



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Virginia

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Virginia received \$27.5 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- The **Papers of George Washington**, a project begun in 1968 and two-thirds completed, will result in a comprehensive edition of the private and public papers of the Father of Our Country. The University of Virginia received two grants totaling \$700,000 to support work on print volumes, along with a digital edition, relating to Washington's role in the Revolutionary War and his terms as president.
- **Crowdsourcing Documentary Transcription: an Open Source Tool** is a digital humanities project at George Mason University that, with a \$49,000 grant, is working to facilitate the use of volunteers as an alternative labor source to transcribe the Papers of the War Department.
- The **Papers of James Madison**, underway since 1956, received two grants totaling \$415,000 to support work on volumes relating to the retirement, presidential, and secretary of state years of this Founding Father and key architect of the American constitutional system.
- The Virginia Sesquicentennial received \$1 million in two grants for **An American Turning Point**, a large exhibition and smaller traveling exhibit treating the state—where the confederacy made its capital and where General Robert E. Lee surrendered—as a microcosm of the national experience.
- The **American Shakespeare Center** in Staunton will host, at its re-created Blackfriars' playhouse, an institute for twenty-five college instructors to study the Bard's original principles of stagecraft and apply them to classroom study. The center was awarded a \$177,000 grant.
- The Virginia Historical Society mounted **Lee and Grant**, a major exhibition on the biographies of these Civil War generals. The project used a \$365,000 grant to develop the show in partnership with the New-York Historical Society, which put on a comparable exhibition.
- The **Giles County Historical Society**, housed in a historic landmark building, received a \$6,000 grant to assess the preservation needs of its collection of county records, family genealogical records, newspapers, ledgers, and other artifacts dating from the eighteenth century.
- The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities produces a radio show called **Backstory with the American History Guys**, hosted by three professors whose combined expertise stretches from the pre-Revolution era to postwar America. The program is broadcast on radio stations across the country and was supported by two recent grants totaling \$85,000.
- **Encyclopedia Virginia** is an online peer-reviewed resource that is continually publishing new articles about the history of the commonwealth from the literary career of the late Alice Adams to the Battle of the Yellow Tavern. A project of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, it was supported by a \$280,000 grant.
- The NEH-funded TransAtlantic Slave Database has transformed the study of slavery in North and South America. **The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities**, with the support of a \$153,000 grant, convened a six-week seminar for college and university teachers to use the database to study the pre-1800 slave trade.



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.