



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is my privilege to present to you the 2007 annual report of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In September 2007, NEH's *We the People* program celebrated its fifth anniversary. This year *We the People* continued to strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through grants supporting hundreds of projects, including traveling library exhibitions on great Americans such as Benjamin Franklin; documentary films; summer workshops for school-teachers; and our annual *We the People* Bookshelf program for libraries. In 2007 NEH also launched the pilot phase of an exciting new *We the People* initiative called "Picturing America," which seeks to put some of our nation's artistic masterpieces and iconic images in our schools, where they will help students trace our national story and learn about America's principles.

We the People is also ensuring that the "first draft" of our history is widely available. In March, we joined our partners at the Library of Congress to announce the debut of the "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" website, featuring more than 226,000 pages of public domain newspapers from six states and the District of Columbia published between 1900 and 1910. Ultimately, the "Chronicling America" website will offer all Americans a free, searchable database of some thirty million pages of historic U.S. newspapers.

As NEH worked this year to promote and preserve America's cultural heritage, we also expanded our efforts to collaborate and exchange new ideas in the humanities with our peers in other nations. In June, NEH senior leaders traveled to the People's Republic of China, together with senior leaders of the other federal cultural agencies and members of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, as part of the first such U.S. cultural delegation to that nation. That month the Endowment also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Research Council of Italy, to explore how we could promote cultural exchange and scholarly research in the humanities between Italy and the United States.

Through these initiatives and many others, NEH is helping our citizens to explore both our own nation's history as well as the history and culture of civilizations beyond our shores—bringing great ideas and the riches of our past to millions of Americans.

BRUCE COLE

Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities