



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities Ohio

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Ohio received \$16.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ohio Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.*

- Albert Sabin, who developed the oral vaccine against polio, came to widespread fame after immunizing 180,000 schoolchildren in Cincinnati. Recently, scholars at the **University of Cincinnati** received \$314,000 to digitize fifty thousand pages of Sabin's correspondence and accompanying materials.
- The expanding and newly redesigned **Akron Art Museum** is using a \$296,000 stabilization grant to rehouse and preserve the museum's valuable collection of twentieth-century art.
- Two hundred community college teachers examined hidden complexities of society, politics, and literature during the Gilded Age in week-long conferences at the **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center** in Fremont, supported by a \$443,000 grant.
- The **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**, which opened in Cincinnati in 2004 and has received more than 900,000 visitors, has been awarded \$267,000 in challenge grants (which require matching funds) to support its distance learning programs, exhibitions, and educational workshops.
- The Ohio Historical Society has received \$687,000 to digitize and make public two hundred thousand pages of newspapers such as the *Akron Daily Democrat* dating from 1880 to 1922. This work is part of the **National Digital Newspaper Program** which NEH conducts in partnership with the Library of Congress.
- Fifty community college teachers studied in a program entitled **Mounds, Earthworks, and the Pre-History of the Ohio Valley**, examining the prehistoric culture of Native Americans in the area with the help of a \$114,000 grant. The Ancient Ohio Trail is also being explored by tourists with the assistance of downloadable information provided by a \$40,000 grant to the University of Cincinnati.
- In June 1964, young civil rights activists came to the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio (now Miami University), to train for work in the **The Mississippi Summer Project**, which brought together about a thousand out-of-state volunteers and thousands of Mississippi residents to register African-American voters. By the time the ten-week project was over, four civil rights workers had died and many were injured. From 2009 to 2010, Miami University received \$40,000 to plan an exhibition and public education programs about the Ohio effort and its national implications.
- In 2008, an institute run by Ohio University and supported by the Ohio Humanities Council guided teachers as they studied **nineteenth-century African-American history**, beginning with an examination of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe.
- "*Between Fences*," a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institute revealing how chainlink, white-picket, and many other types of boundary markers have defined American property since the nineteenth century, visited eight historical societies and museums with the support of the **Ohio Humanities Council**.
- The **sesquicentennial of the Civil War** is being noted by an entire corps of Civil War presenters supported by the Ohio Humanities Council, which is working with the Ohio Historical Society to highlight the politically divided state's contributions to the war and emancipation.



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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.