



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities Delaware

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Delaware received \$5 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Delaware Humanities Forum for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Graduate-level study for thirty-five future **conservators of material culture** at the University of Delaware, Newark, became possible through three grants totaling \$676,000 to the Winterthur/University of Delaware master's-level Art Conservation Program, one of only five in the country training conservation professionals to care for America's cultural heritage.
- The **Hagley Museum and Library** in Wilmington interprets the site of the original DuPont Company Powder Mill and holds several major collections on the history of American business. A \$450,000 grant was used to help renovate its Hall of Records to better preserve its archives.
- The **University of Delaware** received a \$300,000 grant to support a collaborative effort with the University of Oregon and several museums to establish a digital collection of images of plain and fancy needlepoint made by American girls as part of their education since the seventeenth century.
- The **Corbit Calloway Memorial Library**, Odessa, was granted \$3,900 toward the preservation of about 150 oversized maps and posters in its Del-Mar-Va special collection depicting counties and towns on the Delmarva Peninsula during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- Historic Red Clay Valley, operator of the Wilmington and Western Railroad's **Delaware's Operating Railroad Museum**, received a \$6,000 grant for a preservation assessment of its collection of documents and artifacts on railroad history and operations in northern Delaware.
- The **Old Swedes Church Foundation**, Wilmington, was awarded \$6,000 for a preservation survey of its early records and manuscripts documenting the history of the New Sweden Colony and of the congregation of Holy Trinity Old Swedes Church going back to 1697.
- Assisted by a \$40,000 grant, the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation planned expanded interpretive programs in **First State Heritage Park** in Dover. New interpretative materials, including living history programs, self-guided audio tours, and wayside signage, covered the eighteen years (1774–92) before and after 1787, when Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution.
- The **Delaware Industrial History Initiative**, a grant program for state heritage agencies administered by the Delaware Humanities Forum, digitally documented Delawareans' experiences with industrialization and industrial decline, creating a valuable resource for students and researchers.
- Established in 1986, the Delaware Humanities Forum's **Visiting Scholars Program** brings university professors and subject experts to speak in local classrooms, at no cost to the school, on topics such as Delaware history, African-American history, anthropology, literature, and teen ethics.
- With assistance from the **Delaware Humanities Forum**, the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "The Way We Worked," exploring 150 years of American labor, manual and otherwise, visited Dover Air Force Base, Ocean View, Bethel, and Yorklyn.



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# Humanities Nationwide

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.*

## **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

## **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

## **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone’s *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson’s *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand’s *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

## **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World’s Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone’s previously unreadable field diary.

## **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

## **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns’s seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

## **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

## **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH’s affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.