



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities Alabama

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Alabama received \$4.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Alabama Humanities Foundation for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- More than 300 teachers from around the country studied the history and legacy of the **civil rights movement** in Alabama by participating in a workshop with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, “Stony the Road We Trod,” which was supported by three grants totaling \$547,000.
- The University of South Alabama received two grants totaling \$11,000 to support preservation of the **Wilson C. Burton and Wilbur F. Palmer Studio** photograph collections. The collections together contain 235,000 negatives documenting the history and culture of the Mobile region and Gulf Coast area from the 1930s to the 1980s and include images of the African-American experience.
- To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Harper Lee’s classic American novel, the Alabama Humanities Foundation conceived and produced **TKAM 2010: To Kill a Mockingbird—Awakening America’s Conscience**, a statewide series of events recognizing the novel’s lasting significance.
- Grants of \$2,500 were awarded to the Birmingham Public Library and the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library to help them host the traveling exhibition “**Pride of Passion: The African American Baseball Experience.**”
- The **University of Montevallo’s Carmichael Library** received \$6,000 to complete a preservation assessment of the university archives and special collections, which include documentation of women’s education in Alabama and the Olmsted Brothers’ original designs for the campus, now designated a National Historic District.
- **The Alabama Humanities Foundation** received four separate grants totaling \$426,700 to support public programs such as the Road Scholars Speakers’ Bureau, statewide traveling exhibitions, and teacher institutes on topics such as civil rights and World War II.
- A collaboration between the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University, the **Encyclopedia of Alabama** has more than 2,000 entries and covers topics from the Montgomery bus boycott to the story of the Yuchi tribe that lived in Alabama until the 1830s.
- **School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Teacher Program** provides graduate-level professional development annually to outstanding 4th through 12th grade teachers, librarians, and administrators. Since the **Alabama Humanities Foundation** started the program in 1991, SUPER has served more than 4,000 teachers and reached 500,000 students.
- Before she became famous as a writer of short stories, Eudora Welty carried an Eastman-Kodak Six-16 and photographed scenes of the Great Depression for the WPA. “**Eudora Welty: Exposures and Reflections,**” an exhibition at the Museum of Mobile supported by a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, showed her knack for intimate images of Americans who were more than victims of economic misfortune.



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# Humanities Nationwide

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.*

## **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

## **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

## **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

## **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

## **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

## **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as "King Tut" that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

## **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

## **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.