

# WHY SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES?

**FOR STARTERS, SO 80 TEACHERS CAN BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO TEACH THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ABOUT THE LEGACY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MASSACHUSETTS.**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency that supports the disciplines that teach us more about the human condition. Created in 1965, it's one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. For Boston University, it means \$334,000 in grants to help provide essential resources and services to educators across the state and around the world.

## ■ AFRICAN AMERICANS IN MASSACHUSETTS: A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.

Over two summers, Boston University hosted "African Americans in Massachusetts: From Slavery to Today"—a weeklong summer workshop for up to 80 teachers for grades K-12. Why is this workshop so important and funding for it so crucial? The words from one teacher sum it up best: "Yesterday, as I was introducing *Moby-Dick* to my senior students, a discussion began about blacks and slavery in Massachusetts. I was able to share so much with them from the workshop that I attended. Now, they are excited about reading the book. This would not have been possible without NEH."

## ■ THOMAS JEFFERSON: A PUBLIC FIGURE, A COMPLEX MAN.

He was one of the most famous slave owners in the United States. And one of its founding fathers. For three weeks, Boston University's School of Education will hold a special workshop to deepen our understanding of Jefferson's character and personality, and to shed light on America's founding. The workshop will explore pedagogical questions, such as: How can teachers be honest and realistic yet still inspire students and encourage citizenship?

## ■ DR. HOWARD THURMAN: PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF A MAN OF GOD.

He was a preacher, teacher, poet, theologian, civil rights leader, personal counselor, and loving friend. He authored 21 books, including *Jesus and the Disinherited*, which deeply influenced Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the civil rights movement. And he was the first black dean of Boston University's Marsh Chapel. Yet he is still largely unknown by millions of people. Which is why Boston University is leading a two-year project to electronically catalog the archival collections of two of the twentieth century's most extraordinary figures, Dr. Howard Thurman, and his wife, Sue Bailey Thurman. This will include all of the audio recordings of Reverend Thurman's sermons.

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We hope you'll give strong consideration to supporting funding for the NEH. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the role the NEH plays in our daily lives, please visit [bu.edu/federal](http://bu.edu/federal).



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