



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Rhode Island

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Rhode Island received \$6.7 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- James Joyce's novel *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* made its first appearance in 1914 in a little journal called *The Egoist*, one of several important periodicals digitized at Brown University for the **Modernist Journals Project**, which has been supported by two grants totaling \$478,000.
- During World War II the **Office of Strategic Services**, predecessor to the CIA, relied on a network of intelligence sources among archaeologists working in the Mediterranean region. This nexus of ancient history and modern spycraft is the subject of Susan Heuck Allen's forthcoming book *Classical Spies*, whose preparation was supported by a \$40,000 fellowship.
- Thirty schoolteachers attended a two-week institute on the rise of slavery in New England and its role in the northern economy. The conference, conducted by the **Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence**, was supported with a \$132,000 grant.
- Archival holdings relating **Rhode Island's history** from colonial times to the late 1900s remain spread among numerous depositories, but are united online in a database at Brown University that informs researchers about associated collections and how to find them. NEH has supported this scholarly resource with a \$228,000 grant.
- The **John Carter Brown Library** specializes in manuscripts, maps, and other documents from international sources describing the unfolding drama of European discovery and colonization of the New World from 1492 to 1825. The library has been awarded \$278,800 to support a fellowship program for NEH-designated scholars.
- **The Breakers**, residence of Cornelius Vanderbilt II, is one of America's best-known historic properties. The Preservation Society of Newport County has received a \$28,000 grant to improve the building's internal climate to better protect its Gilded Age art and furnishings.
- The **Redwood Library and Atheneum** received a \$5,000 grant to halt degradation of the James H. and Candace A. Van Alen Collection of photos and other materials documenting the history of upper-class Newport.
- The **Little Compton Historical Society** has received two grants totaling \$10,000 to help purchase supplies as its professionally trained team of volunteers works to preserve and archive a 10,000-piece collection of nineteenth-century clothing, books, and photos of local historical interest.
- For fourteen years, the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** has sponsored Action Speaks, a panel discussion series on Underappreciated Days That Changed America. Discussions of the debut of *Death of a Salesman*, the announcement of FDR's Good Neighbor policy, and other topics are then edited for radio broadcast. This program was recently expanded through an NEH grant of \$76,000.
- The **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** has developed supplemental local content for Picturing America, an NEH program that has brought reproductions of classic American art and teachers' guides to 70,000 schools and libraries nationwide.



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.