



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities South Carolina

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in South Carolina received \$7.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Humanities Council of South Carolina for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- A unique collection of a thousand documents cataloguing the lives of two generations of South Carolina women, **Eliza Lucas Pinckney and her daughter Harriet Pinckney Horry**, between 1739 and 1830 has been digitized, annotated, and archived at the University of South Carolina with the help of two grants totaling \$324,000.
- The content-rich websites of historical societies and libraries may present numerous challenges to the visually disabled. With two grants totaling \$74,000, the University of South Carolina is developing tools to **help visually impaired users access humanities collections online**.
- When two million African Americans migrated from the South to the North in the early twentieth century, they profoundly altered American society. With the help of a \$75,000 grant, fifty middle-school and high-school teachers from South Carolina studied this historical event through the art of Jacob Lawrence and other primary sources at two-day conferences hosted by the **Sumter County Cultural Commission**.
- One hundred thousand pages of historic newspapers such as the *Columbia Phoenix* and the *Charleston Daily News* from 1860 to 1922 are being digitized by the University of South Carolina with the support of \$676,000 in grants. This work is part of **Chronicling America**, which NEH is conducting with the Library of Congress.
- The American Revolution pitted patriot against loyalist, but in South Carolina there were older tensions as well, setting under-represented backwoodsmen against politically connected merchants. The resulting “civil war” between **Partisans and Redcoats** was studied by 180 schoolteachers at Converse College with assistance of two grants totaling \$278,000.
- Sixty thousand people came to the Union Course near New York City in 1823 to watch Eclipse and Harry in **the greatest horse race of the nineteenth century**. Paul E. Johnson of the University of South Carolina, with the help of a \$40,000 research grant, researched the showdown as the basis for a book on southern-northern rivalry in the early years of the republic.
- The **South Carolina Encyclopedia**, a joint effort of the Humanities Council of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Southern Studies, and the University of South Carolina Press, tells the state’s history. After selling more than 18,000 copies, the project has now yielded a series of e-books.
- Six medical centers have hosted **Literature and Medicine**, a reading and discussion program of the Humanities Council of South Carolina, which is led by humanities scholars and uses notable books to help medical professionals better understand their patients and their own reactions to suffering.
- Political debate in the 1970s over the Equal Rights Amendment culminated in the **International Women’s Year** conferences, which helped shape positions on women’s roles in American society. A book about the period and the conferences is being written by Marjorie Spruill, a professor of history at the University of South Carolina, with the help of a \$50,400 fellowship.



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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.