



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

### THE MISSION

- Because democracy demands wisdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) promotes excellence in the humanities and conveys the lessons of history to all Americans.
- The NEH seeks to develop educated and thoughtful citizens who can sustain government of, by, and for the people.
- The NEH promotes good citizenship by inspiring and making possible life-long education in the humanities.

**“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be.”  
- Thomas Jefferson**

### THE GOALS

- The humanities explore what it means to be human — helping us to understand the world and our place in it.
  - The study of history shows us where we come from and provides a compass for the future.
  - The study of literature and art reveals how imagination can help us better understand the world.
  - The study of philosophy gives meaning to our understanding of justice and truth.
  - The study of languages helps us better understand other cultures as well as our own.

### THE PROGRAMS

- The NEH provides **grants** for high-quality humanities projects, typically awarded to cultural institutions such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges and universities, public television and radio stations, as well as to individual scholars.
- The NEH is reinvigorating the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and principles through its *We the People* program.
- The **State Humanities Councils** provide an impressive array of programs that bring the humanities to citizens in local communities throughout every state and U.S. territory.
- Through its **Digital Humanities Initiative**, the NEH is exploring the use of digital tools to enhance scholarship and make humanities resources more accessible to all.

### THE DETAILS

- The NEH is an independent federal agency that was created in 1965. It is the largest funder of humanities programs in the U.S.
- For over 40 years, NEH grants have supported a wide range of projects, including:
  - Documentary films
  - Endowments for cultural institutions
  - Exhibitions
  - Library reading and discussion programs
  - Preservation of fragile collections
  - Presidential papers
  - Public humanities programs in every state
  - Research fellowships
  - Seminars for teachers

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