



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities South Dakota

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

- The **South Dakota State Historical Society** assessed, with the help of a \$6,000 grant, how to preserve its collection of almost 4,000 oral history recordings documenting decades of ranching, homesteading, farming, wartime experiences, and the Great Depression in the state's history.
- The **Dakota Discovery Museum's** collection of historical artifacts dates from 1600 and documents the Lakota experience as well as the story of early European settlement. The museum received an \$11,000 grant to improve environmental control procedures for some 35,000 objects.
- The history and the culture of the Northern Plains is the academic, programming, and publications focus of the **Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls**. A challenge grant awarded to the school has so far resulted in \$210,000 in matching funds, for which it has had to raise four times as much money from other sources.
- The **Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society** received a \$35,000 grant to help preserve its collections of photographs, clothing, books, furniture, and other historical artifacts relating to the family and town life depicted in the author's well-known Little House on the Prairie books.
- The growing **Oglala Lakota College**, a tribal college in Kyle, received \$500,000 in matching funds to endow faculty positions in Lakota Studies and Lakota language for which it had to raise \$1.5 million from other sources.
- The **Timber Lake and Area Historical Society** received a \$4,500 grant to preserve its 20,000-page Donna Cummings Hueschen Collection documenting the history of a family of French and Indian heritage and its connections to the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation over a two-hundred-year period.
- Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried in the City of Deadwood, a National Historic Landmark. But caution was the watchword as the **Adams Museum and House** in Deadwood received a \$5,000 grant to develop a disaster preparedness plan for its collection of photographs and historic artifacts dating to the nineteenth century.
- Every year high school classes across the state compete in **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution**, a program of the Center for Civic Education supported by the South Dakota Humanities Council that asks students to research and present an oral argument on constitutional questions, ultimately in a Congressional-style hearing before judges.
- Nearly 250 students in South Dakota joined half a million others across the country in participating in **National History Day** last year. This program, which is supported by the South Dakota Humanities Council, invites students to present projects on a given theme such as the role of innovation or diplomacy in history.
- **The South Dakota Festival of Books** is a three-day event supported by the South Dakota Humanities Council and a number of other organizations that brings nationally known authors to town for readings, presentations, and book signings. A recent headliner was Dave Eggers, whose book *What is the What* was used to culminate a year of humanities council programming on the subject of immigration.



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.