



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities West Virginia

Between 2000 and 2010, institutions and individuals in West Virginia received \$6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and West Virginia Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- **Davis and Elkins College, Elkins**, was awarded a \$65,500 grant to preserve and make accessible 800 hours of recorded Appalachian music and oral history documenting the culture of West Virginia.
- Every state had a stake in the Civil War; only West Virginia owes its existence to the conflict between North and South. Its **Sesquicentennial Speakers Bureau** is traveling the state telling war stories from the raid on Harpers Ferry to the local Underground Railroad.
- With support from a \$25,000 grant, “Women in Islam,” a conference at **West Virginia University, Morgantown**, brought together college faculty from across West Virginia to study the many ways in which Islam informs and shapes the lives of women of that faith.
- **Historic Beverly Preservation** received a \$10,000 planning grant to support arrangements for two exhibitions on local and regional Appalachian culture and history in a planned museum that will make use of historic buildings in the town.
- The **Randolph Historical Society** received a \$10,000 grant to support plans for an interpretative exhibition on a local Appalachian Forest Heritage Area. The exhibition will showcase the historical role of the forest and how it has been shaped by human hands.
- The **Oglebay Institute, Wheeling**, manages the Glass Museum, which features locally made glass pieces, and the Mansion Museum, former home of iron magnate Earl W. Oglebay. With a \$5,000 grant, the institute purchased environmental monitoring equipment for its collections and trained staff in its use.
- **Bluefield State College** received a \$4,000 grant to assess the preservation needs of its Hebert Collection of historic photos and negatives documenting the school’s transition from an all-black teachers college to an integrated institution in the 1950s.
- Kirk Hazen, a professor at **West Virginia University**, received a \$5,000 summer stipend to support his study of Appalachian English as used at the turn of the twenty-first century, which will update decades-old research on the local dialect.
- In the Peabody-award winning radio documentary **“The Great Textbook War,”** aging protestors and defenders of the public schools rehash the sometimes violent 1974 controversy in Kanawha over new language arts textbooks. Tray Kay’s documentary was supported by a \$20,000 grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council.
- Twenty-two hundred articles on the life, culture, and history of West Virginia were written for the **West Virginia Encyclopedia**, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, and edited by executive director Ken Sullivan.



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.