



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Kentucky

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Kentucky received \$6.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Kentucky Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Appalshop, a not-for-profit arts and education center in Whitesburg, has been chronicling the **history, folklore, and artistic traditions of Appalachia** since 1969. Grants totaling \$238,000 will enable Appalshop to catalog, rehouse, and preserve its collection, which includes 1.8 million feet of 16 mm black-and-white film, 4,000 hours of video, and 2,500 hours of audio.
- A \$109,800 grant to **Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green**, for a Landmarks of American History program, enabled fifty community college faculty to participate in a week of field and classroom study of the cultural history of Mammoth Cave.
- A group of five grants totaling \$5,000 made it possible for the exhibition **"Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation"** to travel to the University of Louisville and the Louisville Free Public Library, as well as to libraries in Elizabethtown, Danville, and Lexington.
- A \$10,000 grant to the **Kentucky Commission on Human Rights** helped support its work with scholars on Kentucky Remembers! a Carter G. Woodson Human Rights Heritage Project. The grant allowed more than one hundred young people to attend camps where they documented the struggle for civil rights in Kentucky.
- A grant of \$29,900 to **Kentucky State University, Frankfort**, gave faculty an opportunity to do a comparative study of classic Western texts and African and African-American literature to improve their teaching and update undergraduate humanities curricula.
- **Louisville's Frazier International History Museum**, home to a presentation rifle that belonged to George Washington, memorabilia from Jesse James's gang, and George Custer's Navy Colt revolvers, received \$4,800 to assess its collection of edged weapons and firearms from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.
- **John Dickinson, the "Penman of the Revolution,"** was calling for colonial unity against Britain as early as the 1760s. Although he contributed more writings to the American founding than any other figure, his work is not well known today. A \$200,000 grant to the University of Kentucky, Lexington, is supporting development of a three-volume scholarly edition of Dickinson's political writings, an open-access digital edition, and a course reader.
- Between 2008 and 2010, 726 **Kentucky Chatauqua** performances were seen by more than 35,000 school children in their classrooms and by 55,000 families and adults in local communities around the state. These one-person dramatic presentations supported by the Kentucky Humanities Council focus on characters from American history.
- **Kentucky Humanities** magazine delivers articles about the state's history and culture to 50,000 Kentuckians a year.
- To celebrate Lincoln's bicentennial, the Kentucky Humanities Council and the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre presented **Our Lincoln: Kentucky's Gift to the Nation** at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, February 2, 2009.



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.