



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities Oklahoma

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Oklahoma received \$5.5 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Oklahoma Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.*

- The Oklahoma Historical Society received a \$308,200 grant to support the digitization of 100,000 pages of Oklahoma newspapers such as the *Muskogee Cimeter* and the *Cheyenne Transporter* from 1860 to 1922. This work is part of the **National Digital Newspaper Program**, which NEH conducts in partnership with the Library of Congress.
- Ten years after the **1921 race riot in Tulsa**, which left 39 people dead and 35 city blocks destroyed, the city was still rebuilding. A \$15,000 grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council to the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation helped bring scholars from around the country to discuss this important but neglected event.
- A \$7,000 grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council to the Guymon Community Enrichment Foundation supported "**Drought, Displacement, and Determination: A Dust Bowl Symposium**," a two-day film festival and discussion program commemorating the 75th anniversary of Black Sunday, the worst single day of the Dust Bowl years.
- At the University of Oklahoma, Norman, David Chappell is writing a book about white segregationist organizations in the American South from 1945 to 1965. With the help of a \$40,000 research grant, he is filling out this under-researched story of opposition to the **Civil Rights Movement**.
- The **Greater Southwest Historical Museum in Ardmore** and the **University of Central Oklahoma** in Edmond both received \$6,000 grants to assess disaster preparedness and recovery plans to protect their valuable collections.
- The endangered language and traditional stories of the **Plains Apache** are being documented and digitized at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. The resulting database, dictionary, and other texts are supported by a \$348,800 grant.
- Paul A. Rahe of the University of Tulsa received a \$24,000 fellowship to support work on his book about the **political psychology of republics**, as seen through the writings of Montesquieu in Europe and Tocqueville in the United States.
- During the **golden age of magazines**, James Joyce, Edith Wharton, William Faulkner, and many other major writers debuted before an appreciative reading public. Sixteen college instructors attended an intensive four-week conference at the University of Tulsa, supported by an \$87,000 grant, to reexamine this great literary outpouring.
- In 2010, three thousand Oklahomans participated in **Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma!**, a reading and discussion program sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, which for more than 25 years has brought books and scholars to libraries and reading groups across the state.
- With a \$96,000 grant, fifteen college instructors attended a five-week seminar at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, entitled **The American Indian and Ethnohistory**. Participants examined new scholarship on Native American history from the precontact era through the 1830s.



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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.