



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Rhode Island

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Rhode Island received \$6.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- James Joyce's novel *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* made its first appearance in 1914 in a little journal called *The Egoist*, one of several important periodicals digitized at Brown University for the **Modernist Journals Project**, which has been supported by two grants totaling \$478,000.
- **Vazira Zamindar** at Brown University received a \$50,400 research grant to study archaeology, Islam, and the Pre-Islamic Buddhist art in South Asia of the Gandhara period, building on an earlier summer stipend she had received to study the same topic.
- Thirty schoolteachers attended a two-week institute on the rise of slavery in New England and its role in the northern economy. The conference, conducted by the **Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence**, was supported with a \$132,000 grant.
- Archival holdings relating **Rhode Island's history** from colonial times to the late 1900s remain spread among numerous depositories, but are united online in a database at Brown University that informs researchers about associated collections and how to find them. NEH has supported this scholarly resource with a \$228,000 grant.
- The **John Carter Brown Library** specializes in manuscripts, maps, and other documents from international sources describing the unfolding drama of European discovery and colonization of the New World from 1492 to 1825. The library has been awarded \$270,000 to support a fellowship program for NEH-designated scholars.
- **The Breakers**, residence of Cornelius Vanderbilt II, is one of America's best-known historic properties. The Preservation Society of Newport County has received a \$28,000 grant to improve the building's internal climate to better protect its Gilded Age art and furnishings.
- The most valuable object at the **Newport Art Museum** may be the John N.A. Griswold House, a National Historic Landmark. With a \$6,000 grant, the museum installed environmental monitoring equipment to preserve its collection covering three centuries of New England art.
- The **Little Compton Historical Society** has received two grants totaling \$10,000 to help purchase supplies as its professionally trained team of volunteers works to preserve and archive a 10,000-piece collection of nineteenth-century clothing, books, and photos of local historical interest.
- For sixteen years, the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** has sponsored Action Speaks, a panel discussion series on Underappreciated Dates That Changed America. Discussions of the debut of *Death of a Salesman*, the announcement of FDR's Good Neighbor policy, and other topics are then edited for radio broadcast. This program was recently expanded through an NEH grant of \$75,000.
- The **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** has developed supplemental local content for Picturing America, an NEH program that has brought reproductions of classic American art and teachers' guides to 70,000 schools and libraries nationwide.



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.