



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Nevada

*Between 2003 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Nevada received \$6.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Nevada Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Begun in 2001 with a \$44,000 grant to Nevada Humanities, the **Online Nevada Encyclopedia** continues to expand. The free multimedia resource has recently featured materials on band leader Antonino Marelli and the history of civil rights in Nebraska.
- Supported by a \$248,700 grant, the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, has created a multilingual bibliographic database of **Basque language, history, and culture**. The resource, which is available online through the university's Basque Library, contains more than 18,000 records.
- **History professor Paul W. Worth** of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, received a \$40,000 fellowship to research religious freedom and the development of civil order in Russia between 1772 and 1914.
- The **Lost City Museum in Overton**, Nevada, was established in 1935 to collect and exhibit Anasazi artifacts urgently preserved as construction of the Hoover Dam caused Lake Mead to overflow. With \$6,000, the museum hired a conservator to consult on its storage and housing.
- Sandra Jean Ott, a professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno, has received a \$6,000 grant to research the trials of **French Nazi collaborators after World War II**. Her upcoming book, *Crimes and Punishments: Collaborators and Justice in the Pyrenean Borderlands, 1940-1946*, will explore human dignity and the morality of capital punishment through the historic trials.
- A \$2,000 grant helped the **Guggenheim–Hermitage Museum** in Las Vegas host a teacher leadership program devoted to understanding work and social class through the art of the Industrial Revolution.
- A \$25,000 grant supported two planning seminars for the Asian Studies Center at the **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**. The Center, which explores the contemporary and historical relevance of Asian politics and culture to the campus and Las Vegas communities, was founded in 2004.
- In 2009, Nevada Humanities became a partner in **Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care**, a national reading and discussion program designed to improve communication skills, increase empathy for patients, and promote job satisfaction among health care professionals. Participating Nevada hospitals include Renown Medical Center, the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and the Reno VA.
- Begun in 2002, the **Vegas Valley Book Festival** has grown into the largest literature event in Las Vegas. Sponsored in part by Nevada Humanities, the festival features readings, panel discussions, workshops, and poetry performances from some of the most acclaimed national and Nevadan authors.
- **"Building Atomic Vegas,"** a recent exhibition at the Atomic Testing Museum, marking the 60th anniversary of the first nuclear test, in which a B-50 bomber at 20,000 feet dropped a nuclear warhead codenamed Able onto the desert floor, was supported by grant from Nevada Humanities.



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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.