



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Iowa

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Iowa received \$4.4 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Iowa Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Following the devastating floods of 2008, NEH awarded \$116,700 in emergency grants to seven institutions to restore damaged pieces of **Iowa's cultural heritage**, including a historic Barton Theatre Organ, materials in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, and an 1876 Coralville schoolhouse.
- Through a \$203,880 challenge grant, the **Dubuque County Historical Society** has raised \$611,640 in private funds to support a director of interpretation and humanities programming at its three museums, visited by more than 200,000 people each year.
- **Luther College, Decorah**, received \$169,586 to sponsor a five-week summer institute for thirty high school teachers on the history and relevance of the Holocaust.
- The first comprehensive **digital Sanskrit lexical reference** is being developed by the Maharishi University of Management in Maharishi Vedic City in cooperation with the Cologne Digital Sanskrit Lexicon, with help from a \$177,872 grant.
- A permanent exhibition on the Norwegian immigrant experience was supported by a \$40,000 planning grant to the **Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum**, a complex of 16 buildings in downtown Decorah and the most comprehensive museum in the United States dedicated to a single immigrant group.
- With two \$5,000 grants, the **State Historical Society of Iowa** ensures that pieces of Iowa's history, such as battle flags from Iowa volunteers in the Spanish-American War and the papers of former Iowa governor William Larrabee, are kept for future generations.
- An award of \$4,800 supported the provision of training and supplies to improve the care of nineteenth-century photographs and manuscripts in the collections of the Sac and Fox Tribe, used for research, interpretation, and educational outreach at the **Meskwaki Cultural Center and Museum**, near Tama.
- The **German American Heritage Center**, Davenport, received \$5,000 to develop a long-range plan to care for its letters, photographs, artifacts, and documents relating to German immigration in the area from 1795 to the present.
- In 2009, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the Coon Rapids, Iowa, farm of Roswell Garst, Humanities Iowa sponsored a three-day conference and a new play based on that historic meeting and subsequent friendship.
- More than eight thousand cyclists who come to Iowa every year for **RAGBRAI** (the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) can also learn about Iowa's archaeological heritage at sites and small towns across the state, thanks to support from Humanities Iowa provided to the Office of the State Archaeologist.



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.