



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities Connecticut

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Connecticut received \$11.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Connecticut Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Yale University received \$700,000 through two grants for a long-term collaborative project to produce a comprehensive edition of Benjamin Franklin's papers and writings. Forty of forty-seven projected volumes have been published, with thirty-seven available online. **Papers of Benjamin Franklin** is scheduled to be the first completed work of its kind on an American Founder.
- The lack of published primary sources on Connecticut's Native Americans is being addressed by the **New England Indian Papers Series**, a project of Yale University, the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Massachusetts Archives, and the British National Archives. With the support of a \$250,000 grant, these partners are producing a digital archive whose first installment includes 1,471 documents that will be publically available online.
- The **Mystic Seaport Museum** received a \$40,000 grant to plan the 2014 voyage of the *Charles W. Morgan*, an 1841 whaleship, and an accompanying dockside exhibit, "In the Wake of the Whalers." Recently, the museum received a \$450,000 grant to implement the plan.
- The **Mark Twain House and Museum** received a \$180,000 grant to host weeklong workshops for eighty teachers, exploring the author's writings in their historical and social contexts.
- Leveraging a \$500,000 challenge grant, **Fairfield University** has raised \$2 million in private funds to endow a new art museum in the campus's signature building, Bellarmine Hall, which houses a collection focusing on medieval and Renaissance art.
- A literary study examining the **everyday writings of former slaves** during the era of emancipation was the subject of a \$50,400 fellowship awarded to Christopher Hager, a professor at Trinity College, Hartford. In 2013, Hager published *Word by Word: Emancipation and the Act of Writing*.
- As recommended in a conservation assessment, the **Bridgeport Public Library** received a \$6,000 grant to acquire storage cabinets for its collection of circus posters. They are part of a circus history collection that includes the papers of longtime Bridgeport resident P. T. Barnum.
- With a \$235,000 grant, the **Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** is implementing a fire-safety and climate-control plan for this onetime home of the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- **Connecticut Humanities** advises state cultural institutions through their award-winning Heritage Resource Center, which provides online resources for heritage professionals working on audience evaluation, new media, and financial planning.
- [Connecticuthistory.org](http://Connecticuthistory.org), an award-winning website from **Connecticut Humanities**, immerses visitors in the history of the Nutmeg State from King Philip's War to the life and career of Noah Webster, with new content every week.



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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.