

## **We the People Project Grants for State Humanities Councils Project Summaries of Grants Awarded in FY2004**

### **ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION**

#### ***We the People of Alabama***

The Alabama Humanities Foundation's *We the People* programs will commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement, the Harlem Renaissance, and Alabama agricultural traditions. In combination, these three areas of focus represent a diverse set of lenses through which to view Alabama's state history and the trajectory of its African-American population in particular.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation's exploration of historical, regional, and social traditions includes:

- A re-grant initiative directed toward projects on the Civil Rights Movement, civic responsibility, or Alabamians who have made significant contributions in national history;
- A weeklong teacher institute to celebrate the writers, musicians, and artists of the Harlem Renaissance;
- A "Key Ingredients" Smithsonian exhibition on American food ways; and
- Local exhibits on the connections between Alabama and American foods, including an examination of Alabama agricultural history and economy, rural traditions, and changes in agribusiness.

### **ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM**

#### ***Alaska's March to Statehood: The Crafting of a Constitution***

In 2009, Alaska will celebrate 50 years of statehood. In preparation for this occasion, over the next five years, the Alaska Humanities Forum will re-educate Alaskans on "Alaska's March to Statehood"—the story of how a vast, trackless territory with a diverse and determined population joined the United States. The education and outreach efforts of the Forum begin in 2004 with an exploration of the Alaska Constitution, a rich example of the modern creation of government and arguably the nation's culminating state governance document. While the drafting of the U.S. Constitution may seem part of the distant past, Alaska's experience in designing its own founding document remains fresh in many minds. Young Alaskans can still talk with members of the State's Constitutional Convention of 1955 and 1956, the event setting the groundwork for statehood in 1959. Alaska's story not only reveals self-determination in action, but sheds light on America's larger story, as well.

Fifty years after that historic moment, "Alaska's March to Statehood" will engage the state's living "Heroes of History" in an active dialogue with students and the general public, building bridges from the state's vibrant past to its boundless and youthful future. The Forum's proposed projects for the *We the People* initiative include:

- A teacher's institute and history curriculum unit on Alaska's Constitution, including a special focus on oral history and primary sources;
- A CD-ROM and printed teacher guide's to distribute curriculum materials statewide;
- A public lecture series by the state's living "Heroes of History" on the drafting of the Constitution, the shaping of the new state, and their visions of Alaska's future;
- Thematic radio broadcasts across the Alaska Public Radio Network, covering 90% of the state; and
- A re-grant program based on *We the People* themes.

### **AMERIKA SAMOA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***History of American Samoa: 1900 – 1977***

In 1900, the United States and the forefathers of American Samoa signed the Deed of Cession that made the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a U.S. territories. American Samoans subsequently experienced three different types of government leadership in the 20th century while attempting to form a democratic relationship with the U.S. The Amerika Samoa Humanities Council is interested in documenting the historical issues and events that shaped, changed, and sustained this relationship over the past 100 years. The goal of this primarily research-driven project is to explore the principles that define indigenous identity as both American and Samoan.

The Amerika Samoa Humanities Council will use *We the People* funding to support local projects that include:

- Collection of historical documents, records, and artifacts from the Federal Archives in San Bruno, California; the National Archives in Washington D.C.; the Navy Archives in Maryland; the University of Hawaii; and the Nelson Library in Western Samoa;

- Compilation of documents into a high school textbook entitled “The History of American Samoa: 1900-1977” for use by high school students; and
- A teacher institute covering the material in the textbook.

## **ARIZONA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People in Arizona***

The Arizona Humanities Council will incorporate the *We the People* initiative into its general grant and speakers’ bureau activities in order to reach the broadest audience statewide. By expanding these two programs, the Council will be able to explore significant events and themes in American history and advance knowledge of the principles that define America. In July 2004 and November 2004, the Council will solicit grant proposals through e-mail announcements, newsletters, and the web that incorporate the themes and ideas of the *We the People* initiative. From the spring of 2004 to 2005, the Council will also recruit and promote speakers whose presentations achieve the same goals, focusing in particular on the U.S. Constitution and immigration issues. The launch of these programs in libraries, community centers, museums, and schools will reach small and rural communities across the state to bring insights and information about the American political and social system to a broad public audience.

Among many other uniquely American themes, events, and issues, the Council’s grant program and speakers’ bureau will especially touch upon:

- Equality under the law, the Civil Rights Movement at its local and national levels, and the racial and ethnic diversity that defines America;
- Changes in American religious diversity over the last 35 years and the implications for American social, political, and cultural life;
- The American West and its role in the nation historically and today, including presentations that focus on the history and culture of Native American tribes in the Southwest; and
- Additional topics consistent with the *We the People* initiative.

## **ARKANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People Programs in Arkansas***

The Arkansas Humanities Council will allocate *We the People* funds to three council projects that are consistent with the purposes of the initiative. These include strengthening and supporting humanities teaching in Arkansas K-12 classrooms; supporting statewide efforts to document and interpret Arkansas history and heritage; and supporting and assisting strongly-motivated non-scholarly community-based organizations endeavoring to document and interpret aspects of the history and heritage of their locales. The Council will focus especially on collaborations between Arkansas historians and classroom teachers, student projects and competitions, support and development of Arkansas studies, and African-American local history.

For the *We the People* initiative, the Council’s proposed projects include:

- History Day in Arkansas, organized by the University of Central Arkansas to give students the opportunity to develop history projects including films, exhibits, and research papers;
- Web access for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, an invaluable resource, for hundreds of thousands of Arkansans developed by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies; and
- Documentation, preservation, and interpretation of neglected or forgotten African-American cemeteries in conjunction with the Arkansas Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical, increasing access to the records of active or defunct African American funeral homes and helping local groups document and protect local cemetery sites.

## **CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***Becoming Californians/Becoming Americans***

One of America’s great promises is that every American has an equal voice in and equal opportunity to shape American civic life, an ideal challenged especially by a historic intolerance of “the newcomer.” Yet all Americans, excepting only Native Americans, trace their ancestry to another land and the stories of immigrants in America are a key part of our family and national heritage. “Becoming Californians/Becoming Americans,” a two-year project developed by the California Council for the Humanities, will engage Californians in an exploration of the many diverse stories of fellow Californians, including the dynamic between immigrants and

established residents and the contributions of centuries of diverse immigrant populations toward the development of America's civic and cultural life. In the United States, where immigration drives population growth and cultures continue to collide and commingle, it is essential for natives and newcomers to appreciate each other's commonalities, differences, and unique contributions. We believe this project is ideally suited to California, which has more immigrants and a greater proportion of immigrants than any other state in the nation.

In conjunction with the *We the People* initiative, the goal of the Council is to help inform contemporary Californians about this important aspect of the American experience, perhaps providing a model for other state and national programs seeking to create understanding among diverse populations. Engaging people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, core activities to take place in April 2005 include:

- Reading and discussion programs in 150 libraries;
- A new anthology of stories that explore the relations between natives and newcomers, the tension between cultural continuity and change, and the different ways in which immigrants succeed or fail to become members of a California community;
- Writers-in-Conversation events centered on the basic themes of becoming Californian, to be complemented by a companion anthology and corresponding curricula materials for students and families; and
- Related projects conducted by partners to garner a wider audience, such as an online toolbox including a reading and discussion guide, curricula materials, a resource list, and a comprehensive event calendar to allow people to connect with activities in their communities.

## **COLORADO ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***We the People: A Colorado Initiative***

In 2003, the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities completed a review of its programs, creating the framework of a five-year strategic plan to reprioritize and incorporate the *We the People* initiative into its agenda. Specifically, the Endowment would like to provide more opportunities for children to research topics in American history, meet the content needs of K-12 teachers, and increase the emphasis on civics education and American history across all of its programs. While focusing on popular and previously successful programs, the Endowment will also reach out to youth through a new chautauqua program and a teacher institute to explore the cultural and political history of the Great Depression and World War II.

The projects proposed by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities include:

- Two chautauqua programs entitled "America Challenged: Bread Lines and Battle Lines," one of which will specifically engage youth in scholarship, research, and first-person presentations;
- The Chautauqua Speakers' Bureau led by scholars who will present interpretations of historic figures;
- Increased programs in libraries that receive *We the People* Bookshelf grants;
- A teacher institute to provide instructors with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the 1930s and 1940s in American history; and
- A re-grant program focused on historical and current themes in American history that advance the knowledge of the principles that define the U.S., with special attention given to proposals from and about Colorado's diverse ethnic, cultural, and other groups.

## **CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

Education has been at the heart of the Connecticut Humanities Council for 25 years, but humanities teaching in Connecticut classrooms has fallen victim to severe state appropriation cuts in recent years. The Council thus seeks to incorporate a *We the People* request for proposals in "Humanities in the Schools (HITS)," its recently reinstated granting program supporting content-based summer institutes, seminars, and other professional development opportunities for Connecticut K-12 teachers. Though HITS is not a new initiative, it represents a resurrection of a two decade long commitment to the strengthening of professional development programs that will address major themes in American history. The institutional audience to be served in this project is formed of Connecticut's universities, museums, major historical societies and institutions across the state whose collections and programming are organized around significant national themes.

The beneficiaries of the HITS project—state social studies and language arts teachers and Connecticut students—will gain from:

- A series of weeklong summer institutes and seminars touching on *We the People* topics under the HITS banner in 2004-2005; and
- An overarching re-grant program with the goal of engaging teachers in the study and discussion of defining themes, institutions, and personalities of the American past.

#### **DELAWARE HUMANITIES FORUM**

##### ***The Importance and Power of Protest***

For the *We the People* initiative, the Delaware Humanities Forum will re-establish its Scholars in Residence Program to examine the concepts of disagreement and protest in all its socially acceptable forms: letters, songs, banners, marches, sit-ins, and rallies. The Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence will be the foundation for a variety of programs that focus on the role and importance of social action in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The student populations in Delaware public and charter schools are very diverse; thus, focusing on protest meets a need currently unaddressed in the traditional school curriculum. It is the aspiration of the Forum that classroom interaction between scholars and students will encourage students not only in their understanding of the documents, but in career choices, scholarly research, and recreational lifelong interest in the humanities and the events that shape a nation's cultural identity.

For 2004, the Delaware Humanities Forum will:

- Convene three teams of scholars with high school students to discuss the documents and events that challenged the nation and the segments of its residents that expressed their citizenship or lack thereof through forms of protest; and
- Develop materials that correspond to the focus of the initiative.

#### **HUMANITIES COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON, DC**

##### ***Freedom, Rights and Responsibilities: Examining and Embracing their Role in Citizenship***

Within the first five years of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, recently freed African Americans instituted annual celebrations to commemorate the day. These celebrations have been revived in the District of Columbia by a small number of citizens over the past decade. In 2004, the Humanities Council of Washington, DC will present programs that examine freedom and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship using the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Emancipation Proclamation as the focus for activities. The Council will work to attract a diverse audience, bringing people together to discuss, debate, and deepen their understanding of their present status in America. Who were "the people" in 1776, and who are "the people" today?

Under the *We the People* initiative, the Humanities Council of Washington, DC proposes the following activities to engage citizens in the deeper meanings of freedom and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship:

- A community festival and celebration commemorating the freeing of DC slaves, including ceremonial readings of the Bill of Rights and the Emancipation Proclamation, a chautauqua featuring historical impersonations and reenactments, tents for lectures and discussions, a book fair, and performances by poets and musicians;
- "Soul of the City," an urban leadership development seminar for high school students, to explore citizenship in historical, community, and personal contexts; and
- Interviews on the "Humanities Profiled" television series to explore *We the People* themes.

#### **FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

##### ***Harlem Renaissance in Florida***

In the period between World War I and the Great Depression, a group of African Americans came together in Harlem and unleashed a creative whirlwind that changed the cultural and social landscape of America. The works of these artists, writers and musicians—including Floridians Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, and Augusta Savage—represent one of the most fertile cultural movements in America. Their literary, musical, and artistic achievements were seen as a rebirth of African-American culture in the U.S. Through seminars, programs and publications, the Florida Humanities Council will explore the historical significance and cultural contributions of the writers, artists and musicians of the Harlem Renaissance, providing teachers

and the general public with the opportunity to examine and analyze the movement's multidisciplinary work, its historical context and significance, and its impact on local and national culture.

Speaking to a critical need to provide Florida teachers with classroom content and resources that embrace cultural diversity and African-American studies in particular, the Council will use *We the People* funding to support:

- Two types of discussion groups on the Harlem Renaissance: one large seminar and five condensed workshops that provide the scholarship, bibliographies and written materials to help teachers build multidisciplinary curricula on this movement;
- Public performances of a Harlem Renaissance chautauqua featuring scholar-actors who come together on stage as celebrated African-American writers whose lives and work tackle questions of art, identity, and cultural expression; and
- An issue of "Forum Magazine" devoted to Florida's role in the Harlem Renaissance, including an annotated bibliography and a reading list.

### **GEORGIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***We the People in Georgia***

Through funds from the *We the People* initiative, the Georgia Humanities Council will offer a weeklong teacher institute entitled "Using the Jimmy Carter Landmarks to Teach About Change in America from 1932-1986" during the summer of 2004. In light of the revisions proposed by the Georgia Department of Education regarding the state's history curriculum, this workshop will be one way that the Council can help a group of teachers prepare to teach the new curriculum in a more in-depth and effective manner, exposing them to resources and primary sources which can bring history alive in their classrooms. The Carter workshop also examines this period in light of the changes and continuities in American ideals that are part of the greater span of American history. Key themes include race relations, the impact of technology on rural life, women's roles, and the connection between local history and national and world events such as the Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. Additionally, the Council will call for re-grant proposals to support activities in communities around Georgia, bringing together citizens in order to explore significant events and themes in America's history and culture.

Specifically, the Council proposes projects which include:

- A weeklong teacher institute for 30 teachers to be conducted in partnership with the National Park Service, engaging teachers in hands-on examinations of primary sources—sites, memoirs, government documents, artifacts, photographs, and oral histories; and
- A re-grant program primarily to focus on local activities in a range of formats—book discussions, traveling exhibits, community history efforts, or symposia.

### **GUAM HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***Families Under Siege: Stories of Family Life in Japanese Occupied Guam***

July of 2004 marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Guam from Japanese occupying forces. Our project entitled "Families Under Siege: Stories of Family Life in Japanese Occupied Guam" documents the stories of dignity, perseverance, and survival from the perspective of local families. The Council's goal is to locate as many survivors as possible and record their experience of resistance—stories which largely remain untold. This process is of an urgent nature; without their narratives, a vital part of our understanding of who we are and what we were willing to sacrifice for freedom will be gone. Seldom is the story told of the quiet heroism of the local families, many of whom risked severe beatings and/or execution if they were suspected of supporting the U.S. These stories need to be told; they need to be heard and they need to be preserved for future generations.

To place the sacrifices made and the lives lost in proper historical perspective, the Council proposes to use *We the People* funding to:

- Locate survivors and conduct extensive oral interviews, dramatizing the more compelling stories as on-stage vignettes for students, senior groups, and veterans groups;
- Research, reproduce, and display archived World War II Guam photographs;
- Schedule a radio broadcast for Liberation Day; and

- Synthesize all gathered information—including interviews, photos, videos, and scripts—into a traveling exhibit to be loaned out by the Council’s Resource Center.

## **HAWAII COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***We the People: Teacher Workshops on American Literature, Biography, Art and Popular Culture***

In 2004, the Hawaii Council for the Humanities will partner with at least four educational and cultural organizations to conduct four teacher workshops aimed at elementary school teachers and teachers in language arts, literature, and art classes. Each workshop will explore aspects of American heritage using primary sources in history, literature, art, or popular culture, including the biographical record and writings of key figures and heroes in American history. Teachers will work with these historical documents to integrate them into lesson plans and classroom discussions, aiming to develop and encourage humanities thinking skills in their students.

Workshop topics and partners for the *We the People* initiative conducted by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities include:

- “Sources of American Heritage in Literature and Biography” for language arts teachers, supported by the Center for Biographical Research and Honolulu Theatre for Youth;
- “The American Founding Period” for elementary school teachers, supported by Chaminade University and Mission Houses Museum;
- “America as Art and Popular Culture,” supported by the Hawai‘i Pacific University and the Honolulu Academy of Arts; and
- “Images of Race: The Civil War in American Memory,” supported by the Judiciary History Center and UH Law School.

## **IDAHO HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Discussions in Democracy: Idaho “We the People” Programs for Teachers and the General Public***

The Idaho Humanities Council proposes a series of programs designed to explore American history and culture while taking advantage of the Council’s unique resources and incorporating topics of recent interest to the American public. Specifically, a portion of the Council’s *We the People* project will focus on exploring the story of the Lewis and Clark era and the Jefferson presidency through Jefferson’s views on slavery, his philosophies and desires for westward expansion, and his use of executive powers. The Council will also make use of its established speakers’ bureau and its reading and discussion program “Let’s Talk About It” in preparing projects for statewide implementation.

In 2004, The Idaho Humanities Council project will have five components:

- Public presentations by members of the Council’s speakers bureau, to be given statewide with the purpose of encouraging a public exchange of ideas and inspiring further independent study;
- “The Unfulfilled Revolution: The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson,” a summer teacher institute to combine document study with guest lectures which engage teachers in an exploration of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Thomas Jefferson;
- “Let’s Talk About It,” a reading program on the subject of “Lewis and Clark and the American Character” to be held in fifteen libraries across the state. Topics will focus on works by and about Lewis and Clark, as well as themes intrinsic to Idaho history;
- A series of 10-minute *We the People* public radio features broadcast through southern Idaho to explore American history; and
- A request for proposals to investigate significant themes in American history.

## **ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People in Illinois***

The *We the People* initiative in Illinois comprises a variety of humanities activities that encourage greater public understanding of and appreciation for American history and culture. These activities are broad and diverse, and include the “Heartland Chautauqua,” the “Road Scholars” speakers’ bureau, and the smaller, ongoing projects based on *We the People* themes. In 2004, the Illinois Humanities Council seeks to expand and develop these preexisting projects, infusing them with a deeper relevance and more expansive reach.

This year's funding will support:

- "Heartland Chautauqua," a revival of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century lifelong learning movement where many Americans expanded their intellectual horizons by listening to famous politicians and orators. The theme for this year will be "Changed Lives: Lewis and Clark Meet the West;"
- "Road Scholars," a speakers' bureau which gives non-profit organizations the opportunity to offer high quality, free humanities programs to local audiences for a small handling fee. Speakers presenting on American history and culture include Illinois' finest writers, poets, historians, anthropologists, and scholar-actors; and
- A re-grant program to develop and present humanities programs in Illinois communities.

## **INDIANA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People Leadership and Education Programs***

Under the *We the People* initiative, the Indiana Humanities Council will devote funding to the development of community resources for American history and culture. The Council plans to ground its efforts in informing the vital constituents of Indiana communities—business, government, education and nonprofit leaders—about America's founding leaders and their ideals. Additionally, the Council will explore the practical ramifications of such information for the economic, legal, academic and social trends which citizens experience today.

The efforts of the Indiana Humanities Council are twofold:

- A public forum in the 2004 Indiana Leadership Summit, entitled "We the People: Founders and Founding Ideals of Indiana and the Northwest Territories." This event will include a dinner, cultural presentation appropriate to the theme, and a lecture/presentation enabling community leaders to learn more about American history and culture; and
- An educational workshop for teachers and university scholars to develop historical resources related to the founding and growth of the county. Teachers and university scholars will convene to create electronic toolkits for the Indiana Humanities Council "Smart Desktop Resource Module," a program that provides access to a well-structured clearinghouse of resources and programs offered by content providers in the state and national humanities network and other knowledge networks.

## **HUMANITIES IOWA**

### ***Iowa Between the World Wars, 1918-1940***

Humanities Iowa intends to use *We the People* funding to conduct an in-depth exploration of the history of Iowa during the period between the World Wars, specifically the years 1918 to 1940. Humanities Iowa hopes that, by focusing on a more limited subject, it will be able to elicit projects which propose a deeper, more detailed investigation of the circumstances and people that contributed to the growth and development of the U.S. during this time. The inter-war era provides a wealth of potential subjects and personalities for humanities programming, and Humanities Iowa intends to address these issues in a number of ways.

Some of the topics Humanities Iowa programs and re-grants will explore include:

- The early years of the inter-war era, through programs that relate the impact of the prohibition act on Iowa industry and citizens;
- The agricultural pioneers and the products and methods developed during this era; and
- The impact of the WPA projects on Iowa, such as the Corps of Engineers Museum and the new Mississippi River Museum's exhibits on the alteration of America's premier waterway and its effects on Iowa's river culture.

## **KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Better Together: An Ethnic Heritage Initiative***

Throughout its 150-year history, Kansas has been a destination for people who value hard work, religious freedom, and land ownership. In consideration of the state's changing demographics across time, the Kansas Humanities Council will support local museums to examine their community's ethnic history through a re-grant program entitled "Better Together: An Ethnic Heritage Initiative." *We the People* funding will help to increase understanding of new populations and their culture, improve the integration of new immigrants into Kansas traditions, and examine new experiences through the lens of past stories. As a result, Kansans will share in the

lessons of the state's history, the diversity of its culture, and the decisions that will shape the state's future. "Better Together" is designed to strengthen communities by uncovering a more complete and inclusive history of Kansas.

The Kansas Humanities Council will focus on the history and culture of four immigrant communities in particular:

- African-American immigrants, to whom Kansas represented freedom after the Civil War;
- Mennonites fleeing Russia in opposition to mandatory military service, who subsequently took up farming in the state;
- Mexican workers hired by the railroad, sugar beet, and salt mine industries who sought economic freedom in Kansas; and
- Southeast Asians to whom Kansas offered the opportunity to escape political persecution.

## **KENTUCKY HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Prime Time Family Reading and Chautauqua Development***

Over 996,000 adults in Kentucky cannot read at the eighth grade level and there is a growing population of at-risk children especially among underserved minority populations. As part of the *We the People* initiative, the Kentucky Humanities Council will extend the reach of "Prime Time," a 6-week reading and discussion program held in public libraries to target at-risk youth and their parents. Humanities scholars and storytellers will lead discussions of themes drawn from award-winning children's books, focusing on those central to American values, democratic ideas, citizenship, and character development. For homes that have little or no access to books, the Council will work in local communities to support reading and discussion as keys to becoming a participant citizen.

The Kentucky Humanities Council will achieve these goals through activities that include:

- Increased support for multicultural texts in libraries and homes that mirror the themes of the *We the People* Bookshelf; and
- A touring chautauqua program focusing on individuals—half of whom are unknown heroes who have contributed to Kentucky history and heritage.

## **LOUISIANA ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***Becoming American: Louisiana after the Purchase***

Louisiana's ties to American history are as deeply provocative and enduring as its ties to its French history—a heritage which manifests itself today through geographic nomenclature, the Napoleonic code, and the general "joie de vie" which shapes the spirit of Louisiana communities. Yet Louisianans have always taken pride in their patriotism and their willingness to sacrifice for America. For the past 33 years, the Endowment has successfully promoted the public's understanding and appreciation of the humanities by supporting grassroots programs as well as projects and events organized by universities, libraries, museums and other local nonprofit organizations. This year, in accordance with *We the People* themes and the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, the Endowment would like to encourage Louisiana residents to explore the impact of statehood on both past and present contributions to American history and culture.

The Endowment intends to accomplish this goal through the implementation of several projects:

- A request for proposals focusing on the theme of "Becoming American: Louisiana after the Purchase." Scholars, teachers, curators, and librarians are invited to develop programs and projects that explore, from a local context, significant themes in American history and culture;
- A variety of public programs, including reading and film discussion programs, lectures, conferences and symposia, documentary films, publications, teacher institutes and workshops, and temporary exhibitions. These projects will engage students, scholars and the general public in the exploration of American history; and
- The expansion of special initiatives such as "Readings in Literature and Culture" and the quarterly publication, "Louisiana Cultural Vistas."

## **MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People in Maine***

Themes and events from American history have always been an important focus in the Maine Humanities Council's work, both through programs and re-grants. As a component of the *We the People* grant, the Council proposes to extend and expand its programming capacity across several areas and explicitly deepen its focus on themes in American history and culture. These programs are designed to appeal to a diverse and statewide audience, and will include both new and established programs.

The Maine Humanities Council will contribute more fully to the effort to help the citizens of Maine understand their country's history and heritage and fully appreciate the significance of contemporary challenges through direct programming and re-grants:

- "Let's Talk About It," a reading and discussion program on topics that include World War I and II, the Vietnam War, Westward Expansion, and the Civil Rights movement. These newer programs will complement existing series such as "The American Revolutionary Generation; "Being Ethnic, Becoming American;" and "The Civil War;"
- "New Books, New Readers," a series of programs which use high quality children's books as a springboard for adult-level, scholar-led discussion for new adult readers. The programs will focus on the Colonial period, the American Revolution, and the American West;
- "Teachers for a New Century," professional development programs for teachers on "Longfellow and the Forging of American Identity" and "American Lives: Teaching History Through Biography"; and
- Re-grant resource expansion, which will enable the Council to develop a distinct grant program to stimulate and encourage groups around the state to develop their own programs, activities, and events around significant themes in American history and culture.

### **MARYLAND HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***We the People of Maryland***

The Maryland Humanities Council requests *We the People* funds to support ongoing programs and new initiatives designed to engage the citizens of Maryland in an exploration of American history and culture while reinvigorating interest in civic issues through a study of the humanities. The Council intends to build upon previously established programming and introduce new initiatives to expand upon these goals and communicate with a broader statewide audience.

The Maryland Humanities Council project has three components:

- "Humanities LIVE! In Maryland," an ongoing initiative to explore significant themes in American history, culture, and civic affairs through support for the Maryland Speakers' Bureau, Chautauqua, and Maryland History Day. The theme of this year's Chautauqua will be "The American Environment: Voices and Choices," featuring Henry David Thoreau, Teddy Roosevelt, and Rachel Carson;
- Re-design and enhancement of the Council's website, to engage the public with information and programs relating to American history and culture including related articles in its magazine, "Maryland Humanities," a bibliography of Maryland history and culture and streaming audio and/or video of select speakers bureau and Chautauqua presentations.
- "Civic Health," a new programming direction intended to explore the connections between civic engagement and public health. This program will use the humanities to speak to fundamental questions of ethical choices, civil law, environmental quality, health literacy, trade regulation, jurisprudence, the healthcare professions, national security, biotech advances, medical practice, religious customs, and demographic disparities.

### **MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES**

#### ***Massachusetts Moments: A Radio Almanac***

American students and adults too often have a weak grasp of the significant events and issues that have shaped American history. Under the *We the People* initiative, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities will produce "Mass Moments," a collection of 365 stories from Massachusetts history for daily broadcast on radio stations across the state. The audio almanac will include stories from the world of politics, government, education, the arts, technology, sports, and popular entertainment, and will represent all parts of the state. Heard occasionally or every day, "Mass Moments" will stimulate the historical imagination of listeners and

remind them of what children already know: that history is exciting when it tells stories about real people and places.

Researching and writing the radio program to attract a wide range of listeners, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities will support:

- 365 one-minute spots, to be broadcast on at least 15 stations;
- A “Mass Moments” website to provide greater depth through scripts, primary source documents, images, maps, timelines, links, and an audio archive; and
- Other “Mass Moments” content to be distributed to librarians, teachers, homeschoolers, users of websites related to Massachusetts state government, history and tourism, subscribers to “Mass Humanities,” and members of the general public interested in history.

## **MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Bridging Communities***

The state of Michigan serves as a microcosm of the contending forces that have structured the American experience. This paradoxical experience comprises the tensions between local loyalties and a larger national identity. Demographically, Michigan is populated by distinct ethnic groups—African American, Chaldean, Arab, Polish, Finnish, German, and others—thus, the study of the structures which bind various ethnicities, states, religions and geographies into a broader sense of belonging are particularly salient within Michigan communities. The ongoing stories of how Michigan’s various citizenry have negotiated their local loyalties and their allegiance to larger social structures parallel that most fundamental struggle which makes the American people unique. In order to sharpen the consciousness of Americans’ search for common ground, the Michigan Humanities Council will seek proposals that recognize Michigan’s “inclusive identity” (i.e., that it faces diversity in its relationships) while preserving the two-way exchange between “local” and “larger” perspectives. In this way, the Council hopes to encourage efforts to exemplify the processes that have operated, on a larger scale, to shape the American people as a whole.

The primary component of the *We the People* Michigan Humanities Council’s programming is:

- A detailed request for proposals, explicated in such terms as urban vs. rural; local vs. state; state vs. federal; ethnicity and regionalism; identity; conflict; federalism; and nationalism. The RFP will be open and competitive, and encourage collaboration between academic organizations, community groups, and other institutions.

## **MINNESOTA HUMANITIES COMMISSION**

### ***We the People: American Mosaic***

Minnesota, like other states in our nation, is increasingly experiencing polarization of opinion and diversity of population. The Minnesota Humanities Commission intends to acknowledge and explore this host of issues by framing its 2004 *We the People* project in a theme that will encourage discussions of diversity and elicit a deeper appreciation of the increasing variety of American ideas and ideals. The new theme, entitled “We the People: American Mosaic,” will invite applicants to explore facets of the American experience through sound humanities scholarship and research, and will appeal to a diverse strata of applicants including new and seldom served applicant organizations. In order to do justice to the range and depth of this year’s theme, the Commission’s initiative will actively promote proposals that “advance knowledge of the principles that define America,” and encourage illustrations of, and insight into, the theme “We the People.”

The Commission’s 2004 project is a request for proposals which will encompass several factors:

- A vigorous publicity and promotion campaign utilizing internet technology and direct mailing to organizations that serve diverse populations;
- Implementation of logistics to conduct a small grant program, which will fund a larger number of grants and ensure that the initiative involves a broader and more varied pool of organizations and people; and
- Induction of a new, online grant application process that will allow the Commission to more effectively track the scope, content, and audience numbers of proposed projects.

## **MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***The People of Mississippi: We are America***

As the United States settles into a new century and new millennium, shaken by violent current events and circumstances at home and abroad, facing a critical election, and seemingly divided on even the most basic values and principles, thoughtful citizens must take a fresh look at our country, its history, its aspirations, and its goals for the future. Few organizations are better prepared and positioned to lead such significant and serious public discussions of American identity and direction than state humanities councils. To this end, the Mississippi Humanities Council proposes a three-part project entitled "The People of Mississippi: We Are America."

This project makes use of a *We the People* grant and Council resources to develop and extend a variety of programs:

- The speakers' bureau program, which will present history-based lectures appropriate for the *We the People* initiative. Topics will include "The River: An Icon for the History and Culture of the Delta," "Mr. Jefferson's 'blue-light special': Mississippi and the Louisiana Purchase," and "Good Will in Action: Jews on the World War II Home Front." In addition, the bureau will facilitate public discussions of civic virtue and individual responsibility;
- The ongoing oral history program, which will provide the Council with more than 600 collected interviews for use in an upcoming conference for teachers, local museums and historical societies, and others on the advantages of oral history resources in classrooms, exhibits, and a variety of public programs. This portion of the project also involves enhancing, developing, and expanding oral history resources;
- "Mississippi Timeline," a proposed website for teachers, students, and citizens interested in Mississippi.

### **MISSOURI HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***We the People in Missouri: Exchanging Ideas to Rediscover our History***

The Missouri Humanities Council proposes to explore a variety of themes in its 2004 *We the People* programming. Among these themes are the investigation of cultural assimilation and understanding through the study of American Indian Tribes from an inclusive rather than an exclusive perspective; consideration of the role of food customs in American tradition through the study of America's natural agricultural resources; and the contemporary challenges which face Missouri educational institutions and professional development.

The Missouri Humanities Council will respond to the *We the People* initiative in the following ways:

- The implementation of a project entitled, "Tribal Histories: Non-Tribal Museums," a demonstration endeavor which will create partnerships between tribal representatives and local or county museums in an effort to remediate interpretive failings caused by a lack of communication between Native American descendants and museum curators. This partnership will result most immediately in the production of three low-cost exhibits that reinterpret the presence of tribal societies in Missouri 200 years ago;
- "America, the Bountiful" 2004 Chautauqua program. This theme broadly expresses the history of food production in Missouri and the important people and events which helped cultivate our sense of national bounty; and
- An assessment of Missouri's "Teaching American History" Projects to help the sponsors of these projects compare methods and results, with the goal of surmising long-standing challenges associated with teaching history.

### **MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES**

#### ***We the People in Montana***

Many Montana Committee for the Humanities programs and projects deal directly or indirectly with American history and culture. All of these programs engender civic association and discourse among the citizens of Montana. Accordingly, the Montana Committee for the Humanities proposes to use 2004 *We the People* funds to support projects in American history and culture through several of its previously established programs, such as its "One Book Montana" reading and discussion program, the "Montana Festival for the Book," its speakers' bureau, and its re-grant program. Additionally, the Montana Committee for the Humanities seeks to support a special statewide conference on varieties of Montana heroism.

The Committee's projects fall under six categories:

- A speakers' bureau, which will present throughout the state on various topics and devote special attention to the 2004 and 2005 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial program;
- The "Lewis and Clark" reading and discussion programs, which will receive expansion in program funds and book purchases;
- The "Montana Festival of the Book," an annual two-day gathering in Missoula. Money devoted to the Festival of the Book funds the presentation of recent work by humanities scholars and writers of fiction and poetry, as well as classics of Montana and regional literature;
- The "One Book Montana" program which will feature James Welch's Blackfeet perspective of the Encounter, the novel FOOLS CROW, and will encourage public discussion of a variety of issues of national and regional interest;
- Re-grant projects, which will support studies and presentations related to community historic commemorations and other projects in American history; and
- A special 2005 statewide conference on varieties of Montana heroism. This conference will highlight individuals from Custer to Jeanette Rankin, the crew of the USS Helena, Senator Mike Mansfield, Chief Joseph, and the medical researchers who died in the course of identifying and treating Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

## **NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Chautauqua/Capitol Forum on America's Future***

In 2004, the Nebraska Humanities Council will bring projects in the humanities to Nebraska communities by increasing community and scholarly discourse, inspiring a better understanding of American democratic values in Nebraska high school students, and combating civic apathy. Under the *We the People* initiative, the Council proposes to implement two specific projects related to these themes: "The Capitol Forum on America's Future," co-sponsored with the Nebraska Secretary of State, and "Great Plains Chautauqua."

These two projects will incorporate several activities:

- "The Capitol Forum" provides an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to examine key issues facing the United States while using the perspectives provided through the humanities. A group of selected students and teachers will participate in a dialogue with elected officials at Nebraska's Capitol. The insight they acquire into American democratic values is designed to combat the political apathy of today's youth population; and
- The "Great Plains Chautauqua" enables Nebraskans to interact with scholars in a stimulating and entertaining atmosphere, through a week of featured events and discussion that enlivens the past. This year's topic is "From Sea to Shining Sea: American Expansion and Encounter from 1790 to 1850," and is timed to complement the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Funding dedicated to "Great Plains Chautauqua" will facilitate the expansion of the program to two new cities, Lexington and Sidney.

## **NEVADA HUMANITIES**

### ***Las Vegas History Website***

The City of Las Vegas will celebrate its centennial in 2005, yet there are few resources available to anyone seeking to understand the history and development of this city. Although millions of dollars are spent each year to promote Las Vegas as a unique destination, the history and significance of the city can only be understood through a broader look at the history of the Las Vegas community and the people who built it. The upcoming Las Vegas Centennial celebration and the *We the People* initiative will provide a fortuitous opportunity to separate fact from fiction and use local history as a prism for understanding American history. Nevada Humanities has been interested for several years in developing an online reference work on the state and, as a first step, Las Vegas. The potential audience for an online resource of this kind is enormous, and extends far beyond the borders of the state.

The proposed website will explore and contextualize Las Vegas history in a number of ways, and *We the People* funds will be used to:

- Pay scholars to research and write entries about Las Vegas history, check facts for accuracy, obtain all necessary rights and permissions, and retain experienced copy editors; and
- Solicit contributions from prominent social and political historians, architectural and art historians, cultural geographers, folklorists, and a host of scholars in other fields of the humanities who will provide photos and primary source documents and commentary.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***American Heroes: Creating a More Perfect Union***

The New Hampshire Humanities Council's annual Chautauqua program is a premier summer event and provides the citizens of New Hampshire with a prizewinning program featuring scholar monologues, music by local artists, and various ancillary programs and workshops. The 2004 Chautauqua season will develop the theme "American Heroes: Creating a More Perfect Union," and include presentations by scholars in the roles of six selected American heroes, including Benjamin Franklin, Sacagawea, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Nellie Bly, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The New Hampshire Humanities Council proposes to use *We the People* funding in 2004 to enhance and augment this annual tradition, which provides the people of New Hampshire with a greater understanding of American history and fosters community-building and civic activity.

Components of the 2004 Chautauqua "American Heroes: Creating a More Perfect Union" include:

- An evening tent program with scholar presentations, informative question-and-answer sessions, and musical performances;
- Ancillary programming in the form of adult workshops on the different types of American heroes and how those heroes are remembered or forgotten, and children's workshops on the Underground Railroad and heroes;
- "Young Chautauqua," an educational history program for New Hampshire students ages 12-18, in which students research a character from history, meet to write a script and create a costume, and then give a ten-minute monologue in character. This year's program will enable students to explore the qualities and deeds that "make" a hero as they choose the subject of their own performances; and
- Two one-day Chautauqua teacher workshops, on the theme of "The American Hero" to explore the literary and cultural sources of American heroism.

### **NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

#### ***NJCH Teacher Institute 2004***

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities teacher institute provides K-12 teachers with advanced seminars exploring the issues central to a strong and vital pluralistic democracy using historical perspectives and the expertise of humanities scholars. Participants in the institute receive the opportunity to study the impact of American history, religion and immigration on contemporary culture, and obtain practical guidance for addressing these issues in the classroom. As content-rich, 6-day residential programs, the seminars encourage teachers to address the educational challenges presented by the mix of religion, ideology, and historical perspectives facing Americans today.

In 2004, *We the People* funding will support a teacher institute focused on four themes:

- "Toward a Reconsidered Past: New Scholarship in African American History." This program introduces teachers to the evolving research methodology and interpretive framework that makes African American history so exciting and important, and examines the influence of new scholarship in areas ranging from the African Diaspora to the emergence of modern African thought and culture during the 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- "Citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." This program explores the idea of citizenship in general and American citizenship in particular, from the perspective that a democratic republic such as the United States cannot survive without an engaged citizenry. Participants consider the degree to which citizenship can provide a bond in a multicultural society, and examine concepts of equality, freedom, and the rights and obligations of citizenship;
- "Religious Diversity in America." This seminar presents a historical analysis of the religious contributions to our nation's character and to the richly textured cultural life of the nation today. It examines the interplay of culture, politics, and religion in forming the key elements of the American character; and

- “Literature of Immigration.” This program examines the writing of first- and second-generation Americans, bringing to light the conditions that both bind and divide us as a nation. Participants will work towards understanding themes of memory, translation, assimilation, and generational conflict, and examine contemporary notions of what it means to be an American.

## **NEW MEXICO ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***Bridges and Fences: Events and Themes in American History and Culture***

With the aid of 2004 *We the People* funding, the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities Board proposes an initiative entitled “Bridges and Fences: Events and Themes in American History and Culture that Define America.” This is a unique request for projects to address the historic and metaphoric bridges among the diverse people living in the American Southwest, combined with a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition entitled “Between Fences.” Together, the Endowment and the Smithsonian Museum consider the physical barriers that divide people and the bridges that facilitate the transmission of culture, as well as the historical events that can be seen as metaphorical or iconographical fences and bridges. In addition to this fledgling initiative, the Endowment proposes to devote funds to collaborative efforts with other organizations seeking assistance for project activities that examine specific historic events that have shaped American history, especially in the context of Latino/Hispanic settlement, resettlement of the indigenous population, development of the private press movement, and the Vietnam War.

The New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities will collaborate with the following organizations on their respective projects:

- The Public History Program at the New Mexico State University and El Camino Real International Heritage Center will produce teacher resource packets and create a traveling truck to teach the history of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro;
- The Museum of New Mexico’s Traveling Exhibition Services and Palace of the Governors will develop a traveling exhibit on the history of the private press movement in New Mexico;
- The National Park Service will gather information regarding whether a national historic trail should be designated by Congress to commemorate the hardships experienced by the Mescalero and Navajo people during the Navajo Long Walk; and
- The Vietnam Veterans of America and the New Mexico State Council will fund an exhibition entitled “Another Vietnam,” which features 113 photographs taken by North Vietnamese combat photographers during the war.

## **NEW YORK COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***“We the People” Speakers Bureau and Book Discussion Program***

The New York Council for the Humanities proposes to use 2004 *We the People* funding to expand the American history offerings of its two most outstanding programs: the “Speakers in the Humanities” lecture bureau and “Reading Between the Lines for Adults,” a book discussion program. The Council’s speakers’ program is a popular and cost-effective way to bring humanities topics directly to the general public across the state. “Reading Between the Lines for Adults” is an innovative new program led by graduate students in humanities fields and combines scholarship with the popular format of the book discussion group to engage adult readers in serious, close discussion of humanities topics. It is designed to be held at public libraries, museums, historical societies, and historic sites.

*We the People* funding will support these programs in the following ways:

- 100 statewide “Speakers in the Humanities” lectures on *We the People* themes, including funding speakers’ honoraria and travel expenses and providing host institutions with posters and publicity kits;
- The “Speakers in the Humanities: *We the People* Edition” information and forms which will reside on a new, searchable version of the website, and funds will be devoted to the production of an attractive mailer with sample *We the People* topics directing users to the new website;
- Funding for three “Reading between the Lines” groups specifically providing graduate-student group leaders with modest stipends and an introductory workshop and purchase books for each program.

### **NORTH CAROLINA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

The North Carolina Humanities Council requests *We the People* funding in 2004 to strengthen and expand established programming and add new projects to enhance the study of American history and culture. The recipients of the Council's funding include "Let's Talk About It," a reading and book discussion program designed for libraries which unites scholars and community members in an exploration of how selected books illuminate a particular theme; the "North Carolina Humanities Forum," a speakers' bureau which offers non-profit groups across the state the opportunity to invite leading scholars to speak on a variety of topics which interest and enrich the perspectives of North Carolinians; and the re-grant program, a successful initiative which will provide funding to community programs and projects complementary to the aims and intents of *We the People*.

New projects and new stipulations for prior projects include:

- A statewide conference, "We the People of North Carolina," which will join past and prospective Council-affiliated and associated project directors, scholars, educators, legislators, and community leaders in a two-day conference on the use of public humanities programming as a way of affirming and strengthening the democratic vitality of our communities and encouraging a public participation in civic life;
- Five new "Let's Talk About It" programs, in a topic entitled "The South: Recapturing Our Identity Through History." Readers will explore southern identity through historical narrative and fiction;
- 25 additional speakers for "North Carolina Humanities Forum" programs across the state, on topics applicable to *We the People* themes; and
- Additional funding to re-grant projects which advance the study and presentation of American history and culture.

### **NORTH DAKOTA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

#### ***From Sea to Shining Sea; American Expansion and Cultural Change, 1790-1850***

Since the mid-1970s, the North Dakota Humanities Council has viewed the chautauqua format as an extraordinary program vehicle for bringing the humanities to North Dakotans by encouraging the public to think about the exciting role of the humanities in their lives. "From Sea to Shining Sea: American Expansion and Cultural Change, 1790-1850" is the grand theme of the chautauqua in 2005 and 2006. Coinciding with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, the program tackles complicated issues of American expansion and far-reaching cultural change. The Council would like to place special emphasis on increasing the public's access to chautauqua events in small-town, rural communities where humanities resources are limited.

Under the *We the People* initiative, the North Dakota Humanities Council will use funding to support the following activities for "Sea to Shining Sea":

- A series of five evening programs, in which a scholar presents a first person characterization, followed by a dialogue between the scholar and the citizens; and
- Two workshops presented by each scholar, one for children and one for adults.

### **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

#### ***Exploring the Roots and Responsibilities of Democracy in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands***

The Northern Mariana Islands enjoy the dual distinction of being the most recent addition to the American political family and the only former insular possession provided the opportunity to shape its political status with the U.S. government. As a result of direct bilateral negotiations, a historic covenant was signed into law on March 24, 1976. The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities will reaffirm the importance of this document by administering a re-grant program entitled "Exploring the Roots and Responsibilities of Democracy in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." The primary goals of this program are to introduce the targeted audience to the people and events associated with the creation and democratic institutions of the Commonwealth, foster discussion of current issues arising from the Commonwealth's political association with the United States, encourage active involvement in important civic and community activities, and develop research and critical thinking skills among students.

Using *We the People* funding, the Council will undertake the following activities to administer its re-grant program:

- Develop and distribute program guidelines to qualifying schools, teachers, and organizations;
- Solicit and review proposals from eligible individuals and organizations and award grants to projects like lectures, site visits, interviews, debates, research projects, or the acquisition of learning materials;
- Provide periodic advice and guidance to re-grant recipients and evaluate individual grant projects; and
- Consider the feasibility of preparing a civics book for use in middle and junior high schools.

## **OHIO HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People in Ohio***

In 2004, The Ohio Humanities Council proposes to utilize *We the People* funding to underwrite a portion of the costs for several programs. Each of these programs is closely tied to efforts—some ongoing, some made possible through this new funding source—to promote greater knowledge and understanding of American history among Ohio teachers and the general public.

The *We the People* funds allocated to Ohio in 2004 will be utilized as follows:

- A one-week summer teachers institute entitled “Walt Whitman’s America.” This will be a multi-disciplinary institute focusing on the history and culture of the 1850s, through the writings of Walt Whitman. Participants will analyze the differing meanings of concepts such as freedom and liberty to people of diverse race, gender, class and ethnic origins;
- A five-week “Ohio Chautauqua” tour, on the theme of “The Roaring Twenties,” and featuring such characters as Henry Ford, Zora Neale Hurston, Harry Houdini, Zelda Fitzgerald, and H.L. Mencken;
- The production of brief radio programs to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ohioana Library Association. Featured pieces will draw from the Library’s extensive collections and incorporate, where possible, readings by Ohio authors;
- Programming to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, including presentations from the speakers’ bureau; and
- Support and development of “Gateway to History: A Website to Support K-12 History Instruction in Ohio,” featuring work generated by “Teaching American History” grant recipients.

## **OKLAHOMA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Oklahoma We the People***

Under the *We the People* initiative, the Oklahoma Humanities Council will develop special re-grant projects and expand the resources of existing programs for future use. Specifically, the Council will pursue programs in conjunction with the Great Plains Chautauqua and the *We the People* Lectures. Additionally, the Council will expand two existing programs by adding discussion themes to “Let’s Talk About It” and by digitizing the Traveling Humanities Exhibits Service (TRACKS) for online use.

Highlights of the Council’s 2004 agenda include:

- “The Oklahoma Lecture in the Humanities,” to be presented in 2005 on the history of presidential leadership in times of crisis;
- “From Sea to Shining Sea: American Expansion and Cultural Exchange, 1790-1850,” a Great Plains Chautauqua to provide evening presentations, daytime workshops, and a companion reader with scholarly essays on each character;
- Introduction of African-American topics and the Founding Fathers into the “Let’s Talk About It” reading and discussion program held in libraries across the state;
- Increase in public access to TRACKS through digitization for use on the Council’s website
- A statewide request for proposals for projects that reflect *We the People* themes.

## **OREGON COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***Encounters: The New Worlds of Lewis and Clark/ On Principle***

As the nation celebrates the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the Oregon Council for the Humanities will launch two programs to inspire learning and intellectual development related to the founding and expansion of the United States. Through a teacher's institute, the Council aims to provide Oregon humanities teachers with diverse resources and perspectives for studying the Expedition with their students and stimulating classroom discussions. Following the themes of the *We the People* initiative, the Council will also provide innovative radio segments that illuminate what Oregonians think and feel about the principles that define America.

Described in more detail, the Council's two programs for 2004 include:

- "Encounters: The New Worlds of Lewis and Clark," a teacher institute to analyze the Expedition as a series of encounters with people, land, language, and self, and to include readings, seminar discussions, lectures, and presentations;
- "On Principle," a daily radio broadcast to explore five principles central to democracy and our lives as Americans: equality, economic opportunity, civic engagement, justice, and individual freedom, as distilled from interviews with dozens of Oregonians on these topics. The format will include one to two minute excerpts, designed to encourage listeners to think about our role as citizens and the values that bind us together as a nation; and
- Website development that will make selected broadcasts and interview transcripts available to a wider audience.

## **PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Our Stories, Our Future***

Under the *We the People* initiative, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council will sponsor "Our Stories, Our Future," a statewide program to explore stories from American history that illuminate current concerns, generate a critical understanding of the nation's founding principles, give voice to diverse personal experiences, and provide a forum for individual perspectives. From recent experience with "Hatred, Heroism, Homeland Security," a request for proposals distributed post-September 11, the Council expects this new program to generate stories of struggle that affirm core values and American resilience. Collecting these stories will foster greater understanding of tolerance and the value of diversity—important topics in Pennsylvania.

In 2004, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's "Our Stories, Our Future" initiative will include:

- A public lecture in the state capitol on November 8 by historian and author David McCullough;
- A re-grant program promoted particularly in rural counties in order to explore the contemporary relevance of founding documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and to foster a greater understanding of events like the Civil War; and
- Two new programs in the "Read About It!" book discussion series designed to engage a wide audience, especially readers who might not otherwise have joined a book group.

## **FUNDACIÓN PUERTORRIQUEÑA DE LAS HUMANIDADES**

### ***Reappraise a collection of books related to the incorporation of Puerto Rico as a territory***

Between 1899 and 1903, many books and reports were published in English concerning the Island of Puerto Rico that provided an overview of its social, economic, and political conditions for readers in the United States. Most of the works are not well known among Puerto Ricans, despite their importance in reflecting the initial reaction of Americans to the Island's acquisition after the Spanish-American War. The Fundación Puertorriqueña de la Humanidades will use *We the People* funding to stimulate a reappraisal of this critical period in American history by preserving and publishing facsimile editions of these books and reports. Not only will this collection place the social and political realities of Puerto Ricans in the framework of American history and identity, but it will also provide scholars and the community at large with a resource to understand American attitudes and policies toward Puerto Rico.

As a joint venture with the Puerto Rican Academy of History and the Office of Puerto Rico's Official Historian, the principal activities outlined for the project will be divided into three stages:

- Publishing the facsimile editions, selected on the basis of historical relevance;

- Distributing the collection; and
- Disseminating its content in a series of workshops, conferences, and institutes through re-grant funds targeted at colleges and universities.

## **RHODE ISLAND COUNCILS FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***The Pursuit of Happiness: An Inquiry into Our Nation's Founding Principles***

Codifying the values that would guide our nation for centuries to come, Thomas Jefferson named “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” among the fundamental rights guaranteed to Americans in the Declaration of Independence. In 2004, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will extend its investigation into America’s founding principles and engage scholars and citizens alike in a humanistic inquiry of “the pursuit of happiness.” The Council will develop programs in diverse formats to inspire broad civic engagement in American history through humanistic explorations of these principles and their lasting impact.

The Council will use *We the People* funding to make several programs possible, including:

- “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: What Does Happiness Mean to Us?,” a re-grant initiative to develop programs on inalienable American rights;
- “Action Speaks,” a radio series to contextualize contemporary American issues through less well known events in American 20<sup>th</sup> century history via high quality, impartial, intellectually diverse dialogue available to the general public;
- A poster/essay contest for the Rhode Island public schools;
- A television series to explore “the pursuit of happiness” from historical and public policy perspectives, followed by on-air panel discussions with scholars; and
- Keynote public lectures, speakers’ bureau programs, a summer book club, and a youth poster/essay contest on the “pursuit of happiness.”

## **HUMANITIES COUNCIL SC**

### ***We the People RFP***

The Humanities Council of South Carolina intends to respond to *We the People* guidelines by strengthening public knowledge of national history and collective memory, and exploring concrete demonstrations of how history awareness remains a powerful catalyst for civic and community discourse. In order to accomplish this objective, the Council will draw from its experience in advancing humanities education, scholarship, cultural preservation, and programming as it launches a public outreach campaign designed to attract projects and programs in the fields of education, history, media, museum, library, nonprofit, and arts-related administration. Emphasis will be placed on funding programs which address South Carolina’s history, beginning with pre-colonial native experiences and extending through the Civil Rights era.

These themes will combine in a uniquely tailored request for proposals. Four elements are included in this request:

- “What Does Freedom Mean to Us?,” a program which provides forums for people to discuss diverse expressions of the American character in order to help individuals understand diverse communities and the struggles for freedom many citizens endure;
- “Hidden Pasts,” a program which will encourage honoring, sharing, and preserving endangered or underrepresented historical events or cultural and traditional lifestyles;
- “Heroes of History,” programs which emphasize the importance of leadership and the principles of democratic self-governance through the study of individuals who have embodied leadership qualities that have effectively and positively changed the way Americans live; and
- “The Public Square,” a project designed to engage youth and adults in public life by creating debates or specially developed presentations on contemporary social issues.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Second Annual Festival of Books***

In 2003, the South Dakota Center for the Book, a Council program, held the first annual “Festival of Books.” The event was an enormous success, and over 4,000 people attended. For the second annual Festival, the Council is expecting an attendance of over 10,000 people and plans to move the annual event from east to west river locations in alternating years, in order to allow everyone in the state the opportunity to attend. The

Council requests *We the People* funding for the history-related portion of the Festival of Books, which will headline authors and scholars of American history.

The goals of this program include:

- Promoting an appreciation for the written word and encouraging publication by South Dakota writers;
- Addressing literacy issues in South Dakota and monitoring national and state reports that reflect the literacy statistics;
- Encouraging a better understanding of local, regional, and national history through exposing Festival participants to a broad range of significant events in American history and culture; and
- Targeting a broad base of people in diverse age, race, and social economic groups, for participation in the Festival of Books.

## **HUMANITIES TENNESSEE**

### ***We the People of Tennessee: Telling Our Stories Digitally***

For over twenty years, Humanities Tennessee's history programming has been dedicated to a belief that communities discovering and sharing their histories are more likely to produce citizens who recognize the value of historical knowledge. Since 1985, Humanities Tennessee has supported or conducted almost sixty "Community Research Projects" and more than thirty museum exhibition projects. At a local level, this work has created and sustained strong and visible organizations and institutions that examine important *We the People* themes. The purpose of "We the People of Tennessee: Telling our Stories Digitally" is to develop a model for making the results of community research accessible through the World Wide Web.

In digitizing information retrieved from two locations—an urban neighborhood and a three-county rural area—Humanities Tennessee will pursue the following activities:

- Collection of data and narratives focused particularly on immigration and emigration;
- Creation of an internet-accessible database containing files for data and narratives about places, people, organizations, art and artifacts, and historical events and groups of events; and
- Design of a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) map to help users navigate through the information presented on the website.

## **HUMANITIES TEXAS**

### ***Institute on Congress and American History***

Humanities Texas proposes to take advantage of archival resources and promote the exploration of pivotal events in America's history through a multi-faceted response aimed at Texans in every area of the state. This project will examine the principles of representative democracy, including the separation of powers; biographical presentations which highlight individual's contributions; and emphasis on the ethics, literature, and art of America's heritage.

Humanities Texas will respond to the *We the People* initiative through the following projects:

- "Institute on Congress and American History," a week-long summer institute for teachers designed to enrich the teaching of American history and democratic institutions through presentations from leading authorities on Congress. Workshops will also focus on strategies for presenting this information to secondary audiences with an emphasis on civic engagement, primary sources, and technology;
- Distribution of facsimiles of historical documents and publications which will guide readers to a broader understanding of United States government, including the National Archives publication "Congress and the Shaping of American History;"
- Development of traveling and online exhibits based upon educational resources and significant documents in American history;
- Speakers' bureau presentations on American identity, to be given in communities across the state;
- A public lecture modeled after the *We the People* "Heroes of History" lecture; and
- A request for proposals to explore significant events in American history and advance knowledge of our nation's defining principles.

## **UTAH HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***We the People in Utah***

In order to provide the greatest amount of visibility and the broadest participation in Utah's *We the People* initiative, the Utah Humanities Council has allocated the funding to a combination of programs designed to appeal to a variety of potential sponsors and to serve audiences from elementary school students to senior citizens. The Council intends to fund activities using a combination of proven formats and a new initiative, all of which will be dedicated to exploring topics in American history and culture.

The year 2004 funding projects for the Utah Humanities Council *We the People* initiative include:

- A special offering of the Council's consistently successful "Road Scholars Speakers Bureau," in which public historians, professors of history and political science, and government officials and journalists will travel across Utah to speak to public groups in libraries, schools, community centers, churches, and meeting halls on topics related to American history and culture. Under consideration this year are lectures on "The Top Ten Surprises in the First Ten Amendments" and "The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King;"
- "The Great Salt Lake Book Festival," a free two-day event in which over forty writers read and discuss their work;
- "The Utah History Fair," a statewide effort that involves thousands of students and teachers in developing individual and collaborative projects focusing on a theme of American history. This year's topic is "Communication in American History" and will involve not only the creative efforts of elementary and secondary school students, but also the judiciary activities of college and university scholars, public historians, and Council board and staff members;
- "The Utah Oral History Consortium," organized in 2000 to coordinate and facilitate oral history activities in the state. More than twenty organizations are part of the Consortium, and the Oral History initiative is intended to provide more visibility to agencies' oral history efforts as well as produce a rich archive of local stories; and
- A request for proposals to encourage grassroots involvement in the *We the People* initiative.

## **VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***Sharing Our Past, Shaping Our Future***

American history, culture, and democracy have played an integral role in the Vermont Humanities Council's mission, goals, and programs since its inception. In 2004, the Council will use *We the People* funds to build on the programmatic momentum gathered from previous activities linked to American studies, including last year's focus on "FDR's Four Freedoms." Through its three flagship programs—reading/discussion, public lectures and presentations, and grants—the Vermont Humanities Council will strengthen and augment its offerings to the people of Vermont. In addition, new programs to explore American events and themes will be free and open to the public in libraries, historical societies, senior centers, adult education centers, correctional facilities, schools churches, and other community centers statewide.

Under the *We the People* initiative, the Vermont Humanities Council will support the following activities:

- The purchase of new books for four new reading and discussion series;
- Three recently-developed, highly successful reading and discussion series;
- "Vermont Reads 2005," a reading and discussion program to use a book from the *We the People* bookshelf or another excellent, accessible book that deals with American themes;
- Sixteen new public talks, lectures, and presentations, including one-man plays and historical portrayals; and
- Grant requests for projects related to *We the People* themes.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***U.S. Virgin Islanders: A People's Quest for Self-Governance***

Virgin Islanders have been struggling with self-determination since 1917, resulting today in a series of stalled negotiations about the Islands' political status. Although legislation has extended the political rights of Island citizens, technically the territory remains a colony without a constitution. To deepen public awareness and understanding about the issues shaping the Islands' political future, the Virgin Islands Humanities Council will

use *We the People* funding to plan and sponsor activities that explore questions of self-determination, political process, and identity. If a constitution is adopted in the future, Virgin Islanders will declare to the world what they mean by “We the people of the United States Virgin Islands.”

In 2004, the Council will work to educate Virgin Islanders on the history and challenges of drafting and approving a founding document through activities that include:

- A lecture series and published material to examine the development of a constitution;
- “The Purchase of a People” video series to present eye-witness accounts of the Dutch transfer to the United States; and
- A high school essay contest on the theme “What does being an American Virgin Islander mean to you?”

## **VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***We the People and 2007***

Over the past thirty years, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities has devoted much of its energy and resources to advancing the goals that have recently been defined by the *We the People* initiative. The Council’s work has focused on events and themes in American culture, especially as these are expressed in the history and stories of Virginia. Programs and research sponsored or supported by the Foundation comprise an unparalleled record of inclusion, intellectual breadth, and public accessibility and impact, featuring topics like the Bill of Rights; the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; the history of Virginia Indian, African American, and recent immigrant communities; local and regional history; and Virginia’s rich cultural, literary, and folk traditions. The Council is committed to presenting balanced and unblinking explorations of Virginia’s past and to making connections between history and contemporary issues.

In 2007, Virginia will observe the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jamestown Colony. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities’ proposed programming will focus on themes connected with this significant event, including such projects as:

- 10-15 mini-grants to organizations throughout Virginia to assist in the development of new programs related to the theme, “We the People and 2007;”
- Production of programs in the Foundation’s weekly radio series “With Good Reason;”
- “Virginia’s Stories,” a folklife program which will focus on a single community, Martinsville, as a pilot in a new statewide oral history project entitled “Virginia’s Stories.”
- A Speakers’ bureau produced by The Foundation’s Center for the Book featuring Virginia Literary Award writers whose books explore subjects related to “We the People and 2007.”

## **HUMANITIES WASHINGTON**

### ***We the People***

Humanities Washington will use *We the People* funds in a variety of ways in order to provide programming to the broadest spectrum of Washingtonians. One particular focus for 2004 will be a series of projects related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown vs. Board of Education*—the landmark Supreme Court decision that desegregated schools nationwide. Motivated in part by the continuing tensions between the black and white communities in greater Seattle, Humanities Washington would like to open doorways of understanding about race and equality in education. In exploring the *Brown vs. Board* decision, Humanities Washington hopes to educate the public about the American legal system, Civil Rights Movement, and the history of public education in the past 50 years.

For 2004, Humanities Washington will support the following projects:

- A community consortium in Seattle to recognize and discuss the *Brown vs. Board* decision;
- A public lecture by writer and journalist Juan Williams on the Court decision;
- A website ([www.brownvboardseattle.org](http://www.brownvboardseattle.org)) to provide historic information, curriculum materials, and a calendar of local events and activities related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Court decision;
- “Inquiring Mind” speakers’ bureau in K-12 schools, libraries and non-profits based on *We the People* themes; and
- A re-grant program for projects that respond to *We the People* themes and goals.

## **WEST VIRGINIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***West Virginia: Our History is America's History***

The complex constitutional issues and processes that were involved in the formation of West Virginia during the Civil War have been set in motion only once in American history. To better educate state constituents about the unparalleled environment in which their state was born, the Council is developing a traveling exhibit about the West Virginia statehood process. It will provide an excellent platform to discuss the combination of issues including constitutional questions and the role of slavery, economics, geography and politics in leading to the break from Virginia. The design and specifications of this exhibit will be used as a template for future traveling exhibits developed through projects funded by Council grants. The Council will also explore the local impact of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which was contested in many states but immediately enforced in West Virginia.

Projects made possible through 2004 *We the People* funding will focus on these themes and include:

- Two major Brown v. Board of Education presentations made in historically significant venues, as well as a lecture presented in Charleston by civil rights attorney and long-time state NAACP president Herbert H. Henderson;
- The planning, design and construction of a traveling exhibition on West Virginia statehood, which will involve consultation with a team of advisory historians and scholars as well as partnership with archives and museums organizations; and
- A re-grant program which will issue requests for proposals for projects focusing specifically on these two themes. These projects might include lectures, panel discussions, publications, research, reading and discussion series, exhibits, media documentaries, reenactments, conferences, and teacher institutes.

## **WISCONSIN HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

### ***A More Perfect Union: Wisconsin Reads***

In his 2003 inaugural speech, Governor Jim Doyle recalled Wisconsin's progressive traditions and pledged to renew the state's "reputation for clean and honest government." Inspired by this promise, "A More Perfect Union," an initiative of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, encourages participants to consider America's future in light of its past, to identify the characteristics of honest government, and to inquire whether sound ethics can thrive in the midst of partisan politics. Particularly relevant for the 2004 presidential election, "A More Perfect Union" offers participants an opportunity to observe and evaluate today's political processes with greater understanding and to refine their own ideals for America's political future.

Encouraging Wisconsin residents to engage in critical, relevant discussion about current political processes and American history, "A More Perfect Union" will use *We the People* funding to support the following activities:

- A statewide reading and discussion program hosted by libraries, school groups, and book clubs which will include a "Wisconsin Reads" book and three additional books chosen for their ability to provoke discussion and reflection. Each of the four books represents a different literary genre, historical era, and interpretation of our political institutions.
- An on-line reading guide and book discussion open to the public; and
- A variety of children's programming designed in conjunction with the Madison Children's Museum, local teachers, education specialists, and youth librarians. These activities will draw families into age-appropriate political dialogue and include book discussion programs, parent-child "lessons," and family public events.

## **WYOMING COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### ***We the People***

The Wyoming Council for the Humanities will use *We the People* funds in 2004 to support several priorities relating to changes in Wyoming's economic and social structures. American history and culture are grounded in agriculture, but in the face of increasing corporate agriculture, small farms and ranches are disappearing, and states like Wyoming are struggling with their long-term dependence on agriculture as a way of life. The Wyoming Council for the Humanities will thus undertake a statewide initiative to open discussion on the meaning of identity in Wyoming. Community conversations conducted across the state will give voice to concerns about the need for Wyoming communities to talk to one another, exchange ideas, and perhaps seek solutions for new state needs.

To discover and assess the changing meanings of “We the People of Wyoming,” the Council will support the following projects for 2004:

- “A Wyoming Conversation” statewide discussion partnership project with Wyoming Public Radio, to offer a series of features followed by simultaneous discussions led by humanities professionals;
- “Democracy in Greece and After: From Athens to America” teacher institute to compare and contrast Athenian democracy with contemporary American democracy; and
- A re-grant program focusing on cultural diversity and preservation/access to local history.