NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Kansas

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Kansas received $6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Kansas Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- About 100,000 pages of historic Kansas newspapers, such as the *Abilene Reflector* and the *Thomas County Cat*, from 1860 to 1922 are being digitized at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, with support from a $454,000 grant. This work is part of **Chronicling America**, an NEH collaboration with the Library of Congress.

- A $485,000 challenge grant to endow a faculty position in philosophy and ethics at **Donnelly College** has sparked the raising of $970,000 in private funds for the Kansas City school, a two-year college that is the only federally designated Minority-Serving Institution in its four-state region.

- A $200,000 grant to the University of Kansas, Lawrence, enabled thirty high school teachers to participate in a two-week summer institute with top scholars exploring the work of **twentieth-century American novelist Richard Wright,** author of *Black Boy*.

- A $25,000 grant made it possible for faculty and students at **Kansas State University**, Manhattan, to develop an online repository of primary documents to preserve the history of rural Kansas.

- The **history of World War I** and the war's impact on the United States was the subject of an intensive five-week summer seminar for sixteen schoolteachers at the University of Kansas. The seminar was supported by a $140,000 grant.

- Sherrie Tucker, an associate professor at the University of Kansas, received a $50,400 NEH fellowship to complete her oral history-based book on **the Hollywood Canteen**, a nightclub where members of the guilds and unions of the motion picture industry, including stars such as Bette Davis and the Andrews Sisters, entertained military personnel during World War II.

- The **National Orphan Train Complex**, Concordia, has used a $5,000 grant to purchase furniture and supplies to preserve and rehouse its collection of documents and other primary materials on the Orphan Train Movement, which found homes for thousands of children across the United States from 1854 to 1930.

- In 2011, the traveling exhibition "**Kansans Tell Their Stories**" visited seven communities across the state. Begun in 2004, this project is supported by the Kansas Humanities Council and includes films, oral histories, and community discussions.

- In 2011, nonprofit organizations throughout the state booked one free **Speakers Bureau** presentation in conjunction with Kansas's Sesquicentennial. The Kansas Humanities Council sponsors seventy-one distinct Speakers Bureau presentations related to Kansas history and culture.

- Every year KTWU in Topeka produces and airs a thirteen-part series of half-hour television documentaries supported by the Kansas Humanities Council called ***Sunflower Journeys***. Subjects range from barbershop music to cattle culture. Past shows are available on DVD and for classroom use.

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.