. Meanwhile, a 2017 partnership with the First Nations Development Institute helped the NEH distribute \$2.1 million in funding, building the capacity of Indigenous language revitalization programs from Mashpee, Massachusetts, to Chickaloon, Alaska.
- The NEH supports the documentation of oral histories in communities throughout the U.S., preserving community experiences and ensuring that the wisdom of community elders is saved for future generations. Faculty and students at Black Hills State University in South Dakota created *Howasteya Oyuspapi: Capturing Their Good Voices*, a documentary that showcases the oral histories of six Lakota Elders. History Colorado documented the COVID-19 experiences of Latino communities throughout the state through oral history interviews, while also helping social service organizations understand local needs.
- NEH funding enables institutions to plan for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies. The NEH-supported Alliance for Response—33 community networks from Seattle to the U.S. Virgin Islands—ensures that vulnerable regions are prepared for disasters before they happen. Following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017, the NEH awarded nearly \$2 million to organizations throughout the Gulf South and Puerto Rico. In 2023, the NEH awarded \$200,000 to Vermont Humanities to support cultural organizations affected by historic flooding.

143 of the 216
languages spoken in
the United States
are endangered.

Through its Cultural and
Community Resilience
program, the NEH is
currently supporting the
preservation of oral
histories in 24 communities
including San Francisco,
Detroit, and Pueblo of
Isleta in New Mexico.



The House and Furniture of the Soldier General have put a new to their own movable party. Such the very friends feel a reverential awe for his great patriotism, whilst they do lift the grudge & traitor —

I feel very differently at the approach of Spring to what I did a month ago, we know not then whether we could plant or live with safety, whether when we had laid we could reap the fruits of our own industry, whether we could rest in our own cottages, or whether we should not be driven from the sea coasts to seek shelter in the wilderness but now we feel as if we might sit under our own vine and eat the good of the land — I feel a quietude of heart to which before I was a stranger, I think the sun looks brighter the birds sing more melodiously, & nature puts on a more cheerful countenance. We feel a temporary peace, the fugitives are returning to their deserted habitations.

(Left) NEH funding helped the Chippewa Valley Museum develop *Changing Currents: Reinventing the Chippewa Valley*. Image courtesy of the Chippewa Valley Museum. (Right) Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, 31 March 1776. "I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors," Abigail Adams famously wrote to her husband as he served in the Continental Congress. These and other documents related to the Adams family have been digitized by the Massachusetts Historical Society. Image courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Projects With Far-Reaching Impact

NEH funding supports far-reaching projects that advance our understanding of the world we live in and provide broad access to the humanities.

- NEH funding supports access to archival collections, including the papers of our founders and other significant Americans, ranging from John and Abigail Adams to Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. NEH funding was crucial to making the Hellen Keller Archive's 160,000 materials both available digitally to the public and accessible to blind, deaf, and deafblind audiences.
- NEH-funded digital projects such as *Enslaved.org* and *Slavevoyages.org* have provided groundbreaking insights into the lives and experiences of enslaved people in the Americas. They are resources for researchers, students, the press, and the general public. Resources such as *The American Soldier in World War II* and *Civil War and Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi* have provided deep insights into the lives of everyday people experiencing extraordinary events.
- NEH funding supports prize-winning books, documentary films, and radio shows that connect the public with deep insights into history and culture. NEH funding supported the writing of *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (2005) by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. NEH-funded documentaries include *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (2020), *Asian Americans* (2020), and *The Vietnam War* (2017), among many others. And radio shows and podcasts such as *American Routes*, *Lost Highways*, and *A Way With Words* offer insights into language, music, and history to anyone with an internet connection or a radio.
- From the blockbuster opening of the *Treasures of Tutankhamun* exhibition on King Tut in 1974 to *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists* in 2019 and *Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See* in 2023, NEH funding has ensured that Americans can attend traveling exhibitions that provide rich and nuanced interpretations of world culture, art, and history.

THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE (NHA) is a nationwide coalition of organizations advocating for the humanities on campuses, in communities, and on Capitol Hill. Founded in 1981, NHA is supported by over 250 member organizations, including: colleges, universities, libraries, museums, cultural organizations, state humanities councils, and scholarly, professional, and higher education associations. It is the only organization that brings together the U.S. humanities community as a whole.



National Humanities Alliance

WWW.NHALLIANCE.ORG