



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities North Carolina

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in North Carolina received \$14.5 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the North Carolina Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Scholars at the National Humanities Center outside Durham are using a \$200,000 award to develop an online library of documents and artifacts called ***Making the Revolution: America 1763–1791*** to help teachers and students address themes such as the formation of an American way of life and the consolidation of the Revolution.
- Just before the Civil War, there were 500,000 free blacks in the United States. Thomas Day, a successful furniture-maker and businessman in North Carolina, was one. Three grants totaling \$532,000 enabled 240 schoolteachers to attend summer institutes focusing on Day and other **African-American entrepreneurs** of the antebellum era.
- **Mars Hill College** received a \$500,000 challenge grant toward an endowment that would support a full-time director/archivist and programming for its Southern Appalachian Archives, which includes Cherokee artifacts, documents relating to local farm life from the 1920s to the 1950s, and a famed collection of mountain music recordings.
- The North Carolina Humanities Council arranged for ***New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music***, a traveling Smithsonian exhibit overseen by North Carolina folklife scholar Beverly Patterson, to visit six locations throughout the state.
- A \$70,000 grant helped bring together fifty K-12 teachers for a two-day scholarly conference at **Appalachian State University** in Boone on the perennial question, “What is American about American art?” The program enabled teachers to integrate art into core courses.
- For more than thirty years the North Carolina Humanities Council has sponsored **weekend seminars** at which K-12 schoolteachers can engage in graduate-level study.
- The **Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte** received \$5,000 to help pay for a conservation assessment of its collection of American paintings, which includes works by George Bellows and Thomas Cole.
- **Martha Jefferson Randolph**, the daughter of Thomas Jefferson, married a future governor and raised sons who fought on both sides of the Civil War. Her biography is being researched and written by Cynthia Anne Kierner at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, thanks to a \$50,400 research fellowship.
- The **North Carolina Humanities Council** made a \$9,000 grant to the Center for Cultural Preservation in Hendersonville to support Connecting with the Elders, an oral history project on traditions of Southern Appalachia.



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.