



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Office of Federal/State Partnership

The Office of Federal/State Partnership (Fed/State) distributes general operating support awards to the 56 states and jurisdictions to bring humanities education, lifelong learning, and public humanities programming to communities across the country. Fed/State collaborates with designated state and jurisdictional humanities councils to advance public understanding of the humanities, while enhancing public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities on a local, grassroots level.

State and Jurisdictional Humanities Councils

State and jurisdictional humanities councils are the public humanities in action. Councils offer a wide array of thought-provoking programming that makes rich humanities ideas accessible for general public audiences, fosters discussion, and promotes civic engagement. The work they do is tailored to the resources, demographics, interests, and concerns of their state or jurisdiction.

State and jurisdictional humanities councils are independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations governed by volunteer boards of directors. They operate, as designated by Congress, in the states as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. The first councils were founded in 1971; the most recent council, the American Samoa Humanities Council, was founded in 1994. The councils employ more than 500 staff members and engage more than 1,000 volunteer board members.

Through initiatives, activities, and award-making, state and jurisdictional councils enrich lives through the humanities—addressing the specific needs of the communities they represent. A sample of these public humanities initiatives and activities include:

- Competitive grants
- Book festivals
- Chautauqua events
- Reading and discussion programs
- Programs for veterans
- Annual lectures and humanities award ceremonies
- Family reading programs
- Programs for students and educators
- National History Day
- Clemente courses
- Speakers bureaus
- Humanities festivals
- Exhibitions

Contact information for state and jurisdictional humanities councils is available at <https://www.neh.gov/about/state-humanities-councils>.