

Grants for Native Arts and Culture



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities supports projects that preserve, protect, and sustain for future generations Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

Federally recognized tribes and nonprofit tribal organizations are welcome to apply to any of NEH's grant programs. Tribal colleges and their faculty are encouraged to take advantage of programs specifically designated for them.

See [neh.gov](https://www.neh.gov) for program details and deadlines. NEH program officers are available to talk with prospective applicants about their projects and possibilities for funding.

Grant Programs for Native American Communities

- **Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges and Universities:** supports individuals pursuing humanities research and projects that sustain and strengthen tribal languages and traditions.

|| Elaine Fleming of Leech Lake Tribal College (Cass Lake, Minnesota) received a grant to explore the history of Ojibwe women.

- **Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities:** supports projects that strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities.

|| Little Big Horn College (Crow Agency, Montana) collected oral histories of the post-World War II generation of Crow Tribe members and developed humanities course modules based on the interviews.

- **Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions:** supports small and mid-sized institutions and tribal organizations—including museums, libraries, and archives—to preserve and care for their humanities collections.

|| The Karuk Tribe (Happy Camp, California) used a grant to improve lighting and train staff to manage environmental conditions at the Karuk Tribe People's Center.

- **Dynamic Language Infrastructure-Documenting Endangered Languages** (partnership with National Science Foundation): supports fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases.

|| Documentation of the Creek language, spoken by the Muskogee and Seminole nations (Oklahoma), in partnership with Bacone and William & Mary colleges.

NEH-Supported Projects

- **First Nations Development Institute Challenge Grant:** A \$2.1 million matching grant to support Native language immersion projects developed by tribal organizations to support curriculum development, technology access, and teacher development.
- *Tribal Justice*, a film by Anne Makepeace, examined how judges in tribal courts are exploring alternative forms of justice.

- New York University developed a curriculum and conducted training around the practice of collaborative curation of Native American cultural heritage collections.
- Mukurtu, a free, open-source archiving and publishing platform allows Indigenous communities to share digital cultural heritage while respecting their traditions.
- The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa digitized a collection of films and images held by the Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department.
- The Heard Museum's "Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories" opened in 2019 and has been turned into an NEH On The Road traveling exhibition.
- A grant to the Little Wound School Board is supporting *The Heart of All That Is*, an oral history project and seven-episode podcast on Oglala Lakota culture.
- Oneida Nation is developing a video game prototype, *A Strong Fire*, which will use folklore to teach Oneida language and culture.

State and Jurisdictional Humanities Councils

NEH funds humanities councils in all fifty states and several jurisdictions. The councils engage tribal and Indigenous partners to support humanities programming.

In collaboration with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center developed biographies about American Indian leaders, written for children in grades 3 to 5. Another MHC program, Learning from Place-Bdote uses historic sites to introduce participants to the history and community of the Dakota people.

The Guam Humanities program Speaking to Water and Creating Community: Civic Reflection with Pacific Islanders uses stories, poetry, and song to facilitate discussions with Chamorros and other Micronesians about shared cultural traditions and unique colonial histories.

NEH Special Initiatives

The Native Arts & Culture: Resilience, Reclamation, and Relevance convening brought together representatives from more than 40 tribal nations and the heads of several federal agencies. Participants discussed how to revitalize Native communities through language, arts, and historic preservation.

NEH collaborated with the National Endowment for the Arts and other federal agencies to produce the *Federal Resources for Native Arts & Cultural Activities*, a free online resource guide for supporting Native arts and cultural activities.

A More Perfect Union: As an ex officio member of the Semiquincentennial Commission, NEH created this agency-wide initiative to provide Americans with the historical knowledge, cultural resources, and educational tools to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our founding. NEH welcomes projects that bring the perspective of the humanities to questions of racial justice, gender equality, the evolution of the American landscape, as well as America's place in the world. Projects that address the experiences of Native Americans and other underrepresented communities are especially encouraged to apply for funding.