



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Maine

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Maine received \$6.8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Maine Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- With \$345,000 in support, **Maine History Online**, a project of the **Maine Historical Society, Portland**, tells the varied stories of Maine's people, including Swedish homesteaders near the Canadian border, the nation's first African-American Roman Catholic bishop, and the French Canadian founder of America's first snowshoe club.
- The **Old York Historical Society, York**, whose nine buildings and historical presentations encompass 300 years of New England history, received a \$500,000 challenge grant to expand its education programs and exhibitions.
- In twenty-five states, **Literature and Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare** has helped health-care professionals, including medical personnel at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, reflect on their work by discussing books. The Maine Humanities Council conceived and developed the project.
- A 1475 map of the Holy Land and the first map printed in North America are among the treasures in the **Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine, Portland**. The library received a \$466,000 grant to support rehousing of 100,000 rare maps, atlases, globes, and explorer accounts from 1475 to 1900.
- A \$40,000 grant to the **Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor**, was used to evaluate the museum's climate control systems and to protect its ethnographic and archaeological collections as well as beadwork, quillwork, and the largest public collection of Maine Native American baskets.
- Two grants totaling \$398,000—one to prevent moisture infiltration, the other for watercraft storage—have enabled the **Maine Maritime Museum** in Bath's shipbuilding district to better protect its renowned collections of art, ship models, tools, and manuscripts.
- **The American Musicological Society, Brunswick**, recipient of a \$130,000 grant for its Music of the United States of America book series, has published volumes on Virgil Thomson and John Philip Sousa. A separate \$240,000 challenge grant to develop books by promising young scholars supported Franya Berkman's *Monument Eternal: The Music of Alice Coltrane* and Todd Decker's *Music Makes Me: Fred Astaire and Jazz*.
- **Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston**, received a \$6,000 grant to hire three conservators to evaluate its Marsden Hartley Memorial Collection, which includes ninety-nine drawings by the great modernist who modestly described himself as "the painter from Maine."
- **New Books, New Readers** from the **Maine Humanities Council** is a scholar-led reading and discussion program for adults seeking to increase their literacy by starting with the best in children's literature. Since the early 1990s, parents in family literacy programs, English-language learners, literacy volunteers, and others from around the largely rural state have participated.
- **Born to Read** introduces techniques for sharing books and research-based information about literacy and healthy emotional development with early childhood educators. More than 16,000 children have taken part in this Maine Humanities Council program.



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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.