

# Grants at a Glance

The National Endowment for the Humanities awards grants to support research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities through the following major program areas:

## Research

The Division of Research Programs advances knowledge and understanding in the humanities. Grants fall under two major categories:

- **Fellowships and Stipends** - awarded to individual scholars for full-time, advanced research in the humanities
- **Collaborative Research** - supports scholarly activities conducted by teams of researchers and fellowship programs administered by centers for advanced study in the humanities and by international research organizations

## Education

The Division of Education Programs supports professional development opportunities for teachers and faculty members, model curricula, and classroom resources for the humanities. Grants fall under two major categories:

- **Professional Development** - supports Summer Seminars and Institutes for School and College Teachers, Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops, and Faculty Humanities Workshops
- **Teaching and Learning Resources** - supports Curriculum and Materials Development grants and Humanities Initiatives for Faculty at Presidentially Designated Colleges and Universities

## Preservation and Access Programs

The Division of Preservation and Access supports projects that preserve and increase the availability of resources important for research, education and public programming in the humanities. These resources include books, journals, newspapers, manuscript and archival collections, maps, photographs, films, sound recordings, oral histories, and objects of material culture. Collections are held by libraries, museums, archives, historical organizations, and other repositories.

- **Preserving and Creating Access to Humanities Collections** - supports Brittle Books initiatives, Archives, and Special Collections, the United States Newspaper Program, and the National Digital Newspaper Program
- **Stabilization of Humanities Collections** - supports improved housing and storage, environmental conditions, security, lighting and fire protection
- **Reference Materials** - supports creation of printed research tools and reference works, including databases, dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias and other reference materials
- **Preservation Education and Training** - supports regional preservation field services for smaller cultural institutions; Supports the nation's four academic programs in conservation training
- **Preservation Assistance Grants** - supports preservation needs for small- and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums and historical organizations

## Public Programs

The Division of Public Programs provides opportunities for millions of Americans to engage in lifelong learning through the study and interpretation of significant humanities works, ideas, and events.

- **Media projects** - supports the development and production of television and radio programs on significant works and subjects in the humanities
- **Museums and Historical Organizations** - supports humanities-based exhibitions of artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts, and the interpretation of American historic sites that are available to the public either on a long-term basis at one institution or through travel at other venues
- **Libraries and Archives** - supports collaborations between community libraries and museums, school systems, parent-teacher organizations, broadcast and cable television stations, and literacy coalitions
- **Special Projects** - supports lifelong learning in the humanities using especially creative formats
- **Consultation Grants** - small grants for project development and planning available in all program areas: Media, Museums, Libraries and Special Projects

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- **Small Grants to Libraries** - enabling smaller institutions them to receive exemplary programs circulated by national organizations and major institutions

## **Challenge Grants**

The Challenge Grant program helps local, state and national institutions secure their humanities resources and activities for the long term by encouraging them to become active in fundraising as a means of building permanent resources for the future. Possible grant uses include:

- Establishing or augmenting an endowment to pay for humanities staff and programming
- Renovation or construction of facilities
- Purchase of capital equipment
- Upgrade of technology
- Additions to library holdings
- Preservation of existing collections

Organizations that have benefited from Challenge Grants include: museums, tribal centers, libraries, colleges and universities, scholarly research organizations, state humanities councils, public radio and television stations, historical societies and sites. Each grant requires that first-time recipients match every federal dollar with three nonfederal dollars; recipients of subsequent awards must raise four nonfederal dollars for every federal dollar.

## **Federal/State Partnerships**

The National Endowment for the Humanities Federal/State Partnership is a collaborative effort of the NEH and the fifty-six state humanities councils. State humanities councils are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations governed by volunteer boards of directors, and the Partnership works to ensure that they are strong and capable of delivering high-quality humanities programs. State councils work with schools, libraries, museums, historical societies, filmmakers, teachers, researchers, writers and storytellers as they provide humanities programs to students, teachers, business leaders, nursing home and assisted living residents in both urban and rural areas. Because NEH is precluded by law from supporting more than half the cost of a council's activities, every federal dollar that a council receives is matched equally by local contributions of cash, goods, or services.

## **Special Initiative: We the People**

In 2002, the National Endowment for the Humanities launched *We the People*, a major agency-wide initiative that is designed to encourage and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. It encourages scholars, teachers, filmmakers, curators, and librarians to explore significant events and themes in our nation's history and culture. Proposals can take the form of new scholarship, projects to preserve and provide access to documents and artifacts, K-16 educational projects, or public programs in libraries, museums, and historical societies, including exhibitions, film, radio, and internet-based programs. The initiative consists of special projects NEH sponsors directly and grants made through the agency's program divisions. To date, more than 300 projects throughout the agency's core programs have received funds appropriated for *We the People*.

## **Digital Humanities Initiative**

NEH launched a new initiative in 2006 aimed at supporting projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology. Grant opportunities will focus on digital technologies that offer humanists new methods of conducting research, conceptualizing relationships, and presenting scholarship. NEH intends to foster the growth of digital humanities and lend support to projects that use digital technologies and methods to enhance understanding of a topic or issue; study the impact of digital technology on the humanities--exploring the ways in which it changes how we read, write, think, and learn; and that digitize important materials- increasing the public's ability to search and access humanities information. Key components of this initiative include the Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants and "Advancing Knowledge: The Institute of Museum & Library Services/NEH Digital Partnership."