



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Tennessee

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Tennessee received \$8.8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Humanities Tennessee for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.

- With two grants totaling more than \$400,000, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, worked on two volumes of a projected 17-volume scholarly edition of the **Papers of Andrew Jackson**. Current scholarship covers Old Hickory's years in the White House beginning in 1829.
- Humanities Tennessee has developed a web-based guide to the Unicoi Turnpike Trail, a section of what has been called the **Native American "Interstate Highway,"** in use for more than a thousand years before Europeans arrived in North America. This and related projects were supported with a \$111,000 grant.
- Two hundred forty schoolteachers have attended one-week workshops on the **Age of Jackson** at the Hermitage, the seventh president's home, studying the Southern economy, Indian relations, and domestic culture from 1800 to 1861. Workshops were run by faculty from Middle Tennessee State and supported by grants totaling more than \$440,000.
- The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, helped by a \$40,000 grant, is digitizing, translating, and annotating a collection of nineteenth-century illustrations and films from the 1930s that document the **Plains Indian Sign Language**.
- The **Hunter Museum of American Art** in Chattanooga specializes in art depicting social themes and daily life. With a \$39,000 grant, it is using digital technology to interpret a series of key paintings in light of their historical and cultural contexts.
- Public libraries in Columbia, Knoxville, and Franklin received \$2,500 grants to stage "**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,**" a temporary traveling exhibition developed by the National Constitutional Center in collaboration with NEH and the American Library Association.
- The American philosopher **John Rawls** died in 2002, most noted for his 1971 book *A Theory of Justice*. David Reidy of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is writing a biography on Rawls with the help of a \$50,000 grant.
- The **Center for Southern Folklore** in Memphis received a \$210,000 Save America's Treasures grant to preserve and archive the Rev. L. O. Taylor Collection of 7,500 photographs, 30,000 feet of film, and 100 vinyl records documenting the music and church life of the African-American community in Memphis from the 1920s to the 1950s.
- One hundred thousand pages of historic newspapers such as the *Knoxville Whig* and the *Memphis Daily Appeal* from 1836 to 1922 are being digitized by the University of Tennessee with the support of a \$325,000 grant. This work is part of the **National Digital Newspaper Program**, which NEH is conducting through a partnership with the Library of Congress.
- With the support of **Humanities Tennessee**, five historical societies and museums throughout the state hosted "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music," a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institute that explores regional and national social history through the development of indigenous music traditions.



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.