ARIZONA

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Arizona received $8.6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Arizona Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage.

Below are some examples.

• About 200,000 pages of historic Arizona newspapers, such as the Safford Rattler and the Tombstone Epitaph, from 1880 to 1922 are being digitized by the Arizona Department of Libraries, Archives, and Public Records with support from $914,800 in grant support. This work is part of Chronicling America, an NEH collaboration with the Library of Congress.

• A grant of $49,000 helped widen public access to the University of Arizona Poetry Center’s collection of recorded readings from the 1960s to the present. The center uses a web-based application to make the recordings available. They include readings by authors including Pulitzer Prize-winners Archibald MacLeish and Robert Penn Warren.

• Northern Arizona University implemented “Footprints of Ancestors: Intergenerational Learning of Hopi History and Culture” with the assistance of a $241,000 grant. Hopi youth learned about the cultures and history of the Four Corners region from tribal elders, cultural specialists, and scholars at historic and prehistoric sites.

• Schools represented by 125 teachers and librarians from across Arizona are benefiting from a $16,000 grant to the Phoenix Art Museum that enabled it to present a seminar to improve instruction in American history, civics, government, literature, and culture. The collections of the Phoenix Art Museum and the nearby Heard Museum received special emphasis.

• The Arizona Humanities Council, in collaboration with the state office of tourism, has developed the Arizona Heritage Traveler website, a guide to cultural and historical destinations with essays and recommended readings.

• The Arizona Humanities Council made a $10,000 grant to the Tucson Historic Preservation Society to support reinstallation of historic neon signs in downtown Tucson. The foundation recently published a booklet called The Neon Pueblo: A Guide to Tucson’s Midcentury Vintage Advertising.

• A grant of $75,000 is helping the University of Arizona and the Hopi Tribe of Arizona collaborate on “Moquis and Kastilam: The Hopi History Project.” The primary product of this collaboration will be a scholarly history of Hopi-Spanish relations from 1540 to 1821. Sources include Hopi oral traditions, interviews with Hopi elders, and colonial Spanish documents.

• The Museum of Northern Arizona collects and interprets the natural and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau and receives 80,000 visitors a year. With a $140,000 grant, it purchased shelving to protect 3,500 linear feet of anthropological archives.
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 some examples.

PRESEVING 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 bring history alive. Twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns’s 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 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.