



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Illinois

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Illinois received \$37 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln** are being digitized by the Illinois Historic Preservation Society with \$370,000 in grants to make them freely accessible online by 2015.
- The one-hundredth anniversary of architect and urban planner **Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago** was the reason for \$299,000 in grants to produce a 60-minute television documentary, an online and panel exhibition, and the Virtual Burnham Initiative—a multimedia online resource that transforms a selection of flat images from the 1909 Plan of Chicago into 3D models accessible through the website.
- With the fall of the Qing dynasty, the ancient Buddhist Cave Temples of Xiantangshan were plundered. In 2010, after a painstaking global search to find and scan these far-flung works of art, the temples' contents were digitally reunited and made viewable in situ at the **Smart Museum of the University of Chicago**, assisted by grants totaling \$310,000.
- In 1889, Progressive Movement pioneer Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, founded the Hull-House social settlement in Chicago. With a \$350,000 grant, the **Hull-House Museum** substantially expanded its exhibit space. Workshops for eighty schoolteachers were supported by a \$150,000 grant in 2005 to the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Between 2010 and 2012, thirty libraries across the state will receive \$2,500 each to hold reading, viewing, and discussion programs about the NEH-supported documentary and biography **Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women**.
- With a \$65,000 grant, the Society of Architectural Historians in Chicago plans to develop the electronic infrastructure for **Buildings of the United States Online**, the first peer-reviewed, comprehensive online database of American architectural history.
- One hundred thousand pages of historic newspapers such as the *Chicago Eagle* and the *Day Book* from 1860 to 1922 are being digitized at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** thanks to a \$398,000 grant.
- In recent summers, grants totaling \$440,000 have brought two hundred and sixty schoolteachers to Springfield for week-long workshops titled **Abraham Lincoln and the Forging of Modern America**.
- The exhibition titled "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music" recently toured the state making stops in six rural communities. The twelve-year partnership between the **Illinois Humanities Council** and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Services has brought exhibitions to 70 small towns in Illinois since 1998.
- Illinois's **Meaning of Service** program works with thousands of young people to help them understand the nature and rewards of volunteerism. The program is active in eight AmeriCorps sites in Illinois.



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.