

WHY SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES?



SO YOU CAN HELP NURTURE GLOBAL RELATIONS, ELEVATE PERSONAL RELATIONS, AND ILLUMINATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

And that's just for starters. Through generous National Endowment for the Humanities grants, Boston University has been helping the world learn more about how the past affects our present when it comes to politics, religion, and education.

HISTORICAL DATA ENCOURAGES A BRIGHTER US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

While US-Chinese relations have been strained of late, there is optimism—and supporting data—that tensions can be mitigated by a longer-term view, say a pair of BU researchers. Thanks to a digital humanities grant, theology professor Daryl Ireland and history professor Eugenio Menegon are developing a database to visualize relationships among Chinese Christians, missionaries, and the people with whom they interacted from 1550 to 1950, including Americans. The first iteration of the China Historical Christian Database, open to scholars and the public, reveals new connections and a deeper understanding of one of the world's most crucial relationships.

FRIENDSHIP 101

An underacknowledged impact of the pandemic was the toll it took on friendships, especially among young people. BU education professor emeritus Stephan Ellenwood and Karen Harris, a longtime educator and curriculum developer, set out to relieve that blow with a \$168,000 NEH grant. The pair hosted a two-week summer program on campus for K-12 teachers from around the country called "Friendship and Identity in Literature, Film, and Adolescence." Their mission: teach educators to employ literature as a tool not only to teach critical thinking, but to help students navigate social-emotional growth and develop "friendship literacy."

DID VOCATIONAL ARTS FUEL WEST GERMANY'S POSTWAR DEVELOPMENT?

Armed with an NEH research grant, Boston University art professor Gregory Hamilton Williams will shed light on an understudied area of artistic scholarship: the impact of West Germany's vocational art schools on the country's rapid post-World War II development. The country's *Werkkunstschulen* taught practical skills such as metal work, typography, printmaking, textile production, and industrial design. Graduates include such innovators as KP Brehmer, Imi Knoebel, and Franz Erhard Walther. Little attention, however, has been paid to the role of this training on the country's modern art evolution, Williams says. Yet it speaks volumes about the power of practical arts on the imagination.

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



BOSTON UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS ARE HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE NAVIGATE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH POST-COVID.

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