



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Minnesota

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Minnesota received \$11.6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota Humanities Center for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Twin Cities Public Television received \$750,000 to produce a ninety-minute documentary, **Dolley Madison**. The project examined how the first lady used her unelected position to help define the young American republic.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center received \$301,000 for two teacher workshops on the topic **Building America: Minnesota's Iron Range, U.S. Industrialization, and the Creation of a World Power**. About 180 teachers attended these workshops to study Minnesota's underappreciated northern tier and its role in American culture and history.
- **Minneapolis-based Public Radio International** received \$600,000 to support development of Studio 360's *American Icons*. This series of one-hour radio programs, which examines individuals, creative works, and products that have captured the American imagination, uses a website to invite listener participation.
- **Constitution USA with Peter Sagal**, a four-hour, four-part television series, filmed in 32 cities in 25 states, was viewed by 6.6 million viewers and supported by a \$400,000 production grant to Twin Cities Public Television.
- Giacomo Constantino Beltrami was an Italian explorer who, in the 1820s, sought the source of the Mississippi and hunted buffalo with the Dakota. Tilly Laskey, a curator at the **Science Museum of Minnesota**, has received a \$50,400 research fellowship to study the little-known Beltrami collection of Native American artifacts stored in Italian museums.
- **Evolving Attitudes toward the Civil Rights Movement, 1954–1970**, a radio documentary and companion website produced by Minnesota Public Radio, received an \$89,000 grant. The project examined white responses to the civil rights movement in Mississippi.
- The University of Minnesota received a \$45,000 public programs grant for **"Telling River Stories,"** a series of historical interpretive installations along the Mississippi River in St. Paul and Minneapolis.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center collaborated with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the National Museum of the American Indian on **Why Treaties Matter**, a series of community discussions on Native American rights and history.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center in 2010 sponsored the statewide traveling exhibit **"Journey Stories,"** organized by the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit examined the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move.
- **Absent Narratives: District del Sol & Lake Street**, a partnership of the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, used video to explore the development of St. Paul's District del Sol and Minneapolis's Lake Street as thriving centers of Latino culture in Minnesota.



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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.