



**Fiscal Year 2024
Congressional Justification**

March 2023

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OVERVIEW

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) serves the American public by promoting advanced research, deeply informed teaching in schools and communities, lifelong learning, and the preservation of cultural collections. NEH is the only federal agency dedicated to funding the humanities, which include history, philosophy, literature, language, ethics, archaeology, political theory, jurisprudence, comparative religion, and the humanistic social sciences.

NEH supports the fundamental building blocks of American civil society, helping us to examine the human condition, understand our cultural heritage, foster mutual respect for diverse beliefs and cultures, develop media and information literacy, and promote civics education. Since its founding in 1965, NEH has awarded nearly \$6 billion in grants to museums, historic sites, colleges, universities, K–12 teaching, libraries, public television and radio stations, research institutions, independent scholars, and state and jurisdictional humanities councils nationwide—providing a critical lifeline to the nation’s cultural and educational sectors and sustaining the United States’ role as a global leader in the humanities.

Now—as our nation grapples with existential threats to our democracy, the persistent scourge of systemic racism, and the ongoing climate crisis—the humanities are more vital than ever. NEH-supported projects bring the past into sharper focus, thereby bringing about, as its founding legislation affirms, “a better analysis of the present and a better view of the future.”

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget provides \$211 million for NEH. This funding includes:

- \$78.25 million for NEH’s grant programs in support of projects in the humanities and \$66 million in awards to NEH’s partners in each of the 56 states and jurisdictions.
- \$6.95 million for *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*, NEH’s special initiative that leverages the humanities to strengthen our democracy, advance equity for all, and address our changing climate.
- \$17.8 million in federal matching funds, including funding for NEH’s Challenge grant programs to help stimulate and match nonfederal donations in support of cultural and educational institutions as well as incentives to garner applications from underserved communities.
- \$42 million for salaries and expenses needed to operate the agency in an efficient and effective manner, including to expand NEH’s new Offices of Data and Evaluation; Outreach; and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA); and to continue the agency’s response to Executive Orders aimed at (1) removing key barriers to full and equal participation in the agency’s programs and operations; (2) advancing DEIA within the agency’s workforce; and (3) prioritizing information technology, cybersecurity, and data.

Enhanced Programmatic and Administrative Priorities in FY 2024

In FY 2024, NEH will continue the core work of its existing grant programs while supporting programs, offices, and policies that strengthen our democracy, advance equity for underserved communities, and address our changing climate. The following are examples of NEH’s plans for FY 2024, which are described in detail in the individual division, office, and program sections of this justification:

Strengthening Our Democracy

- NEH’s marquee special initiative, *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*, which invests in projects that (1) support civics education, including Americans’ knowledge of the country’s democratic traditions and constitutional principles; (2) foster civic engagement and media and information literacy; and (3) examine threats to America’s democracy.
- NEH’s *A More Perfect Union* initiative, which prepares the American people for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 through projects such as NEH’s partnership with National History Day (NHD), a nationwide program that promotes historical research among middle and high school students.
- *United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture*, a nationwide program announced at the 2022 White House “United We Stand” Summit that supports humanities-based programming in the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to combat hate-motivated violence and promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding.
- A new program in NEH’s Office of Digital Humanities (ODH) that supports humanistic research into the relationship between technology and society, including the implications of disinformation on the democratic process.
- The launch of a National Digital Broadcasting Program (NDBP) to digitize the nation’s audiovisual broadcasting heritage and the continuation of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership with the Library of Congress to create a national digital repository of historical American newspapers in all 56 states and jurisdictions.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Research Programs that support advanced research into the core principles of democracy and expand access to humanities scholarship for the American public and international audiences. Past NEH awards include support for scholarly editions of the papers of Presidents and political figures such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Jane Addams, and Martin Luther King Jr.; fellowships to individuals writing books on the origins and foundations of our democracy and civil society as well as threats to our democratic process; and Public Scholars grants to authors such as Tiya Miles for *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*, a 2021 National Book Award-winner that traces a single object handed down through three generations of Black women in a meditation on people who are left out of the archives of history.
- Programs designed by the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils that engage audiences of all ages in reflection and discussion on the nation’s founding and its complex history; the core principles of a constitutional government; and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

Advancing Equity for Underserved Communities

- Support for programs and projects that are tailored to building capacity, expanding access and inclusivity, and amplifying untold stories of historically underserved groups through *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*, NEH’s special initiative.

- The expansion of (1) NEH’s Office of Data and Evaluation, a newly created office highlighted in NEH’s Equity Action Plan focused on building a robust data collection system to analyze the effectiveness of NEH programs and policies and the extent to which they advance equity and support for communities and institutions that have been historically underserved by NEH, such as Tribal Nations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), veterans, community colleges, and others; (2) NEH’s Office of Outreach, a newly created office highlighted in NEH’s Equity Action Plan focused on increasing the agency’s engagement with underserved communities and institutions; and (3) NEH’s Chief Diversity Officer and Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, a newly created office highlighted in NEH’s DEIA Strategic Plan focused on recruiting and retaining a workforce that draws on the full diversity of the nation.
- A partnership with the Department of the Interior on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies with the goal of addressing their intergenerational impact and shedding light on the traumas of the past.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Public Programs that support documentary films, museum exhibitions, and discussion programs that engage public audiences of all ages in serious questions about history, culture, American democracy, and efforts to build a more just and equitable society. Past NEH awards include support for *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, a 2021 Academy Award-nominated documentary that sparked a nationwide conversation about the history and importance of the disability rights movement in the United States; *Mr. SOUL!*, a 2022 Peabody Award-winning documentary about the first nationally broadcast all-Black variety show on public television; *Asian Americans*, a 2021 Peabody Award-winning film series that explores the history of identity, contributions, and challenges experienced by Asian Americans in the United States; “The Atlas of Drowned Towns,” a public history project at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, that explores the histories of the dozens of communities in the American West inundated by dam construction in the 20th century; and *Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters Today*, a discussion program by Library of America of New York, New York, that employed the African American poetic tradition to help illuminate the social, cultural, and political history of the United States.
- A partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to document thousands of endangered languages all over the world—including hundreds of Native American languages—through (1) a program in NEH’s Division of Research Programs that supports individual scholars in the fields of linguistics, linguistic anthropology, or sociolinguistics who seek to record and archive endangered languages before they become extinct; and (2) a program in NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access that supports the creation of tools such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections that document languages threatened with extinction. Past NEH awards include support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to construct an interactive and fully searchable digital archive of historical recordings and texts made in fluent Western Dakota and Lakota, two dialects of the Indigenous language of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
- A capacity-building program with the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C., for HBCU museums and archives that emphasizes mentorship for the next generation of African American professionals in the

cultural sector.

- Programs in NEH’s Divisions of Education Programs and Research Programs that support research opportunities and the teaching and study of the humanities in Native American and Indigenous institutions, HBCUs, HSIs, community colleges, rural colleges and universities, schools with a majority minority-undergraduate enrollment, and schools with significant numbers of first-generation students. Past NEH awards include support for faculty at Manchester Community College in Manchester, Connecticut, to develop a new, low-cost reader for art history classrooms focused on the art, culture, and historical perspectives of traditionally marginalized communities and at Diné College in Navajo Nation to develop an art history program on Navajo art and artists.
- A program in NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access that ensures the broader public can more easily find and make use of cultural heritage collections at libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country. Past NEH awards include support for the expansion of a digital, bilingual archive of 20th-century Latin American and Latino Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in Texas and for “Listening to War: Wisconsin’s Wartime Oral Histories,” a digital collection of first-person accounts of veterans and civilians in Wisconsin who served in the 20th century.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Research Programs that support scholars in racial and ethnic studies to uncover new perspectives on race in the United States. Past NEH awards include support for W. Caleb McDaniel to write *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, a 2020 Pulitzer Prize-winning work that examined how a 19th-century freedwoman survived kidnapping and re-enslavement to successfully sue her captor.
- A special funding level in NEH’s Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Program for federally recognized Native American tribal governments and Native Hawaiian organizations, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, community colleges, and other institutions historically underserved by NEH. Past NEH awards include support to Pellissippi State Community College in Knox County, Tennessee, to create a new Appalachian Heritage Center, a campus library that will serve as a repository for regional literature, history, and folklore.
- In-person and virtual humanities programs designed by the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to reach all Americans, including people who are incarcerated.

Addressing a Changing Climate

- Support for programs and projects through *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*, NEH’s special initiative, that (1) incorporate resilience and sustainability in the nation’s cultural and educational sectors and (2) promote robust humanities research into the cultural and historical roots of climate change.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access that (1) build cultural and community resilience in the face of natural disasters and public health crises, especially among disadvantaged communities; (2) encourage sustainable, energy-conscious strategies to prolong the life of cultural heritage collections; and (3) support under-resourced collecting organizations, such as small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations. Past NEH awards include support for the Museum of the Aleutians

in Unalaska, Alaska, to implement an environmental monitoring program for archaeological and ethnographic collections and for Xavier University of Louisiana, a New Orleans-based HBCU whose holdings include the Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery Collection, to conduct a preservation-needs assessment designed to help the university reduce the impact of future hurricanes and high humidity levels.

- A new program in NEH's Office of Challenge Programs that enables cultural organizations—such as museums, archives, and libraries—to develop strategic climate action plans to prepare for and respond to existential threats posed by natural disasters.
- A special encouragement for research in the environmental humanities through fellowships funded by NEH's Division of Research Programs. Past NEH awards include support for independent scholar Sarah Dry to write *Waters of the World: The Story of the Scientists Who Unraveled the Mysteries of Our Oceans, Atmosphere, and Ice Sheets and Made the Planet Whole*, which uses the history of science, earth sciences, and biography to tell the stories of the pioneering scientists at the forefront of climate science.
- A national, humanities-based convening on the human impacts of climate change in partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and supported through *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*.
- Technical assistance and support for cultural and educational institutions affected by severe weather events through NEH's network of 56 state and jurisdictional councils. Past NEH awards include emergency supplemental funding in 2022 to New Mexico Humanities Council to conduct a disaster assessment on the damage to cultural organizations from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfires in northern New Mexico and to Kentucky Humanities to support cultural organizations affected by severe flooding in the Appalachian region of eastern Kentucky.

FY 2024 BUDGET REQUEST

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Special Initiatives	\$5,052	\$7,000	\$6,950	(\$50)
Digital Humanities	\$5,500	\$6,250	\$6,050	(\$200)
Education Programs	\$13,500	\$15,400	\$14,800	(\$600)
Federal/State Partnership	\$54,348	\$65,000	\$66,000	\$1,000
Preservation and Access	\$19,500	\$22,500	\$22,000	(\$500)
Public Programs	\$14,000	\$15,800	\$15,400	(\$400)
Research Programs	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$0
Program Development	\$2,500	\$2,800	\$2,500	(\$300)
Subtotal	\$129,400	\$152,250	\$151,200	(\$1,050)
Challenge Programs	\$13,600	\$15,750	\$14,800	(\$950)
Treasury Matching Funds	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Subtotal	\$15,600	\$18,750	\$17,800	(\$950)
Administration	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$6,000
Total	\$180,000	\$207,000	\$211,000	\$4,000

JUSTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE INCREASES

	FY 2024 OMB Submission		
	(\$ in thousands)		
	Positions	FTE	Amount
Pricing Change #1 - 2024 COLA Increase	0	0	\$ 935
Pricing Change #2 - Annualization of Prior Year Pay Increase	0	0	\$ 285
Pricing Change #3 - Federal Employee Retirement System Adjustment	0	0	\$ 200
Pricing Change #4 - Annualization of FY 2023 Hiring	0	15.5	\$ 2,479
Pricing Change #5 - GSA Rent Increase	0	0	\$ 248
Pricing Change #6 - FPS Fee Adjustment	0	0	\$ 8
Total Pricing Changes - Administration	0	15.5	\$ 4,155

Pricing Change #1 – 2024 Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Increase: This pricing change reflects the costs to support the 5.2% pay adjustment in FY 2024. It includes three quarters of funding in Calendar Year 2024.

Pricing Change #2 – Annualization of Prior Year COLA Increase: This pricing change reflects one quarter of funding in Calendar Year 2023 for the 4.6% pay adjustment enacted in FY 2023.

Pricing Change #3 – Federal Employee Retirement System Adjustment: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11 includes a rate for employing agency contributions for regular retirement groups. This pricing change reflects the increase to the agency for retirement contributions.

Pricing Change #4 – Annualization of FY 2023 Hiring: The FY 2023 President’s Budget for NEH included funding for the launch of three new offices: the Office of Data and Evaluation, the Office of Outreach, and the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer (now known as the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, or DEIA). This pricing change annualizes hiring in FY 2023 for these offices as well as other key leadership positions across the agency.

Pricing Change #5 – GSA Rent Increase: This pricing change reflects the increase to NEH’s rent based on the FY 2024 rent estimate provided by the General Services Administration (GSA).

Pricing Change #6 – FPS Fee Adjustment: This pricing change reflects the increase in the Federal Protective Service Basic Security Assessed Fee.

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM CHANGES

	FY 2024 OMB Submission		
	(\$ in thousands)		
	Positions	FTE	Amount
Program Change #1 – Expansion of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	2	1	\$350
Program Change #2 – Transition to Shared Services	0	0	\$650
Program Change #3 - IT Modernization for Federal Cybersecurity by Design	0	0	\$240
Program Change #4 - Zero Trust Implementation	0	0	\$ 50
Program Change #5 - Strengthening the Foundations of our Digitally Enabled Future Human Capital	1	0.5	\$85
Total Program Changes - Administration	3	1.5	\$1,375

Program Change #1: Expansion of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

In order to effectively pursue its goals, NEH seeks to cultivate and sustain a workforce that reflects the breadth and diversity of the American people. In FY 2022, NEH developed a DEIA Strategic Plan to recruit and retain a workforce that draws from the full diversity of the nation. In FY 2023, NEH established a Chief Diversity Officer position to implement the DEIA Strategic Plan and design a whole-of-agency, data-driven DEIA program at NEH.

NEH requests \$0.350 million for 2 positions (1 additional FTE) and support costs in FY 2024 to expand the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. Reporting to the Chair, the Chief Diversity Officer and Office of DEIA will (1) implement recruitment and hiring policies and practices in coordination with the Office of Human Resources to strategically integrate DEIA goals, explore opportunities to achieve more equitable outcomes, mitigate the effects of systemic bias on underserved communities, and establish an open and fair process consistent with merit systems principles; (2) design professional development opportunities for NEH staff that create an inclusive, engaged, and high-performing workforce; and (3) embed accessibility as a core design component of NEH facilities, digital spaces, website services, and programs so that all people, including people with disabilities, can fully and independently use them. The Office of DEIA will oversee the implementation of NEH’s Equity Action Plan and ensure DEIA is a cross-cutting

component in the development of NEH policies and procedures. It will provide annual progress reports on the agency's DEIA program to the Chair.

Program Change #2: Transition to Shared Services

Beginning in FY 2022, NEH began the work to transition from its legacy Oracle financial system to a shared service provider. The transition from the historical agency-maintained financial management system to a shared service provider will modernize all accounting and financial management transaction processes; develop and maintain a sustainable cost structure to the agency's financial management system; ensure continued and sustainable compliance with OMB Circular A-123 Appendix D requirements; reduce or eliminate enterprise management risks related to agency financial management system compliance with statutory regulations; and reduce staffing costs through process efficiencies. Currently the agency has a manual, form/paper-driven process for payments and internal controls, which has led to unsustainable staffing requirements to maintain effective internal controls and operational efficiencies. The agency's manual payment process and controls have been identified as risks by NEH's enterprise risk management program.

In FY 2023, NEH began the engagement and migration activities with the Treasury Administrative Center (ARC), which was selected as the agency's shared service provider. The agency will transition and "go-live" in the new financial system in FY 2024. In FY 2024, \$0.650 million will be needed to fund \$0.5 million in costs for the grant system interface build and \$0.150 million in recurring costs based on Treasury ARC's adoption of the One Stream Software solution and the licensing cost share.

Program Change #3: IT Modernization for Federal Cybersecurity by Design

NEH has inventoried agency devices consistent with the *Devices* pillar outlined in *CISA's Zero-Trust Maturity Model*. There are several core network devices and servers at the agency that are nearing end-of-life or whose maintenance costs are prohibitively expensive. NEH requests \$0.1 million to replace outdated devices and to lower its technology debt by providing improved mobility through secure wireless access. Additionally, NEH plans to transition from its current agency-owned financial management system to a Shared Service Provider. In keeping with the Cybersecurity by Design priority, NEH requests \$0.140 million for a full independent Assessment and Authorization of the security controls that will be managed by NEH.

Program Change #4: Zero Trust Implementation

OMB's *Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles* (M-22-09) guidance outlines zero trust strategic goals that must be achieved by the end of FY 2024. In prior years, NEH has received funding for reaching many of these goals. However, several of the goals still need to be addressed. For *Devices*, NEH requires new capabilities to centrally manage inventories and detect rogue devices. For *Networks*, NEH needs to transition to a protective Domain Name System service. For *Data*, NEH needs funds to implement data categorization. To achieve these goals, NEH requests \$50,000 in FY 2024 and notes there may be additional maintenance costs in subsequent years.

Program Change #5: Strengthening the Foundations of our Digitally Enabled Future Human Capital

In response to OMB's *Administration Cybersecurity Priorities for the FY 2024 Budget* (M-22-16) guidance, NEH requests funding to hire a cybersecurity-focused position. The addition of this position will allow dedicated staff to support new initiatives such as managing centralized device inventory, maintaining new vulnerability monitoring requirements, conducting security architecture reviews and risk and vulnerability assessments, managing enterprise-wide logging, and ongoing review and approval cycles. The additional cybersecurity position will also support the enhanced M-19-03 High Value Asset (HVA) Assessment Program, from the HVA Program Management Office, for the assessment and frequency requirements for NEH HVA systems, like NEH's financial system. This includes HVA readiness activities such as Security Architecture Review, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, and Federal Incident Response Evaluation in preparation for HVA assessment. The requested position will work closely with the Chief Information Security Officer and Information System Security Officer to ensure that NEH implements, manages, monitors, measures, and reports on cybersecurity initiatives within the required timelines.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President’s Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Special Initiatives	\$5,052	\$7,000	\$6,950	(\$50)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Today we face some of our greatest challenges as a nation: among them, sustaining our democratic institutions, building a more just and equitable society, and protecting our cultural inheritance from the effects of climate change. In response to these challenges, NEH has launched a new special initiative, *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future*, that leverages the humanities to strengthen our democracy, advance equity for all, and address our changing climate.

NEH’s *American Tapestry* initiative takes its inspiration from the agency’s 1965 founding legislation and the goals it sets forth for NEH: “a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future.” Through new funding opportunities at NEH, *American Tapestry* encourages humanities projects that elevate the role of civics in schools and public programs, advance knowledge of the country’s history and political institutions, and examine threats to its democratic principles. The initiative also encourages projects that explore the untold stories of historically underrepresented groups and build capacity at cultural and educational institutions to benefit underserved communities. Finally, the initiative welcomes projects that promote research into the historical roots and cultural effects of climate change and support the cultural and educational sectors in building climate resilience. By supporting humanities projects that align with these three themes—strengthening our democracy, advancing equity for all, and addressing our changing climate—the *American Tapestry* initiative seeks to elevate our country’s history in all its complexity and diversity.

Strengthening Our Democracy

“In the face of sustained and alarming challenges to democracy, universal human rights, ... — all around the world, democracy needs champions... [H]ere in the United States, we know as well as anyone that renewing our democracy and strengthening our democratic institutions requires constant effort. American democracy is an ongoing struggle to live up to our highest ideals and to heal our divisions; to recommit ourselves to the founding idea of our nation captured in our Declaration of Independence.... In my view, this is the defining challenge of our time.”

Remarks by President Joseph R. Biden
December 9, 2021

As stated in NEH’s founding legislation, “Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.” Since its founding, NEH has supported projects that make the history of the United States available to all Americans. For example, NEH supports scholarly editions, many of them now available electronically, of such iconic figures in American history as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Jane Addams, and Martin Luther King Jr. Through the National Digital Newspaper Program, NEH has made millions of pages of historical newspapers from every state in the union available to students, teachers, and the public. NEH has also supported professional development programs for K–12 teachers on such topics as the Underground Railroad and the U.S. Constitution

as well as documentary films on the Civil Rights Movement and humanities discussion programs on African American poetry. The 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils engage audiences of all ages in reflection and discussion on the nation’s founding and its complex history; the core principles of a constitutional government; and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. NEH’s *American Tapestry* initiative will continue to invest in these humanities projects as well as new programs that support civics education, foster civic engagement, increase media and information literacy, and examine threats to America’s democracy. These programs include the following:

A More Perfect Union

NEH’s *A More Perfect Union* initiative supports the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 by funding projects that enhance our understanding of the country’s founding period. As part of the initiative, NEH encourages projects that make documents and the historical records from this period more accessible, promote a deeper understanding of early American history, and advance knowledge of our core principles of government. The initiative helps students, teachers, and the public better understand America’s constitutional democracy and how the country’s founding ideals have been met over time.

In FY 2022, NEH entered into a new four-year cooperative agreement with National History Day (NHD), a longstanding partner of NEH that promotes historical research among middle and high school students. Each year, more than 500,000 students participate in NHD and develop topics; conduct research; and produce papers, documentary films, exhibitions, websites, and performances that present the results of their research. The 2022–2026 partnership between NEH and NHD, titled “*A More Perfect Union: America at 250*,” will continue educational programming that promotes student learning while producing opportunities to deepen and inspire the teaching of history. Programs and activities will focus on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the continued struggle toward a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society. NHD programs and content will examine how our founding ideals have been applied, challenged, and reconceived from our founding to today’s headlines. The timing of the project coincides with NHD’s Inclusive History Initiative, which seeks to broaden perspectives about diverse historical narratives and extend the reach of NHD to underserved communities. NHD will work with NEH’s state and jurisdictional humanities councils to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones to benefit teachers and students in each state and jurisdiction.

In FY 2024, NEH will also contribute to the ongoing development of new K–12 curriculum resources in civics and U.S. History for EDSITEment (edsitement.neh.gov), an award-winning website for K–12 educators and homeschooling parents that freely makes available hundreds of classroom-ready resources in the humanities. EDSITEment’s “*A More Perfect Union Teacher’s Guide*” offers a collection of resources that prepare educators and students for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

Lastly, as part of *A More Perfect Union*, NEH will continue its work as an ex-officio member of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. In August 2021, NEH and other federal agencies signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commission “to cooperate with the Commission in planning, encouraging, developing, and coordinating appropriate commemorative activities.”

United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture

Hate must have no safe harbor in America— especially when that hate fuels the kind of violence we’ve seen from Oak Creek to Pittsburgh, from El Paso to Poway, and from Atlanta to Buffalo. When ordinary Americans cannot participate in the basic activities of everyday life—like shopping at the grocery store or praying at their house of worship—without the fear of being targeted and killed for who they are, our security as well as democracy are at risk.

The arts and humanities help us develop the skills needed to find connection, common purpose, and recognition of our shared humanity. They build empathy, strengthen mutual understanding, and remind us of the norms and agreements we rely on to care for one another. In coordination with the White House “United We Stand” Summit in September 2022, NEH launched a new initiative with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) titled *United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture* that uses the arts and humanities to combat hate-motivated violence. This initiative includes funding opportunities for partners in every state, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. jurisdictions for programming promoting civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding. The initiative also includes resources and capacity building to protect cultural institutions targeted by ongoing domestic extremism and hate-based violence, such as cultural centers serving groups victimized by hate; partnerships with local organizations to host communal gatherings, such as meals, concerts, and convenings to help process grief and build resilience in communities recovering from hate-based incidents; and emergency “second responder” relief assisting local cultural and educational institutions with programming in the wake of hate-based incidents, such as oral history projects that document survivors’ experiences.

As part of this initiative, NEH will implement a nationwide program in FY 2024 in all 56 U.S. states and jurisdictions that aims to prevent and confront hate, radicalization, and hate-related violence and build united fronts against hate at the community and national levels. First launched in FY 2023, NEH will offer up to \$2.8 million in funding in FY 2024 to NEH’s state and jurisdictional partners to develop place-based humanities programming that educates the public on domestic extremism and hate-based violence. This project is modeled on NEH’s 2021-2022 nationwide civics program, which awarded \$2.8 million in funding to NEH’s 56 state and jurisdictional affiliates to support civics education and American history programs that deepen audience understanding of and commitment to our nation’s core governmental principles. NEH will also include a special encouragement for national and regional programs that respond to the *United We Stand* initiative within its Public Humanities Projects program, which supports projects that bring the ideas of the humanities to life for general audiences through public programming. Finally, NEH will create a portal of shared resources and tool kits for communities targeted by ongoing domestic extremism and hate-based violence, which will be modeled on NEH’s 2019 grant to the Council of American Jewish Museums that supported safety and emergency preparedness webinars for Jewish cultural sites after the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre.

Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities

This program, launched in FY 2023 and funded through NEH’s Office of Digital Humanities (ODH), funds research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities. Technology has had an enormous impact on modern society, affecting how we work, communicate, learn, engage in the political process, and live. The relationship between technology and culture continues to have dramatic impacts, both positive and negative, on our health, the environment, our social interactions, our government, cultural and educational institutions, the arts, and nearly all other aspects of life. Research may address a wide range of

topics where technology plays a key role, including social media, disinformation, and the democratic process. In FY 2024, NEH will continue and/or expand this program based on the success of the FY 2023 pilot.

National Digital Broadcasting Program

The multifaceted story of the nation’s history from the 20th century to the present cannot be told without audiovisual broadcasting. The NDBP, within NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access, will digitize the nation’s audiovisual broadcasting heritage. Critical voices and historical events, both familiar and lesser known, have been captured in recorded broadcasts that span the history of news and public broadcasting. Historical radio and television programs have chronicled every facet of our social, cultural, and political heritage, such as the Civil Rights Movement, U.S. wars and conflicts, Indigenous heritage, education, protests, public policy, technology, business and commerce, sports, the environment, and much more. That legacy of humanities-rich content, captured in recorded broadcasts, is at critical risk of disappearing due to a confluence of factors related to fragile formats, obsolescent playback equipment, lack of human and infrastructural resources, and the sheer enormity of materials held by institutions large and small across the country. Modeled after the current NDNP, which has been in existence since 2003, the NDBP will begin as a multiyear initiative to digitize significant broadcast programming from every state and jurisdiction.

Advancing Equity for Underserved Communities

The humanities are for everyone. Through NEH’s *American Tapestry* initiative, NEH will further strengthen its statutory commitment to “the fostering of mutual respect . . . of all persons and groups,” with “particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history.” NEH will commit to an increased investment in initiatives, programs, and projects that are tailored to capacity building, expanding access and inclusivity, and amplifying untold stories of historically underserved groups. These include the following:

NEH’s Support for the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative

From 1819 through the 1970s, the United States Government operated a system of hundreds of schools for Native children premised on a policy of forced cultural assimilation. Native children were forcibly separated from their families and sent to attend federal Indian boarding schools, where they were frequently subject to harsh treatment and abuse. Many of these students died or were never returned to their families and communities; all were deprived of the family and community connections, beliefs, cultures, and languages vital to their Indigenous identities.

NEH has a long history of supporting research, education, and public programming on the federal Indian boarding school system and its enduring impact on individuals, families, and tribes today. In FY 2024, NEH intends to continue its partnership with the Department of the Interior on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies with the goal of addressing their intergenerational impact and to shed light on the traumas of the past. Through this partnership, NEH will invest in new humanities projects—including scholarly research, convenings, oral histories, and educational programs—that further public understanding and knowledge of the history and impact of the federal Indian boarding school system. These projects may include support for the development of a model curriculum for K –12 students on the federal Indian boarding school system and its legacy; scholarly research into the federal Indian boarding school system; interpretation plans for boarding

school sites; documentary films and humanities-based exhibitions on the boarding schools; digital archives that preserve the history of boarding school sites; and partnerships with universities and tribes to support oral history projects that collect, preserve, and make accessible stories of boarding school survivors.

History and Culture Access Consortium for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

In FY 2021, NEH inaugurated a two-year partnership with the NMAAHC to invest \$2.2 million in the History and Culture Access Consortium (HCAC), a project that aims to enhance the ability of HBCUs nationwide to care for and share archives that tell the story of African Americans and their essential role in American culture and history. Their collections contain many keys to understanding African American history and culture, from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement to the Black Lives Matter Movement. NEH's support of the HCAC program secures the historical legacy of the five participating institutions, while enhancing scholarly and public access to their cultural collections through an open-source digital platform and a national traveling exhibition (tentatively titled *Lift Every Voice*), which is scheduled to premiere at NMAAHC in March 2026.

An additional \$1.5 million in FY 2024 will be spent over two years to further support HCAC. These funds will be used to retain HBCU staff for the initiative to ensure the sustainability of HCAC at each institution and engage youth through the fellowship and internship opportunities the program offers. Furthermore, NEH funds will foster collaboration among HBCUs by supporting a convening of potential partners for the second cohort. These funds will also ensure the sustainability of the physical objects in *Lift Every Voice* through support for conservation treatment for exhibition items and modifications required for the safe transport of the exhibition to other institutions. NEH's support of HCAC will also foster additional collaboration and dissemination of *Lift Every Voice* through an expansion of host sites for the exhibition. By highlighting the experiences of students at HBCUs, *Lift Every Voice* will especially appeal to youth, and with NEH's support, HCAC will engage youth through targeted outreach activities at the campuses and exhibition sites throughout the country. Complementary pedagogical materials will also be created for the online exhibition.

National Convening on the Future of Graduate Education

In FY 2016, NEH's Office of Challenge Programs launched the Next Generation Humanities PhD program to assist universities in developing new models of doctoral education in the humanities. Traditional humanities PhD programs still focus on preparing graduate students for teaching positions even though the number of tenure track teaching positions has been in decline. Projects supported through this program helped higher education faculty and administrators reconsider traditional approaches to graduate training in the humanities. In FY 2024, as a follow up to this program, NEH intends to partner with institutions to support a national convening on the current state and the future of graduate education in the humanities. The convening will include invited speakers and proposed sessions that encourage participation by a wide variety of stakeholders in graduate humanities education. The convening will focus on issues of equity and inclusion in humanities graduate education with the goal of ensuring that the next generation of scholars, educators, and humanities professionals better reflect the country's diversity.

Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education

This program, launched in FY 2023 through NEH’s Division of Education Programs, is specifically tailored to the needs of underserved educational institutions, especially Native American and Indigenous institutions, minority-serving institutions, community colleges, rural colleges and universities, schools that have a majority minority-undergraduate enrollment, and those that serve significant numbers of first-generation students. Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education supports the exploration and development of small projects that benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of the humanities. Eligible applicants include small to medium two- and four-year institutions and nonprofit organizations whose work advances the humanities at these institutions and among their faculty and students. In FY 2024, NEH will continue and/or expand this program based on the success of the FY 2023 pilot.

Addressing a Changing Climate

Through NEH’s *American Tapestry* initiative, NEH will develop and implement programs that (1) incorporate resilience and sustainability in the nation’s cultural and educational sectors and (2) promote robust humanities research into the cultural and historical roots of climate change and its impact on human language, culture, and society. These include the following:

A Community Conversation Initiative on Our Changing Climate

In FY 2024, NEH will plan and facilitate a national, humanities-based convening on the human impacts of climate change in partnership with the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils. NEH will develop a national advisory group of nationally recognized humanities scholars, climate scientists, representatives from humanities councils, and other entities to coordinate the convening. This convening will share humanities-based educational resources on the historical and cultural aspects of climate change; promote audience engagement with ideas at the intersection of science and the humanities; foster humanities-based discussions that deepen public understanding of the history and science of climate change and its impact on their local communities and natural resources; strengthen partnerships in the cultural and educational sectors in the environmental sciences and conservation; and encourage and expand the councils’ support for humanities-based resources K-12 audiences by including a special encouragement to develop age-appropriate resources/curriculum and traveling bookshelves for children.

Humanities Fellowships on Climate Change

In FY 2024, NEH will award individual awards (“fellowships”) for research projects in the environmental humanities through the Division of Research Programs. The Division’s individual award programs are some of the agency’s highest-profile grant programs. Awards from these programs are among the most prestigious for humanities researchers, and the results—typically books—garner considerable media attention, are widely reviewed and discussed within academic circles, and are acknowledged by major book awards.

Cultural and Community Resilience Program

This program, launched in FY 2023 through NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access, builds cultural and community resilience in the face of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. This program supports efforts to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and COVID-19 on communities while safeguarding their cultural resources, especially among disadvantaged

communities. In FY 2024, NEH will continue and/or expand this program based on the success of the FY 2023 pilot.

Climate Smart Humanities Organizations

This program, launched in FY 2023 through NEH's Office of Challenge Programs, enables cultural organizations, such as museums, archives, and libraries, to develop strategic action plans. This program enables America's cultural stewards to study how their facilities, collections, staff, and visitors may be threatened by climate change and make plans to address these threats. In FY 2024, NEH will continue and expand this program based on the success of the FY 2023 pilot.

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Challenge Programs	\$13,600	\$15,750	\$14,800	(\$950)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

- Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants
- Climate Smart Humanities Organizations

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

The grants offered by the Office of Challenge Programs are NEH's most important source of assistance for organizations seeking to strengthen organizational and physical infrastructure in the cultural and educational sectors and sustain significant humanities activities into the future. Challenge grants are focused on long-term impact and offer federal funds that are only released when matched with nonfederal third-party donations, usually at ratios of 3:1 or higher. In recognition of the financial challenges that often confront institutions that have been historically underserved by NEH, such as HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and community colleges, Challenge grants extend a lower matching ratio of 1:1 for these applicants. Challenge grants provide NEH with the opportunity to stimulate private philanthropy, while also increasing institutional commitment by the recipient organizations.

Since 1977, Challenge grants have, adjusted for inflation, generated almost \$4 billion in nonfederal funds for the humanities. A wide array of nonprofit organizations throughout the United States—museums, libraries, colleges and universities, scholarly research organizations, tribal centers, state humanities councils, public radio and television stations, historical societies, and historic sites—have taken up the NEH “challenge” as a means of increasing their capacity for excellence in the humanities.

Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants

The Office's Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants program is designed to expand and strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building for cultural and educational institutions. This program supports the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities and sites of historic and cultural significance. A sampling of recent grants illustrates the reach and impact of this funding:

- Christ Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, founded in 1695 as part of William Penn's charter, played a significant role in the establishment of the United States. Notable members of the congregation included George Washington and Betsy Ross, along with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and 13 other signers of the Declaration of Independence—seven of whom are buried on the grounds. Christ Church was a center for 18th-century political debates regarding the separation of church and state, and its clergy attended the Continental Congress and the early United States Senate. The building is a National

Historic Landmark and is visited annually by about 250,000 tourists. The church's brick tower and its white spire are among Philadelphia's most treasured historic sites; however, the 1754 steeple—one of the few standing wooden structures of its kind from the colonial era—was listing two feet to the right and in need of urgent repair. NEH's Challenge grant funds leveraged a significant amount of private donations that made possible the restoration of the exterior and interior of this iconic structure.

- An NEH Challenge grant contributed significantly to a capital campaign for the design and construction of a new 30,000-square-foot Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. This museum has vast holdings documenting the material culture and history of the Jewish community in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland. The jewel of the collection is a historic synagogue that dates to 1876, which was saved from demolition in 1969 by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. NEH's Challenge grant leveraged critical funds to enable the relocation of the entire building to its new location at the site of the museum, as well as the construction of a community lab, flexible programming space, exhibition galleries, and collections storage space.
- Tennessee's Pellissippi State Community College received a 1:1 matching offer to assist the college in its efforts to create a new Appalachian Heritage Center on its Strawberry Plains campus. Cultural resources currently held at the college's main campus will be transferred to the new center, including books and audiovisual materials on topics such as the Civil War, mining, recreation, coal town life, bluegrass music, public health, regional literature, Appalachian folklore, and handicrafts. By enabling students, faculty, and members of the community to have access to such materials and to engage in related coursework and programs, the new facility will have a profound impact on the region.

Climate Smart Humanities Organizations

This program, launched in FY 2023, enables cultural organizations, such as museums, archives, and libraries, to develop strategic climate action plans. This program enables America's cultural stewards to study how their facilities, collections, staff, and visitors may be threatened by climate change and make plans to address these threats. Activities under the Climate Smart program are based on two parallel approaches: Mitigation planning is aimed at reducing energy costs and waste within the institution, while adaptation planning assesses climate risks and identifies concrete steps to prevent damage and danger to buildings, collections, and people.

The applications submitted at the program's first deadline in January 2023 included a broad array of cultural organizations across the country such as rural libraries, historic house museums, and colleges and universities from Arkansas to Washington state. These projects proposed to work with outside consultants to undertake energy audits, establish continuity of operation and disaster plans, and perform building assessments to inform an overall carbon footprint calculation. These activities contribute to increasing resiliency at humanities organizations and ensure the long-term sustainability of their educational and cultural assets in service of the American people. In FY 2024, NEH will continue and expand this program based on the success of the FY 2023 pilot.

National Convening on the Future of Graduate Education

From 2016–2018, NEH's Next Generation Humanities PhD program assisted universities in developing new models of doctoral education in the humanities. Projects supported through this

program challenged higher education faculty and administrators to reconsider traditional approaches focused on preparing graduate students in the humanities for a dwindling number of tenure-track teaching positions. Individual departments and programs across the country have reimagined their programs by incorporating new types of mentorship opportunities, experiential education, alternatives to the graduate thesis or dissertation, or other new models. Yet bringing about actual change requires broad participation, communication, and outreach. Rethinking doctoral education in the humanities is an essential part of addressing issues of equity and inclusion to ensure that the next generation of scholars, educators, and humanities professionals better reflect the country's diversity.

In FY 2024, Challenge Programs intends to partner with academic organizations to support a national convening on the current state and the future of doctoral education with invited speakers and sessions that encourage participation by a wide variety of stakeholders by involving graduate students, graduate faculty, directors of graduate programs, deans, and other university administrators, as well as scholars at affiliated organizations or engaged in related research. Topics will include identifying successful programs, developing methods for scaling up such programs, and creating networks to share best practices. A call for proposals will occur in early 2024, with the convening scheduled to be held in the fall.

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Digital Humanities	\$5,500	\$6,250	\$6,050	(\$200)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

- Digital Humanities Advancement Grants
- Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
- Fellowships Open Book Program
- Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

As our world becomes increasingly digital, computationally intensive research methods become critically important to the humanities, as well as many other disciplines. Since the advent of the internet, we have seen the creation of vast databases of digital books, newspapers, photographs, music, and other materials. These and other research resources are the traditional materials studied by humanities scholars. But now that we have access to millions of pages of materials in digital form, how does this change the very nature of humanities research? How does the immense scale of these materials, together with the availability of large-scale computing, change the research paradigm? These are among the fundamental questions being addressed by the ODH.

NEH's leadership role in the field of the digital humanities has been widely acknowledged in the humanities community and has helped set the pace for research funders around the world. In the years since the creation of ODH, the field has grown enormously, with many universities creating digital centers and hiring new faculty, librarians, and technologists to work on digital humanities projects.

NEH's leadership has had enormous influence internationally as well as domestically. ODH has worked collaboratively with peer-funding bodies around the world to help bring together American researchers with their colleagues from abroad. Among the numerous international grant programs sponsored by ODH is the Digging into Data Challenge, a competition that bridged the humanities, social sciences, and data science from 2009 –2017. This program brought together funding agencies from 11 different nations: the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Finland. Working with our international peer agencies allowed NEH to leverage its funds in significant and long-lasting ways.

ODH has funded several important projects that investigate historical events that have contemporary relevance. One such project focused on flu pandemics, including those of 1889 and 1918. This historical work reveals how members of the public have responded to health measures in the past and how the media has influenced the nation's response to the pandemics. These valuable historical lessons can in turn inform the efforts of contemporary public health officials to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another such ODH-supported project will help document a little-studied but important part of American history: U.S. state constitutions. This grant to the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University supports undergraduate history students in their efforts to create a digital model of archival materials that document U.S. state constitutional conventions. This project supports the current Administration's efforts to strengthen Americans' knowledge of the country's principles of constitutional governance and democracy.

NEH's ODH currently administers four innovative grant programs aimed at moving the field forward.

Digital Humanities Advancement Grants

Just as astronomers need telescopes to view distant stars and chemists need mass spectrometers to analyze laboratory samples, humanities scholars in the digital age need tools, methods, and related infrastructure to perform their work. The very objects that scholars study daily—books, music, newspapers, images, ancient artifacts—are increasingly available in digital form. This alters the fundamental methods of humanities scholarship. Combining aspects of the humanities with data science, ODH offers the Digital Humanities Advancement Grant (DHAG) program, which encourages applicants to experiment, build, and deploy these new methods, tools, and infrastructure for the humanities.

Some notable DHAG-funded projects include:

- A grant to the University of Maryland and Northeastern University to support the refinement of machine-learning methods, to improve automatic handwritten text recognition of Persian and Arabic manuscripts, and to make these sources more accessible for humanities research and teaching.
- A grant to Washington State University for technical improvements to the Mukurtu Content Management System and for the addition of two additional community hubs for Native American and Native Alaskan communities located in southern California and Alaska. Mukurtu is a free and open-source content management system and community digital access platform built with and for Indigenous communities globally.
- A grant to the University of Minnesota to expand and refine a set of digital tools and work processes that are being used to generate and map datasets of racial covenants (“redlining”) from communities across the United States. This Mapping Prejudice project investigates the growth of racial segregation and inequality in post-World War II American urban areas through an examination of racial covenants.

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

This grant category encourages the sharing of best digital technology practices among humanities scholars. As is apparent in the work supported under ODH's other grant categories, an increasing number of humanities scholars are using sophisticated digital tools and techniques. The Institutes program sponsors workshops that allow scholars to learn about these new, advanced technologies, tools, and techniques. This funding opportunity meets a growing need in the field, as most institutes report receiving far more applications to attend than there are seats available.

A scholar who attended one of these institutes wrote a letter to the project director, saying “what I learned at the NEH mini seminar absolutely surpassed anything that I could have imagined for the utility of these new methods and technologies. I ... left completely rethinking my own research.” Another scholar wrote to say that the “institute was an amazing experience—one of the best intellectual learning situations in my whole life.”

Examples of recent awards in the Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities program include:

- A four-day summer workshop at the University of California, Berkeley, and follow-up activities for 32 participants on the ethical and legal issues associated with the mining of data from large-scale textual collections.
- A two-week-long institute hosted by George Mason University in Virginia that taught participants how to create datasets, visualize data, and create maps, with the overarching goal of creating a cohort of military historians who can use digital tools and methods to examine issues at the intersection of war and society.

Fellowships Open Book Program

ODH partnered with NEH’s Division of Research Programs to develop the Fellowships Open Book Program. The program has a simple purpose: to increase scholarly and public access to NEH-funded research in the United States and abroad.

NEH’s long-standing fellowship programs (housed in the Division of Research Programs) offers grants to scholars to undertake important research in the humanities. Grant recipients most often publish the results of their research in book form. But these books, typically published by university presses, seldom sell more than 200 to 300 copies, and thus have a limited reach outside of academia. To help expand access to this scholarly work, the Fellowships Open Book Program provides a modest grant (\$5,500) to university presses to create digital, open-access editions of these books that are free for anyone in the world to download and read. This program makes it possible for thousands of people—from scholars to teachers to students to interested members of the public—to have free access to these important scholarly works.

Some examples of recent awards in this category include:

- NEH fellow David Andrew Biggs is a professor at the University of California, Riverside. He received an NEH fellowship to conduct research for his new book, *Footprints of War: Militarized Landscapes in Vietnam*. His publisher, the University of Washington Press, received a Fellowships Open Book Program award to make the book available in a free, open-access digital edition. As described by his press, *Footprints of War* traces the long history of conflict-produced spaces in Vietnam, beginning with early modern wars and the French colonial invasion in 1885 and continuing through the collapse of the Saigon government in 1975. The result is a richly textured history of militarized landscapes that reveals the spatial logic of key battles such as the Tet Offensive.”
- NEH fellow Dennis J. Frost is a professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. He received an NEH fellowship to conduct research for his book, *More Than Medals: A History of the Paralympics and Disability Sports in Postwar Japan*. His publisher, Cornell University Press, received a Fellowships Open Book Program award to make the book available in a

free, open-access digital edition. Here is how his press described this important work of scholarship: “How does a small provincial city in southern Japan become the site of a world-famous wheelchair marathon that has been attracting the best international athletes since 1981? In *More Than Medals*, Dennis J. Frost answers this question and addresses the histories of individuals, institutions, and events—the 1964 Paralympics, the FESPIC Games, the Ōita International Wheelchair Marathon, the Nagano Winter Paralympics, and the 2021 Tokyo Summer Games that played important roles in the development of disability sports in Japan.”

Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities

Technology has had an enormous impact on modern society, affecting how we work, communicate, learn, engage in the political process, and live. The relationship between technology and culture continues to have dramatic impacts, both positive and negative, on our health, the environment, our social interactions, our government, cultural and educational institutions, the arts, and nearly all other aspects of life.

The Dangers and Opportunities of Technology program, first launched in FY 2023, supports humanistic research that explores the relationship between technology and society, examining the ways in which current social and cultural issues are shaped by technology. Among other areas, the program supports research to investigate climate change, racial equity, medical technologies, wealth inequality, data privacy and ethics of algorithms, cryptocurrencies and nonfungible tokens, supply chains and infrastructure, social media, disinformation, and the democratic process.

DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Education Programs	\$13,500	\$15,400	\$14,800	(\$600)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

- Summer Institutes for School Teachers and for College and University Teachers
- Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops
- Dialogues on the Experience of War
- Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges
- Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Humanities Initiatives at Colleges and Universities
- Humanities Connections
- Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education
- EDSITEment
- Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

Through its Division of Education Programs, NEH offers humanities programming that serves a variety of educational needs, including programs for teacher and faculty professional development; veterans returning to school; and the creation of higher education humanities curricula. The Division also maintains EDSITEment (edsitement.neh.gov), an award-winning website for K–12 educators and homeschooling parents that makes freely available hundreds of classroom-ready resources in the humanities. In addition, through cooperative agreements and special projects, the Division supports projects that enhance the teaching and learning of civics and history at the K–12 level and that foster the integration of the humanities into postsecondary STEM programs. These programs, undergirded by rigorous humanities scholarship, cultivate a deep engagement with humanities disciplines and help participants acquire knowledge that is crucial for an educated, engaged citizenry.

Summer Institutes

For more than five decades, NEH Summer Institutes have been one of the nation's premier forms of professional development for teachers in the humanities. Each Institute engages participants in intensive programs of study with teams of scholars, who present a range of perspectives on various themes in the humanities. By studying subjects such as history, literature, religion, philosophy, and world languages, educators deepen their knowledge of the subjects they teach and develop effective ways of bringing this understanding to their students.

The Institutes program offers an intensive residential experience that brings scholars and K–12 curriculum experts together with participants from all over the country. Most are residential, but some offer an entirely online or a hybrid online/residential format. These options provide broader

access to educators, including those for whom travel is not possible. Upcoming Institutes will feature topics on the history, culture, and literature of historically underserved communities, of crucial environmental issues, and American civics. For example, teachers from kindergarten through high school could attend NEH-supported institutes on topics such as the role of the First Amendment in the Constitution in 21st-century America; youth participation in the Civil Rights Movement; and the literature of climate futurism. College-level faculty will study, among other topics, the literature of the Rust Belt ecosystem; the development of Cuban refugee communities and politics in Florida; and the reconstruction of African American archives in South Carolina.

Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops

The Landmarks of American History and Culture program supports summer workshops that introduce K–12 teachers from across the United States to teaching important themes and topics in American history, culture, and civics by using historical and cultural sites. Landmarks workshops are held at or near presidential residences and libraries; colonial-era settlements and missions; historic forts and battlefields; industrial centers; and sites associated with notable writers, architects, and artists. Workshops involve leading scholars and help participants develop new teaching resources. Projects accommodate 36 teachers at one-week sessions, which are offered twice during the summer. As with the Institutes program, Landmarks workshops are available in residential, online, or hybrid models.

Upcoming Landmarks workshops will cover a variety of areas that connect topics important to the contemporary K–12 classroom to specific historic sites across the country. Several will focus on issues pertaining to American diversity and the environment. One will investigate the significance of Thomasville, Georgia, to the Civil Rights Movement, while others will engage in archaeological approaches to the study of African American and Indigenous histories in New England and Virginia.

Dialogues on the Experience of War

The Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war to help U.S. military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service. Projects are mainly designed to reach military veterans; however, projects involving discussion groups that integrate veterans with civilians, men and women in active service, and military families are welcome. Project teams are expected to include humanities scholars, military veterans, and individuals with relevant experience.

The Dialogues program promotes discussions of topics such as the nature of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism. Awards support the recruitment and training of discussion leaders, followed by the convening of at least two discussion programs. Applications come from a wide array of institutions, including universities, two- and four-year colleges, library systems, museums, theater companies, state humanities councils, and veteran-serving nonprofit organizations.

Among this program's noteworthy awards is a recent grant to the Chinese Historical Society of America to offer veterans, their families, and the public a window into the Asian American experience defending the U.S. in conflicts from WWII through Afghanistan. An award to Bowie State University in Maryland will support discussions centering on service, sacrifice, and reintegration of African American service members as both remembered and imagined in the

Civil War and the Vietnam War. A third grant to St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, will invite Afghan interpreters, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and others to explore World War I and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges

The Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges program supports institutional needs in humanities programming at the nation's two-year institutions, which collectively educate 40 percent of America's postsecondary students (over half of whom identify as other-than-white). Grants in this program give institutions a wide scope in developing programs and initiatives that are likely to work well within their communities and organizational structures. Grant support is available to enhance existing humanities programs or courses, or to develop new ones. New courses are often developed in cooperation with representatives of professional fields of study, such as business, law, economics, technology, and nursing. The grants can also support collaborative projects between the grantee and a nearby college, university, or K–12 school district.

Recently funded projects reflect creative engagement with the country's increasingly diverse population. Faculty at Manchester Community College in Connecticut are developing a new, low-cost reader for art history classrooms focused on the art, culture, and historical perspectives of traditionally marginalized communities. Other projects address issues related to climate change. An award to LaGuardia Community College in New York will support a faculty-student program investigating political and environmental borders in the context of rising sea levels.

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

The Humanities Initiatives program extends the reach of the Division's grant opportunities to three types of traditionally underserved institutions: HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs. Grants made under the Humanities Initiatives program may be used to enhance the humanities content of the institutions' existing programs or develop new programs, such as Native language programs or summer bridge programs for high school students. The funded projects may build ties among faculty at several institutions or take advantage of underused humanities resources in the surrounding community. The projects may also use grant funds to build curricular ties between the humanities and the professions, such as medicine, law, business, or economics.

NEH awards in this program have supported projects that explore a range of topics and use a variety of approaches. Examples include an interdisciplinary group of faculty at Howard University in Washington, D.C., creating an innovative certificate program in the digital humanities for graduate students; a center for the study of the American West at West Texas A&M University focusing on the cultural and historical roles of Mexican Americans in the Southern Plains; and Mendocino-Lake Community College in California collaborating with local Native communities to improve the teaching of Native history and cultures at the college.

Humanities Initiatives at Colleges and Universities

Humanities Initiatives at Colleges and Universities meets the needs of a broad array of institutions, including HBCUs, predominantly Black institutions, community colleges transitioning to four-year degree programs, as well as technical colleges and other two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Humanities Initiatives at Colleges and Universities, like the other Humanities Initiatives programs, is open and flexible in design, encouraging institutions to consider how they might create curricula, programs, or faculty development opportunities that meet their needs. The program receives applications from a wide range of institutions, including large research universities, liberal arts colleges, and teaching-focused state colleges. For example, Framingham State University in Massachusetts is integrating the study of race in the United States into its curriculum through the digital humanities. Faculty at the University of Wyoming are creating an online repository of civics education resources for teachers across the state. Fort Lewis College in Colorado will promote Native language revitalization through a summer institute, while Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., is developing a new interdisciplinary doctoral program in deaf studies.

Humanities Connections

Humanities Connections supports institutions of higher education as they develop curricular innovations that address current challenges for the humanities in undergraduate education. This program encourages projects that seek to bridge the gap between the humanities and other disciplines, including the sciences, the non-humanistic social sciences, and technical and professional areas of study. Projects must promote: (1) a substantive and purposeful integration of the subject matter, perspectives, and pedagogical approaches in the humanities and one or more other disciplines; (2) collaboration between faculty from two or more separate departments or schools at one or more institutions; (3) experiential learning as an intrinsic part of the institution's curricular plan; and (4) long-term institutional support for the proposed curriculum innovations.

Applicants to Humanities Connections may seek funding for either a planning grant (one year) or an implementation grant (up to three years). Recently funded projects have focused on a range of fields, with medical humanities, humanities and technology, and the environmental humanities being particularly prominent among them.

The most recent round of this program's awards includes several projects that address environmental challenges or highlight the importance of civics education in underserved or at-risk communities. NEH awarded Mars Hill University in North Carolina a planning grant to transform their campus museum into a center for interdisciplinary education. Western Michigan University will use a planning grant to connect the humanities to its climate change curriculum. The University of Northern Iowa will help teachers across the state prepare their students for engaged citizenship.

Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education

In FY 2023, the Division of Education Programs launched a new program, Spotlight on Higher Education, which supports the exploration and development of small projects that benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of the humanities. Eligible applicants include small- to medium-size two- and four-year institutions and nonprofit organizations whose work advances the humanities at these institutions and among their faculty and students. In its first cycle, NEH received 140 applications from institutions in 39 states and Puerto Rico, including Native American and Indigenous institutions, HBCUs, TCUs, HSIs, community colleges, rural colleges and universities, schools that have a majority minority-undergraduate enrollment, and those that serve significant numbers of first-generation students.

The program supports activities such as curricular or program development, expert consultations, speakers' series, student research, creation of teaching resources, and community engagement. It uses a streamlined application format and offers informational webinars and workshops designed to enhance application success. Applications are selected through peer review, and evaluation criteria focuses on intellectual significance, feasibility, and the project's impact on the institution. The program is offered at an exploratory level of up to \$25,000 and a small project level of up to \$60,000. A grant term lasting up to 24 months encourages effective small-scale programming while alleviating the institutional burden associated with extensive grant management.

EDSITEment

EDSITEment (edsitement.neh.gov) is a nationally recognized website for K–12 humanities teachers. The website is a trusted source of high-quality educational materials for public, private, and homeschool educators. Averaging 200,000 unique users each month, EDSITEment offers an expansive suite of lesson plans, multimedia resources, and digital learning tools for teaching history, literature, arts, language, and culture.

EDSITEment's notable strengths in history and social studies serve teachers who seek to deepen students' understanding of the history and culture of America and America's constitutional democracy. In FY 2023 –2024, EDSITEment will continue to develop a new suite of curricular modules for grades K –12 in civics education, American history, and world history. These new resources include lesson planning on Constitutional amendments, Indigenous history and contemporary culture, government, intellectual and artistic movements of the Progressive era, and the civilizations and empires of Greece, Rome, India, and China.

Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects

Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects support education-related activities that fall outside the Division's regular programming categories.

The Division is managing two cooperative agreements, awarded in FY 2020 and FY 2022, that support innovative approaches to teaching and learning in the humanities:

- **Teagle Foundation.** In 2020, NEH entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with the Teagle Foundation that aims to revitalize the role of the humanities in undergraduate education. The project emphasizes: (1) using foundational humanities texts to explore enduring human questions in gateway courses, and (2) creating thematically organized general education pathways that link the humanities to students' professional aspirations. An important goal of this cooperative agreement is to attract a wide variety of participating institutions—including state and regional universities, small liberal arts colleges, and minority-serving institutions—that will adapt this approach to general education on their campuses to fit their own needs.
- **National History Day.** In FY 2022, NEH entered into a new four-year cooperative agreement with NHD, a longstanding partner of NEH that promotes historical research among middle and high school students, as part of its *A More Perfect Union* initiative. Each year, more than 500,000 students participate in NHD and develop topics; conduct research; and produce papers, documentary films, exhibitions, websites, and performances that present the results of their research. The 2022–2026 partnership between NEH and NHD, titled "*A More Perfect Union: America at 250*," will continue educational

programming that promotes student learning while producing opportunities to deepen and inspire the teaching of history. Programs and activities will focus on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the continued struggle toward a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society. Programs and content will examine how our founding ideals have been applied, challenged, and reconceived from our founding to today's headlines. The Division's support of NHD helps make possible outreach to teachers through workshops and webinars, a lead essay in the annual curriculum theme book, and the "Ask the NEH Expert" video series for NHD contestants. This iteration of the cooperative agreement introduces a new strategy to encourage collaboration between NHD coordinators nationwide and state humanities councils; greater outreach through NHD affiliates to reach tribal, urban, and rural schools; and the recruitment of a more diverse pool of judges from underserved communities.

In FY 2024, NEH will also contribute to the ongoing development of new K–12 curriculum resources in civics and U.S. History for EDSITEment. "A More Perfect Union Teacher's Guide" offers a collection of resources that prepare educators and students for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

OFFICE OF FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Federal/State Partnership	\$54,348	\$65,000	\$66,000	\$1,000

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

The Office of Federal/State Partnership serves as the liaison to NEH’s humanities council affiliates in the 50 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The humanities councils help NEH realize its two primary goals of advancing knowledge and understanding of the humanities and increasing public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities throughout the United States.

Approximately 40 percent of NEH’s annual appropriation of program funds is awarded to the humanities councils through the General Operating Support (GOS) Grant program. The Office administers this non-competitive grant program by monitoring and evaluating council activity and operations; maintaining network-wide communication; identifying the need for and providing capacity-building resources; facilitating connectivity between council and NEH leadership; promoting NEH news, funding opportunities, and resources; and when directed by the NEH Chair, managing supplemental awards for emergency relief and special initiatives.

The councils are cultural leaders in their states and jurisdictions; they leverage their partnership with NEH to forge strategic collaborations, develop support for the humanities, and to build the capacity of the cultural sectors they serve. Through grantmaking and programming, the councils support a wide array of humanities activities that are tailored to the resources, demographics, interests, and needs of each state or jurisdiction. The Office encourages the councils to support programs that make humanities ideas accessible to the public, foster community discussion of important humanities topics, and deepen public understanding of American history and our nation’s core principles of constitutional governance and democracy.

FY 2022 Humanities Councils’ Activities, Outcomes, and Reach

The 54 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and two interim partners are required to report annually on activity funded by the GOS award and/or funds leveraged to meet the required cost share. Councils also report on subawards made with GOS funds and/or funds leveraged to meet the required cost share, GOS-funded council activity during the past funding period, and GOS-funded subrecipient activity from subawards that closed during that period, which may include subaward activity outside of the period. It should be noted that councils also subaward funding from other sources, but for the purpose of reporting to NEH, councils are only required to report on GOS-funded activities and subawards. In FY 2022, the 54 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and two interim partners made a total of 1,833 GOS-funded subawards. In addition to GOS-funded activities, in FY 2022, all 54 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and two interim partners continued to participate in NEH’s American Rescue Plan (ARP) program. A total of 4,173 humanities organizations received a combined amount of \$45.6 million dollars in ARP funding from their humanities councils. Organizations in 90% of congressional districts received funding. The work of ARP is ongoing; councils will submit final performance reports in August 2023.

Strengthening Our Democracy

State and jurisdictional humanities councils provide rich humanities-based programs and resources that support civics education and deepen Americans' knowledge of the country's democratic traditions and constitutional principles; foster civic engagement and/or media and information literacy; and examine threats to our democracy. Councils utilize a wide range of program formats designed to engage audiences of all ages in reflection and discussion on the nation's founding and its complex history; the core principles of a constitutional government; and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Council-supported resources and programs that benefit youth range from efforts to promote early literacy to NHD to K-12 teacher training institutes. Missouri Humanities worked with 36 current and former female Missouri senators to publish *You Can, Too!*, a children's book of short stories about the politicians' journeys to the state senate. The book is comprised of diverse accounts of female empowerment and perseverance, including those of Gwen Giles, the first African American woman to serve in the legislature, Gina Walsh, a former blue-collar construction worker, and Roseann Bentley, a former schoolteacher castigated by her detractors because of her sex. Despite these senators' political differences, *You Can, Too!* stresses their shared belief in public service. The book aims to both encourage children to read and to inspire young readers—especially young girls—to engage in civic life. Partnering with *Missouri Life* magazine, the council printed 10,000 copies of the book, which were distributed to libraries and classrooms across the state.

Humanities Texas ran K-12 teacher professional development programs themed around U.S. constitutional governance and democratic principles. Led by humanities scholars, educators engaged in study and conversations that prepared them to help their students understand their roles and responsibilities as citizens. "*Shaping the American Republic*," the council's weekly webinar series, examined how the new nation grappled with questions of representation and governmental powers and how these reckonings continued into the Civil War and Reconstruction era. A webinar series on teaching America's founding documents—the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and George Washington's Farewell Address—focused on their historical contexts and intellectual contents. These close examinations provided teachers with nuanced interpretations of these sources to take back to their classrooms.

Several councils also support or lead their state's NHD program. A leader in history and civics education, NHD inspires over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world each year to conduct original, historical research about historical people and events under broad encompassing themes. As state NHD affiliates, councils coordinate local-level contests where students can compete for the chance to advance to the National Contest and provide programmatic materials and workshops for teachers and students.

Humanities councils work with scholars and networks of partners to produce public humanities programs that bring people together, contextualize important issues, facilitate conversation, create space for thoughtful, informed civic reflection, and elevate previously marginalized voices and histories. For example, Illinois Humanities's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau invites Illinois writers, historians, folklorists, and living history interpreters to engage with audiences in different venues across the state. The current roster features 28 speakers offering 44 programs; nine programs are available in Spanish and two are available in Mandarin. Recent events include "*Vibrant, Resilient, Still Here: Contemporary Native Americans in Illinois*," led by Pamala Silas, a member of the Menominee Indian Tribe and an Oneida, and "*Not Quite: Asian Americans and the 'Other' in the Era of the Pandemic and the Uprising*." The presentations helped attendees

explore the history of American democracy through the stories of underrepresented communities.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council used ARP funds to support a community project that invites scholars and the public to participate in the commonwealth's cultural heritage digital archive: community participants identify and contextualize objects and people included in the photographic collections. This work has affirmed the council's conviction that providing people with the opportunity to engage with and add meaning and local context to primary sources builds community, deepens the public's appreciation of historic preservation, and adds to the historic, cultural, and academic value of the collections.

In FY 2021, NEH awarded each of the councils and interim partners \$50,000 to implement programs aligned with the goals of the agency's *A More Perfect Union* initiative, with a particular focus on strengthening Americans' knowledge of our nation's principles of constitutional governance, deepening public understanding of American history, and addressing the experiences of Native Americans and other underrepresented communities.

Under this initiative, councils are using the funds to collaborate with libraries, community colleges, museums, tribal communities, and other organizations to develop programming that reflects the cultural resources, history, traditions, and interests of the state or jurisdiction. For example, the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council hosted five moderated public discussion events to raise public awareness of the historic significance of the Deed of Cession (which ceded American Samoa to the U.S.) and the American Samoa Constitution. The discussions deepened audiences' understandings of the principles of constitutional government and democracy. Panel moderators and speakers included scholars and experts in jurisprudence, political science, and history, joined by community leaders. To supplement the discussions, the council printed pocket booklets in English and Samoan of the American Samoa Constitution—a document not currently included in the islands' public-school curriculum—with companion teaching resources including a radio program and a small traveling exhibition. In 2022, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) launched "*Who Gets to Vote? Conversations on Voting Rights in America*," a series of discussions on the history of voting in the United States. Through a competitive granting process, LEH staff selected five geographically diverse host sites representing a combination of rural and urban communities, granting each a subaward to each to host the four-part, scholar-led reading and discussion series.

Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities

Councils have always sought to reach a broad, statewide audience; recently councils are employing more intentional assessment efforts to identify underserved communities, address issues of equity such as application barriers, and to increase access to grants and programs. Through outreach and grant workshops for cultural organizations in underserved communities, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) is building equity through its grantmaking process with great success. In 2021, new-to-NJCH organizations made up 50 percent of the annual applicant pools. Councils in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania used ARP funds to support subawards to organizations committed to serving previously marginalized communities, including a library capacity-building project focused on persons disadvantaged by persistent poverty or inequality, an organization that elevates stories of recent immigrants, and the documentation of the many ways African American and Latinx people have worked to secure their civil rights.

Other equity-related examples abound. In 2021, California Humanities created a series of free online learning sessions, "*Tools of the Trade: A Practical Series for Humanities Practitioners*," to

support the public humanities through the COVID-19 pandemic. These sessions helped build and rebuild the capacity of humanities professionals and organizations to provide relevant, responsive, and engaging humanities programs. Session topics included *“Reaching New and Underrepresented Audiences,” “Best Practices for Increasing Accessibility,”* and *“Programming in a Pandemic: Options for Physically Distanced Programming.”* Through a partnership with the University of Arkansas’s Partners for Inclusive Communities, Arkansas Humanities includes guidance in its quarterly magazine on ways to build welcoming, inclusive, accessible programming for people who are disabled.

Council-led programs occur in many spaces, both virtual and in-person, in places such as public libraries, community centers, churches, and other local venues where people live and work. For example, many humanities councils develop programming for people who are incarcerated. The Mississippi Humanities Council has an ongoing partnership with the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman for the *“Prison-to-College Pipeline”* and *“Prison Writes”* initiatives, and in 2022 completed their well-received in-person Death Row book discussion program. In 2021, Humanities New York launched a post-incarceration humanities partnership grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations that serve prisoners—and their families—who are going through the process of societal reentry after a period of incarceration.

Addressing a Changing Climate

After severe weather events, the state and jurisdictional humanities councils are often at the forefront of recovery efforts for damage to cultural and educational institutions. The Office of Federal/State Partnership supports councils by providing technical assistance and connectivity with other NEH offices and federal agencies. If a federal disaster has been declared in a state or jurisdiction, the council is invited to apply to NEH for emergency relief funding.

In 2020, NEH provided emergency relief funding to the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (\$30,000) in response to damages from a derecho and Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (\$50,000) following Hurricane Laura. In 2021, NEH provided emergency relief funding to Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (\$50,000) and Kentucky Humanities (\$20,000) for flood damages, and to Humanities Texas (\$134,352) and Oklahoma Humanities (\$50,000) for damages caused by severe winter storms. In 2022, NEH granted two emergency supplement awards, one to New Mexico Humanities Council (\$30,000) to assess cultural heritage damage caused by the Calf Canyon/Hermit’s Peak Wildfires, and a second to Kentucky Humanities (\$150,000) after severe flooding impacted cultural institutions in Appalachia. The supplements support disaster recovery subawards, convenings of impacted cultural organizations, and a disaster preparedness workshop. To support councils’ readiness for the damaging effects of natural disasters on their own operations and those of other cultural organizations, the Office of Federal/State Partnership hosts disaster preparedness webinars featuring representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access, and councils with experience in cultural heritage disaster preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

Across the nation, state and jurisdictional humanities councils develop and fund public humanities programs that provide historical, social, cultural, and philosophical context for climate issues. Councils bring together humanities scholars, historians, scientists, and community members to explore humanistic questions posed by climate change. With urgency and creativity, councils support programs that increase public understanding of the environment and of the effects of the climate crisis on individuals, communities, and cultural heritage resources.

Councils deliver a wide range of multimedia public humanities programs. Incorporating diverse perspectives and elevating underrepresented voices, these programs examined topics in environmental humanities, including resiliency, sustainability, and justice. Humanities New York explores community and climate change through its program, *Community Conversations*. Scholars, grantees, and participants examine how culture and science relate to one another in public discourse and how that shapes the environmental movement today. The Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades dedicated the second season of its podcast series, *Humanidades Puerto Rico*, to the topic of built heritage. Throughout the season, the council discussed climate change, preparing for its impact, preservation of the built environment, and reflected on relationships with historic buildings. Oregon Humanities devoted the August 2021 issue of its magazine, *Oregon Humanities*, to the topic of climate. Stories featured Oregonians taking action to confront the climate crisis. Using humanities scholarship and individual experiences, the issue contextualized current events affecting Oregonians, including destructive wildfires, drought, and record-breaking temperatures. The magazine has subscribers in every county of the state and is distributed to all Oregon libraries, high schools, and universities.

Through grantmaking, the state and jurisdictional humanities councils provide critical funding to local organizations working to address climate change and environmental sustainability. These funds support organizations in communities large and small, rural, and urban. In turn, they make the humanities broadly accessible to the public, reaching audiences and communities that have been historically underserved and underfunded by the humanities. For example, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities awarded a grant to the Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability for its “*Museum of Silenced Histories: Community Storytelling Circle*.” The grant-funded event created space for intergenerational members of Providence’s diverse and often underrepresented communities to celebrate the autumn harvest through food, storytelling, and by honoring the land. Humanities Guåhan (Guam) awarded a grant to Guåhan Sustainable Culture to support Histories of Agriculture and Farming on Guåhan, an archival research and oral history project. The project provides the island with knowledge of its agricultural history, to inform future food sovereignty and environmental sustainability. In 2020 and 2021, the grantee published farmer profiles in newspapers and interviews on YouTube, held community workshops, and had an interactive in-person and virtual exhibit. This research and the online resources demonstrate how the island’s agricultural past—and future—are rooted in its people and culture.

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Budget Request	Delta from FY 2023
Preservation and Access	\$19,500	\$22,500	\$22,000	(\$500)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

- Humanities Collections and Reference Resources
- National Digital Newspaper Program
- Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
- Documenting Endangered Languages
- Preservation and Access Education and Training
- Research and Development
- Cultural and Community Resilience

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

Advancements in technology promise to make cultural heritage materials available as never before, opening tremendous possibilities for research, education, and public engagement in the humanities. Equally exciting is the opportunity to deepen and diversify cultural heritage materials in support of the multiplicity of human identities and experiences, as well as a more faithful and nuanced understanding of the past. Central to realizing these possibilities is NEH's Division of Preservation and Access, which advances the preservation and accessibility of cultural heritage collections and other source materials through project-based grants that support individual repositories and the museums, archives, libraries, and cultural stewardship fields at large.

As the NEH division tasked with ensuring the longevity of cultural collections, Preservation and Access supports programs that help protect collections from the corrosive effects of climate change and its associated risks. Through Preservation and Access programs, cultural heritage stewards find opportunities to undertake disaster planning, reduce energy use, lower environmental impact, access conservation assistance, and address loss. Resilience and sustainability are key tenets of cultural stewardship and the division's work as well.

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

NEH has long ensured that humanities researchers and the broader public can more easily find and make use of cultural heritage collections. The Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program offers implementation grants to support the digitization and description of collections and the creation of new reference works, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias. Grants can be used for reformatting and aggregating humanities collections and datasets; arranging and describing archives and manuscripts; and cataloging collections. Most of these projects offer their collections and resources freely online, promoting engagement with primary sources, a key component of information literacy education. Northern Arizona University received an award to support the digitization of 400 rare and unique moving images documenting

the history of the Colorado Plateau and the American Southwest. The university library has led regional efforts to develop best practices in working with tribal archives. Such efforts exemplify the ways in which division-supported work can help advance equity for Indigenous and other underserved communities.

The program's subcategory, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations, supports formative work such as planning and piloting. Drawing on collaborations between humanities scholars and technical specialists, such projects help cultural and educational institutions establish intellectual control of collections, develop plans and priorities for digitization, solidify partnerships and strategic plans to create complex digital resources, or produce preliminary versions of online collections or resources. For example, the division awarded a grant to West Virginia University to plan a multi-institutional online portal aggregating the personal papers of former members of the United States Congress, the product of which will help strengthen Americans' knowledge of constitutional governance and democracy. With the overarching goal of making these primary sources easier to discover and use, the project team prioritized material for inclusion, tested storage platforms, and built a pilot website. The Foundations subcategory also supports diversification of cultural heritage by encouraging partnerships between organizations from underserved communities and those with more extensive collections management experience and resources. An award to Marygrove Conservancy in Michigan supported a partnership with the Detroit Historical Society, which will contribute expertise for the preservation and digitization of collections related to a contemporary American authors lecture series that features Black writers and poets from 1989 to the present.

National Digital Newspaper Program

Newspapers have chronicled the daily life of citizens in towns and cities across the country for centuries, helping to record the history of this nation. These newspapers provide invaluable resources for documenting the civic, legal, historical, and cultural life of every region. The NDNP is a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, which produces the *Chronicling America* website ([Chronicling America « Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)), a digital repository of historical American newspapers. More than 20 million pages have been digitized, with many millions to follow. The selected pages are accompanied by brief essays summarizing the history of production, content, and circulation of each newspaper, as well as a directory of all newspapers published in the United States from 1690 to the present.

The roots of this project go back to the 1980s, when NEH support enabled organizations and institutions in 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to locate, catalog, and microfilm their historical newspaper holdings and create a centralized bibliographic record of all newspaper titles published since 1690. In 2004, NEH and the Library of Congress embarked on a project to make such resources digitally accessible and signed a memorandum of understanding—renewed in 2009, 2014, and 2019—establishing a partnership to create the NDNP. Under the terms of this partnership, NEH provides grants to an organization in each state and territory to digitize titles published between 1690 and 1963 and prepare searchable files that the Library of Congress maintains permanently online.

A complex undertaking, the NDNP is being implemented in phases. To date, the division has provided support for projects in all 50 states and three of the five jurisdictions. In recent years, the program has expanded to include content published between 1690 and 1963 and 22 languages in addition to English—including Dakota, German, Tagalog, Spanish, Danish, Hungarian,

Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, and Swedish—and in doing so opened access to the nation’s vibrant ethnic and immigrant press.

Much work remains to ensure that this longstanding commitment to newspaper heritage reflects the coverage, depth, and diversity of the nation’s history. In FY 2021, Rhode Island contributed *Chronicling America’s* earliest content by adding pages from the *Newport Gazette*, which dates to 1777. The recent additions of Massachusetts and New Hampshire to the program promises to further strengthen 18th-century content, while other contributors are increasing the presence of historically underrepresented groups. Indiana will add to the growing collection of African American newspapers available in *Chronicling America* with its contribution of the *Gary American* and other early 20th-century African American titles. Arizona will also contribute five African American titles, including issues dating from 1930 to 1935 from the *Arizona Gleam*, published by Ayra Hackett, the only Black female newspaper owner in Arizona at that time. Alaska will add to the site’s African American content with the *Alaska Spotlight*, the state’s first Black-owned newspaper. Alaska will contribute additional titles covering the mid-20th century, including the civil rights achievements of Alaska Natives and labor groups.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

This program encourages sustainable, energy-conscious solutions to mitigate deterioration in, and prolong the useful life of, collections in cultural heritage repositories. The program also helps strengthen institutional resilience in the face of disasters caused by natural and human activity. A 2020 survey report funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission titled *Small & Diverse Archival Organization Needs Assessment Project* found that building issues, space planning and usage, building environments, fire safety, water safety, and security pose significant barriers to the long-term sustainability of collections. The report goes on to single out this program as an important area of grant-funded support that can help address these urgent needs.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections planning grants of up to \$50,000 allow institutions to gather interdisciplinary teams of professionals to explore cost-effective and environmentally sensitive strategies for the protection of their humanities collections. With NEH support, the Oneida Indian Nation has gathered a team that includes specialists in conservation and preservation to develop recommendations for improving sustainability, energy efficiency, and security for historical documents, textiles, baskets, and other artifacts in their holdings.

In FY 2023, NEH introduced a new funding category to support small and mid-sized institutions through awards of up to \$0.1 million as they implement discrete preventive conservation measures such as reorganizing collections by material type or employing passive means of temperature and humidity control. While still informed by a general preservation assessment, these smaller Implementation Level I awards come with less stringent expectations for interdisciplinary planning, will better meet the staffing, time, and budgetary capacity of smaller organizations and extend the adoption of environmentally conscious conservation practices in the field.

Implementation Level II awards of up to \$0.350 million provide significant assistance to organizations seeking to implement preventive conservation measures. Such implementation projects often focus on lighting and climate control systems in collections and exhibition spaces. Glessner House Museum in Chicago, for example, is completing a project to install a geothermal

system in its historic house. This system will eliminate dependence on natural gas and save 30 to 60 percent on heating costs and 20 to 50 percent on cooling costs over conventional systems, and moreover, it is being installed with minimal impact on the historic fabric of the house and its significant collections. Other organizations have added insulation and more tightly sealed their buildings to enhance the performance of existing systems and decrease exposure to pests and fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

The 2022 National Census of History Organizations, conducted by the American Association of State and Local History with NEH funding, found that history organizations are present in nearly every community across the country, including places underserved by arts and culture organizations. While these organizations are important community assets, they also lack resources themselves. Fully 80 percent of the history organizations in the United States have budgets under \$0.2 million, and only one-fifth of nonprofit, stand-alone history organizations are likely to be run by full-time staff.

NEH's Preservation Assistance Grants are designed to support under-resourced collecting organizations. Small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations may apply for awards of up to \$10,000 for preservation assessments; on-site consultation with preservation professionals on specific issues such as disaster preparedness and sustainable environmental conditions; staff and volunteer education through online and in-person workshops; and preservation supplies and equipment. Many of these institutions steward collections that reflect underrepresented communities and focus on a diverse range of topics, such as rural life, industrial history, and civil rights.

In the two decades since the program began, NEH has awarded over 2,200 grants to institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each year, an average of 30 percent of Preservation Assistance Grants are awarded to institutions that have never received a grant from NEH. Additionally, between 2008-2022, the Preservation Assistance Grant program received 14 percent of all submissions from first-time NEH applicants, strong evidence that this grant program extends the agency's reach. A significant number of previous award recipients have also gone on to compete successfully for grants from other agency programs.

These relatively small awards have an outsized impact on recipients, allowing organizations to build institutional capacity through training and improved collections care and to prioritize preservation work. The Museum of the Aleutians is using its first Preservation Assistance Grant to update its environmental monitoring program, empowering staff to develop safer display and transportation practices for archeological and ethnographic collections that tell the story of the Aleutian Islands and their people. Xavier University, a Louisiana HBCU whose holdings include the Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery Collection, is receiving a preservation needs assessment designed to help the university reduce the impact of future hurricanes and high humidity. Finally, the Delaware Public Archives is receiving training to enhance collection care practices for records focused on civic life, including the papers of Etta Wilson (1883–1971), executive secretary of the Delaware Parent-Teacher Association. Archives staff plans to share the knowledge it gains with the many municipalities and citizens it consults with on records preservation.

Dynamic Language Infrastructure - Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants

This program supports the creation of such tools as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections that document languages threatened with extinction. Of the 6,000 to 7,000 languages currently spoken around the globe, at least 3,000 are endangered, including hundreds of Native American languages. These lesser-known languages constitute an irreplaceable linguistic treasure for scholars seeking to understand the nature of language or study the cultures and natural systems of the region in which a particular language is spoken. To address this issue, NEH and the NSF established a joint special initiative known as Dynamic Language Infrastructure—Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants. Grants of up to \$0.450 million support fieldwork and other activities that make it possible to record, document, and archive endangered languages.

In documentation projects involving endangered languages, linguists typically work closely with native speakers, many of whom are interested in learning more about their own cultural heritage and are eager to pass on information about their language to younger generations. This work helps promote equity for these Indigenous language communities. An award to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues the construction of an interactive and fully searchable digital archive of historical recordings and texts made in fluent Western Dakota and Lakota, two dialects of the Indigenous language of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The Standing Rock Language and Culture Institute has also engaged community-based language experts to document these dialects, augment historical recordings, and build capacity for an archive training program. Using the NEH-funded content management platform Mukurtu, the project provides agency and sovereignty to tribal language experts and their community.

Preservation and Access Education and Training

This program ensures humanities stewards at every stage in their careers are prepared to care for collections and meet the demands of a changing field. By supporting graduate conservation programs, preservation field services, and continuing education initiatives, Education and Training grants promote an inclusive preservation training pipeline and help practitioners develop skills in such priority areas as equitable and culturally appropriate collections care, disaster resilience, and solutions for at-risk collections.

The results of recent encouragement for projects that increase the diversity of Preservation and Access professionals and expand training to underrepresented and Indigenous communities have been impressive. The Division is currently supporting the National Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Language as it increases its capacity to offer community archives training programs. An award to a nonprofit digitization center, Cultural Heritage Imaging, is taking an equitable partnership approach to preservation training by collaborating with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, the Huliauapa'a, and the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government to develop workshops for Indigenous culture bearers on advanced computational photography of collections. These initiatives empower communities that have received less support in the past to protect their vulnerable humanities collections.

Other awardees aim to reduce barriers to entry in the field and create educational opportunities for members of underrepresented groups. Harvard Art Museum is offering three paid 12-month junior apprenticeships with the goal of equipping aspiring conservators from historically excluded populations with the skills and experience they need to apply to a Master's-level conservation

program. In Colorado, the Denver Public Library is implementing a paid post-baccalaureate program that is also designed for underrepresented communities, with the goal of providing apprentices with hands-on special collections and digital archives experience.

For all preservation professionals, the Division supports preservation field services organizations, which offer trainings that respond to the needs of the field. These organizations have a long history of conducting emergency preparedness training initiatives and have recently used NEH support to redouble their efforts in the face of increasing climate-related threats. For example, with grant support, the Northeast Document Conservation Center is continuing its free, 24/7 emergency hotline for organizations recovering from disasters and offering additional disaster preparedness workshops in high-risk areas across the Atlantic coast.

Preservation and Access Research and Development

The Division's Research and Development program addresses major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Funded projects formulate new ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation's cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts, manuscripts, and analog recordings to digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—as well as to develop advanced modes of organizing, searching, and using such materials.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a hallmark of the Research and Development program, which encourages cooperation between cultural heritage professionals and specialists in preservation and other technical or scientific fields. Tier I grants of up to \$0.1 million support planning and preliminary work leading to large-scale research and development projects as well as stand-alone basic research projects, such as case studies, experiments, and the development of software tools. Tier II awards of up to \$0.350 million lead to the development of national standards, best practices, methodologies, and work processes for preserving and creating access to humanities collections.

Several recently funded projects are investigating the impacts of climate change on heritage collections, along with developing responses to advance sustainability and resilience. For example, an award to the Midwest Art Conservation Center is developing preliminary methods for assessing emergency preparedness needs for public art collections susceptible to natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation continues to develop Sustainability Tools in Cultural Heritage, a life cycle assessment tool that assists cultural heritage professionals in making educated, sustainable choices to lower the environmental impact of their work.

The preservation of audiovisual resources continues to be a priority of the Division, as these materials are particularly susceptible to environmentally driven deterioration. One such audiovisual medium is the digital videotape, which has been used by many small and mid-sized heritage organizations to record oral histories, news broadcasts, home movies, and performances. An award to Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound supports the creation of open-source software and training documentation for the preservation of such videotapes.

Finally, several of the Division's Research and Development awards promote equity by supporting work that enhances the preservation of and access to humanities collections for underrepresented communities. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is leading an international team that includes curators and native artisans from Mexico to use a novel scientific methodology to

identify plant and animal products in works of art prevalent in non-European cultures. An award to the University of Hawaii at Manoa will enable the university to work in partnership with the American Council of the Blind and the Helen Keller National Center to improve methods for audio description of heritage materials, which is the primary mode of access for millions of people with blindness or vision impairment.

Cultural and Community Resilience

Launched in FY 2023, this program supports community-based efforts to mitigate natural disasters and COVID-19 pandemic impacts, especially in disadvantaged communities. Projects safeguard cultural resources for the future and foster cultural resilience by identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage and community experience.

Cultural and Community Resilience projects contribute to the continuity of cultural heritage and its availability for future generations through community-based projects that empower people to define, collect, and use cultural and historical resources. This program also recognizes the importance of documenting contemporary experiences with natural disasters and pandemics and of deepening our understanding of their social, economic, and emotional impact on individuals and communities. Projects encompass inclusive and equitable practices that could include participatory archiving, recording oral histories, documenting traditional knowledge, planning for rapid response collecting, and developing shared stewardship arrangements.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Public Programs	\$14,000	\$15,800	\$15,400	(\$400)

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

- Public Humanities Projects
- Media Projects
- Digital Projects for the Public
- Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

The Division of Public Programs is where the work of NEH meets the American public. Through the Division's support of museum exhibitions, documentary films, podcasts, historic sites, library discussion programs, and online games, it reaches tens of millions of Americans every year, and in every state and territory. The leveraging effects of an NEH grant enable public-serving institutions to raise significant additional funding and to create projects of incredibly broad reach. The Division supports many accessible projects across the country that meld humanities scholarship with imaginative formats to engage public audiences of all ages and circumstances in serious questions about history, culture, and American democracy.

Public Humanities Projects

Awards for Public Humanities Projects provide critical support to museums, historic sites, libraries, community centers, and other cultural institutions, enabling the development of exhibitions of artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts; interpretation of significant American historic sites; presentation of reading and film discussion series; and creation of lifelong learning activities. Currently, more than 200 available public projects funded through this program are stimulating millions of Americans to think critically about the world around them and to instill a deeper understanding of fundamental questions facing contemporary society.

Funded projects support the agency's core priority of advancing equity and supporting underserved communities. "Here, Now and Always," which opened at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico in June 2022, is a comprehensive reinstallation of a permanent exhibition that explores the history and culture of the Native peoples of the Southwest. Advised by a vast network of scholars and community members representing fifty tribal groups, the exhibition takes in a range of fields including history, philosophy, environmental studies, language, art, economics, and archaeology, and explores topics including ancestors, home, community, trade, language, resilience, and art.

At the historic home of photographer Alice Austen, interpretive materials describe the ways in which her work explored the boundaries of gender roles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, drawing parallels with current debates about conformity and gender identity. The Heard

Museum’s “Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories” documents the government’s forced attempts to assimilate Native American children. Similarly, the traveling exhibition “Mr. Pruitt’s Possum Town: Trouble & Resilience in the American South” uses images captured by a small-town photographer to explore the iniquities of the Jim Crow era in Mississippi, enabling audiences to understand the antecedents of modern struggles around equity, diversity, and social justice.

Funding a mix of large and small, and urban and rural, organizations contributes to the Division’s goals of achieving equity in audience reach and sharing a diversity of stories. Grants awarded in support of projects conducted by large, national organizations often facilitate broad dissemination. An example of a project with such broad impact is the Library of America’s discussion program *Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters Today*. This Division-supported project, launched in September 2020, employed the African American poetic tradition to help illuminate the social, cultural, and political history of the United States. Using a newly published anthology of works by over 100 poets from the 18th century to the present, scholars guided audiences through substantive discussions of struggles for freedom, the evolution of identity, and shifting historical memory. The project also included a multimedia website, supplemental educational materials for educators, and sub-awards to 50 libraries in 24 states enabling them to conduct related programming on a local level.

The Division makes grants supporting the agency’s other core priorities of strengthening our democracy and confronting the climate crisis. Humanities Discussions grants, for example, frequently go to projects aimed at helping audiences understand questions of civics, government, and democracy. “*Scranton’s Story, Our Nation’s Story*,” from the University of Scranton, offered a series of public discussions in 2021 that invited participants to reflect on the relation between freedom and civic responsibility in our nation’s history. Also in 2021, Aquila Theatre toured “*The Warrior Chorus: American Democracy*.” Audiences drew connections between ancient Greek texts and live questions about democratic citizenship in the 21st century. Other Division-supported projects have helped audiences understand their relationship to the environment. For example, from October 2019 to January 2020 an exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Maryland, “*Scrap Yard: Innovators of Recycling*,” told the story of one of the ancestors of modern-day recycling: the scrap yard industry. “Scrappers,” as the industry’s workers were called, created an infrastructure that allowed for the reuse of discarded materials like metal and fabric and paved the way for today’s environmentally focused recycling programs.

Media Projects

The Division supports a wide variety of media projects that convey excellent humanities scholarship to millions of people via broadcast television, radio, video streams, and podcasts. NEH grantees have been instrumental in helping to overcome the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic by presenting a range of online programs, thereby providing entertaining and informative programming to the American public during an especially challenging time.

Media projects supported by NEH are captivating, widely distributed, thoroughly researched, and thoughtful in their presentation. NEH makes a unique contribution to nonfiction film and radio programming by fostering close collaboration between media producers and scholars, who work together to create programs that help bring the insights of the humanities to a broad and diverse range of the American public.

The Division has funded several high-profile films that have examined Black history, including issues of racism, prejudice, and inequity in America. *Storming Caesar's Palace*, which premiered at the BlackStar festival in Philadelphia in August 2022, tells the story of “a band of ordinary mothers who launched one of the most extraordinary, yet forgotten, feminist, anti-poverty movements in U.S. history, providing a blueprint today for an equitable future.” The film will air on PBS in 2023. *The American Diplomat*, which aired on PBS in 2022, explores the lives and legacies of three African American ambassadors who pushed past historical and institutional racial barriers to reach high-ranking appointments.

The Division has also supported projects exploring more recent trends in Black culture. In February 2021, PBS broadcast *Mr. SOUL!*, a documentary about pioneering talk-show host Ellis Haizlip and his television program *SOUL!*, which was the first nationally broadcast all-Black variety show on public television. The documentary, featuring many rare clips, illuminates the cultural contributions of major figures in Black literature, poetry, music, and politics from the late 1960s and early 1970s. In March 2021, *Mr. SOUL!* won an NAACP Image Award. The film was also short-listed for an Academy Award and was nominated for an Emmy Award.

The Division provided significant support to the Center for Asian American Media for its documentary film, *Asian Americans*, coproduced with PBS station WETA. This five-hour film series engages viewers in explorations of the evolving identity of, and prejudice experienced by, the nation's fastest-growing racial group, Asian Americans. The series premiered on PBS in prime time in May 2020 and was made available to 98 percent of American households via broadcast and online streaming. Following a spike in violence against Asian Americans in 2021, PBS rebroadcast the film and provided easy access to the series online. In 2021, *Asian Americans* won a prestigious Peabody Award.

Films supported by the Division have examined the politics and culture of the 1960s and 1970s, including the roots of political issues and movements that remain relevant today. *Crip Camp*, for example, looks at a groundbreaking summer camp that galvanized a group of teens with disabilities to help build a movement. The documentary was nominated for a 2021 Academy Award. *9to5: The Story of a Movement*, which aired on PBS, chronicles the movement by women office workers to achieve better pay, more advancement opportunities, and an end to sexual harassment. *The First Angry Man* is a documentary about political outsider Howard Jarvis and the California property-tax revolt he led in 1978. *Adios Amor: The Search for Maria Moreno* uncovers the story of Maria Moreno, the first female farm worker in America to be hired as a union organizer. The film received a 2020 Imagen Award for Best Informational Program as part of the PBS/Latino Public Broadcasting Voces series. In 2021, the Division funded a biographical documentary film, currently in production, of the public intellectual and author William F. Buckley Jr. A recent series of short documentaries on the history of photography, *The Bigger Picture*, includes a 2022 episode on the iconic “Blue Marble” photograph: a symbol and catalyst for activists confronting the climate crisis during the 1970s.

NEH-supported films have also examined the lives of influential figures in American arts and culture. The Division funded nationally-broadcast biographies of the neurologist Oliver Sacks, the journalist Walter Winchell, the writer L. Frank Baum (best known for *The Wizard of Oz*), the singer Marian Anderson, the author Flannery O'Connor, and the author and disability-rights advocate Helen Keller. A documentary on the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, creator of the popular *Little House* series, attracted more than one million viewers, and an additional 283,000 streams, when it premiered nationally in December 2020. The film chronicles how Wilder transformed her

uncertain and difficult childhood into beloved children’s classics, and, in doing so, contributed to lasting myths about the settling of the American West. The film’s coproducer, public television station WNET, created extensive educational resources, aligned with topics typically taught in United States history classes, to accompany the documentary.

Public radio and podcasts are popular formats for audiences to engage with rich humanities content. Division-supported radio programs explore the lives of important individuals, historical events, and ideas. Recent projects include *Radio Diaries*—an independent production that airs on NPR’s *All Things Considered*—that examines “extraordinary stories of ordinary life.” The program is especially creative in its use of archival audio and its choice of historical topics, including the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 and the life of Nelson Mandela. *Radio Diaries* also received a grant funded through NEH’s Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act appropriation that will document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different communities across the country.

Subtitle is another popular and successful NEH-funded radio and podcast series that aired in 2021–2022. These one-hour programs were broadcast as part of the weekly *The World* series, carried by over 200 NPR affiliates as well as standalone podcasts. Looking at regional accents, new words, and international topics, the series offered keen insights into language, linguistics, and speech as it explored a wide range of topics, including the development of podcasts in various locales. Podcasts of *Subtitle* have been downloaded more than 200,000 times.

Radio programs have also explored regional histories, including underrepresented people, communities, and events. *Points South*, a podcast on Southern history produced by the *Oxford American*, has included episodes on the poet Anne Spencer and on the 1898 Wilmington Massacre: a violent attack on the city’s thriving African American community, one of a series of coups that took place after the Civil War. History Colorado’s *Lost Highways* podcast has examined Western history, including such subjects as lynching and protection of tribal burial sites.

Digital Projects for the Public

The Division’s Digital Projects for the Public supports the development and production of humanities projects that make use of a wide array of digital technologies and platforms, including mobile applications, websites, digital games, interactive kiosks, and augmented and virtual reality experiences. Projects funded in this program reach a diverse range of audiences and offer those without direct access to cultural institutions a fresh, innovative, and low barrier-of-entry way to explore humanities content such as state and local history, civics, Indigenous culture, religious landmarks, military history, and music. The Division continues to see substantial interest in this area as educators and other audiences seek out projects that allow for deep humanities engagement without requiring in-person attendance and institutions use digital tools to expand their storytelling.

Two new Division-supported digital projects combine audio recordings, visualizations, and recent scholarship to chronicle America’s musical heritage. Carnegie Hall’s *Timeline of African American Music* traces the four-hundred-year evolution of African American musical genres from its earliest folk traditions through today. *Hearing the Americas*, from George Mason University, focuses on the first decades of recorded music, from 1898 to 1925, when popular music was in its infancy and genres were fluid.

Digital games continue to provide valuable humanities experiences. *Mission US* by WNET Thirteen and *Race to Ratify* by iCivics, which offer compelling ways to explore U.S. history in both formal and informal learning contexts, have each reached millions of unique players since their respective launches. Division-supported educational games have focused on events as varied as the American Revolution, the Trail of Tears, the Civil Rights Movement, westward expansion, and the ratification of the Constitution. During the pandemic, these games experienced a surge in their already well-established user base, as educators sought out robust digital resources to help sustain student engagement and offer different modes of learning. Similarly, the award-winning *Walden*, a game from the Game Innovation Lab at the University of Southern California, saw a significant increase in demand during the pandemic.

Historic sites, museums, and other cultural institutions are using virtual and augmented reality to reveal the past—how a house, neighborhood, or landscape would have looked two centuries or two thousand years ago—without disturbing current structures or the environment. San Francisco’s Buried History from Exploratorium pairs photographs, interviews, and augmented reality with a walking audio tour of the city to reveal buried ships, underground creeks, and sacred Indigenous shell mounds. The Cahokia Mounds Museum in Collinsville, Illinois, created a mobile app with augmented reality to help on-site visitors visualize the structures of the ancient Mississippian settlement. A website with educational materials also lets remote visitors explore the site.

Division-funded projects that use virtual or augmented reality include *Reconstruction 360°* from South Carolina ETV, a web and on-site mobile application providing tours of Reconstruction-era sites in South Carolina; *Exploring the Cajun Roots: Augmented Reality Tour of Acadia History* from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, an augmented reality tour and 360° panoramic website of 19th-century Vermilionville in Lafayette, Louisiana; *River of Time: A Game for Community Engagement* from Grand Rapids Public Museum, a self-guided mobile game that explores the history of the Grand River; and *VR Hoover Dam: A Virtual Reality Game Exploring the History and Construction of an American Icon* from University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, an educational experience chronicling the Hoover Dam’s construction.

Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations

Launched in FY 2023, Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations supports America’s small and mid-sized museums, especially those from underserved communities, which must often get by on scarce resources and small staffs. Small and mid-sized museums across the United States play a key role in serving their local communities as their partners and as keepers of their history and culture. This new program, featuring a simplified application process, provides much needed support to these smaller organizations by enhancing their capacity and strengthening their humanities programming. The program supports, among other activities, consultations with humanities scholars or public interpretive specialists.

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Research	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$0

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

Program Categories

Programs Supporting Individual Research

- Fellowships
- Public Scholars
- Summer Stipends
- Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities

Programs Supporting Scholarly Collaboration

- Scholarly Editions and Translations
- Collaborative Research
- Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions
- Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research

Programs with Strategic Partners

- Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships (with the NSF)
- Advanced Social Science Research on Japan (with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission)

Program Descriptions and Accomplishments

Developing knowledge and advancing understanding in the humanities are core strategic goals of NEH and are at the heart of the Division of Research Programs. The Research Division seeks to attain these goals through its investment in the work of individual scholars; in long-term, complex projects carried out by teams of scholars or at research centers worldwide; and in work with strategic partners.

Awards made through the Division support projects in all areas of the humanities. These include traditional disciplines such as history, philosophy, literature, classics, religion, and archaeology as well as more recent cross-disciplinary approaches including race and gender studies and environmental humanities. While this scholarly work can sometimes seem distant from everyday life, humanities research provides the context for almost every important discussion in the public forum. As an example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many in the reading public turned to NEH-supported researchers for a reliable history of how pandemics develop and spread (Billy Smith, *Ship of Death*) and how the last pandemic influenced American literary and cultural life (Elizabeth Outka, *Viral Modernism: The Influenza Pandemic and Interwar Literature*). Similarly,

following the attacks on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, the public and policy makers discovered that a humanities scholar had literally “written the book” on the Taliban (David Edwards, *Before Taliban*). And in a landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage nationwide, Justice Anthony Kennedy cited Nancy Cott’s NEH-supported book, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*, in the Court’s majority opinion. NEH Research awards made to Smith, Outka, Edwards, Cott, and thousands of other humanities researchers have enabled Americans to deepen their knowledge, participate in discussions that affect everyday life, and become better-informed citizens.

NEH-supported researchers are among the most innovative and productive scholars in the nation, leading the way in advancing the historical and cultural roots of the core principles of democracy. For example, the Division continues to support teams of scholars in their efforts to document and make easily accessible the words of U.S. Presidents, such as Thomas Jefferson and Dwight D. Eisenhower; prominent public figures, such as Frederick Douglass and Jane Addams; and literary intellectuals, such as Emily Dickinson and Willa Cather. NEH also provides fellowships to individuals writing books on the origins of our democracy, e.g. to Aaron Hall for “*The Founding Rules: Slavery and the Creation of American Constitutionalism, 1787-1889*”; on the foundations of our civil society, e.g. to Sarah Stitzlein for “*The Role of Truth and Honesty in Improving Democracy*” and to Jeremy Fortier for “*How Rational Does Democracy Need to Be?*”; and the threats to both, e.g. to Jennifer Forestal for “*The Shape of Democracy: Building Political Spaces in a Digital Age*”, which looks at how social networking platforms such as Facebook and Twitter hold both promise and perils for American democracy.

The Division’s engagement with understanding civil rights, racial justice, and institutional discrimination supports the priorities for advancing equity and for addressing the needs of underserved communities. Projects in racial and ethnic studies have constructively drawn on traditional archival research to uncover new perspectives on race in America. For example, Jeffrey Stewart, a professor of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, received fellowship support to write *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke*. Locke, a prominent Black intellectual from Philadelphia, became the driving force behind the Harlem Renaissance, and Stewart received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in biography for this work. Candacy Taylor, an independent scholar living in New York City, received an award from NEH to research and write *The Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America*. Using travel as her frame of reference, Taylor documents Blacks’ struggles for equality in 20th-century America. W. Caleb McDaniel, professor of history at Rice University, received support to write *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, which examined how a former slave used the U.S. court system in the 19th century to win restitution for her time as a slave. McDaniel received the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in history for his NEH-supported work.

The Division has also long served as a source of funding for new fields of inquiry in the humanities, including medical humanities and environmental humanities. Division grantees have used creative approaches to demonstrate how the humanities play an important role in discussions of climate change. For example, independent scholar Sarah Dry received NEH support for *Waters of the World: The Story of the Scientists Who Unraveled the Mysteries of Our Oceans, Atmosphere, and Ice Sheets and Made the Planet Whole*. Drawing on the history of science, earth sciences, and biography, Dry tells the stories of the scientists who have studied our hydrosphere, atmosphere, and cryosphere; in doing so, she helps us to appreciate the earth as an interconnected system and humanizes the scientists behind most climate change research. Mary Alice Haddad, the John E. Andrus Professor of Government at Wesleyan University, used NEH funding to

publish *Effective Advocacy: Lessons from East Asian Environmentalists*. Using her background in comparative politics and environmental sciences, Haddad seeks to explain how and why the environmental movement in Asia developed differently from that in the United States and Europe.

Programs Supporting Individual Research

The primary building block of the humanities can be found in the work of the individual scholar, and, accordingly, awards to individual researchers have been a priority for NEH since the agency's inception. Today, the support of individual scholars is met through four programs in the Division of Research Programs: Fellowships, Summer Stipends, Public Scholars, and Awards for Faculty at HSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs.

Fellowships and Summer Stipends Program

The NEH Fellowships and Summer Stipends programs support individual scholars pursuing advanced humanities research, providing recipients time to conduct research leading to publication. Offering stipends between two and 12 months, both programs reach a wide range of scholars in diverse settings, from colleges and universities to research institutes to independent scholars without teaching appointments. In collaboration with the Mellon Foundation, the NEH Fellowships program has also engaged in a special initiative to encourage digital publication formats in addition to print publications. Products of both programs are intended for scholarly as well as general audiences.

NEH grantees produce award-winning scholarship that shapes popular and academic engagement concerning vital public topics, including the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice, America's civic principles, and economic and environmental challenges. For example, John Eicher (Pennsylvania State University, Altoona) crafted a history of the influenza epidemic of 1918–1920, providing useful context for understanding the COVID-19 pandemic. Bobby J. Smith II (University of Illinois) investigated the importance of food-related politics in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Jon Schaff (Northern State University) probed the foundations of America's civil order by comparing the political philosophies of Jefferson, Hamilton, and Lincoln. And archaeologist Heather Wholey (West Chester University) addressed concerns about environmental sustainability by studying threats to cultural heritage along the shores of Delaware Bay due to the rising sea level.

Public Scholars

The Division of Research Programs is committed to bringing the insights of the humanities to the American public and to international audiences. The Public Scholars program supports nonfiction books in the humanities that hold strong appeal for curious general readers, regardless of their familiarity with recent scholarship. This program democratizes knowledge by bringing the humanities out of the academy and to the general reading public. The program is intended to spur nonacademic writers to deepen their research, while also encouraging academic writers to broaden their audience. Journalist Kevin Sack, for example, was recently awarded a grant in support of his book-in-progress on the history of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, South Carolina. The book, which he expects to publish with Penguin/Random House, will show the role of the Black church in resisting oppression through 200 years of American history. Historian Elizabeth Fenn at the University of Colorado, Boulder, won NEH

support to write *Sacagawea's World: Window on the American West*, which will use the events of one Native American woman's life to narrate a new history of the Northern Plains, Northern Rockies, and Pacific Northwest. Matthew Delmont of Dartmouth College received an award for *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*, due to be published by Viking. His book will be based on extensive research in African American newspapers and will give equal weight to the fight against Nazism abroad and the struggle against white supremacy at home.

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

In response to several Presidential Executive Orders, NEH supports communities that are underserved by the humanities by providing research opportunities for faculty and staff members at HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs. The Awards for Faculty program provides flexible grants designed to serve the unique needs of faculty and staff at these institutions; in particular, the program allows recipients, many of whom have demanding teaching, mentoring, and service responsibilities, to maintain and develop their credentials as scholars. The program supports a variety of humanities research efforts that lead not only to publication, but also to revised undergraduate course offerings or institutional or community goals. Awards have supported work on a wide variety of topics by scholars from a range of institutions. In FY 2020, for example, Mary Barr, an assistant professor of sociology at Kentucky State University, received an award to conduct research on the history of the North Shore Summer Project, a 1965 collaboration between civil rights groups and women's organizations in Chicago's northern suburbs working to address housing discrimination in those communities. In FY 2021, Christine Ami, an associate professor at Diné College (Arizona), received an award to write a book on the cultural importance of sheep herding and butchering to the Diné (Navajo) people. And Valerie Martinez, an assistant professor of history at Our Lady of the Lake University (San Antonio), was awarded a grant to research and write a book about Latina servicewomen in World War II.

Programs Supporting Scholarly Collaboration

Modern scholarly endeavors increasingly require the collaboration of multiple researchers working across a wide range of specialties, or scholars working together in research centers and archives. The Research Division nurtures such collaborative efforts through four programs: Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions, and Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research grants.

Scholarly Editions and Translations

Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support collaborative teams editing and translating foundational humanities texts that are vital to civics education and to a broader knowledge of the country's history and its constitutional principles. Scholarly editions projects involve literary, musical, philosophical, and historical materials. Nearly half of NEH-funded projects are in the fields of U.S. history and literature. Many of these works are published in print editions, but increasingly they are available in digital formats as well, which enables greater access by scholars as well as the public. Recent grants have supported editions of the papers of major political figures such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jane Addams, and Martin Luther King Jr.; the works of philosophers Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth; inventor Thomas Edison; and literary figures Mark Twain, novelist Catherine Maria Sedgwick, and

African American author Charles W. Chesnutt. Other teams of researchers are preparing editions of documents important to the nation's history. For example, NEH has supported "The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Adoption of the Bill of Rights" project at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, which is collecting and publishing the documentary record of the debate over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Freedman and Southern Society Project at the University of Maryland in College Park published the documentary history of the experiences of four million African American freedmen after the Civil War. These documents provide an incomparable record of liberation and the persistent search for lasting equality.

Collaborative Research

Collaborative Research grants support teams pursuing a range of projects: international collaborations, scholarly conferences, multi-authored publications, and scholarly digital projects. Whether team members work within one field or across disciplines, within one institution or across multiple institutions, within the humanities or in tandem with the social or natural sciences, Collaborative Research awardees harness multiple perspectives and areas of expertise to deepen our understanding of the humanities. For example, the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) received a grant to develop a digital archive and print publication on the history of the Mississippi Lunatic Asylum, the site of the largest institutional burial ground in the United States. Building on the work of archaeologists, this interdisciplinary team of historians, ethicists, anthropologists, and literary and legal scholars at UMMC, Millsaps College, and Jackson State University is conducting archival and oral history research that will shed new light on the history of mental illness and disability, institutionalized care, and health care inequities. This work will inform current efforts seeking justice for the disabled and people of color in this region.

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

Grants awarded under the NEH Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions program support residential fellowships at major U.S. research centers located at home and abroad, as well as fellowships awarded under the auspices of U.S. organizations that facilitate international research. The program recognizes that intellectual exchange and collaboration are vital to advance research in the humanities. NEH funding provides American scholars with opportunities to conduct research in U.S.-based research centers as well as in China, India, Turkey, Greece, Israel, and other parts of the world where support and access might otherwise be difficult, if not impossible. NEH supports institutions such as the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri, and the Center for Jewish History in New York City. These partnerships expand the access of American scholars across the globe to important research collections and scholarly communities, and advance American cultural diplomacy goals in many key regions.

Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research Program

The Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research awards are supporting scholars conducting empirical field research to answer significant questions in the humanities. Archaeology and ethnography are important methodologies that provide observational and experiential data on human history and culture. Most fieldwork of this nature is supported by science and social science funders, which disadvantages humanities scholars in archaeological and ethnographic disciplines and diminishes the influence of humanistic thought on the understanding of human

behavior in the past and present. In FY 2022, a team from the University of Colorado led by Professor Susan Thomas received a grant to conduct an ethnographic study of the multi-ethnic musical landscape of Pueblo, Colorado. Christopher DeCorse, a professor of anthropology at Syracuse University, was funded to conduct archaeological excavations at the first English fort in Africa, established on the Ghanaian coast in 1631.

Programs with Strategic Partners

NEH's system of peer review is widely respected for its fairness and rigor, and it therefore comes as no surprise that other government agencies have partnered with NEH to help them deliver large-scale peer review for individual scholars. NEH has two strategic partnerships that further extend the agency's mission to support individual research.

NEH/NSF: Dynamic Language Infrastructure–Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships

NEH collaborates with the NSF to fund documentation of the thousands of rapidly disappearing languages all over the world. The Dynamic Language Infrastructure–Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships program provides awards to individual scholars in the field of linguistics, linguistic anthropology, or sociolinguistics who seek to record and archive endangered languages before they become extinct. Native American languages are an important cluster in this program; one third of the 100 awards made to date have focused on Native American languages. Among the endangered languages studied were Pomoan, spoken by the Pomo tribe in Northern California; Tlingit, spoken in southeast Alaska; a Dilzhe'e variant of Western Apache; and Wyandot, a Northern Iroquois language.

Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission: Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan

NEH administers the Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan program under an interagency agreement with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, which is the primary funder. The program's goals are to promote the study of Japan in the United States, to encourage U.S.-Japanese scholarly exchange, and to support the next generation of Japan scholars in the United States. Awards support individual scholars conducting research on modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and U.S.-Japan relations. For example, Dennis Frost of Kalamazoo College won an award to support his research into the history of disability and sports in Japan. The resulting book shows how events such as the Paralympics have affected disability-related policies and perceptions both in and beyond the sports arena.

ADMINISTRATION

	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023
Administration	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$42,000	\$6,000

Note: Dollars are in thousands.

The NEH administrative budget supports staff salaries and benefits, telecommunication systems, building rent and security, contractual services, equipment, supplies, and other support activities that enable the agency to meet its goals of promoting advanced research, deeply informed teaching in schools and colleges, lifelong learning, and the preservation of cultural collections.

NEH's administrative budget includes several items that are not typically included in other federal agencies' overhead. The most prominent of these is the annual cost of evaluating grant applications through the agency's peer-review process. Annually, NEH receives more than 5,000 grant applications and awards an average of almost 1,000 grants on average. The applications are reviewed and evaluated by both NEH staff and experts outside of the agency. For example, in FY 2022, more than 1,100 scholars, teachers, museum curators, experts, and other professionals convened to conduct 276 virtual panels as peer reviewers. Starting in calendar year 2023, NEH raised the honorarium fee to \$400 for peer reviewers.

NEH is requesting \$42 million in administrative funds to support the agency's program request of \$169 million. The agency's main administrative cost is salaries and benefits, which NEH estimates at \$32.5 million in FY 2024.

Implementing the President's Management Agenda

- ***Strengthening and Empowering the Federal Workforce:*** NEH continues to identify and offer training opportunities to employees, supervisors, contractors, and managers to adapt, work and supervise in a hybrid work environment. NEH also continues to update and acquire technology that enables staff members to work efficiently from areas outside of the District of Columbia-Maryland-Virginia commuting area.
- ***Managing the Business of Government:*** NEH continues to offer hybrid work arrangements to agency staff. These flexible work arrangements enable NEH to attract, recruit, retain, and empower top talent to advance its DEIA goals, accomplish its mission, and meet strategic initiatives. Specifically, flexible work arrangements allow NEH to hire a more diverse workforce as potential staff are no longer limited to the District of Columbia-Maryland-Virginia commuting area.

In response to the directive to strengthen federal hiring practices, NEH plans the following:

- ***Paid Internship Program:*** Since FY 2020, NEH has administered a successful virtual Pathways Internship Program, generally for college students. Internships provide valuable assistance to NEH staff in all offices. Additionally, interns provide staff members with the opportunity to mentor future leaders in various humanities or administrative fields and offer new perspectives on the agency's operations, policies, practices, and plans. Internships also

increase NEH's relationship with universities and colleges. NEH will continue to hire up to 24 interns per summer.

- **NEH Hiring Processes:** NEH will identify critical hiring needs; update its position description library; and strengthen and simplify vacancy announcements to attract diverse, qualified, and talented applicants. NEH continues to encourage supervisors to strengthen structured interviews.

Responding to the federal government's directive to improve personnel vetting, NEH plans the following:

- **Organizational Assessments:** NEH continues to work with other small agencies to update the organizational assessments that are utilized by job applicants who apply for various positions. This streamlining allows the agency to attract more qualified individuals. In response to Executive Order 13932, *Modernizing and Reforming the Assessment and Hiring of Federal Job Candidates*, NEH no longer relies on candidates' self-certifications of their stated skills and abilities when vacancy announcements are advertised. The agency identified other assessment tools to certify applicants for further consideration, which began in FY 2023. NEH continues to work directly with the Office of Personnel Management to identify various assessment strategies to attract the most qualified candidates.
- **Personnel Vetting Systems:** NEH continues to comply with GSA USA Access system updates as related to Personal Identity Verification badges for both agency staff and contractors. The agency will also conduct timely background investigations on eligible staff positions and contractors and report the findings to appropriate leadership.

Advancing Equity for Underserved Communities and Embedding DEIA into the NEH Workforce

- **NEH Equity Action Plan:** In FY 2022, in response to Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, NEH released an ambitious Equity Action Plan to remove barriers to full and equal participation in the agency's programs and opportunities. In FY 2023, NEH implemented its Equity Action Plan by (1) creating an Office of Data and Evaluation and building to build a robust data collection system to analyze the effectiveness of NEH programs and policies and determine whether, and to what extent, they advance equity and support for underserved communities; (2) creating an Office of Outreach and refining and developing plans to refine the agency's branding to increase engagement with communities and institutions that have been historically underserved by NEH, such as Tribal Nations, veterans, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and community colleges; and (3) exploring ways to simplify the agency's grant application processes and funding opportunity notices. In FY 2024, NEH will expand the Offices of Data and Evaluation; and Outreach; and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) to continue to reach the goals set forth by the Equity Action Plan.
- **NEH DEIA Strategic Plan:** In response to Executive Order 14035, *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce*, NEH developed a DEIA Strategic Plan that outlines steps to recruit and retain a workforce that draws from the full diversity of the nation. In FY 2023, NEH appointed a Chief Diversity Officer and created an Office of

DEIA to (1) establish a whole-of-agency, data-driven DEIA program at NEH that enables the agency to hire and promote the nation’s best talent and build a diverse and representative workforce through an open and fair process consistent with merit systems principles; (2) implement recruitment and hiring policies and practices at NEH that strategically integrate DEIA goals, explore opportunities to achieve more equitable outcomes, and actively work to mitigate the effects of systemic bias on underserved communities; (3) increase professional development opportunities for NEH staff that create an inclusive, engaged, and high-performing workforce; and (4) embed accessibility as a core design component of NEH facilities, digital spaces, website services, and programs so that all people, including people with disabilities, can fully and independently use them.

Evidence, Evaluation, and Capacity-Building to Advance Evidence-Based Policymaking

In FY 2023, NEH launched an Office of Data and Evaluation to implement rigorous evaluation metrics and establish a baseline of the agency’s existing support for underserved communities. This Office will (1) collect data about the organizations and individuals that apply to NEH, the principal investigators who lead those grants, and the NEH peer reviewers who adjudicate them; (2) perform studies in-house about the impact of NEH’s awards, particularly by analyzing closed-out grants to see how they have positively impacted the field over time; (3) award grants and contracts to outside organizations (e.g., researchers who are experts in diversity and equity) to perform studies of NEH’s work; and (4) provide reliable data to senior NEH leadership to help inform new grant programs, new forms of outreach, and NEH hiring practices.

Prioritizing Information Technology (IT) Modernization and Cybersecurity

NEH’s cybersecurity modernization is well underway with significant progress in implementing guidance from *CISA’s Zero-Trust Maturity Model*. In FY 2022, NEH purchased laptops which were provisioned and managed with Microsoft Endpoint Manager (formally Intune) to enhance capabilities in the **Devices** pillar. Also, in FY 2022, the agency began work in the **Identity** pillar with an NEH Identity Redesign Project. Funding in FY 2023 allowed NEH to advance the **Networks** and **Applications and Workloads** pillars. To improve the agency’s networks, NEH is implementing a project plan to fully migrate to a TIC 3.0 architecture. Within the **Application and Workloads** pillar and consistent with using shared services for IT modernization, the NEH grants management software will adopt Login.gov to improve security and user experience when recipients and reviewers interact with NEH. NEH’s plans in FY 2024 include IT modernization for federal cybersecurity by design, zero trust implementation, and strengthening the foundations of our digitally enabled future human capital. *Detailed information on these plans can be found in the “Justification of Program Changes” on pages 11-12 of this document.*

NEH Administration Budget Request by Object Classification¹

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 President's Budget
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	172	177	194
11 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	19,671	21,491	24,380
12 BENEFITS	6,685	7,290	8,100
13 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	5	0	0
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	26,361	28,781	32,480
21 TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION	145	375	400
23 GSA RENT	3,082	3,162	3,410
23 COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES	115	111	140
24 PRINTING	108	118	115
25 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	4,854	6,113	4,875
26 PANELIST CONTRACTS	300	410	435
26 SUPPLIES	95	104	70
31 EQUIPMENT	390	65	75
41 GRANTS			
SUBTOTAL NON-PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	9,089	10,458	9,520
TOTAL	35,450	39,239	42,000

11.1 PERSONAL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
PERSONAL SALARY AND BENEFITS	26,361	28,781	32,480

11.1–13.1 Personal Compensation and Benefits: Personal compensation includes salaries and benefits for the following categories of employees: full-time permanent, part-time permanent, temporary, base pay experts and consultants, and intermittent appointments (members of the National Council on the Humanities). Benefits include NEH’s shared contributions toward employees’ retirement, health, life insurance, and unemployment benefits.

NEH’s rigorous peer-review process requires a highly educated workforce that is knowledgeable about humanities discipline content and the agency’s grant-making procedures. Most NEH program staff hold a PhD or other advanced degree in the humanities. NEH’s administrative professionals have expertise in budgeting, accounting, information resource management, legal counsel, public affairs and communication, and administrative services.

FY 2022’s staffing level was 172 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) and increased to 177 in FY 2023. The agency expects FTEs will increase to 194 by the end of FY 2024. This staff increase annualizes hires from FY 2023, expands the newly formed Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, supports NEH’s cybersecurity efforts, and adds program support for the

¹ Note: FY 2021 and FY 2022 include use of carryover funding from prior years.

agency’s new grant programs. The Budget includes a 5.2% pay adjustment and an increase for the agency’s contribution for regular retirement groups.

21.1 TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	145	375	400

21.1 Travel & Transportation of Persons: Travel funds and expenses include site visits for program oversight, grant-application workshops, outreach activities, and travel related to agency training. Also included in this line item are the travel expenses for the members of the National Council on the Humanities, who typically travel to Washington, D.C. at least three times each year to discuss NEH policies, review applications, and advise the NEH Chair concerning funding of specific projects.

As the agency moves to a post-pandemic posture, NEH has seen an increase in travel as the staff is able to again attend conferences, site visits, and workshops. The agency is also expanding its outreach programs to underserved communities that have been systematically deprived from participating in opportunities.

23.1 RENTAL PAYMENTS TO GSA	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
GSA RENT	3,082	3,162	3,410

23.1 GSA Rent: NEH occupies space in the Constitution Center in Washington, D.C., a privately owned building that is partially leased to the GSA. NEH’s rent charges are determined by an Occupancy Agreement that the agency negotiates with GSA. The current Occupancy Agreement is for the period of November 2020 through April 2024. NEH projects a rent increase of 7% in 2024.

23.3 COMMUNICATION, UTILITIES, AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
COMMUNICATION AND UTILITIES	115	111	140

23.3 Communication, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges: NEH has upgraded to Microsoft Team Telecommunication System (DC Net) to support the staff’s teleworking capacity. The telecommunication system has replaced all call messaging units, desktop phones, and local call services. The agency expects a slight increase in telecommunication costs due to inflation.

24.0 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
PRINTING	108	118	115

24.0 Printing and Reproduction: Each year, NEH prints HUMANITIES, an award-winning, quarterly periodical; agency posters and program brochures; stationery; and program announcements. The agency also supports the printing of Congressional outreach and National Book Festival materials. The decrease in FY 2024 is due to a reduction in the costs of paper.

25.1 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	4,854	6,113	4,875

25.1 Other Contractual Services: NEH employs a variety of contractual services which include: (1) support, maintenance, and improvement of information technology systems; (2) annual contract and maintenance of the agency’s financial database; (3) employee training; (4) security personnel costs at the Constitution Center; (5) contracts for temporary personnel assistance; (6) and contracts with interagency fund transfers.

In FYs 2023 and 2024, NEH will transition its legacy agency-hosted system to a shared-services provider, Treasury ARC. The costs of this transition are approximately \$87,000 for engagement and \$1.575 million for migration, including environment build, system testing, data migration, and contractual staff support in FY 2023. Recurring operations and maintenance costs, starting in FY 2024, will be \$1.120 million.

25.9 PANELIST CONTACTS	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
PANELISTS CONTRACTS	300	410	435

25.9 Panelist Contracts: Agency contracts have historically included funds to allow for travel expenses, daily per diem, and honoraria for panelists each year. Panelists represent a diverse field of disciplinary, institutional, and regional backgrounds selected through a rigorous recruitment process. In FY 2023, the agency increased panelist honorarium payments from \$250 to \$400 to compensate for the rate of inflation and to continue NEH’s ability to recruit high quality outside reviewers of its grant applications. FY 2024 includes additional panel support for NEH’s requested new grant programs.

26.0 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
SUPPLIES AND MATERIAL	95	104	70

26.0 Supplies and Materials: The agency expects a decrease from FY 2023 in the cost of office supplies. With more employees returning to the office, NEH will not be purchasing work from home supplies. The agency will continue to keep employees safe from the spread of COVID-19 within the office space through the purchase of protective equipment, disinfectants, and masks.

31.0 EQUIPMENT	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Request
EQUIPMENT	390	65	75

31.0 Equipment: IT modernization and cybersecurity are the key drivers of the agency’s need to upgrade office equipment. To support sophisticated engineering and the integration of high-speed networks, NEH will upgrade desktop monitors and communication services for office workspaces.

BUDGET ADDENDUM – NEH INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET

The budget for the operations of NEH’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is included within the agency’s general administrative budget. In accordance with Section 6(f) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended by the IG Reform Act of 2008, NEH estimates an aggregate budget for the OIG of \$0.856 million, which will support all staff salaries and allow for full administrative and legal support of this office. The NEH OIG budget includes:

- Staff salaries and benefits totaling \$0.805 million to support a staff of 4 FTEs;
- A travel budget of \$7,500, which will allow for audit and investigative support and attendance at all appropriate IG conferences, workshops, and training seminars;
- Estimated information technology expenses of \$5,000;
- A training budget of \$5,000 to allow for staff certification as mandated by the IG Act and government auditing standards;
- Independent legal services, currently provided by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax and Administration via a Memorandum of Understanding on a reimbursable basis not to exceed \$20,000 during the fiscal year;
- Investigative services to be secured via a Memorandum of Understanding with another Inspector General on a reimbursable basis not to exceed \$10,000 during the fiscal year; and
- \$3,409 in continued support from the OIG for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.