



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Wisconsin

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Wisconsin have received \$10 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Wisconsin Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- The University of Wisconsin, Madison, received three grants totaling \$1.35 million to support the final print volumes and a digital edition of the **Dictionary of American Regional English**, a seminal examination, fifty years in the making, of geographic variations in American English.
- The **Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Adoption of the Bill of Rights** has been cited in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, and in numerous reviews. Twenty of its projected twenty-eight volumes have been published and, with support from a \$250,000 grant to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, work continues on two volumes illuminating the history of the debate over ratification as it played out in New York and Rhode Island.
- The artifacts at the **Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center, Superior**, include a fully restored P-38 Lightning aircraft similar to one the museum's namesake flew in the Pacific theater during World War II. The museum has received two grants totaling \$11,000 to plan and improve storage of its extensive wartime collection.
- Ryan Patrick Hanley, who teaches at **Marquette University, Milwaukee**, received a \$40,000 research fellowship to support his work on the moral philosophy of the economist Adam Smith, for a book published by Cambridge University Press.
- The **University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee**, received a \$315,000 grant to preserve and share online 56,000 deteriorating nitrate negatives of historic photos of an international array of landscapes and streetscapes. The negatives are holdings of the American Geographical Society Library, Milwaukee.
- The **Aldo Leopold Shack and Farm, Baraboo**, where the pioneering conservationist and author of *Sand County Almanac* lived with his wife and five children, is being reinterpreted with the help of a \$45,000 grant.
- Hundreds of students at the **University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh**, take U.S. History to 1877 with Professor Michelle Marie Kuhl. Using a \$12,600 teaching fellowship, she spent three months researching Wisconsin history to enrich the course by adding more local material.
- The **Wisconsin Humanities Council** is supporting the traveling Smithsonian exhibition "Key Ingredients," which stops at several venues around the state and is supplemented by local programming on agriculture, food, and cooking.
- The **Making It Home Film Festival**, a program of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, presents cinema on the themes of land, history, and cultural heritage, then invites attendees to explore connections between people and place in open conversations.
- For several years, the Wisconsin Humanities Council has devoted a portion of its reading and literacy programming to themes based on key phrases from the **Preamble to the U.S. Constitution**, distributing books and providing humanities scholars to lead discussions with readers statewide.



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.