

WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES?

FOR STARTERS, SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL ORIGINS OF OUR NATIONAL NARRATIVE.

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 more than \$110,000 in grants to help provide essential resources and services to educators across the US and around the world.

■ HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN BECAME LARGER THAN LIFE. In the 1930s and 1940s, Abraham Lincoln achieved a cultural resonance in America. Driven by the writings of Carl Sandburg and portrayals of him on movie screens, Lincoln was transformed from a bland symbol of reconciliation to a humanized and accessible figure more firmly associated with federal power and racial justice, only to change again into a singular representative of Americans' rebuke to global dictatorship. In *Fighting the Civil War in New Deal America*, professor of history Nina Silber chronicles this remarkable transformation as well as other ways the Civil War held meaning for Americans in the years between 1929 and 1945. Research for the publication was made possible by an NEH Summer Stipend.

■ FINDING RHYME AND REASON IN POETS SPEAKING FOR OTHERS. BU English professor and poetry scholar Bonnie Costello used an NEH research fellowship to explore questions about the role of poets in society. For whom do poets write? What authority do they have to speak for others? In *The Plural of Us: Poetry and Community in Auden and Others*, Costello examines the use of first-person plural pronouns, probing the ideas of connection and community from the most intimate to the most universal. Her work gives us greater insights into the 1930s and 1940s, when collectivist ideologies focusing on the significance of groups began to spread.

■ THE LAST WORD IN REVIVING A DORMANT LANGUAGE. Conquest, colonization, and government language policies almost led to the disappearance of Northern Pomo, one of seven distinct Pomo languages spoken in Northern California for thousands of years. But thanks to the joint NEH/National Science Foundation Documenting Endangered Languages program, BU professor Catherine O'Connor was able to develop an interactive website where recordings, translations, and pronunciations are available in order to revitalize a language whose native speakers have passed away. The results speak for themselves.

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.



RESEARCH BY A **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** PROFESSOR GIVES US A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE CIVIL WAR HELPS SHAPE OUR NATION'S SELF-IMAGE.