



DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

**** Support for *Individual Scholars* ****

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges or universities, or of primary or secondary schools, or independent scholars or writers. Support is provided for projects that can be completed during the tenure of the award as well as for work that is part of a long-term endeavor. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools. Awards are \$4,200 per month for awards of six to twelve months in duration. *Deadline: May 1, 2014*

AWARDS FOR FACULTY

at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities

Awards to Faculty support individual faculty members at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Awards allow for a range research-related endeavors, including conducting research in primary and secondary materials, writing books and articles based on such research, undertaking research in response to institutional or community needs and aims, and incorporating new research into existing classes. Awards are designed to be flexible. Grants provide time-flexible support for projects that can be completed during the tenure of the award, as well as for work that is part of a long-term endeavor. Awards are \$4,200 per month for periods of two to twelve months' tenure (or its equivalent). *Deadline: April 15, 2014*

SUMMER STIPENDS

Summer Stipends provide individuals with an opportunity to pursue research that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the public's understanding of the humanities. Projects may be completed during the tenure of an award or they may represent part of a long-term endeavor. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, a monograph on a specialized subject, a book on a broad topic, an archaeological site report, a translation, an edition, a database, or other scholarly tools. The award is \$6,000 for two consecutive months of full-time research and writing. Summer Stipends require institutional nomination. Individuals affiliated with institutions of higher education who are interested in Summer Stipends should check with their sponsored research offices for details. *Deadline: October 1, 2014*



**** Support for *Institutional Projects and Programs* ****

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS AT INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions support domestic and foreign research centers that offer fellowship opportunities in the humanities for postdoctoral and independent scholars. Funding priority is given to programs that provide long-term fellowships of four months or longer. Only independent research institutions may apply for NEH funding. Individuals interested in opportunities at one of the NEH-supported institutions should visit <http://www.neh.gov/projects/fpiri.html>. *Deadline: August 15, 2014*

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Collaborative Research grants support original research undertaken by a team of two or more scholars or research coordinated by an individual scholar that, because of its scope or complexity, requires additional staff or resources beyond the individual's salary. Grants support full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years. Grantees are expected to communicate the results of their work to the appropriate scholarly and public audiences. *Deadline: January 7, 2014*

SCHOLARLY EDITIONS AND TRANSLATIONS

Scholarly Editions grants support preparation of authoritative and annotated texts and documents of value to humanities scholars and general readers. These materials have been either previously inaccessible or available only in inadequate editions. Projects involve the editing of significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, but other types of work, such as the editing of musical notation, are also eligible. Editions produced with NEH support contain scholarly and critical apparatus appropriate to the subject matter and format of the edition. Applicants are strongly encouraged to propose electronic editions that provide wide access to scholars and students. *Deadline: January 7, 2014*

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NEH also supports scholarly research at domestic and international centers of advanced research (<http://www.neh.gov/projects/fpiri.html>), as well as through the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Fellowships Program (www.loc.gov/loc/kluge), the Japan-US Friendship Commission's Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan Program (<http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships-advanced-social-science-research-japan>), and the National Science Foundation's Documenting Endangered Languages program (<http://www.nsf.gov>).

APPLICATION MATERIALS are available on the Endowment's web site: <http://www.neh.gov>. All applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Staff members of the Division of Research are available to answer questions by telephone or email: 202-606-8200 or research@neh.gov. Hearing-impaired applicants may contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

NEH Division of Education Programs

The National Endowment for the Humanities supports school teachers and college faculty who wish to strengthen the teaching and learning of the humanities, which include, but are not limited to, the study of modern and classical languages, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, religion, ethics, the history, theory, and criticism of the arts, the history of science, and humanistic approaches to anthropology, economics, sociology, and political science.

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes provide opportunities to

- Create intensive two-to-five week programs that reach a national audience of school teachers or college and university faculty members
- Engage in collegial study of significant texts and topics in the humanities
- Use the resources of libraries, museums, and cultural sites

Application deadline of March 4, 2014, for summer 2015; award amounts vary based on the length and type of project. (Participants apply directly to individual projects at a March 4, 2014 deadline for summer 2014.)

NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for School Teachers provide opportunities to

- Create multiple intensive one-week programs in American history that reach national audiences of school teachers
- Engage in collegial study of significant texts and topics in the American experience at historic sites
- Integrate the use of archival sources and material evidence into school curricula

Application deadline of March 4, 2014, for summer 2015; awards of up to \$180,000 for projects offering two one-week workshops for school teachers. (Participants apply directly to individual projects for school or community college faculty at a March 4, 2014 deadline for summer 2014.)

Enduring Questions Course Grants provide opportunities to

- Design a new course for undergraduate teaching and learning that promotes engagement with fundamental issues in the humanities
- Focus on an explicitly stated question drawing upon significant readings from a range of historical periods
- Stimulate inquiry beyond vocational or specialized areas (not limited to those trained in or teaching in humanities disciplines)

Application deadline of September 11, 2014, for awards of up to \$38,000.

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Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities, High Hispanic Enrollment, and Tribal Colleges and Universities) provide opportunities to

- Enhance an institution's humanities programs in collaboration with consulting scholars
- Support faculty members as they collaborate to strengthen humanities programs
- Prepare institutions to develop new humanities programs, take advantage of underused resources, or collaborate with other institutions
- Train staff and faculty members in the use of humanities materials and technologies

Application deadline of June 26, 2014, for projects of up to \$100,000.

NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges provides support for collaboration between community colleges and universities or other cultural institutions to

- create new courses on *Bridging Cultures* themes or topics;
- design new course sequences, concentrations, and core curricula; or
- conduct scholarly research that will improve faculty preparation and enrich teaching.

Application deadline TBD, for projects of up to \$120,000.

For more information about these grant opportunities, or if you have ideas about developing a project, contact:

Division of Education Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
Phone: 202/606-8500
TDD (for hearing impaired only) 202/606-8282
e-mail: education@neh.gov

BRIDGING CULTURES INITIATIVE

As part of the Endowment's *Bridging Cultures* initiative, we encourage applications that focus on cultures internationally or within the United States. Such projects could focus on cultures internationally or within the United States. International projects might seek to enlarge Americans' understanding of other places and times, as well as other perspectives and intellectual traditions. American projects might explore the great variety of cultural influences on, and myriad subcultures within, American society. These projects might also investigate how Americans have approached and attempted to surmount seemingly unbridgeable cultural divides, or examine the ideals of civility and civic discourse. In connection with a focus on civic discourse, projects might explore the role of women in America's civic life as well as the civic role of women in other cultures and regions of the world.

EDSITEment

EDSITEment (<http://edsitement.neh.gov>), an educational partnership with National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Trust for the Humanities, and the Verizon Foundation, brings online humanities resources from some of the world's great museums, libraries, cultural institutions, and universities directly to the K-12 classroom.

For more information and updated deadlines for the Endowment's programs, please visit the NEH website: <http://www.neh.gov>. Follow us on Twitter: @NEH_Education



DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Division Fact Sheet for Applicants

The NEH's Division of Preservation and Access funds projects that preserve and create intellectual access to cultural resources of importance for research, education, and public programming in the humanities.

Categories of support include:

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Applicants may define a significant corpus of cultural materials that are important to the humanities and present a plan of work for preservation and access compatible with the nature and condition of the materials and their eventual use. Projects may encompass collections of books, journals, newspapers, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, sound recordings, art, and material culture held by libraries, archives, museums, historical organizations, and other repositories. Activities eligible for funding include digitizing collections, preservation reformatting, conservation treatment, deacidification of collections, arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections, and cataloging of print and non-print humanities source materials. Support may also be requested to create databases and electronic archives, descriptive catalogs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, tools for spatial analysis and representation, digital tools designed to develop or use humanities resources, and other types of research tools and reference works.

Introduced in 2012: This category also support projects involving planning, assessment, and pilot activities pertaining to the scope of the HCRR program.
(Deadline: July 18, 2013 for projects beginning May 2014)

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Newly created in fiscal year 2010, this grant program focuses on preserving humanities collections and it emphasizes sustainable preventive conservation strategies. Grants support planning and implementing preventive conservation measures, which typically include managing relative humidity and temperature levels in collection spaces, providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections, and safeguarding collections from theft and fire. The program encourages sustainable preservation strategies that are cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally sensitive and that strive to meet institution-specific preservation goals by mitigating the greatest risks to collections rather than focusing on prescriptive targets. Identifying sustainable strategies requires an understanding of the materials in collections, the performance of the building envelope and systems, the nature of the local climate, the economic costs, and the impact on the environment.
(Deadline: December 3, 2013 for projects beginning October 2014)

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

This category has been designed for small and mid-size institutions to enhance their capacity to care for their humanities collections. Grants of up to \$6,000 are available for preservation assessments, consultations with a preservation professional to address a specific preservation problem or to create a disaster response plan, attendance at preservation workshops, and the purchase of basic storage supplies or equipment. (Deadline: May 1, 2014 for projects beginning January 2015)

Preservation and Access Research and Development

These grants support projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Challenges include the need to find better ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation's cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—and to develop advanced modes of searching, discovering, and using such materials.

(Deadline: May 1, 2014 for projects beginning January 2015)

Preservation and Access Education and Training

These grants support education and training programs on the preservation and management of, and the creation of intellectual access to, library, archival, and material culture collections. Educational programs that meet national or regional needs may focus on disaster preparedness and response; collections care training; graduate programs in preservation and conservation; the skills and knowledge required to provide or enhance intellectual access to humanities collections; and preservation field services that serve a multi-state region and provide surveys, consultations, workshops, reference services, and informational materials to the staff of institutions responsible for the care of humanities collections.

(Deadline: May 1, 2014 for projects beginning January 2015)

National Digital Newspaper Program

Based on the accomplishments of the United States Newspaper Program (USNP), which supported cataloging and microfilming of the newspapers published in this country since 1690, the division began in 2005 the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Awards to state projects will fund digitization of selected microfilmed titles to provide enhanced access to state newspapers through "Chronicling America," a digital repository maintained by the Library of Congress.

(Deadline: January 15, 2014 for projects beginning September 2014)

Documenting Endangered Languages

(a partnership with the National Science Foundation)

Awards are made to conduct fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases.

(Deadline: September 15, 2013 for projects beginning May 2014)

Guidelines: Application guidelines are available on the NEH web site:

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html>. All applications to the NEH must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the government-wide grants portal.

The division encourages potential applicants to discuss ideas for preservation and access projects with the division's staff and to confirm a project's eligibility for support well in advance of a deadline. The staff will read draft proposals (except for Preservation Assistance Grants) and comment on the extent to which the narrative and budget contain the information required by evaluators to assess the project's importance and viability. Draft proposals are encouraged at least six weeks before a deadline.

Applications are evaluated by scholars in the humanities, professionals with expert knowledge of preservation and access methodologies, and administrators of libraries, archives, and museums.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Public humanities programs promote the experience of lifelong learning in American and world history, literature, comparative religion, philosophy, and other fields of the humanities. They offer new insights into familiar subjects and invite conversation about important humanities ideas and questions.

The **Division of Public Programs** supports a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse public audiences. Fundable activities include, but are not limited to, radio and television programs for national broadcast, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading or film discussion series, lectures, and symposia. NEH encourages projects that make creative use of new and emerging technologies to enhance the content of programs or to engage audiences in new ways.

TYPES OF GRANTS

For complete application guidelines, visit the NEH website at www.neh.gov and click on “Grants.”

Interpretive exhibitions and programs at museums, libraries, historic sites and historical and cultural organizations can find support in the **Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations** grant category:

- **Planning Grants** are available to develop the content, interpretive approach, and formats of public humanities projects.
- **Implementation Grants** support the final development, design, and production of public humanities projects.
- **Chairman’s Special Awards** support large-scale traveling exhibitions of national visibility that have exceptional potential for attracting large numbers of visitors. These exhibitions should show unusual promise in terms of disseminating important ideas in the humanities. Up to \$1 million may be requested in this grant category, but applicants must meet the special criteria for this award.

NEH supports radio and television programs that explore significant events, figures, or developments in the humanities under the category of **Media Projects**.

- For radio producers, **Development Grants** are available to refine the content and to develop treatments of programs and **Production Grants** support production and postproduction.
- For television programs, **Development Grants** allow producers to prepare scripts or detailed treatments; **Production Grants** are offered for the final preparation of programs for broadcast.
- **Chairman’s Special Awards** at the Production Grant level are more complex projects that would be of compelling interest to the general public; they have the capacity to examine important humanities ideas in new ways and promise to reach large audiences. These goals can often be accomplished through combining a

variety of program formats, forming creative collaborations among diverse institutions, and expanding the scope and reach of the project.

- ***Bridging Cultures through Film: International Topics*** grants support documentary films that examine international themes in the humanities. Both **Development** and **Production** grants are available in this category.

In all grant categories, the Division invites projects that involve collaboration among institutions and that engage audiences through creative use of multiple formats (for example, a public television broadcast that also includes a reading and discussion series at local libraries, or a museum exhibition that explores its subject through extensive K-12 curricula and an interpretive web site and DVD).

BRIDGING CULTURES

As part of the NEH *Bridging Cultures* Initiative, applications that focus on cultures internationally, or within the United States, are encouraged. International projects might seek to enlarge Americans' understanding of other places and times, as well as other perspectives and intellectual traditions. American projects might explore the great variety of cultural influences on, and myriad subcultures within, American society. These projects might also investigate how Americans have approached and attempted to surmount seemingly unbridgeable cultural divides, or examine the ideals of civility and civic discourse that have informed this quest.

CHANCES OF SUCCESS

An application's chances of winning support vary according to the number and quality of proposals received in any particular round of competition. Division wide, the success rate of proposals averages about 11%. In fiscal year 2013, the Division of Public Programs awarded roughly \$12 million in grants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Any U.S. nonprofit organization or institution that has obtained tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service is eligible to apply for funding from the Division of Public Programs. Awards are not made to individuals.

TALK WITH US

Applicants are encouraged to contact NEH staff by e-mail (publicpgms@neh.gov) or by telephone (202/606-8269). Program officers are available to discuss project ideas, to offer advice about funding priorities, and to supply samples of funded applications. Staff will review preliminary proposal drafts if they are submitted well before the deadline.

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant Program | Deadline: September 11, 2014

The Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant program seeks innovative projects that represent the next generation of advances in humanities research, education, preservation, access, and public programming. Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants may involve research that brings new approaches or documents best practices in the study of the digital humanities; planning and developing prototypes of new digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources, including libraries' and museums' digital assets; scholarship that focuses on the history, criticism, and philosophy of digital culture and its impact on society; studies that examine the philosophical or practical implications of the use of emerging technologies in specific fields or disciplines of the humanities, or in interdisciplinary collaborations involving several fields or disciplines; innovative uses of technology for public programming and education utilizing both traditional and new media; and new digital modes of publication that facilitate the dissemination of humanities scholarship in advanced academic as well as informal or formal educational settings at all academic levels.

Digital Humanities Implementation Grants | Deadline: February 19, 2014

This program is designed to fund the implementation of innovative digital-humanities projects that have successfully completed a start-up phase and demonstrated their value to the field. The program can support innovative digital-humanities projects that address multiple audiences, including scholars, teachers, librarians, and the public. Digital Humanities Implementation Grants may involve implementation of computationally-based methods or techniques for humanities research; implementation of new digital tools for use in humanities research, public programming, or educational settings; efforts to ensure the completion and long-term sustainability of existing digital resources (typically in conjunction with a library or archive); ; scholarship that focuses on the history, criticism, and philosophy of digital culture and its impact on society; studies that examine the philosophical or practical implications of the use of emerging technologies in specific fields or disciplines of the humanities, or in interdisciplinary collaborations involving several fields or disciplines; or implementation of new digital modes of scholarly communication that facilitate peer review, collaboration, or the dissemination of humanities scholarship for various audiences.

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities | Deadline: March 11, 2014

This program supports major training institutes or workshops that provide the opportunity for experts in the digital humanities to share their knowledge with colleagues from around the country. Topics from previously-supported institutes include advanced TEI encoding, multimodal scholarship, humanities high-performance computing, strategies for developing humanities software, models of social network analysis, and geospatial scholarship. Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities may be hosted by colleges, universities, learned societies, centers for advanced study, libraries or other repositories, and cultural or professional organizations. The host site(s) must be appropriate for the project, providing facilities for scholarship and collegial interaction. Projects that will be held more than once and at different locations are permissible.

Visit our website for details about our international **Digging into Data** program.
<http://www.diggingintodata.org>



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NEH CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM

Purpose: NEH Challenge Grants support the **long-term** strength of humanities institutions and organizations by encouraging fund raising for permanent endowments and appropriate capital improvements.

Eligibility: With the exception of elementary and secondary schools, and school districts, any U.S. nonprofit institution (public agency or private nonprofit organization) working wholly or in part within the humanities is eligible to apply. Typical applicants include colleges and universities, museums, public radio and television stations, research centers, public libraries, historical societies, historic sites, scholarly and cultural organizations, and university presses.

Awards: Awards in recent years have averaged between \$200,000 and \$500,000. Grantees must raise nonfederal donations of three times the offered NEH funds.

Impact: Since the program's inception in 1977, over 1,500 awards totaling over \$486 million in federal dollars have leveraged more than **\$2 billion** in nonfederal contributions to the humanities.

Competition: In recent years the number of applications to the program has ranged from 80 to 120 annually, and the number of awards between 15 and 20. Applications are particularly encouraged from HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges with a 2:1 match and an extra year to meet the matching requirement.

Budget: The program's budget is less than \$8 million.

Deadline: **Challenge Grants, Thursday, May 1, 2014**

<i>Staff:</i>	ANDREA ANDERSON	ACTING DIRECTOR
	BRANDON JOHNSON	SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER
	KAY GIENGER	STAFF ASSISTANT

For guidelines, visit the NEH Website, www.neh.gov, under “Grants”



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

A few hints for writing a successful grant application

Prepare

- Don't wait until the last minute. Register with grants.gov well ahead of time.
- Look at the guidelines for the program to which you're applying. They will tell you what is eligible and what's not, and what an application should contain.
- The web page for each program includes sample applications. Don't take those as models, but as examples of how someone else made the case for her/his project.
- Contact NEH staff with questions. They can help you figure out what program is right for your project. Contact information is on each program web page. For some programs staff will read and comment on draft applications.

Make your case

- The guidelines will tell you the criteria by which your application will be evaluated. Your application should make a case for how your application meets those criteria.
- For most NEH programs, the most important criterion is the project's significance. Tell your readers why this project is important. Who should read your work? How will it change the field?
- Locate your project in a larger scholarly context. Know the literature, issues, questions, and controversies on your topic. How are you building on or challenging the work of other scholars in your area?
- Intrigue your readers. Make them want to know the answers to the questions you're asking.
- If you are revising a dissertation, explain how the planned book differs from the dissertation.
- Provide a realistic time line and work plan.

Think about your audience

- Your application will be read by both specialists and generalists. You will need to persuade them that your project is important and that you know what you're doing.
- Make it easy for your readers. Write clearly and concisely. Avoid language that is too abstract, unclear, or jargon laden. Define concepts and terminology.
- If possible, explicitly address the evaluation criteria.
- Balance the abstract and the particular. Tell readers why your project is important, but also provide examples.
- Show them you know what you're doing. Describe your planned methods and sources. Tell them why you are using those particular theories or case studies.
- Anticipate your readers' concerns and address them.

Attend to details

- Ask colleagues, preferably those who are not in your field, to read a draft application.
- Make sure your bibliography is up to date.
- Proofread your work.
- Make sure your references submit their letters.
- If you don't succeed, ask for feedback and try again.

Information on NEH grant opportunities is at neh.gov



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506
SUITE 603
FEDSTATE@NEH.GOV
202.606.8254, 202.606.8365 (FAX)
WWW.NEH.GOV

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

Federal/State Partnership is the liaison between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the nonprofit network of 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils.

The NEH Federal/State Partnership is a model of American federalism in action. This collaborative effort dedicated to the study and enjoyment of the humanities links a national federal agency with fifty-six state and jurisdictional humanities councils. Federal/State Partnership helps the Endowment realize its two primary strategic goals: (1) to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities, and (2) to increase public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities in the United States. The Partnership makes humanities education and lifelong learning readily available at the local level, tailored to local interests and needs and drawing upon local resources, traditions and heritage.

State humanities councils are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations governed by volunteer boards of directors. They operate in each of the fifty states as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Amerika Samoa. The councils were established to fulfill the requirement in the agency's enabling legislation—National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended—that the Endowment support humanities programs “in each of the several states.”

In addition to the general operating support grants they receive from NEH, councils are eligible to apply for any other NEH grant opportunities. Many councils have diverse funding, seeking support from their states as well as from foundations, corporations, and individual donors.

The primary work of Federal/State Partnership is providing and overseeing annual general operating support grants to the state and jurisdictional humanities councils and collecting information about councils' work through annual compliance reporting. It works with councils on self-assessments, site visits, and review which are conducted on a five-year cycle. Federal/State Partnership also oversees the grants made to councils through NEH's *We the People* initiative. The Federal/State Partnership network includes the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Federal/State Partnership office at NEH, and the state humanities councils. The Federation of State Humanities Councils is the councils' membership organization.

State humanities councils have two major ways to support the humanities in their jurisdictions: They grant a portion of their funds on a competitive basis to locally

initiated programs, and they develop and carry out their own programs. In their grantmaking role, they act as foundations from which eligible organizations and individuals seek funding; in their program-generating role, they are nonprofit service providers drawing on their own resources and looking to the public to support the benefits they offer. Schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, filmmakers, literacy programs, teachers, researchers, writers, and storytellers are among the people and organizations with which the state humanities councils work.

Council activities may include the following:

- grant programs
- chautauqua: living history presentations and discussions
- reading & literacy programs, including book festivals and family reading programs
- reading & discussion programs
- speakers bureaus
- teacher institutes
- civil society: programs and discussions that help to engage citizens with their communities
- cultural & heritage tourism
- multi-media programs
- publications
- research fellowships