



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Minnesota

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Minnesota received \$12.1 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota Humanities Center for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Twin Cities Public Television received \$750,000 in 2007 to produce a ninety-minute documentary, **Dolley Madison**. The film examines how the first lady used her unelected position to help define the young American republic.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center received \$301,000 in 2010 for two teacher workshops on the topic **Building America: Minnesota's Iron Range, U.S. Industrialization, and the Creation of a World Power**. About 180 teachers are attending these workshops to study Minnesota's underappreciated northern tier and its role in American culture and history.
- **Minneapolis-based Public Radio International** received \$300,000 in 2007 to support development of Studio 360's American Icons. This series of one-hour radio programs, which examines individuals, creative works, and products that have captured the American imagination, uses a website to invite listener participation.
- The **Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul**, received \$147,000 in 2006 to conduct summer workshops for teachers on the topic of "Fort Snelling: A Contentious Ground." The former military post helps illustrate the narrative of relations between Native Americans and settlers during the nineteenth century. One hundred teachers visited the site to learn more about the history of the Dakota tribe and the fur trade.
- **Architectural Legacy: The Search for an American Style 1880–1930** was the subject of walking tours and other public programs organized by the Winona County Historical Society with support from an NEH grant. The grant, totaling nearly \$10,000, also supported a permanent exhibition on the city of Winona's unique architectural style.
- **Evolving Attitudes toward the Civil Rights Movement, 1954–1970**, a radio documentary and companion website produced by Minnesota Public Radio, received an \$89,000 grant in 2006. The project examined white responses to the civil rights movement in Mississippi.
- The University of Minnesota received a \$45,000 public programs grant in 2007 for "**Telling River Stories**," a series of historical interpretive installations along the Mississippi River in St. Paul and Minneapolis.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center has collaborated with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the National Museum of the American Indian on the **Minnesota American Indian Treaties Project**, a series of community discussions on Native American rights and history.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center in 2010 sponsored the statewide traveling exhibit **Journey Stories**, organized by the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit examines the intersection between modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move.
- **Absent Narratives: District del Sol & Lake Street** is the result of a partnership of the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and explores the development of St. Paul's District del Sol and Minneapolis's Lake Street as thriving centers of Latino culture in Minnesota.



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.