



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities North Carolina

*Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in North Carolina received \$14.8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the North Carolina Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Scholars at the National Humanities Center outside Durham are using a \$200,000 award to develop an online library of documents and artifacts called **Making the Revolution: America 1763-1791** to help teachers and students address themes such as the formation of an American way of life and the consolidation of the Revolution.
- Just before the Civil War, there were 500,000 free blacks in the United States. Thomas Day, a successful furniture-maker and businessman in North Carolina, was one. A \$96,000 grant enabled thirty schoolteachers to attend a two-week institute focusing on Day and other **African-American entrepreneurs** of the antebellum era.
- **Mars Hill College** received a \$400,000 challenge grant toward an endowment that would support a full-time director/archivist and programming for its Southern Appalachian Archives, which includes Cherokee artifacts, documents relating to local farm life from the 1920s to the 1950s, and a famed collection of mountain music recordings.
- The North Carolina Humanities Council is arranging for **New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music**, a traveling Smithsonian exhibit overseen by a North Carolina folklife scholar Beverly Patterson, to visit six locations throughout the state.
- A \$70,000 grant helped bring together fifty K-12 teachers for a two-day scholarly conference at **Appalachian State University** in Boone on the perennial question, "What is American about American art?" The program enabled teachers to integrate art into core courses.
- For more than twenty-five years the North Carolina Humanities Council has sponsored **weekend seminars** at which K-12 schoolteachers can engage in graduate-level study.
- The **Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte** received \$5,000 to help pay for a conservation assessment of its collection of American paintings, which includes works by George Bellows and Thomas Cole.
- **Martha Jefferson Randolph**, the daughter of Thomas Jefferson, married a future governor and raised sons who fought on both sides of the Civil War. Her biography is being researched and written by Cynthia Anne Kierner at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, thanks to a \$50,000 research fellowship.
- **Preserving the Pamlico County African American Experience History Project 1920-1965** was supported by two grants from the North Carolina Humanities Council. Participants received training to conduct oral history interviews.



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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.