



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Massachusetts

Between 2008 and 2012 institutions and individuals in Massachusetts received \$47.2 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Mass Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Pauline Maier of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, received a \$40,000 fellowship to work on **Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787–1788**, which uses the NEH-supported *Documentary History of the Ratification* to follow the controversy over the Constitution from state to state.
- A famous whaling town, New Bedford was also a hub of antislavery sentiment. One-hundred sixty teachers have explored the port's abolitionist past in **Sailing to Freedom: New Bedford and the Underground Railroad**. The University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, received two grants totaling \$358,000 for these weeklong workshops.
- **W. E. B. Du Bois** (1868–1963) corresponded with Gandhi, Einstein, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Jane Addams, and Marcus Garvey. With an award of \$315,000, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, is digitizing and posting online its collection of Du Bois's writing.
- More than \$3 million in NEH support has helped the **WGBH Educational Foundation**, Boston, produce new programs for its *American Experience* series, including in recent years *We Shall Remain*, on Native American history, *Robert E. Lee*, and *Panama Canal. Freedom Riders*, the story of the civil rights activists who challenged segregation in interstate transportation, and *The Great Famine*, the story of how the American Relief Administration aided millions of starving Soviet citizens in the 1920s, both aired in spring 2011. *This Republic of Suffering*, which explores the Civil War's unprecedented death toll, aired in 2012.
- The traveling exhibition "**John Adams Unbound**," created by the Boston Public Library with NEH support totaling \$299,300, has visited more than twenty libraries nationwide. Drawing on margin notes Adams wrote in his personal library of 3,500 volumes, this exhibition reveals the second president's thoughts on fame, fortune, and country.
- Furling sails and readying cannons are part of the interactive experience at "**All Hands on Deck: A Sailor's Life in 1812**," an exhibition at the USS *Constitution* Museum, Charlestown, funded with a grant of \$367,200.
- Three years after the Revolution ended, thousands of Massachusetts citizens took up arms against their new state government. Springfield Technical Community College, with an award of \$240,100, tells the uprising's story on a website titled **Shays' Rebellion and the Making of a Nation**.
- **Mass Humanities** is presenting Family Adventures in Reading, a humanities-based reading and discussion program for children and parents or other primary caregivers. It is based on Prime Time Family Reading Time, an acclaimed Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities program.
- Four hundred twenty-five inner-city residents have completed the **Massachusetts Bard College Clemente Course in the Humanities**. This rigorous, college-credit program, which is free of charge to low-income adults, has been available through Mass Humanities for more than ten years.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nationwide

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

PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

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

AMERICAN VOICES

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

SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK

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

PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS

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

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

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

HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN

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

KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE

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

REACHING ACROSS THE NATION

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