



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Wyoming

*Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Wyoming received \$3.3 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Wyoming Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.*

- Support from three grants totaling \$452,000 enabled 240 Wyoming schoolteachers to attend one-week seminars in which they visited historic landmarks and archives to study the struggle for **women's rights in the western states and territories**, including Wyoming, where women gained the right to vote half a century before passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.
- The **Laramie Plains Museum** has received \$22,000 in grants to help preserve its growing collection of textiles, art, and historic artifacts. The museum is housed in the historic **Iverson Mansion**, which was built in the late nineteenth century for banker and erstwhile railroad-tie dealer Edward Iverson.
- The **Sheridan County Library** and the **Natrona County Public Library** have both received grants of \$2,500 to support presentation of "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a traveling exhibition developed by the National Constitution Center.
- The **Homesteader Museum, Powell**, received a \$5,000 grant to help preserve thousands of historic photos and artifacts depicting the town's late pioneer days, the history of land reclamation, and Japanese internment during World War II.
- The **Buffalo Bill Historical Center**, in Cody (named after Buffalo Bill, whose real name was William F. Cody), received a \$10,000 grant to reinterpret the great showman as both a product and a shaper of the popular image of the West.
- In the 1930s, the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** fought forest fires in Wyoming and helped save the country's largest herd of elk. KCWC-TV, a PBS affiliate based in Riverton, received a \$30,000 grant to support early planning of a documentary devoted to the history of the CCC.
- The **Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum** received a \$10,000 grant to support consultations with scholars and museum professionals to bring new interpretations to bear on the museum's exhibitions.
- Each semester, the Wyoming Humanities Council partners with five other cultural agencies to sponsor **Saturday University** in Jackson Hole, where students take free, college-level courses in such topics as "Who Pays for Climate Change?," "Democracy: Lessons from Afghanistan and Iraq," and "Theories of Punishment: What is Justice?"
- **Faces of Addiction: A Humanities Perspective** featured screenings in seven Wyoming cities of films about different types of addiction. These were accompanied by discussions led by humanities scholars and professionals familiar with addiction issues.
- Since launching a **Civility Matters** initiative last fall, more than 1,280 people have attended nine public humanities council programs in Wyoming on topics of civility in education and politics, and forums on the Middle East, China, and genocide.



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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.