



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Washington

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Washington received \$8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Washington Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Until a dam inundated Celilo Falls, tourists went there to watch Native American fisherman on scaffolds pull salmon straight from the crashing waters. Fifty years later, with support from a \$42,000 grant, the **Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma**, convened scholars, tribal representatives, and interested members of the public to recall Celilo Falls, which was not just a popular fishing site but an ancient trading hub.
- Consisting of six homestead cabins from the late 1800s containing artifacts such as masks, carvings, and tools, the **Orcas Island Historical Museum** documents island life both before and after European settlement. A \$100,000 Save America's Treasures grant was awarded to secure, fireproof, and control these historic buildings' interior climate.
- With support from a \$625,000 grant, the Washington State Library, Olympia, is digitizing 200,000 pages of historic newspapers from 1870 to 1922 such as the *Yakima Herald* and the *Tacoma Times*. This work is part of the **National Digital Newspaper Program**, an NEH–Library of Congress collaboration.
- Supported by a \$213,000 grant, **Civility and American Democracy**, a two-day conference and workshop at Washington State University, Pullman, in spring 2011, is drawing scholars of history, philosophy, religion, architecture, and communications.
- The **Washington State Historical Society** received a \$215,000 grant to preserve and digitize documents, film, photos, videotape, and other materials assembled by a consortium of seventeen college archives documenting women's history. These collections will be accessible to researchers through one website.
- The **Records of Early English Drama (REED)** project at the University of Puget Sound has published nearly 16,000 pages of text that have compelled scholars to revise most suppositions about seventeenth-century theater companies. Recipient of two recent grants totaling \$350,000, REED is extending its survey to the Inns of Court, a venue for Shakespeare's plays, and earlier London performance history.
- William Brumfield's multidecade photographic documentation of historic Russian buildings captured countless images of architectural achievement that might otherwise be forgotten. With support from a \$325,000 grant, the **University of Washington, Seattle**, is preserving 30,000 Brumfield photographs in a text-and-image database.
- Readers of the best-selling Twilight series may think of the Quileute Nation as a tribe of werewolves. With support of a Humanities Washington grant, "**Behind the Scenes: The Real Story of Quileute Wolves**," at the Seattle Arts Museum, presented an exhibition of tribal art, ceremonial objects, and historical materials.
- **Voices of the First People** is an online collection of recordings of traditional songs and language lessons from Vi Hilbert, an Upper Skagit tribal elder who dedicated her life to preserving Lushootseed, the language of Chief Seattle.
- The **Cowlitz County Historical Museum, Kelso**, hosted the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition "Key Ingredients: America by Food." The museum also worked with the local farmers market and gardening association to plant a victory garden and donate hundreds of pounds of food to a local food bank.



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.