



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Louisiana

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Louisiana received \$7.8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, seventeen chairman's grants totaling \$476,500 were awarded for **disaster relief to Louisiana cultural institutions**. Funds were used to prevent mold damage to the rare-Bible collection at Notre Dame Seminary Library, New Orleans; to conserve and recover art at the New Orleans Museum of Art; and to move New Orleans jazz holdings, papers of colonial governors, and other collections from the historic Old U.S. Mint to a climate-controlled Baton Rouge facility. Other assistance recipients included Fort Jackson, Longue Vue House and Gardens, the Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, and the New Orleans Notarial Archives.
- As part of the **National Digital Newspaper Project**, an NEH–Library of Congress partnership, about 100,000 pages of historic newspapers from 1860 to 1922, including the *Natchitoches Times* and the *Feliciano Sentinel*, are being digitized at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, with support from a \$351,380 grant.
- **Tulane University, New Orleans**, received \$368,500 for roof repairs, shelving, ventilation, and temperature control for the archives and library of the Newcomb Center for Research on Women, which was badly damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- **Prime Time Family Reading Time**, developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and supported by numerous NEH grants over the years, works to break the cycle of intergenerational illiteracy. The program has reached nearly 40,000 at-risk children and their parents and guardians in Louisiana and thirty-eight other states since 1991. A recent study showed participants outperforming their peers on state achievement tests.
- A \$75,000 grant to **Grambling State University** made possible a one-month program on Homer, Shakespeare, and other writers in the Western humanities canon for faculty of historically black colleges and universities.
- In 2011, libraries at Xavier University, New Orleans, and Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, plus the Assumption Parish Library, Napoleonville, will display "**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War**," a National Constitution Center exhibit on constitutional challenges posed by secession, slavery, and wartime threats to civil liberties. The libraries are among fifty nationally that received grants of \$2,500 each for the project.
- **Louisiana State University, Alexandria**, received a \$6,000 grant to have a Southeast Library Network consultant lead a disaster planning workshop for library and archive staff.
- **KnowLA**, an online state encyclopedia, was launched by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 2010. A work in progress, it already includes more than 300 peer-reviewed entries, plus approximately 1,000 images.
- **All Over But to Cry**, a documentary funded by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, won a regional Emmy. It tells the story of Hurricane Audrey, which smashed southwestern Louisiana in 1957, claiming more than 500 lives.



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.