



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Connecticut

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Connecticut received \$9.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Connecticut Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Yale University received \$700,000 through two grants for a long-term collaborative project to produce a comprehensive edition of Benjamin Franklin's papers and writings. Thirty-eight of forty-seven projected volumes have been published, with thirty-seven available online. **Papers of Benjamin Franklin** is scheduled to be the first completed work of its kind on an American Founder.
- The lack of published primary sources on Connecticut's Native Americans is being addressed by The **New England Indian Papers Series**, a project of Yale University, the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Massachusetts Archives, and the British National Archives. With the support of a \$250,000 grant, these partners are producing a digital archive whose first installment includes 1,471 documents that will be publically available online.
- A \$38,000 planning grant will support reinterpretation of two historic structures in **Mystic Seaport**. The George Greenman House and the Seventh Day Baptist Church possibly have ties to the Underground Railroad. Mystic Seaport Museum will assume half of project costs.
- The **Mark Twain House and Museum**, Hartford, received a \$149,836 grant for Mark Twain and the "Impolite Nation": Using Twain's Work to Teach About Race in America, two one-week workshops attended by 100 teachers.
- Leveraging a \$250,000 challenge grant, **Fairfield University** has raised \$1.02 million thus far in private funds to endow a new art museum in the campus's signature building, Bellarmine Hall, which houses a collection focusing on medieval and Renaissance art.
- A literary study examining the **everyday writings of former slaves** during the era of emancipation was the subject of a \$50,400 fellowship awarded to Christopher Hager, a professor at Trinity College, Hartford. A book introducing readers to this largely neglected moment of African-American writing is also planned.
- As recommended in a conservation assessment, the **Bridgeport Public Library** received a \$6,000 grant to acquire storage cabinets for its collection of circus posters. They are part of a circus history collection that includes the papers of longtime Bridgeport resident P. T. Barnum.
- The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center received a \$10,000 grant to support "**Munootash: Baskets and Community in Southern New England**," a traveling exhibition of Native American baskets from the 1800s and 1900s.
- The **Connecticut Humanities Council** advises state cultural institutions through their award-winning Heritage Resource Center, which provides online resources for heritage professionals working on audience evaluation, new media, and financial planning.
- Conceived and produced by the Connecticut Humanities Council, the **Connecticut Experience** is an Emmy-winning series of video documentaries that range from the state's Native American history to its lesser known Tobacco Valley.



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 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 18 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 3D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging is being used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

More than \$1.66 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 teachers made extensive use of *The Buddha*. 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 reached 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 2,500 college teachers and 7,000 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 17,700 reading and discussion programs, 5,700 literacy programs, 5,800 speakers bureau presentations, 5,800 conferences, 2,300 Chautauqua events, 7,120 media programs, and 7,600 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 4,600 exhibitions.