



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Michigan

*Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Michigan received \$14.6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michigan Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- The Henry Ford in Dearborn has been awarded five grant totaling nearly \$800,000 since 2006 to conduct teacher workshops on the topic of **America's Industrial Revolution**. Under the guidance of humanities scholars, teachers study material artifacts and primary documents, while also visiting the museum's Ford Rouge Factory and historic Greenfield Village. The Henry Ford has also developed curricular materials for classroom use.
- **Michigan State University, East Lansing**, received a \$350,000 grant in 2008 to preserve video of the long-running television series American Black Journal. Nearly a thousand videotapes of the program are being preserved, with a set of DVDs provided to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, Detroit.
- The **Marquette County History Museum** has been awarded a challenge grant of more than \$300,000 for a new facility in downtown Marquette that will feature children's classrooms, artifact storage and display space, and a large reception area.
- Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, received more than \$220,000 in 2006 from NEH's Landmarks of American History program for **The American Farm in U.S. History**. Teachers participated in workshops in which they acquired the skills and content necessary to inspire high school students to "see the historical significance of nearby places."
- With support from three NEH grants from 2006 to 2008 totaling \$13,000, the **Ella Sharp Museum, Jackson**, took steps to protect its collection by improving its storage facilities. The museum's textile collection includes items dating from the 1830s such as quilts, coverlets, and flags.
- **Calvin College, Grand Rapids**, has been awarded \$266,000 to begin work on a comprehensive online index of hymnals published in North America. The index will be developed in cooperation with the Princeton Theological Seminary Library and the Hymn Society.
- Alpena Community College has received \$124,000 to conduct workshops for community college faculty on the topic **Shipwrecks and Maritime Landscapes of the Great Lakes**. The workshops will use discoveries at shipwreck sites in Thunder Bay to explore artifact- and place-based education.
- The Michigan Humanities Council awarded \$15,000 to Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant for the **Story Festival**, in which four thousand participants attended cultural dance performances, interactive exhibits, and workshops on book-making and storytelling.
- In 2010, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project at **Western Michigan University** in Kalamazoo was awarded \$8,100 from the Michigan Humanities Council for Women of New France, events and demonstrations that showcased how colonial women lived and worked during the period 1691–1781.
- In 2010, the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 was awarded \$15,000 from the **Michigan Humanities Council** for a film/video documentary on Michigan's role in the War of 1812.



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# 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.