



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Iowa

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Iowa received \$5.2 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Humanities Iowa for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Following the devastating floods of 2008, NEH awarded \$116,700 in emergency grants to seven institutions to restore damaged pieces of **Iowa's cultural heritage**, including a historic Barton Theatre organ, materials in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, and an 1876 Coralville schoolhouse.
- Through a challenge grant, the **Dubuque County Historical Society** has received \$600,000 and so far raised \$1.7 million in private funds to support a director of interpretation and humanities programming at its three museums, visited by more than 200,000 people each year.
- **Luther College, Decorah**, received \$170,000 to sponsor a five-week summer institute for thirty high school teachers on the history and relevance of the Holocaust.
- The first comprehensive **digital Sanskrit lexical reference** is being developed by the Maharishi University of Management in Maharishi Vedic City in cooperation with the Cologne Digital Sanskrit Lexicon, with help from a \$178,000 grant.
- About 100,000 pages of historic Iowa newspapers, such as the black-owned *Iowa Bystander* and the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, from 1836 to 1922 are being digitized by the **State Historical Society of Iowa**, with support from a \$300,000 grant. This work is part of *Chronicling America*, an NEH collaboration with the Library of Congress.
- Eighty schoolteachers spent a week studying the architecture of **Frank Lloyd Wright** and the Prairie School in Mason City with the assistance of a \$180,000 grant.
- The **Danish Immigrant Museum** in Elk Horn received a \$2,000 grant to offset costs for supplies and equipment to store 800 paintings, photographs, and works on paper illuminating the history of Danish Americans.
- The **German American Heritage Center**, Davenport, received \$5,000 to develop a long-range plan to care for its letters, photographs, artifacts, and documents relating to German immigration in the area from 1795 to the present.
- In 2009, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the Coon Rapids, Iowa, farm of Roswell Garst, **Humanities Iowa** sponsored a three-day conference and a new play based on that historic meeting and subsequent friendship.
- More than eight thousand cyclists who come to Iowa every year for **RAGBRAI** (the *Des Moines Register's* Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) can also learn about Iowa's archaeological heritage at sites and small towns across the state, thanks to support from Humanities Iowa provided to the Office of the State Archaeologist.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

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.