



EXPLORING THE HUMAN ENDEAVOR
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES
ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Modgar Wiley Evers
June 12, 1903 • Jackson

Louis Allen
January 21, 1901 • Liberty

Henry Heskiah
May 6, 1888 • Woodville

Charles
May 8, 1904 • ...

Hubert Orsby
September 18, 1885 • ...

EXIT

We Sing for Freedom

Young People
Join the
Movement

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

June 2020

Dear Mr. President,

It is an honor to present the 2017 Annual Report for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The report covers October 2016 through September 2017. I came to NEH in April 2017 and was appointed acting chairman of the agency in July of that year.

In August 2017, NEH established a three-year partnership with First Nations Development Institute to revitalize Native American languages. There are approximately 150 Native languages in the United States, but without critical intervention many could disappear in the next 50 to 100 years, as elder speakers pass away. These languages are not just a form of communication—they encompass the identity, customs, and history of a people. NEH is providing \$2,100,000 to First Nations to develop curricula, training, and technology to save these languages. The grant will be matched dollar for dollar in private funding. To date, 12 organizations have received grants of \$90,000 each to run immersion programs in Native languages in their tribal communities.

NEH continued its long commitment to serving veterans and their communities through education programs such as the Warrior-Scholar Project and Dialogues on the Experience of War. This past year, the Endowment awarded a \$448,100 grant to Blue Star Families to expand its literacy program Books on Bases. The program, which has placed more than 300,000 books in schools and libraries for military children, will also start reading programs to foster discussion between military families and their neighbors, leaning on the power of great literature to understand our shared experiences.

Soon after I took the reins of the Endowment, many parts of the southeastern United States were hit by devastating hurricanes, damaging cultural institutions that hold regional and national treasures. NEH quickly went into action, pledging \$1 million in fast-track grants to help organizations assess, preserve, and restore structures and collections in peril. One such grant supported an emergency response team as it determined how to preserve a damaged 1953 mural painted by John T. Biggers in Houston. Entitled *Contribution of Negro Women to American Life and Education*, the mural is located in the Blue Triangle Community Center in the heart of Houston's historically black Third Ward.

NEH exists to make the humanities accessible and relevant to all Americans. As humanists, our duty is not only to preserve culture, or to underwrite research, or to present exhibitions and films, but also to point the way for the next generation so that they too can live meaningful, fulfilling lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Parrish Peede". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "P".

Jon Parrish Peede
Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
SUMMARY OF GRANTS AND AWARDS, FY 2017

Division/Program	Number ¹	Amount Obligated ²		
		Outright	Matching ³	Total
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP	56	\$46,527,590	\$347,600	\$46,875,190
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	106	\$13,075,945	\$40,000	\$13,115,945
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS	190	\$17,145,549	\$701,367	\$17,846,916
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	131	\$13,863,276	\$500,000	\$14,363,276
RESEARCH PROGRAMS	267	\$15,208,436	\$700,000	\$15,908,436
CHALLENGE GRANTS	65	\$0	\$7,237,418	\$7,237,418
DIGITAL HUMANITIES	53	\$4,742,350	—	\$4,742,350
AGENCY-WIDE PROJECTS	3	\$260,510	—	\$260,510
Total	871	\$110,823,656	\$9,526,385	\$120,350,041

FOOTNOTES:

1/ New grants, supplemental awards on previous years' grants, transfers to other agencies, and program contracts.

2/ Totals include obligations for new grants, supplemental grants, program contracts, and other program-related purposes. Included are awards that are (a) made by NEH using appropriated funds, including funds appropriated to the We the People, Bridging Cultures, and Common Good special initiatives, (b) made by NEH using program funds transferred to the Endowment by other federal agencies, and (c) made by NEH using funds contributed by nonfederal entities.

3/ Totals include definite program funds used to match gifts.

Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In fiscal year 2017, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$120,350,041 to 871 humanities projects through six funding offices (Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Research Programs, Digital Humanities, and Federal/State Partnership). After reviewing the grant recommendations of 927 peer review panelists and a 26-member presidentially appointed council, the chairman of NEH made all final decisions on the awarding of grants.

In December 2016, NEH announced the first recipients of a grant category for programs geared toward constituencies not easily reached—programs for young people, communities of color, and economically disadvantaged groups. The Humanities Access grant program awarded \$3 million in total matching grants to 34 organizations, including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to run a program for high school students on the history of the civil rights movement, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to develop a writing program for teenagers, and Louisville-Jefferson County to offer students free admission to more than 30 local cultural institutions.

Philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum presented the forty-sixth Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities on May 1, 2017, in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Nussbaum is the University of Chicago's Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics. Her lecture, "Powerlessness and the Politics of Blame," based partly on her 2018 book *The Monarchy of Fear: A Philosopher Looks at Our Political Crisis*, cited ideas from the Greeks and Martin Luther King Jr. to imagine how just anger can be transformed into good in a democratic society.

Chairman William D. Adams resigned in May 2017, and, in July, Jon Parrish Peede was appointed acting chairman of NEH by President Donald J. Trump. Peede previously served at NEA from 2003 to 2007, overseeing funding for literary organizations, creative writers, and translators and spearheading Operation Homecoming, which brought writing workshops to U.S. soldiers at home and overseas. He had been director of communications at Millsaps College, an editor at Mercer University Press, and publisher of the *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

In August and September, many states and municipalities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico were struck by a series of hurricanes. NEH responded by pledging up to \$1 million in emergency Chairman's grants to help cultural institutions preserve and protect their humanities collections. Funds could be used for drying, cleaning, and packing collections, transferring artifacts to temporary storage, or consulting with conservators and preservation professionals.

The Vietnam War, the expansive NEH-supported documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, premiered on PBS on September 17. The 18-hour film aired 10 episodes over two weeks, averaging 6.7 million viewers each night, and reaching nearly 39 million people. The first six episodes closed the 2016–2017 season and were the highest-rated telecasts for PBS that year.



WHITMAN COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON HOSTS A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS ON “THE NATIVE AMERICAN WEST: A CASE STUDY OF THE COLUMBIA PLATEAU.”
—Courtesy Whitman College

Division of Education Programs

The goal of NEH’s Division of Education Programs is to strengthen the teaching of the humanities at all levels, from K–12 classrooms to community colleges and the halls of great universities. Through intensive summer programs with recognized scholars, teachers deepen their understanding of humanities subjects. Other grant programs support the development of new curricula and other educational projects and the enhancement of existing course content.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, hosted a two-week summer institute for 30 college and university teachers on “The Native American West: A Case Study of the Columbia Plateau.” Framed by historical works about Native Americans, land, religion, conflict, and tribal self-determination, the institute expands the understanding of complex narratives about the American West. The institute, supported by a \$138,662 NEH grant, brings esteemed scholars to teach and incorporates Native American perspectives with visual, oral, and geographic resources.

Classics professor Sean Lake and religion professor Julie Montione led a course for veterans and dependents of veterans on the literature of ancient and modern warfare at Valencia College in Florida. The community college serves a large veteran population, with nearly 1,600 veterans enrolling each fall. By examining ancient and modern war narratives, the course helps veterans identify common struggles and experiences. Funded by a \$96,868 NEH grant, the 16-week course also prepares students to be discussion leaders for three public events—a production of *Ajax* by Sophocles, a lecture by a war historian, and a film screening—that bring together military, civilian, and academic communities.

A three-year project at Berea College in Kentucky is creating an interdisciplinary, four-course series of study on digital approaches to preserve and present history, focusing on the resources on Appalachian culture at the Pine Mountain Settlement School archives. Funded with a \$99,998 grant from NEH, the project offers study in English, computer science, and art history, among other subjects. In the final course, “Applied Digital Archives and Techniques,” Berea students will lead workshops for Harlan County area high school teachers and students. The project will disseminate its work through publications, conference presentations, and online resources at Berea and Pine Mountain.



PORTRAIT OF KING GEORGE III IN CORONATION ROBES BY THE STUDIO OF ALLAN RAMSAY, C. 1760. —lanDagnall Computing / Alamy Stock Photo

Division of Preservation and Access

Projects funded through NEH's Division of Preservation and Access help ensure the longevity and accessibility of the nation's cultural heritage. Much of our cultural legacy resides in books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, works of art, and digital collections at museums, libraries, and archives. NEH helps institutions preserve these collections and make them accessible to the public.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Documentary Educational Resources in Massachusetts is directing a project with a \$50,000 NEH grant to create Cinopedia Ethnographica, a worldwide online catalog of new and historical ethnographic films held by national archives, university departments, historical societies, educational distributors, and individual filmmakers. The scope of this resource encompasses indigenous populations globally and would incorporate substantial moving-image sources on Native American communities, including 2,400 film titles held by the National Museum of the American Indian.

Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Virginia is conducting a planning and pilot project to develop metadata standards and evaluate tools for enabling online access to the papers of King George III and other members of the Georgian royal family, dating from 1713 to 1830. The institute received a \$40,000 NEH grant for the project, whose staff will have access to the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle. The project will digitize and disseminate the Georgian Papers in partnership with the Royal Collection Trust and King's College London.

The Ohio Historical Society is digitizing 5,000 photographs, letters, diaries, government records, posters, and advertisements from repositories statewide, documenting and making available online Ohio's experience during World War I. The Ohio experience of the Great War represents a microcosm of the broader national experience. Ohio was the site of Camp Sherman, one of 32 training camps used during the war and the third largest in the nation, training more than 120,000 soldiers. With a \$171,849 grant from NEH, *Little Stories of the Great War: Ohioans in World War I* will develop a comprehensive statewide digital collection about World War I.



LORRAINE HANSBERRY: *SIGHTED EYES / FEELING HEART* AIRED ON PBS IN 2018. —Photo by David Attie, courtesy Lorraine Hansberry Documentary Project

Division of Public Programs

NEH's Division of Public Programs supports projects that bring a variety of humanities topics to a diverse and wide audience through museum and library exhibitions, reading and discussion series, television and radio documentaries, the interpretation of historic sites, digital media projects, and history and literature programs at hundreds of local libraries and cultural organizations.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona, received an NEH award of \$250,000 to update their most popular exhibition, which examines the Native American boarding school experience. The new version of this exhibition, "Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories" uses archival documents, photographs, clothing and uniforms, artworks of students from these schools, and first-person accounts to tell the story of the social and political forces that led to government efforts to assimilate Native Americans, as well as the impact and legacy of these efforts. The exhibition will also feature new scholarship exploring the role these schools played in developing a pan-Indian identity.

Window to the World Communications, Inc., in Chicago received \$400,000 from NEH to support the Studs Terkel Radio Archive. The centerpiece of the project is a curated website, featuring archival audio, downloadable podcasts, school curricula, and scholarly essays about the life and work of Studs Terkel (1912–2008). Through the audio archives of the Chicago author and radio personality, the project explores the lives of everyday people as well as such cultural icons as Bob Dylan, Louis Armstrong, James Baldwin, and Janis Joplin. The website, including more than 9,000 hours of radio and book interviews, launched in the summer of 2018.

Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart, an acclaimed documentary about the playwright and author best known for *A Raisin in the Sun*, completed production with a \$500,000 NEH grant to Filmmakers Collaborative in Massachusetts. The film is the first in-depth presentation of Hansberry's complex life, using her personal papers and archives, including home movies and rare photos, as source material. The documentary aired nationally on PBS's *American Masters* series in January 2018.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS WORK IN VIRGINIA'S RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY NEAR JAMESTOWN. —Courtesy St. Mary's College of Maryland

Division of Research Programs

NEH's Division of Research Programs supports scholarly research that advances knowledge and understanding of the humanities. Awards are made to individuals and groups of scholars for projects of significance to specific fields and to the humanities as a whole. Through grants for research, translation, scholarly editions, and archaeological work, NEH works to bring forth knowledge that has long-term benefits for humanities education and public programming.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

The Endowment awarded a \$50,400 Public Scholar grant to Mark Braude, a lecturer at Stanford University, to write a history of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba, his escape from the island after ten months, and his surprising but short-lived return to power in 1815. Braude shows how Napoleon and his supporters harnessed the influence of printed pamphlets and engravings—the mass media of the day—to burnish his reputation. With his careful management of public perception, Napoleon not only turned his exile into a story of redemption, he also inaugurated the modern era of celebrity culture and political image-making. Braude's book, *The Invisible Emperor*, was published by Penguin Press in 2018.

Archaeologist Julia King at St. Mary's College of Maryland received a grant of \$240,000 to catalog more than 21,000 existing artifacts discovered in the lower Rappahannock Valley of Virginia. King will excavate 11 additional Native American sites and use interactive maps to develop the first comprehensive 1600-year history of this region. The work of King and her team—which includes Native and non-Native archaeologists, scholars at private and public institutions, and graduate and undergraduate students from around the country—will shed light on the Native American communities that interacted with the first European settlers near Jamestown.

Jared Manasek, of Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, was awarded a \$6,000 Summer Stipend grant for work on the first book on the development of modern humanitarian aid. Manasek identifies the flight of refugees from the Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century as a moment of challenge to European governments. As millions of Christian refugees overwhelmed and threatened to destabilize the Habsburg Empire, governments had to develop new protocols for thinking about humanitarian crises. Proficient in German, French, Turkish, and the languages of the Balkans, Manasek used his eight-week award to complete his archival research in diplomatic records held in Vienna, Austria.



DETAIL OF THE ABBA GARIMA GOSPELS 1, A SECTION OF THE EUSEBIAN CANON TABLES PRESENTING PARALLEL STORIES IN THE VARIOUS GOSPELS, POSSIBLY SIXTH CENTURY. — MS AG 00001, MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM, 14.4 X 25.6 CM; PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, MINNESOTA, USA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Office of Digital Humanities

NEH's Office of Digital Humanities supports efforts to use computing tools for research and teaching in the humanities. Funded projects have involved data visualization, putting searchable archival material online, and crowdsourcing transcriptions of texts. The field is changing the ways material can be searched, mined, displayed, taught, and analyzed. These grants often facilitate partnerships with other funding bodies in the United States and abroad.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, received \$323,958 in NEH funding for the development of the virtual Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, a digital portal that provides online access to religious manuscript collections from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. The museum is making tens of thousands of otherwise inaccessible and often endangered manuscripts, books, and archival documents available to users around the world free of charge. NEH funding supports development of the platform's technical framework as well as features to enhance user experience.

As one of the winners of the international Digging into Data Challenge program, Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, received \$199,920 from NEH to participate in an international project to analyze linguistic development. Researchers at Duke will partner with colleagues from Argentina, Canada, Finland, France, and the United Kingdom to study child language development across nations and cultures to gain a better understanding of how an infant's environment affects subsequent language ability.

Cornell University Press in Ithaca, New York, received \$99,553 to digitize 57 classic humanities books, including titles from anthropology, classics, political science, and literary theory. These books will be converted to high-quality electronic books and receive a Creative Commons license, allowing them to be read for free, forever, by anyone in the world.



MARYLAND HUMANITIES' VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BRINGS STUDENTS AND VETERANS TOGETHER. —JEN DAVIDSON

Office of Federal/State Partnership

Through the Office of Federal/State Partnership, NEH awards General Operating Support grants to 55 humanities councils in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the following territories: Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This partnership helps make humanities education and lifelong learning available throughout the nation—in every corner of every state and territory. State humanities councils implement initiatives and financially support programs that cater to local interests and needs. The councils employ more than 500 staff members and engage more than 1,000 board members

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Indiana Humanities sponsors Next Indiana Campfires, which pairs nature and literature to spark conversations about place and environmental stewardship. During the program, a humanities scholar leads participants through a natural environment, while referencing works by important Hoosier authors. A naturalist is also on hand to identify plants, animals, and other ecological and geological features. The program concludes around a campfire with a discussion about nature, literature, and place.

In a Maryland Humanities project called Maryland Veterans: A Journey through Vietnam, students attending Southern High School in Anne Arundel County collected oral histories of Vietnam War veterans and Vietnamese immigrants who experienced the war. Transcripts and videos of the interviews are housed at the Maryland State Archives, and an oral history educational resource for teachers was developed for NEH's EDSITEment website.

The GameChanger Ideas Festival is Humanities North Dakota's annual festival that focuses on a major event or issue significantly changing the world. Nationally recognized scholars are invited to share their ideas for managing these changes in ways that will lead to a better, more prosperous world. In this way, GameChanger reintroduces scholarship to civic engagement.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. The Endowment serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. NEH-supported grant programs foster scholarship and research, enrich all levels of education, preserve cultural treasures, and encourage public understanding of the humanities.

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COVER:

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE SCULPTURE LIGHTS UP AS VISITORS PASS THROUGH THE MAIN GALLERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM.
—Mississippi Civil Rights Museum



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