

Support the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to support a budget of \$177 million for NEH in the FY09 Interior Appropriations bill. This increase will return the agency to its nominal 1994 budget level and begin restoration of funding to the agency's core programs, including: Research, Education, Public Programs, Preservation & Access, Challenge Grants, and the Federal/State Partnership.

We strongly recommend restoration of at least \$6.8 million to core programs, cut by this amount in the President's FY09 budget request.

We support appropriation of new funds above the FY08 enacted level, for implementation of NEH programmatic initiatives in the President's FY09 budget request, including the Digital Humanities Initiative and *We the People*.

Funding Overview

The President's FY09 budget request proposes flat funding for NEH at \$144.4 million. This budget does not provide adequate support for NEH grant programs, even to continue funding at the previous year's level. Unfortunately, the President's request would offset increases for overhead costs and administration priorities through cuts to regular program funds of nearly \$7 million.

NEH is currently funded at a level of \$144.7 million, although in 1979 NEH funding was equivalent to \$415 million in today's (2007) dollars. Additional funds will support a variety of activities, including: professional development seminars for K-12 teachers and college faculty, fellowships for scholars, collaborative research grants, traveling exhibits for libraries and museums, film and radio productions, preservation of humanities collections, digital humanities projects, and state humanities council programs.

Investing in the Humanities

■ **DEMOCRACY DEMANDS WISDOM.** As the founding legislation of NEH states, "an advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future."

■ **AMERICANS FACE AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND INTERCONNECTED WORLD.** To compete effectively in the global economy, our citizens need the broad tools that an education in the humanities provides, including: knowledge of world cultures and history, language proficiency, critical thinking and analysis.

■ **A SMALL INVESTMENT THROUGH NEH YIELDS HIGH RETURNS.** NEH awards seed money for high-quality projects that

leverage millions of dollars in non-federal support every year. Since 1965, NEH matching grants have stimulated over \$2 billion in non-federal giving.

■ **THE HUMANITIES ARE INNOVATIVE.** The humanities help us understand the social and cultural impact of advances in science and technology. Humanities scholars are using digital technology to generate new knowledge, enhance access to works of enduring value, and improve education.

What are the humanities?

According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act:

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods."

Background

The National Endowment for the Humanities is funded under the Interior Appropriations bill. Created by Congress in 1965, NEH is the largest single funder of the humanities in the U.S. NEH grants are awarded on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis to organizations and institutions throughout the country. Many grants provide significant leveraging of non-federal giving through matching requirements. Awards are made to nonprofit cultural institutions, such as colleges, universities, museums, archives, libraries, public television, and radio stations; and to individual scholars. NEH extends its reach through annual operating grants to its partner institutions, the 56 state humanities councils, located in every state and U.S. territory.

National Endowment for the Humanities Annual Appropriations, FY 94 to Present (in millions of dollars)

FISCAL YEAR	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Budget Request	177.5	177.5	182.0	136.0	136.0	136.0	150.0	150.0	120.5	126.9	152.0	162.0	138.1	141.0	141.4	144.4
Appropriation	177.5	172.0	110.0	110.0	110.7	110.7	115.3	120.0	124.5	124.9	135.3	138.1	140.9	141.1	144.7	N/A

NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Members & Supporters 2008

African Studies Association
American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Religion
American Anthropological Association
American Association for State and Local History
American Association of Museums
American Association of University Professors
American Comparative Literature Association
American Council of Learned Societies
American Dialect Society
American Folklore Society
American Historical Association
American Musicological Society
American Numismatic Society
American Philological Association
American Philosophical Association
American Political Science Association
American Society for Aesthetics
American Society for Theatre Research
American Sociological Association
American Studies Association
Arizona State University
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Documentary Editing
Association for Jewish Studies
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Law Schools
Association of American Universities
Association of American University Presses
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Research Libraries
Center for Research Libraries
Center for the Liberal Arts (East Carolina University)
Coalition for Networked Information
College Art Association
Columbia University
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and
the Office of the Chief Research Officer,
The George Washington University
Community College Humanities Association
Cornell University
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Independent Colleges
Council on Library and Information Resources
Dartmouth College
Dictionary Society of North America
Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities
(University of California, Berkeley)
Duke University
Federation of State Humanities Councils
Hall Center for the Humanities (University of Kansas)
Heritage Preservation
History of Science Society
Humanities Research Center (Rice University)
Imagining America (Syracuse University)
Independent Research Libraries Association

Institute for the Arts & Humanities
(Penn State University)
Institute for the Humanities (University of Michigan)
Institute for the Medical Humanities
(University of Texas Medical Branch)
Linguistic Society of America
Medieval Academy of America
Middle East Studies Association
Minnesota Humanities Center
Modern Language Association of America
National Association of State Universities &
Land Grant Colleges
National Coalition for History
National Communication Association
National Council of Teachers of English
National Humanities Center
Northeast Document Conservation Center
Omohundro Institute of Early American History
and Culture
Organization of American Historians
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Popular Culture Association
Regional Alliance for Preservation
Shakespeare Association of America
Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies
(Princeton University)
Simpson Center for the Humanities
(University of Washington)
Sixteenth Century Society and Conference
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Society for Ethnomusicology
Society for Music Theory
Society for the History of Technology
Society of Architectural Historians
Society of Biblical Literature
Society of Christian Ethics
Stanford Humanities Center
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
The Council of the Humanities (Princeton University)
The Franke Institute for the Humanities
(University of Chicago)
The History Channel
University at Buffalo (SUNY) Humanities Institute
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Southern California
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

National Humanities Alliance

