



**Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Congressional Justification**

**March 2024**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>3</b>
FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST .....	10
SPECIAL INITIATIVES .....	11
DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS.....	21
DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS.....	28
DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS .....	36
DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS .....	43
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES .....	48
OFFICE OF CHALLENGE PROGRAMS.....	52
OFFICE OF FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP .....	55
ADMINISTRATION .....	60
<b>APPENDIX I – NEH INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET</b> .....	<b>69</b>

## OVERVIEW

---

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) serves the American public as the only federal agency dedicated to funding the humanities, which include history, philosophy, literature, language, ethics, law, archaeology, political theory, comparative religion, anthropology, sociology, and media and cultural studies. 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.

NEH approaches its 60th anniversary in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. 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. As the nation’s premier funder of the humanities, NEH plays a core role in advancing federally-funded research and development (R&D), preservation, and educational and public programming to foster a strong, resilient, and thriving democracy; build a more just and equitable society; and protect our cultural resources from the effects of climate change. 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 FY 2025 Budget provides \$200.1 million for NEH. This funding includes:

- \$74.4 million for NEH’s grant programs in support of projects in the humanities and \$60 million in awards to NEH’s partners in each of the 56 states and jurisdictions.
- \$14.6 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, including \$7.1 million for humanities projects that seek to understand and address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of artificial intelligence (AI); \$2.8 million for an NEH initiative that aims to combat hate-motivated violence, promote civic engagement, and achieve better mental health outcomes in the United States; continued support for an NEH initiative that fortifies cultural heritage and resilience in the U.S. Pacific Islands; and \$1.5 million for the development of a new Native language and culture revitalization program.
- \$8.75 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.
- \$42.35 million for salaries and expenses needed to operate the Agency in an efficient and effective manner, including dedicated resources for (1) the Office of Data and Evaluation to evaluate NEH’s impact on the humanities field; and (2) the continued implementation of Executive Orders, directives, and Administration priorities involving organizational health

and organizational performance; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and cybersecurity.

### **Enhanced Programmatic and Administrative Priorities in FY 2025**

In FY 2025, NEH will continue the core work of its existing grant programs to nurture the humanities field while supporting programs, offices, policies, and federal R&D priorities that strengthen our democracy, expand access to the humanities, and address a changing climate. The following are examples of NEH's plans for FY 2025, which are described in detail in the individual special initiatives, division, and program sections of this justification:

#### ***Strengthening Our Democracy***

- NEH's agency-wide 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.
- *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence*, a new research initiative at NEH that leverages the humanities to understand and address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI, as outlined in the 2023 update of the National AI R&D Strategic Plan. AI is one of the most powerful technologies of our time and will have profound consequences for civil rights and civil liberties, safety and security, and democratic values. In FY 2025, NEH will invest in R&D activities that explore the risks of AI-related technologies on truth, trust, and democracy; safety and security; and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, including through a new funding opportunity that supports the creation of humanities research centers at universities and independent research organizations focused on AI. NEH first launched the initiative in FY 2024 with the release of Executive Order 14110 on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.
- *Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities*, a program in NEH's Office of Digital Humanities (ODH) that supports basic R&D into the relationship between technology and society, including the implications of disinformation on the democratic process. Recent awards include *The Spontaneity Deficit: Dangers and Opportunities of the Age of Distraction*, a digital humanities project led by the University of Virginia that leverages philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience to address how digital technology, particularly social media, affects the way we experience the world.
- *United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture*, an NEH initiative announced in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) at the 2022 White House "United We Stand" Summit that supports humanities-based programming in all 56 states and jurisdictions to combat hate-motivated violence; promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding; and leverage the humanities to achieve better mental health outcomes in communities across the United States. In FY 2025, NEH will continue a nationwide *United We Stand* program with all 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding. Past *United We Stand* projects include (1) educational programming led by Ohio Humanities that explored the impact of hate groups on Ohio's civic fabric, past and present; (2) Puerto

Rico Humanities-led public programming that examined the history of prejudice, rights violations, and violence against LGBTQI+ communities in Puerto Rico and its diasporic enclaves in the United States; (3) a community conversation series led by Arizona Humanities that engaged Arizonians on what it means to be civically engaged and why diverse representation is critical for democracy; and (4) emergency support for the Uvalde, Texas, community to establish an archive to preserve community and national responses in the wake of the Robb Elementary School massacre on May 24, 2022.

- NEH's actions outlined in the *U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism*, including new partnerships to develop K-12 educational materials about Jewish history and research opportunities to study the origins, history, and effects of antisemitism in the United States. Recent awards include support for research and development for a book project that traces the history of antisemitism in the United States from 1657 to the present. In FY 2025, NEH will continue to expand this initiative to focus on opportunities to counter Islamophobia and other forms of hate in the United States.
- Programs in NEH's Division of Research Programs that support basic R&D 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 (1) scholarly editions of the papers of presidents and political figures such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Jane Addams, and Martin Luther King Jr.; (2) 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 (3) 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 in NEH's Division of Education Programs that equip K-12 and higher education teachers, professors, and educational institutions to teach national and local aspects of democratic culture and address fundamental questions of civic practice. Past NEH awards include support for (1) a workshop led by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for K-12 teachers to examine the First Amendment through historical, constitutional, and modern lenses; (2) development of a minor at Maryville College, a liberal arts college in Maryville, Tennessee, that will explore concepts of citizenship and belonging and their connection to sense of place; and (3) a workshop led by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for K-12 teachers that marked the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer by giving participants the content knowledge and tools necessary to bring this integral, but often underrepresented, history to their classrooms.
- 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.
- Projects that enhance our understanding of the country's history in the leadup to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, such as through NEH's longstanding partnership with National History Day (NHD) to promote historical research among middle and high school students.

- 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. Recent projects include support for the councils to extend the reach of NHD to educators and students in underserved and hard-to-reach communities, such as support for (1) teacher training programs coordinated by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to increase NHD programming in underserved communities, including incarcerated students, in the state; (2) the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities to expand NHD’s reach in urban communities in Rhode Island and develop teaching modules on the histories of traditionally marginalized groups in Rhode Island; and (3) support for Texas Humanities to hire an outreach coordinator to expand Texas History Day programming in the Houston Independent School District, the largest independent school district in Texas, during the 2023-24 school year.

### *Expanding Access to the Humanities*

- Support for programs and projects that build capacity, expand access and inclusivity, and amplify 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, an office formed in FY 2023 to implement NEH’s Equity Action Plan priority of 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, an office formed in FY 2024 to implement NEH’s Equity Action Plan priority of increasing the Agency’s engagement with underserved communities and institutions; and (3) NEH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), an office led by NEH’s Chief DEIA Officer, that focuses on recruiting and retaining a workforce that draws on the full diversity of the nation.
- Robust humanities programming in support of NEH’s 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.
- A new program to support the revitalization and reclamation of Native languages and culture as part of the Administration’s efforts to (1) counteract nearly two centuries of Federal policies aimed at the destruction of Native languages and cultures, including through the Federal Indian boarding school system; and (2) further the goals of the draft 10-Year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization. This new program will complement NEH’s longtime partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to document thousands of endangered languages all over the world—including hundreds of Native 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 Western Dakota and Lakota, two dialects of the Indigenous language of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

- A new program modeled after the New Deal’s Federal Writers’ Project that will capture the stories and experiences of underrepresented communities during and recovering from the recent COVID-19 pandemic. This effort will allow the public to readily access the recollections from these communities while also supporting researchers, writers, and historians with this work.
- *Challenge Grants: Workforce Support*, a pilot program in the Office of Challenge Programs that will focus on workforce development through matching funding for the hiring, retention, and training of humanities professionals.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Public Programs support projects like documentary films, museum exhibitions, and discussion programs that engage public audiences of all ages in serious questions about history, culture, democracy, and the efforts undertaken to address inequity and climate change. Past NEH awards include support for *The Harvest: Integrating Mississippi’s Schools*, a 2023 documentary about the successes and difficulties of school desegregation in Mississippi; *Exposing Muybridge*, a 2021 Library of Congress Lavine Prize-winning documentary about 19th-century photographer Eadweard Muybridge’s innovative photography; *Traitor, Survivor, Icon: The Legacy of Malinche* exhibition at the Denver Art Museum exploring the meaning and legacy of Malinche; *The Great Stories Club*, a national reading and discussion program for at-risk youth from the American Library Association; and *Latino Poetry*, a national discussion program at arts organizations, museums, and libraries nationwide by Library of America.
- 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 (1) faculty at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, to develop a media studies program focused on issues of power and representation; and (2) faculty at Lake Superior State University—a community college in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan—to create a certificate in Indigenous literatures and culture.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Research Programs and Office of Digital Humanities that support scholars in interdisciplinary studies to uncover new perspectives on race, gender, disability, and other segments of the population in the United States. Past NEH awards include support for (1) 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 nineteenth-century freedwoman survived kidnapping and re-enslavement to successfully sue her captor; and (2) a digital humanities project led by faculty at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to demonstrate how digital art historical journals can sensitively work with the artistic production of disabled artists.

- Programs in NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access that (1) ensure the public can more easily find and make use of cultural heritage collections at libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country; and (2) support under-resourced collecting organizations, such as small and mid-sized libraries, archives, and museums. Past NEH awards include support for (1) the expansion of a digital, bilingual archive of twentieth-century Latin American and Latino Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in Texas; “Listening to War: Wisconsin’s Wartime Oral Histories”; (2) a digital collection of first-person accounts of veterans and civilians in Wisconsin who served in the twentieth century; and (3) a preservation needs assessment at Xavier University of Louisiana, an HBCU whose holdings include the Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery.
- In-person and virtual humanities programs designed by the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to reach all Americans. Recent projects include (1) a literature-based program led by New Hampshire Humanities that reaches traditionally underserved adult learners, including immigrants and refugees, individuals with disabilities, and general education learners; (2) a conversation program facilitated by the Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities that brings humanities topics to correctional facilities; and (3) a book program conducted by South Dakota Humanities Council that offers bilingual books to students across the state; (4) a traveling Museum on Main Street exhibition loaned by Oklahoma Humanities to serve and build new relationships in rural communities and small towns; and (5) a literacy skills class for families led by Florida Humanities to support the reading and vocabulary skills of parents and children whose native language is not English.

### *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 basic R&D into the historical roots and cultural effects of climate change.
- The *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative*, an NEH initiative announced at the White House Summit on Building Climate Resilient Communities that aims to strengthen the cultural and educational sectors in the U.S. Pacific Islands, which face unique challenges due to their remote geography and the historic underinvestment in the region by the Federal Government. Launching in FY 2024, the *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative* offers new funding opportunities for colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historic sites, and other cultural and community organizations in American Samoa (Tutuila), Guam (Guåhan), Hawai‘i, and the Northern Marianas. Recent *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative* projects include support for convenings and technical assistance for the humanities councils in the U.S. Pacific Islands, including the creation of a regional cultural network and annual forum. In FY 2025, NEH will expand the *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative* to include increased funding opportunities for K-12 teachers and higher education faculty and institutions in the region.
- Programs in NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access that (1) embed cultural and community resilience and Indigenous Knowledge in the face of natural disasters and public health crises, especially among disadvantaged communities, as outlined by the Administration’s Justice40 initiative; (2) encourage sustainable, energy-conscious strategies to prolong the life of cultural heritage collections; and (3) develop tools and training to support field-wide adoption of climate mitigation and resilience strategies. Recent NEH awards include



support for (1) the Harrison County Library System to collect oral histories from six at-risk communities on the Gulf Coast vulnerable to climate change; (2) Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, Arizona, to implement building modifications to improve the collection's storage conditions and reduce energy consumption in the extreme desert climate; and (3) the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts to partner with Centro de Conservación y Restauración de Puerto Rico to train cultural heritage stewards in collections care and emergency preparedness.

- *Climate Smart Humanities Organizations*, a 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. Recently approved grants included funding for energy audits and associated strategic climate-smart sustainability planning at the Anchorage Museum, Alaska; a pilot to develop climate action plans for two historic properties at Historic New England, Massachusetts, that can be replicated at their other 36 historic sites; and a Climate Heritage Strategic Plan for the major historic sites in San Antonio, Texas.
- Support through NEH's Division of Research Programs and Office of Digital Humanities for basic R&D in the humanities on issues involving the climate crisis. Past awards include support for (1) 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; and (2) a project at the University of Southern California that examines the development of energy technologies in twentieth-century Iran.
- Educational programming in the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to explore historical, social, cultural, and philosophical contexts for climate issues. Examples include (1) Arizona Humanities' Climate Conversations program, which featured discussions on how various groups relate to the land as captured in the documentary *Atascosa Borderlands*; (2) Humanities New York's reading and discussion program *Place and Story*, which explored community and climate change; (3) Humanities Washington's program partnering with the state's first Indigenous poet laureate, Rena Priest, which demonstrated how poetry can lead to an appreciation for nature and highlight the importance of saving wild places; (4) Missouri Humanities' panel, "Regenerative Agriculture: The Future of Missouri Farming," in which experts discussed agriculture as an economic force, part of the community's heritage, and an area for innovation; and (5) Florida Humanities funded a scholarly panel discussion presented by The Center for the Humanities at the University of Miami and UM's Office of Civic and Community Engagement which highlighted the historical connections between the history of the environmental movement and the fight for racial justice, marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the publication of Marjory Stoneman Douglas's landmark book, *The Everglades: River of Grass* (1947).
- Technical assistance and support for cultural and educational institutions affected by severe weather events through the 56 state and jurisdictional councils. In FY 2023, NEH awarded emergency supplemental funding to (1) Mississippi Humanities Council to replace tornado-damaged public cultural heritage materials in Rolling Fork, Mississippi; (2) Florida Humanities to support ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian; and (3) Vermont Humanities to support cultural organizations impacted by severe, statewide flooding.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST**

---

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR <sup>1</sup>	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Special Initiatives	\$ 7,000		\$ 14,600	\$ 7,600
Research Programs	\$ 17,500		\$ 17,500	\$ -
Preservation and Access	\$ 22,500		\$ 18,000	\$ (4,500)
Education Programs	\$ 15,400		\$ 15,000	\$ (400)
Public Programs	\$ 15,800		\$ 15,150	\$ (650)
Office of Digital Humanities	\$ 6,250		\$ 6,250	\$ -
Office of Federal/State Partnership	\$ 65,000		\$ 60,000	\$ (5,000)
Program Development	\$ 2,800		\$ 2,500	\$ (300)
<b>Subtotal – Programs</b>	<b>\$ 152,250</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 149,000</b>	<b>\$ (3,250)</b>
Office of Challenge Programs	\$ 15,750		\$ 6,250	\$ (9,500)
Treasury Matching Funds	\$ 3,000		\$ 2,500	\$ (500)
<b>Subtotal - Matching Programs</b>	<b>\$ 18,750</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,750</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>
Administration	\$ 36,000		\$ 42,350	\$ 6,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 207,000</b>	<b>\$ 207,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,100</b>	<b>\$ (6,900)</b>

---

<sup>1</sup> A full-year 2024 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the Budget was prepared; therefore, the Budget assumes this account is operating under the *Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act* (Division A of Public Law 118-15, as amended). The amounts included for 2024 reflect the annualized level provided by the Continuing Resolution.

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Special Initiatives	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 14,600	\$ 7,600

*Note: Dollars are in thousands.*

Today we face some of our greatest challenges as a nation: among them, fostering a strong, resilient, and thriving democracy; building a more just and equitable society; and protecting our cultural resources from the effects of climate change. In response to these challenges, NEH launched a special initiative in FY 2023 titled *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future* to leverage the humanities to strengthen our democracy, expand access to the humanities, and address our changing climate.

As the nation's premier funder of the humanities, NEH plays a core role in advancing federally-funded research and development (R&D), preservation, and educational and public programming in these areas. Indeed, 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 multiple funding opportunities at NEH, *American Tapestry* encourages humanities projects that advance knowledge of the country's history and political institutions, examine threats to its democratic principles, and elevate the role of civics in K-12 schools and public programs. 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 supports projects that build climate resilience in the cultural and educational sectors and promote basic R&D in the humanities on the historical roots and cultural effects of climate change.

By supporting projects that align with these three key priorities—strengthening our democracy, expanding access to the humanities, and addressing our changing climate—the *American Tapestry* initiative seeks to elevate our country's history in all its complexity and diversity as we approach a just, vibrant, and ambitious future.

### **Strengthening Our Democracy**

In establishing NEH, Congress wrote: "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—from the scholarly editions of George Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr., to professional development for K-12 teachers on civics education and U.S. history to the National Digital Newspaper Program, which makes available millions of pages of historical newspapers from all 50 states to students, teachers, and the public. NEH's *American Tapestry* initiative will continue to invest in humanities projects such as these as well as new programs that foster civic engagement, increase media and information literacy, and examine threats to democratic principles.

These programs and initiatives include the following:

## *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence*

AI is one of the most powerful technologies of our time and will have profound consequences for civil rights and civil liberties, safety and security, and democratic values. Questions about the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI are fundamentally rooted in the humanities, which include ethics, law, history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, media studies, and cultural studies. In fact, NEH’s founding legislation tasks the Agency with making the American people “masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.”

To address these challenges, NEH launched an agency-wide initiative in FY 2024 titled *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence* that leverages the humanities to understand and address the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI. Created in response to Executive Order 14110 on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, the initiative featured a new flagship grant program named *Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence* (HRC AI) that supports the creation of humanities research centers focused on AI at universities and independent research organizations.

The FY 2025 budget includes \$7.1 million to further develop the *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence* initiative to support basic R&D on these AI-related topics, including through the following:

- The expansion of the HRC AI program to support both the creation and the expansion of existing humanities research centers focused on AI at universities and independent research organizations, including increased focuses on educational and public programming that enhance AI literacy and public awareness of humanities perspectives on AI. HRC AI addresses Strategy #3 of the [2023 National AI R&D Strategic Plan](#), which calls for the development of “approaches to understand and mitigate the ethical, legal, and social risks posed by AI to ensure that AI systems reflect our Nation’s values and promote equity.” The program supports teams of researchers—including experts in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences—to understand the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI, with an emphasis on equity, privacy, and civil rights.
- Professional development workshops focused on AI literacy for K-12 and higher education faculty through NEH’s *Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities* and *Institutes for K-12 Educators and Higher Education Faculty*, which will support the development of new courses, certifications, minors, or majors related to the humanities and AI as well as pedagogical resources for teaching humanities perspectives on AI.
- A nationwide AI literacy program in partnership with all 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils aimed at ensuring the public understands how AI increasingly shapes society and our individual lives.
- Special encouragements for AI-focused humanities projects in NEH’s existing grant programs, including support for (1) scholarly teams or individual scholars through *Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities*, *Fellowships*, *Summer Stipends*, or *Public Scholars*; (2) collaborative teams to plan international AI research projects or host AI-focused scholarly convenings through *Collaborative Research*; (3) R&D projects that explore the ethical and cultural dimensions of AI within libraries, museums, and archives, such as the use of AI in various science heritage areas—including advanced

sound and visual analysis, natural language processing, and conservation science—through the Division of Preservation and Access *Research and Development* program; (4) television and radio productions, documentary films, museum exhibitions, podcasts, digital games, and discussion programs that aim to reach broad and diverse audiences in non-classroom settings in the United States through *Media Projects*, *Digital Projects for the Public*, and *Public Humanities Projects*.

### ***Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities***

This program, launched in FY 2023 as part of *American Tapestry*, funds basic R&D that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities. Technology—from social media to biotechnology to cryptocurrency—has had an enormous impact on our democracy and national security, 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, our national security, the environment, our social interactions, our government, cultural and educational institutions, the arts, and nearly all other aspects of life. In FY 2025, NEH will continue to expand this program in response to the needs of the humanities field, including with a special encouragement for projects that address AI, as outlined by the *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence* initiative.

### ***United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture***

Hate must have no safe harbor in America—especially when that hate fuels the kind of violence we have 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.

At the White House “United We Stand” Summit in September 2022, NEH announced a new initiative, *United We Stand: Connecting Through Culture*, which uses the arts and humanities to combat hate-motivated violence. Launched in coordination with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), this initiative includes funding opportunities for partners in every state, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. jurisdictions for programming that promotes civic engagement, social cohesion, and cross-cultural understanding.

NEH implemented a nationwide *United We Stand* program in FY 2023 in all 56 U.S. states and jurisdictions to build united fronts against hate at the community and national levels. In FY 2023, NEH issued \$2.8 million in funding to all 56 state and jurisdictional councils to develop localized and place-based humanities programming that (1) fosters cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and community resilience; (2) educates the public on the history of domestic extremism and hate-based violence; (3) promotes civic engagement, information literacy, and social cohesion; and (4) deepens public understanding of community, state, and national history. Funded projects included support for (1) educational programming led by Ohio Humanities that explored the impact of hate groups on Ohio’s civic fabric, past and present; (2) Puerto Rico Humanities-led public programming that examined the history of prejudice, rights violations, and violence against LGBTQI+ communities in Puerto Rico and its diasporic enclaves in the United States; (3) a community conversation series led by Arizona Humanities that engaged Arizonians on what it means to be civically engaged and why diverse representation is critical for democracy; and (4) university partnerships with South Carolina Humanities to lead panel discussions around difficult stories regarding

the impact of hate on society at a community, state, and national level. In FY 2024, NEH will host a convening with all 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils focused on this initiative. In FY 2025, NEH will offer \$2.8 million to NEH's state and jurisdictional partners to expand this program to rural, urban, and Tribal communities.

In FY 2023, NEH published a special encouragement within its regular grant lines for projects that respond to the *United We Stand* initiative. Since the publication of this special encouragement, NEH has issued more than \$10 million in support for R&D, K-12 educational workshops, public discussion series, documentary films, and museum exhibitions that explore the history of hate-motivated violence against historically underrepresented and marginalized groups in the United States. NEH will continue to issue this special encouragement in FY 2025.

Finally, NEH will continue to offer emergency assistance to the state and jurisdictional humanities councils in the wake of incidents of hate-motivated violence. Examples of NEH emergency support for such incidents include an NEH award to Humanities Texas in FY 2023 to establish an archive in Uvalde, Texas, in partnership with a local library and Baylor University to preserve community and national responses to the Robb Elementary School massacre that occurred on May 24, 2022.

### ***U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism***

In May 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration released the first-ever *U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism*. The strategy, which outlines a whole-of-society approach to tackle the scourge of antisemitism in the United States, includes commitments from NEH to expand the Agency's investment in K-12 education on Jewish history as well as research, teaching, and convening opportunities for humanities scholars and institutions to study the origins, history, and effects of antisemitism in the United States.

In FY 2025, NEH will continue to develop partnerships with independent organizations and other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, to develop educational materials about Jewish history. Materials will include trainings and other resources for educators nationwide, including content on antisemitism and Jewish history on NEH's EDSITEment website ([edsitement.neh.gov](https://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. NEH will also continue to publish a special call for applications that explore the history of antisemitism in the United States. Examples of projects funded since NEH's publication of a special encouragement include support for research and development for a (1) book titled *Antisemitism, An American Tradition*, which traces the history of antisemitism in the United States from 1657 to the present; and (2) a feature-length documentary for PBS American Masters on the life and works of author, activist, educator, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel.

### ***National Digital Broadcasting Program***

Enshrined in the First Amendment and touted by the Founding Fathers as a defining feature of the nation, the free press has long been understood as a cornerstone of American democracy. Since 2003, NEH has partnered with the Library of Congress to develop the *National Digital Newspaper Program* (NDNP), a long-term effort to create a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1690 and 1963, from all 56 states and U.S. jurisdictions. The multi-faceted story of the nation's history from the twentieth century to the present cannot be told without audiovisual broadcasting. In FY 2025, NEH will launch the *National Digital Broadcasting*

*Program* (NDBP) to 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 volume of materials held by institutions large and small across the country. Modeled after *NDNP*, *NDBP* will be administered through NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access and will begin as a multiyear initiative to digitize significant broadcast programming from every state and jurisdiction.

### ***250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence***

NEH’s *American Tapestry* 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. 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. They 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. Since FY 2023, NEH has partnered with the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to expand NHD’s reach in each state and jurisdiction. These projects included support for (1) teacher training programs coordinated by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to increase NHD programming in underserved communities, including incarcerated students, in the state; (2) the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities to expand NHD’s reach in urban communities in Rhode Island and develop teaching modules on the histories of traditionally marginalized groups in Rhode Island; and (3) support for Texas Humanities to hire an outreach coordinator to expand Texas History Day programming in the Houston Independent School District, the largest independent school district in Texas, during the 2023-24 school year.

In FY 2025, NEH will also contribute to the ongoing development of new K-12 curriculum resources in civics and U.S. History for EDSITEment. 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, NEH will continue its work as an ex-officio member of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, as outlined by a memorandum of understanding between the commission and NEH and other federal agencies signed in FY 2021.

## **Expanding Access to the Humanities**

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 Partnership with the Department of the Interior on 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.

In FY 2023, NEH announced a major partnership with the Department of the Interior to expand 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 allocated \$4 million in FY 2023 to support the digitization of records from the United States’ system of 408 federal Indian boarding schools and the creation of a permanent oral history collection, documenting the experiences of the generations of Indigenous students who passed through the federal Indian boarding school system.

In FY 2023, NEH also committed its support for new humanities projects—including scholarly research, convenings, oral histories, and educational programs—that further the objectives of the *Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative*. Recent NEH awards include (1) a major cooperative agreement with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition for continued survey work, prioritization, and digitization of primary sources documenting the history of federal Indian boarding schools; and (2) support for the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project, which is digitizing and transcribing government records, photographs, oral histories, and other historical materials documenting the experience of Native American children who attended the Genoa U.S. Indian School in Nebraska between 1884 and 1934.

In FY 2025, NEH will continue to invest in new projects that expand public knowledge and understanding of the history and impact of the federal Indian boarding school system, including support for: (1) Native language and cultural revitalization programming (see below); (2) the development of a model curriculum for K-12 students on the federal Indian boarding school system and its legacy; (3) scholarly research into the federal Indian boarding school system; (4) interpretation plans for boarding school sites; (5) documentary films and humanities-based exhibitions on the boarding schools; (6) digital archives that preserve the history of boarding school sites; and (7) partnerships with Tribal Nations, Native communities, higher education institutions, and other independent organizations to support oral history projects that collect, preserve, and make accessible stories of boarding school attendees.



### ***Native Language and Cultural Revitalization Program***

In FY 2025, NEH will establish a new program through *American Tapestry* and NEH's partnership on the *Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative* to support the revitalization and reclamation of Native languages and culture. NEH will develop this program as part of the Administration's efforts to (1) counteract nearly two centuries of Federal policies aimed at the destruction of Native languages and cultures, including through the Federal Indian boarding school system; and (2) further the goals of the draft 10-Year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization. Administered by NEH's Education Division, NEH's new program will support the development of Native language education programming and other humanities-based cultural activities, leveraging language and revitalization expertise through new partnerships with Tribal Nations, Native communities, independent organizations, and other federal agencies. The FY 2025 budget includes \$1.5 million for this new program.

Language is at the root of civilization and underlies our ability to share a common understanding of our world, our history, and our culture through its transmission from established speakers to new ones. The goal of this new program is to strengthen the living act of language transmission for Native Americans and their communities by funding one to three partnerships between NEH and Tribal and Native American nonprofit institutions each year, with a grant period of between 18 and 42 months. The supported partners would lay the groundwork for developing, growing, and stabilizing new and existing Native language programming by (1) hosting conferences, workshops, networking meetings, and consulting services to collect data on, and gauge the needs of, Native language revitalization providers and learners; and/or (2) subcontracting to grantees to support language learning and cultural revitalization projects, such as language programs or language outreach in Tribal communities, Native language curriculum development in schools, colleges, or universities, as well as technologies, such as community language platforms, that enable language learning programs and cultural revitalization to be more broadly shared and supported.

This program will complement NEH's long-term support for the preservation, protection, and documentation of Native languages through its *Dynamic Language Infrastructure—Documenting Endangered Languages* (DLI-DEL) program, which supports individual fellowships as well as fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages. The new program will also strengthen the Agency's programs dedicated to general curriculum development and faculty research at the nation's Tribal colleges and universities.

### ***NEH Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative***

In FY 2023, NEH launched a historic initiative to strengthen the cultural and educational sectors in the U.S. Pacific Islands, which face unique challenges due to their remote geography and historic underinvestment in the region by the Federal government. The *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative* offers new funding opportunities for colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historic sites, and other cultural and community organizations in American Samoa (Tutuila), Guam (Guåhan), Hawai'i, and the Northern Marianas, including support for (1) convenings and technical assistance for the humanities councils in the U.S. Pacific Islands, and the creation of a regional cultural network and annual forum; (2) community-based efforts that embed climate resilience and safeguard cultural resources against the impacts of the climate crisis on the region; (3) Native and Indigenous language and cultural revitalization, documentation, oral history collection, and public humanities programming that strengthen and elevate U.S. Pacific Islander voices; (4) research and curriculum development in the humanities for K-12 and higher education faculty and institutions in the U.S.

Pacific Islands; and (5) partnerships with other federal agencies and independent organizations, such as the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

In FY 2023, NEH issued nearly \$0.9 million for a three-year period (FY 2024-27) to the four humanities councils in the region—the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, Humanities Guåhan, Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council—to (1) augment their outreach and support for underserved communities and institutions that have been traditionally unsuccessful in seeking federal or nonprofit funds; (2) establish a permanent regional network and an annual forum for the councils to meet and discuss best practices, shared challenges, and potential partnerships; (3) nurture their local cultural and educational sectors through events and programs at colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historic sites, and other cultural and community organizations; and (4) foster community engagement through projects that amplify the frequently overlooked views of Pacific Islanders.

In FY 2025, NEH will expand the *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative* to include increased funding opportunities for K-12 teachers and higher education faculty and institutions in the region, including: (1) new incentives for K-12 teachers and faculty and institutions to apply to programs within the divisions of Research and Education, such as the *Fellowships* or *Humanities Initiatives* programs; and (2) potential partnerships with NSF and other federal agencies that deepen NEH’s support for K-12 and higher education in the region.

### ***NEH Federal Writers’ Project Program***

During President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Administration, the *Federal Writers’ Project*, which was part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), embarked on a program to interview formerly enslaved individuals in 17 states. The *Federal Writers’ Project* conducted more than 2,300 interviews and collected thousands of pages of supporting documents. The resulting corpus, known as the Slave Narrative Collection and now housed at the Library of Congress, became an invaluable resource for historians, folklorists, linguists, and other scholars who wanted to write the history of the enslaved and their experiences with Reconstruction and Jim Crow.

Historians and others have long called for a “new WPA”—this time focused on gathering the experiences and stories of underrepresented communities during, and still recovering from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY 2025, NEH will seek to develop a program that supports the collection and analysis of stories from the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when millions of Americans became ill or lost their lives while many others lost their jobs. The project will include the collection of oral histories as well as the analysis of the effects of the pandemic on American life from school and office closings to the strain on America’s health care system to the disparate impact of the pandemic on underprivileged communities. The result will be a valuable collection of in-depth histories for researchers and the public while providing work for still unemployed or underemployed humanities scholars and professionals.

### ***Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education***

This program, launched in FY 2023 as part of *American Tapestry*, 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. Administered by NEH's Division of Education, *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 2025, NEH will continue to expand this program in response to the needs of the humanities field.

### ***Public Impact Projects at Smaller Organizations***

Launched in FY 2023 through the *American Tapestry* initiative, *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. In FY 2025, NEH will continue to expand this program in response to the needs of the humanities field.

### ***Challenge Grants: Workforce Support***

*Challenge Grants: Workforce Support* is a one-year pilot program that will launch in FY 2025 to replace the *Infrastructure and Capacity Building* program that was discontinued after FY 2024. The pilot program will respond to the needs of humanities organizations with limited resources who struggle to financially support a thriving and robust workforce. These organizations are essential components of civic life and through their education, cultural, and historical resources, benefit all Americans and strengthen our democracy. The pilot program will focus on workforce development through matching funding to support new staff or faculty positions, measures to retain staff or faculty, funding for professional development, and paid intern- or traineeships at cultural and educational organizations. Applicants would include nonprofit humanities organizations of any size, with a focus on HBCUs, TCUs, community colleges, and small to mid-size humanities organizations. These matching awards will be investments in humanities organizations over the long term that will strengthen the institutional base of the recipient and nurture professional careers in the humanities through a lens of equity and access.

### **Addressing a Changing Climate**

The Biden-Harris Administration has called on a whole-of-government approach to tackling the climate crisis. Through NEH's *American Tapestry* initiative, NEH developed the Agency's first-ever climate strategy, which (1) embeds climate resilience into our grantmaking programs to safeguard our cultural heritage; (2) coordinates federal emergency relief efforts for the cultural and educational sectors with the Agency's network of 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils; and (3) advances Indigenous Knowledge and R&D in the humanities and humanistic social sciences to address the historical roots and cultural effects of climate change.

In FY 2025, NEH will continue to support the following programs and partnerships through *American Tapestry*:

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***Humanities Fellowships on Climate Change***

In FY 2025, 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.

### ***NEH Partnership with Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council***

NEH, in partnership with NSF, has committed its support to a multinational funding opportunity led by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada entitled, the “International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Competition.” A collaboration of research funding agencies from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States have partnered under this initiative to fund interdisciplinary research that addresses climate change and benefits vulnerable populations that are most impacted by the climate crisis. The initiative was created in response to the *Sixth Assessment Report of the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*, which documented the unprecedented changes in Earth’s climate that are occurring in every geographic region, impacting all ecosystems and societies, and that continue to intensify with further warming. The report described eight representative key risks, and all eligible projects that apply to the competition must address at least two of those risks. In FY 2023, NEH allocated more than \$0.5 million to the NSF via an interagency agreement to support American humanities researchers funded through the joint initiative. In FY 2025, NEH will continue to partner with the NSF on this opportunity.

## DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Research Programs	\$ 17,500	\$ -	\$ 17,500	\$ -

*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
- Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence
- Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions
- Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research

#### *Programs with Strategic Partners*

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

### **Program Descriptions and Accomplishments**

NEH is the largest and most prestigious funder of advanced humanities research in the United States. From the coveted NEH fellowships for individual scholars to the more collaborative funding opportunities awarded to institutions, the Division of Research Programs supports fundamental research and writing in all disciplines of the humanities and humanistic social sciences. The Research Division supports the building blocks of knowledge upon which American civil society depends.

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. The Research Division receives around 2,500 applications a year—two-thirds of all applications received by the Agency—and issues almost 300 awards annually. NEH funding through the division has resulted in the publication of more than 16,000 books and academic

monographs since NEH's founding in 1965. Over the last five years, 124 books supported through the Research Division have received prestigious academic awards, including the 20th NEH-supported book to win the Pulitzer Prize, Marcia Chatelain's *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America*.

Awards made through the division support projects in all areas of the humanities. These include traditional disciplines such as history, philosophy, literature, classics, religion, language, archaeology, ethics, law, political science, anthropology, and sociology as well as more recent cross-disciplinary approaches such as media studies, Native American studies, gender studies, and the 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.

### ***Strengthening Our Democracy***

NEH-supported researchers are among the most innovative and productive scholars in the nation, leading the way in exploring the historical and cultural roots of the core principles of democracy. For example, the division supports teams of scholars in their efforts to document and make easily accessible the words of U.S. presidents such as Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln; prominent public figures such as Frederick Douglass and Jane Addams; and literary intellectuals such as Mark Twain 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.

As outlined in the *U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism*, the division released a special encouragement in FY 2023 for projects that study the origins, history, and effects of antisemitism and/or Islamophobia in the United States. NEH awards funded since publishing this special encouragement include a Public Scholars grant to historian Pamela Nadell to complete a book on the history of antisemitism in the United States from 1654 to the present day.

In FY 2024, the division will launch a new funding opportunity to support the creation and expansion of research centers that leverage the humanities to study the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI as part of NEH's new initiative, *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence*.

The division also included a special encouragement in its existing programs for research projects focused on AI, particularly those that explore the impacts of AI-related technologies in the areas of equity, privacy, or civil rights.

### ***Expanding Access to the Humanities***

The division has a strong record of supporting research and writing that engages new audiences, recovers lost voices from history, and deepens our understanding of civil rights, racial justice, and institutional discrimination. 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 Black people's struggles for equality in twentieth-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 nineteenth century to win restitution for her time as a slave. McDaniel received the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in history for his NEH-supported work.

### ***Addressing a Changing Climate***

The division has also long served as a source of funding for new fields of inquiry in the humanities, including the 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. In FY 2023, the Research Division added a special encouragement for research projects in the environmental humanities that study the social and cultural causes and effects of climate change, global warming, and environmental degradation.

### **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, 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*, winner of the 2023 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in Nonfiction. His book is based on extensive research in African American newspapers and gives 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***

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 five programs: *Scholarly Editions and Translations*, *Collaborative Research*, *Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions*, *Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research*, and *Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence*.

#### ***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 author and humorist 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.

### ***Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence***

The *Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence* (HRC AI) program was created as part of NEH's *Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence* initiative and in response to Executive Order 14110 on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence. Through HRC AI, NEH supports the creation of centers of collaborative research that focus on this topic, with a particular emphasis on addressing the risks of AI-related technologies on truth, trust, and democracy; safety and security; and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Centers at eligible institutions may carry out several activities, including research and writing, workshops and seminars, curriculum development, lecture series, public programming, and more. NEH will expand this program in FY 2025 to include new emphases on public and educational programming that enhance AI literacy.

### ***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***

The *Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research* program supports 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's Research Division 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 languages are an important cluster in this program; one third of the 100 awards made to date have focused on Native languages. Among the endangered languages studied were Pomoan, spoken by the Pomo tribe in Northern California; Tlingit, spoken in south-east 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.

## DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Preservation and Access	\$ 22,500	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ (4,500)

*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
- Dynamic Language Infrastructure - Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants
- Preservation and Access Education and Training
- Research and Development
- Cultural and Community Resilience
- National Digital Broadcasting Program

### **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. For example, 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 (<https://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 newspapers 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. Under the terms of this partnership, NEH provides grants to an organization in each state and territory to digitize titles 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. The addition of underrepresented voices continues to be an important component of state partners’ work. Most recently, Georgia will contribute the *Atlanta Daily World*, founded by William Alexander Scott II in 1928 as one of the first Black-owned dailies in the country. This newspaper contributes to an understanding of reactions to racialized segregation, as the newspaper earned a reputation beginning in the mid-1930s for its conservative position on civil rights issues.

Recent award cycles have focused on environmental histories and the ways in which newspapers help us understand climatic change and how communities have responded. Newspapers chronicle changes to the land, both natural and human-made, such as the overproduction of cotton as reported in the *Arkansas Gazette*. Similarly, California’s recent contributions will elucidate the relationship between human and natural history with titles that would open new avenues for further research into the history of the “Second Great Migration” of African Americans from agricultural southern regions to the industrializing West.

### ***Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections***

This program encourages environmentally sustainable preventive care solutions to avoid, minimize, and slow future deterioration of collections in cultural heritage repositories using methods that reduce reliance on fossil fuels and improve institutional resiliency from current and future disasters. The NEH-funded 2023 report from the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, *Held in Trust: Transforming Cultural Heritage Conservation for a More Resilient Future*, identified extreme climate-related disasters as an existential and immediate threat to cultural heritage and its preservation. Furthermore, 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 preservation of collections. The report goes on to single out this program as an important source of support to address these urgent needs.

*Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections* planning grants of up to \$50,000 allow institutions to gather multidisciplinary 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 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 items 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, environmentally sustainable preventive care measures. While still informed by a general preservation assessment, these smaller Implementation Level I awards come with less stringent expectations for multidisciplinary planning; better meet the staffing, time, and budgetary capacity of smaller organizations; and extend the adoption of environmentally conscious preventive care practices in the field. For example, with NEH funds, the Shaker Heritage Society in Albany, NY, will improve the preservation environment for over a thousand artifacts and archival items housed in the 1848 Meeting House and lower energy consumption by installing an energy recovery ventilator and attic insulation.

Implementation Level II awards of up to \$0.350 million provide significant assistance to organizations seeking to implement environmentally sustainable preventive care measures. Such implementation projects often focus on building envelope renovations, lighting, and climate control systems in collections and exhibition spaces to improve collections care and reduce energy consumption. 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. 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 harmful temperature and relative humidity levels.

### ***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.

The program opened new opportunities for small organizations to develop collections management strategies and increase intellectual control over collections. Preservation professionals recognize dissociation, or the loss of information associated with an object, as one of ten primary agents contributing to the damage, deterioration, or destruction of heritage materials. Dissociation can take several forms, including lack of descriptive information or location information, without which the object loses its significance and ability to be used for humanities purposes. New fundable activities include consultations with source communities represented in collections or subject matter experts to assist in developing accurate vocabularies and/or descriptions of collection items, format surveys, inventories, updating condition reports, and/or other preparatory steps toward description of collections.

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 and 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 Kennard Alumni Association is using its first *Preservation Assistance Grant* for training in collections care and a preservation assessment of its collections, which document the history of the first African American High School in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Appalshop, Inc.'s archive staff will receive training in cleaning and digitizing audio-visual media documenting central Appalachian history that was damaged during a thousand-year flood in Kentucky during June 2022. The Eastern Shoshone Tribe of Wyoming will use its first *Preservation Assistance Grant* to receive a general preservation assessment of the collections in its Archives and Cultural Center, as well as staff training in environmental monitoring and the purchase of environmental monitoring supplies.

### ***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 and provide access to collections while meeting the needs of a changing field. By supporting student and early career programs, preservation field services, and continuing education initiatives, *Education and Training* grants promote inclusive pathways into preservation professions and help practitioners develop skills in such priority areas as culturally appropriate collections care, disaster resilience, and solutions for at-risk audiovisual and digital collections.

The results of encouragements to create educational opportunities for individuals underrepresented in the field and to teach culturally conscious practices have been impressive. To encourage South Asian American engagement with archives and oral history, the division is currently supporting 12



six-month internships at the 1947 Partition Archive. These students are developing skills in cloud-based digital archives as well as best practices for culturally conscious handling of materials from conflict zones. The division is also funding a three-year community-engaged field school located at the African American Brush Arbor Cemetery in Starkville, Mississippi, a site on the National Register of Historic Places. This program, hosted at Mississippi State University, teaches novel, ethical, and interdisciplinary approaches to archival, anthropological, and archaeological methods using this important cemetery as a case study. A 2020 award to the Association of Moving Image Archivists supports preservation trainings for 140 Native and Indigenous stewards of audiovisual archives, running workshops online and in Alaska, Hawai‘i, and Oklahoma.

Other award recipients aim to reduce barriers to entry in the field of art conservation, a profession long supported by this program for its essential role in ensuring long-term access to irreplaceable cultural resources. The University of Delaware is keeping its Master of Science in art conservation accessible to aspiring conservators by offering 18 stipends to students who would take on outreach-focused projects serving community organizations, while an award to the Metropolitan Museum of Art offers six conservation internships intended to reach individuals from HBCUs and the CUNY system.

For all preservation professionals, the division supports field services organizations, which offer trainings and consultations for individuals across the country, often in underserved areas. NEH awarded a grant to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts to develop a new Regional Heritage Stewardship Program in Puerto Rico; previous programs had been launched in Appalachia and the Deep South through NEH support. This highly collaborative project partnered with a new field services organization on the island, Centro de Conservación y Restauración de Puerto Rico, to train practitioners in collections care, emergency preparedness, and preservation assessment.

Recognizing the importance of emergency preparedness in the face of climate change, the division continues to support applicants preparing the cultural heritage community for disasters. A 2022 project to the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation is developing Alliances for Response in New Hampshire and Arizona, helping preservation professionals liaise with emergency managers and first responders to protect their collections. The award is also training cohorts of National Heritage Responders in Massachusetts, Charleston, New Orleans, and Philadelphia and teaching alliances how to effectively engage Native and Indigenous organizations when preparing for disasters.

### ***Preservation and Access Research and Development***

The division’s *Research and Development* program addresses major challenges in preserving and 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 being used to develop 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 University of Montana is engaging in partnerships with Tribal cultural heritage stewards to address the challenges of determining cultural affiliations for objects with vague records. The project is using the university's anthropological and humanities collections as a case study to develop a methodology for Indigenized collections handling. An award to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa is enabling 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 as outlined in the White House's Justice40 Initiative. 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, incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, planning for rapid response collecting, and developing shared stewardship arrangements.

Examples from the program's first awards include the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which is conducting oral history interviews with Choctaw elders to document the impact of COVID-19 on their

community. The oral histories will be conducted in Chahta Anumpa, the endangered Choctaw language, and will be made available online along with their transcriptions and English translations. University of Puerto Rico, Cayey University College’s “Collective Care: Oral Histories of Climate Change in Puerto Rico” will support three community-based organizations to document recent catastrophic climate events in Puerto Rico through collecting oral histories and creating a digital collection. Additionally, the South Asian American Digital Archive in Philadelphia will collect oral histories and create a digital exhibition of the experiences of South Asian American frontline health care workers during the pandemic.

### ***National Digital Broadcasting Program***

The multifaceted story of the nation’s history from the twentieth century to the present cannot be told without audiovisual broadcasting. The *National Digital Broadcasting Program* (NDBP) will address this challenge by digitizing and making available 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 local news and public broadcasting. Historic radio and television programs have chronicled every facet of our social, cultural, and political heritage, such as the Civil Rights Movement, 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 *National Digital Newspaper Program*, 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, making its first awards in FY 2025.

## DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Education Programs	\$ 15,400	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ (400)

*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, 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.

The division will support new projects that strengthen American democracy, expand access to the humanities, and address our changing climate. Recent awards that focus on these priorities include support for (1) the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to organize a workshop for teachers on the impact of the First Amendment; (2) Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, to develop a minor on citizenship; and (3) the State University of New York, Oswego, to create an environmental humanities-visual media minor that will enhance students' understanding of ecological connectivity. The division's newest program, *Spotlight on the Humanities in Higher Education*, was launched in FY 2023 to expand access to the humanities to underserved student populations, particularly in small, rural, and minority-serving institutions. Recent awards include support for HARK, a small education nonprofit in Louisiana that will work with Southern University, a HBCU, to engage students and community members on literary depictions of the African American experience. Lake Superior State University in Michigan will develop an undergraduate certificate

program, offering study of the literature, languages, and cultures of the region's Indigenous peoples.

### ***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 explore topics in strengthening American democracy and the history of America's cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity. For example, K-12 teachers could study the history of South Asian Americans through the South Asian American Digital Archive in Philadelphia; civil rights and education law and policy in Detroit from the 1860s to the present at Eastern Michigan University; and, at San Diego State University, develop a critical understanding of important social issues raised by comics and graphic novels. College faculty could study Black and Indigenous histories of Richmond, Virginia, at Virginia Commonwealth University; the role of health humanities in dismantling structural injustice in healthcare at Johns Hopkins University; and the history of scripts and reading practices in the development of East Asian national identity in the modern era at the University of Arizona.

### ***Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops***

Starting this year, the *Landmarks of American History and Culture* program will support not only workshops for K-12 educators but also workshops for higher education faculty. *Landmarks* summer workshops introduce K-12 teachers and faculty at colleges and universities from across the United States to site-based teaching of important themes and topics in American history, culture, and civics. *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 or 24 higher education faculty 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 connect topics at specific historic sites across the country to important topics in the K-12 and higher education curricula. Workshops at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia and at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will explore the First Amendment and Freedom Summer, respectively, to advance knowledge of civics and American political institutions. Other workshops will allow teachers to study the World War II Japanese American incarceration at Heart Mountain, Wyoming; music, urban environments, and race relations at the National Blues Museum in St. Louis; and Native sovereignty and the federal boarding school system at the historic Phoenix (Arizona) Indian School Visitors Center. Higher education faculty have the opportunity to consider the history of Italian public art in New York City or reconsider the city's historic waterfront through the lens of the environmental humanities.

### ***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 Clemente Veteran's Initiative in Providence, Rhode Island, for courses for veterans who are struggling to reintegrate into civilian life after military service at home and abroad; for an ROTC course and a public discussion series on war and genocide at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida; and, through Minnesota Humanities Center, an award for a series of preparatory and discussion programs exploring the histories of female, Black, Native American, LGBTQI+, or immigrant military service members for veterans and community members at sites in Minnesota, Maine, and Mississippi.

### ***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 reflected creative engagement with the country's increasingly diverse population. Hawai'i Community College, located in Hilo, Hawai'i, will engage students, faculty, and the community in humanities-based activities in the newly formed Pālanui Forest Preserve, adjacent to campus. La Guardia Community College in Long Island City, New York, will create a two-year digital oral history-based project for students and the surrounding community. And in Centralia, Illinois, Kaskaskia College will develop a three-year humanistic exploration of mortality, bereavement, death, and dying for faculty and students in its nursing program and members of the wider community.

### ***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 support projects that explore a range of topics and use a variety of approaches, including a project at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., that will create an open educational resource textbook that examines the ways in which African American intellectuals interacted with the Soviet Union and cultural diplomacy aimed at notable Black intellectuals; a two-year curriculum project to create an undergraduate certificate in media studies at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez; a one-year forum series and subsequent digital publication focused on the Navaho concepts of land and dwelling at Diné College, in Tsaile, Arizona; and an initiative at Azusa Pacific University, in Azusa, California, to plan and pilot three new certificates in Africana Studies, Asian American Pacific Islander Studies, and Latinx Studies.

### ***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, St. Bonaventure University in southwest New York State will develop a general education curriculum in Native American and Indigenous studies and further a mutually beneficial relationship with the nearby Seneca Nation of Indians; Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, will create a project for preservice and in-service teachers that fosters a deeper understanding of Black history and culture regionally and nationally. Ripon College, a small, rural liberal arts institution in Ripon, Wisconsin, will partner with nearby Marian University to develop a more robust and sustainable approach to humanities education in the state's southern Fox Valley; and the University of Colorado in Denver will create a collaborative project among faculty and community members on the history of the Chicano neighborhood replaced by university development.

### ***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; and (3) 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 projects that address environmental challenges, highlight the importance of civics education in underserved or at-risk communities, and work to expand access to humanities education in schools with large minority majority populations or first-generation students. For example, the State University of New York, Oswego, will plan a minor in environmental humanities and visual media to enhance students' understanding of ecological connectivity in the face of climate change. Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, will plan a minor to explore concepts of citizenship and belonging and their connection to places in Appalachia. St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, will create coursework for a certificate in advanced Spanish for students in the health and helping professions. And in Portland, Oregon, Portland State University will develop a humanities-focused minor in creative industries that prepares and connects students in professional academic tracks to the book, music, television, and video-gaming industries.

### ***Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education***

In FY 2023, the Division of Education Programs launched a new program, *Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education*, which expands access to the humanities through the exploration and development of small projects benefiting underserved populations. Eligible applicants include small- to medium-sized two- and four-year academic institutions and nonprofit organizations whose work advances the humanities at these institutions and among their faculty and students. The program is offered at an exploratory level of up to \$25,000 and a 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.

In its first cycle, *Spotlight* 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 27 recipients of the first round of awards will expand the reach of the humanities to underserved student populations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico in diverse and unique ways.

Queensborough Community College, a Hispanic Serving institution in New York City will develop a program for first-semester students in pre-college programs and college writing courses around common literary works. Stanly Community College, in Albemarle, North Carolina, will convert 10 humanities courses to open educational resources. The Universidad del Sagrado Corazon in San Juan, Puerto Rico, will design five classes to give students on professional tracks a solid base in the humanities. Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, with a 9 percent Native American student enrollment, will develop an undergraduate Indigenous literatures and cultures



certificate program. Finally, the University of Redlands, a Hispanic Serving institution in Redlands, California, will bring together the campus, its surrounding community, and two high schools in a common literary reading project.

### ***EDSITEment***

EDSITEment 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 2024–2025, EDSITEment will develop a new suite of curricular modules for grades K-12 in civics education, American history, and world history that will that elevate the role of civics in schools and advance knowledge of the country’s history and political institutions. 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.

In response to the Administration’s *United We Stand* initiative, NEH, through EDSITEment, in partnership with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and National History Day, will prioritize the development of a robust outreach campaign to K-12 teachers and middle and high school students to counter antisemitism.

### ***Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects***

*Cooperative Agreements and Special Projects* support education-related activities that fall outside the Division’s regular programming categories. 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 2025, 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.

## DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Public Programs	\$ 15,800	\$ -	\$ 15,150	\$ (650)

*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. Maine Humanities Council's discussion program "What If ...?: Afrofuturism and the Quest for a Just, Inclusive, and Sustainable Society" introduces audiences throughout Maine to Afrofuturist literature and art to explore imagined possibilities for Black political and cultural agency and, in doing so, exposes the real-world impediments to their realization. The traveling exhibit "St. Clair's Defeat Revisited: A New View of the Conflict," organized by Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, offers a re-examination of a 1791 conflict from the underrepresented perspective of Native Americans. The exhibit was a collaboration between tribal communities and academic scholars, and the travel itinerary was planned with an eye toward reaching Native American audiences in Ohio, Oklahoma, and Indiana. The Baltimore Museum of Art's "Renaissance Woman" exhibit, which presents art made by European women in the fifteenth through

eighteenth centuries, challenges definitions of what art is, and who artists are, by exposing centuries of bias that have excluded women and decorative arts from the canon.

Funded projects also support the Agency's core priority of strengthening our democracy. For example, Flashpoints: Free Speech in American History, Culture & Society, a public discussion program organized by PEN American Center, Inc., engaged audiences in discussions about the centrality of free speech in democratic societies. Launched in 2021, Flashpoints continued through 2023 with events titled "Free Speech & Hate: History's Lessons" in Tulsa, OK, and "Free Speech and Schools" in Philadelphia, PA. Other projects explored the threats that endanger a free democratic society. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis' "Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See," for example, reminded visitors of the ongoing dangers of racial hatred and violence in America. This exhibition's central artifact, a historical marker that was erected at the site of Till's 1955 lynching and later vandalized with gunshots and emblazoned with racist messaging, informs visitors of Till's story and the ongoing struggle for racial justice. The exhibition opened in Indianapolis in September 2022 and has traveled to Birmingham, AL, Washington, D.C., Jackson, MS, Chicago, IL, Atlanta, GA, and Memphis, TN. "Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story," from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, continued its series of public discussions in 2023 that invited participants to reflect on the relation between freedom and civic responsibility in our nation's history.

*Public Humanities Projects* grants promote the expansion of access to the humanities, in terms of both content and reach. Library of America's discussion program, "Great Stories Club: Reading and Discussion for At-Risk Youth," engages youth in librarian-led conversations about works of literature. The participating libraries identify the populations that they wish to serve based on their specific community needs. In the past, these have included youth from alternative high schools, juvenile justice organizations, homeless shelters, foster-care agencies, teen-parenting programs, residential treatment facilities, and other nonprofit and community agencies. ALA distributed grants to 60 libraries across the country to host discussion programs on the roots of racial experience in the United States and the role of young people in taking a stand against injustice. Other Division-supported projects have helped audiences address our changing climate. For example, The Retreat Farm, a 612-acre historical and nature reserve in Vermont with a mission of "connecting people to the land and each other," received a historic places planning grant for its Story Paths and Outdoor Learning Center project to examine the questions of how humans create, use, experience, destroy, and restore the places where we live.

### ***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, providing entertaining and informative programming to the American public during an especially challenging time.

Media projects supported by NEH expand access to the humanities through their extensive reach. Many air on public television, which reaches the vast majority of Americans. Other films and podcasts stream for free, or at a minimal cost, over the Internet. In short, anybody with access to a television or an Internet connection can enjoy captivating, thoroughly researched, and thoughtful media projects. 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 and on public television in March 2023, 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 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 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 Wonderful 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.

Recently funded films, currently in production, promise to introduce audiences to figures and histories that are not as well-known as they should be. *Vishniac* profiles the photographer Roman Vishniac, who chronicled Jewish life in Eastern Europe during the 1930s. *Julia Alvarez: Something to Declare* is a biography of the Dominican American writer. *Instrumental: The Elayne Jones Story* looks at the pioneering percussionist who challenged racial and gender stereotypes in classical music.

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 through NEH’s Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act appropriation to 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. *New Angle: Voice*, a podcast series on pioneering women of American architecture, has spotlighted regional designs and influential figures such as Amaza Lee Meredith, an African American architect and teacher who lived and worked in southern Virginia.

### ***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 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 alternative 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 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 and professional development for staff and volunteer training geared toward the strengthening of their interpretive skillsets. Projects may also include plans for public-facing programs, tours, or collaborative community-based exhibitions.

## OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Office of Digital Humanities	\$ 6,250	\$ -	\$ 6,250	\$ -

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 Office of Digital Humanities (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 was 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 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 New York University to develop open-source, machine learning methods for quickly processing historical migrant records held by the U.S. National Archives. This work has the potential to spur exciting new historical scholarship.
- 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 project, titled Mapping Prejudice, 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.
- An in-depth, multiyear institute, hosted by the Alexandria Archive Institute, to train 15 archaeologists from around the nation in best practices and methods for managing, sharing, publishing, and teaching with archaeological data.

### ***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) offer 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. NEH has funded 91 books through the program with another 24 pending awards.

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.

Some examples of recent awards in this category include:

- An award to the University of Puget Sound, *Robot Existentialism: Artificial Intelligence and the Limits of Rationality*. This award funds research toward a book to bring into conversation two unrelated fields—existentialist philosophy and artificial intelligence—forcing both to reflect on what is distinctly human in their theories and methods.
- An award to the University of Chicago, *The Global Cochlear Implant: Provincializing “Brain Implants” through Disability Technocultures*. At a time when medical science is on the verge of commercializing brain implants, this project explores the first such bionic device, the Cochlear Implant, the controversial device developed over 50 years ago to help deaf individuals perceive sound.
- An award to Wesleyan University, *Engineering Safety into U.S. Firearms: Inventions, Manufacturers, Outcomes, & Implication, 1750–2010*. This project takes an historical look at how safety mechanisms for firearms have evolved and been marketed to consumers over time.

## OFFICE OF CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Office of Challenge Programs	\$ 15,750	\$ -	\$ 6,250	\$ (9,500)

*Note: Dollars are in thousands.*

### **Program Categories**

- Climate Smart Humanities Organizations
- Challenge Grants: Workforce Support
- National Convening on the Future of Graduate Education

### **Program Descriptions and Accomplishments**

The grants offered by the Office of Challenge Programs are NEH's most important source of assistance for organizations in the cultural and educational sectors seeking to strengthen their institutional infrastructure and sustain significant humanities activities into the future. Challenge awards are focused on long-term impact and offer federal funds that are only released when matched with third-party, nonfederal donations. The leveraging aspect of Challenge awards provides NEH with the opportunity to stimulate private philanthropy, while also increasing institutional commitment and financial capacity of the recipient organizations.

Since 1977, awards from Challenge Programs have, adjusted for inflation, generated almost \$4 billion in nonfederal funding 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.

#### ***Climate Smart Humanities Organizations***

*Climate Smart Humanities Organizations*, launched in FY 2023, supports educational and cultural organizations, such as universities, museums, archives, and libraries, in the development of humanities-focused strategic climate action and adaptation plans. This program enables America's cultural stewards to study how their facilities, collections, staff, programming, and visitors may be impacted by climate disruption and make plans to reduce organizational impact on the environment as well as vulnerability from climatic events. Activities under the *Climate Smart* program are based on two parallel approaches: mitigation planning is aimed at measuring and reducing overall carbon footprint, greenhouse gas emissions, 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 Alaska to Washington State. These projects proposed to work with outside consultants to undertake comprehensive energy audits, establish continuity of operation and

disaster plans, and perform building assessments to inform an overall carbon footprint and greenhouse gas calculation. These activities contribute to increasing resiliency at humanities organizations, reduce operational costs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their educational and cultural assets in service of the American people.

Some examples from the first round of *Climate Smart* awards are:

- The Anchorage Museum in Anchorage, AK is a leading center for scholarship, engagement, and investigation of Alaska and the Circumpolar North. Their 275,000-square-foot facility holds a collection of 27,000 art and material culture items, 750,000 historical photographs, 12,000 books, 800 maps, and hundreds of periodicals. NEH's Challenge grant funds will support the creation of a sustainability plan that will be informed by energy and carbon audits at the museum. The sustainability plan will be integrated into the museum's existing strategic framework and long-term capital plan, providing clear goals and benchmarks that align with Anchorage's Municipal Climate Action Plan as well as U.S. and UN best practices.
- After a series of storms and flooding in 2004, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (aka Historic New England) began localized climate planning and implementation projects, including an assessment of eight historic gutter systems to analyze carrying capacity and weatherization projects that resulted in a significant reduction in energy use. Building on these efforts, their NEH project will support a robust planning effort to define goals and strategies for advancing resiliency, mitigation, and climate justice goals across a collection of 38 historic properties in five New England states. In addition to the organization's comprehensive institutional climate action plan, the grant will also produce two actionable project plans for achieving carbon neutrality at high-profile public historic sites in Dorchester, MA, and Saunterstown, RI.
- The City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is charged with safeguarding the extensive historic, cultural, architectural, and archaeological resources of the municipality, including the UNESCO World Heritage-designated mission complexes. In 2019, the city approved a climate action and adaptation plan that calls for OHP to create a Climate Heritage Strategic Plan which will include guidelines for determining the appropriate management of cultural sites and objects in the context of climate change adaptation. NEH's Challenge grant will support a community-centered approach to developing this Climate Heritage Strategic Plan that builds on OHP's track record of public education, research, interpretation, and programming that engages more than 11,000 members of the public per year.
- With 50 branch locations, the King County Library System in west-central Washington State provides circulating and special collections, public programming, and community gathering spaces to approximately 1.5 million patrons, of whom approximately half identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), and one-third speak a language other than English as their first language. These 50 library buildings are located across a diverse geographic area that includes coastal and intermountain regions and communities disproportionately impacted by climate disruption. Building on 15 years of investment in sustainability efforts by the library system, the NEH-funded project will include energy audits and risk assessments of all branch locations and the development of a climate action plan for reducing the library system's carbon footprint.

### ***Challenge Grants: Workforce Support***

*Challenge Grants: Workforce Support* is a one-year pilot program that will launch in FY 2025 to replace the *Infrastructure and Capacity Building* program that was discontinued after FY 2024. The pilot program will respond to the needs of humanities organizations with limited resources who struggle to financially support a thriving and robust workforce. These organizations are essential components of civic life and through their education, cultural, and historical resources, benefit all Americans and strengthen our democracy. The pilot program will focus on workforce development through matching funding to support new staff or faculty positions, measures to retain staff or faculty, funding for professional development, and paid intern- or traineeships at cultural and educational organizations. Applicants would include nonprofit humanities organizations of any size, with a focus on HBCUs, TCUs, community colleges, and small to mid-size humanities organizations. These matching awards will be investments in humanities organizations over the long term that will strengthen the institutional base of the recipient and nurture professional careers in the humanities through a lens of equity and access.

### ***National Convening on the Future of Graduate Education***

Challenge Programs will run a competition 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 for the following year, in FY 2025.

In FY 2025, Challenge Programs intends to follow up on the success of the national convening with a second grant intended to disseminate as widely as possible the findings and recommendations of the initial meeting. The goal will be to assist graduate programs, academic departments, and disciplinary societies to train humanities graduates to engage with the nation's most pressing problems through a wide variety of career options.

**OFFICE OF FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP**

---

	<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President’s Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
Office of Federal/State Partnership	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ (5,000)

*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 (Guåhan), 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.

***Recent 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. As of the last reporting, in FY 2022, the 54 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and two interim partners made a total of 2,134 subawards, totaling \$12.2 million in funding. The Agency will report FY 2023 data in spring 2024.

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 Act of 2021 (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 percent of congressional districts received funding.

### ***Strengthening Our Democracy***

State and jurisdictional humanities councils conduct and fund humanities programs and resources that support civics education; 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 work with scholars and 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.

Councils have utilized 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. Florida Humanities' civic engagement initiative *Democracy Reignited* offered a variety of public programs that promoted a deeper understanding of American history and culture, examined the nation's foundational documents and principles, and explored the connections between democracy, the humanities, and an informed citizenry. To humanize the voting process and to explore the experience of participating in a democracy, Wisconsin Humanities published the personal stories of poll workers and first-time voters from communities across the state, including a Tribal community. Humanities Texas led multiple workshops for K-12 teachers on civics education topics, including landmark Supreme Court cases, teaching the United States Constitution, incorporating primary resources in teaching, and on media literacy.

In FY 2023, through its *United We Stand: Connecting through Culture* initiative, NEH invited the 54 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and two interim partners to each request up to \$50,000 to develop public humanities programming and resources that foster cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and community resilience; educate the public on the history of domestic extremism and hate-based violence; promote civic engagement, information literacy, and social cohesion through strategic partnerships, community-building, and ongoing public engagement; and that deepen public understanding of and contextualize community, state, and national history. Through this initiative, all 56 humanities councils received funding to design and implement humanities programs and resources that reflect a diversity of experiences and perspectives; that make use of local, regional, and national cultural and historical resources; and that explore the history of prejudice and efforts to create a more just society.

As part of *United We Stand*, California Humanities will be supporting a series of recorded and live-streamed public programs to foster civil dialogue, cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and resilience, exploring Black history, Latinx history and foodways, gentrification, and the history of white supremacy in Southern California. Massachusetts Humanities will support a documentary of predominantly Indigenous storytellers and historians in conversation as they walk the Freedom Trail, sharing stories and histories in response to the sites—both what is there and what is missing. The film will be shown at film festivals and available as a free resource to schools and for conversational events. The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will engage their island community in examining Chamorro and Carolinian cultural values, perspectives, and experiences as they relate to intergroup biases and conflicts. Through a survey, interviews, and an in-person conference, the council will facilitate dialog between communities and examine the intersections and influence of



Indigenous values on community dynamics. Through this initiative, the 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and interim partners' programs will help build empathy and combat hate-motivated violence across the nation.

In keeping with the goals of *United We Stand*, in FY 2022, NEH provided special funding to Humanities Texas to partner with Uvalde's El Progreso Memorial Library to establish an archive preserving community and national responses to the tragic shooting that took place at Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022. This funding will help the library, a vital center of community following the horrific killing of nineteen children and two adults, archive the thousands of items sent from across the world to express mourning and sympathy with the people of Uvalde, as well as develop an oral history program.

### ***Expanding Access to the Humanities***

Councils aim to reach a broad, statewide audience and seek to identify underserved communities, address issues of equity, and increase access to grants and programs. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) has built equity into its grantmaking process, through outreach and grant workshops for cultural organizations in underserved communities, with great success. NJCH targets the network of community colleges across the state for partnerships in grantmaking and programming, providing much needed resources for humanities programs in traditionally under-resourced organizations. Michigan Humanities (MH) has taken similar steps to democratize their grant programs. By omitting unnecessary language and directly asking how projects would impact and serve their targeted communities, MH has made the application process more accessible to organizations with limited grant application experience. MH also rewrote its grant application scoring rubric, asking reviewers to focus on which populations are represented in the project and how these projects will benefit those communities. Indiana Humanities (IH) also offers multiple different grants for organizations that would like to explore topics like racism, policing, and injustice through a humanities lens. By offering funding to libraries, researchers, and public humanities programs, IH has expanded the network of organizations in the state that combine topical social issues with humanities learning and outreach.

Councils also explore issues of equity through public programming. New Hampshire Humanities provides literature-based programming to traditionally underserved adult learners, including immigrants and refugees, individuals with disabilities, general adult education students, and incarcerated individuals, offering programs in adult education centers, prisons, and community organizations throughout the state. Through a collaboration with a local school and an Asian-American author, Minnesota Humanities Center was able to bring a musical performance of the book *Shoua and the Northern Lights Dragon* to more than 300 Hmong students, 70 percent of whom qualify for free or reduced lunches. Tennessee History Day was made more financially accessible with Humanities Tennessee decreasing the cost of entry by 50 percent.

Council-led programs occur online 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 for the *Prison Book Club* initiative. Since the beginning of FY 2022, this program has expanded to nine correctional facilities across the state. *Try Think*, a conversation program from Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, prioritizes underserved populations by hosting discussions in correctional facilities. Humanities New York offers a post-incarceration grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations that serve

incarcerated people—and their families—who are going through the process of societal reentry after incarceration.

Since 1974, National History Day (NHD), a leader in history and civics education, has inspired middle- and high-school students around the world to conduct original historical research through the NHD national contest. In FY 2023, to encourage underrepresented communities to participate in NHD, Chair Lowe invited all 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils and interim partners to apply for a supplemental award for program development and implementation to extend NHD outreach to educators and students in underserved and hard-to-reach communities and to recruit a more diverse pool of NHD judges. In July 2023, Georgia Humanities held a free, three-day educator workshop at the Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center, the nation's largest consortium of HBCUs. Faculty served as workshop leaders and will be NHD Georgia judges and mentors. Ohio Humanities will partner with the Ohio NHD affiliate to expand Ohio History Day *Library Days* with a particular emphasis on two rural areas: Wilberforce and Gallipolis. Launched in 2018, *Library Days* provides opportunities for students to work with local public libraries and museums to secure additional materials, resources, and support for their project from librarians and media professionals.

Humanities councils in the Pacific Islands face unique challenges due to their geography and historic underinvestment in the region. In FY 2023, NEH supported a historic initiative to strengthen the cultural and educational sectors in the Pacific Islands: NEH's *Pacific Islands Cultural Initiative*. NEH invited the four Pacific Island councils—Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, Humanities Guåhan, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council—to each apply for supplemental funding to develop a regional network to foster community engagement and nurture their local cultural and educational sectors through events and programs at cultural, educational, and community organizations. The purpose of the regional network, comprised of a representative from each Pacific Island council, is to serve as a forum for information exchange; engage in capacity-building and professional development activities; and develop individual council and regional strategies for local and diaspora community outreach and engagement.

### *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 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 (\$0.150 million) after severe flooding impacted cultural institutions in Appalachia. In 2023, NEH granted three emergency supplement awards, one to Mississippi Humanities Council (\$15,663) to replace public cultural heritage materials destroyed by a tornado in the town of Rolling Fork, MS, a second to Florida Humanities (\$0.175 million) for ongoing recovery efforts following Hurricane Ian, and a third to Vermont Humanities (\$0.2 million) for disaster recovery subawards to Vermont cultural organizations after severe, widespread flooding.

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 examine topics in environmental humanities, including resiliency, sustainability, and justice. Humanities New York explores community and climate change through its Reading and Discussion program *Place and Story*. Through poetry, fiction, and journalism, scholars and participants engage with perspectives that capture the complicated relationship Americans have with the land and living things around them. Humanidades Puerto Rico dedicated the second season of its podcast series 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 offered a two-part online workshop, *The Circle is Expanding: The Gift of Climate Grief*. Climate grief (also called eco-grief) is the response to the loss or anticipated loss of ecosystems, wildlife, and meaningful landscapes caused by environmental change. Oregon's program brought constituents together to discuss and process this unique feeling: "I have a sense of hope and connection that I didn't have before," one participant wrote after attending the workshop.

Humanities Guåhan led the program *Taking Root: Growing Youth Empowerment for Island Sustainability* to reconnect youth to Indigenous heritage and identity in Micronesia, the nature of Guam (Guåhan), and the harmful effects climate change is having on the island. During the six-week summer camp, participants took field trips and engaged in creative writing, art, photography, poetry, and tide pooling activities. Education specialists and environmental organizations led discussions on cultural identity, island customs and traditions, environmental justice, sustainability, and renewable energy. Students developed projects that were then shared with other students. Arizona Humanities' *Climate Conversations* featured the documentary *Atascosa Borderlands* by Luke Swenson and Jack Dash. The documentary's oral history component included interviews with cattle ranchers, ecologists, humanitarian aid workers, migrants, hunters of coues deer (a subspecies of whitetail deer native to Arizona), former border-patrol agents, and Indigenous community members.

The state and jurisdictional humanities councils also provide critical funding to local organizations working to address climate change and environmental sustainability. 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, California Humanities supported *Glendale Tree Stories*, a public story-sharing project that celebrates the Glendale community's unique, multifaceted, and historic relationship with trees. A final project, *Coexisting: Glendale Tree Stories*, transformed responses from participants into a series of eighteen comics, mixing personal stories from the community with local natural history, tree lore, and reflections on urban nature.

## ADMINISTRATION

---

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
Administration	\$ 36,000	\$ -	\$ 42,350	\$ 6,350

*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 from every eligible state and jurisdiction and awards more than 1,000 grants every year. The applications are reviewed and evaluated by both NEH staff and experts outside of the Agency. For example, in 2023 more than 1,100 scholars, teachers, museum curators, experts, and other professionals convened to conduct 250 virtual panels as peer reviewers. Starting in calendar year 2023, NEH raised the honorarium fee to \$400 for our peer reviewers.

The FY 2025 budget includes \$42.35 million in administrative funds to support the Agency's program request of \$157.75 million. The Agency's main administrative cost is salaries and benefits, which NEH estimates at \$31.304 million in 2025. The request also includes amounts sufficient to fund NEH's expected contributions to E-Government/Lines of Business Initiatives in 2025. In FY 2025 Administration funding will also support the following activities:

### ***Office of Data and Evaluation***

In accordance with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, NEH launched an Office of Data and Evaluation (ODE) in 2023 to use data-driven methods to ensure that the Agency continues to meet its mandate as the primary federal funder of humanities activities in the United States. ODE will do this by ensuring the equitable distribution, reach, and impact of NEH funds through 1) review of NEH awards and their impacts; 2) systematic evaluation of program and Agency activities; and 3) data collection and analysis of the humanities sector and NEH's role in its success.

Internally, ODE will continue efforts to support senior leadership in making data-informed decisions around NEH's grant programs, outreach efforts, and organizational health. It will build on current activities, revising programmatic- and outreach-focused data dashboards that put more synoptic information at the fingertips of decision-makers. ODE will also continue to offer subject matter expertise and guidance for administrative staff creating evidence-based indicators for organizational health.

Externally, ODE's activities will support the development of public data sets and reports that help the Agency, humanities organizations, and the public at large assess the health of the humanities

sector and understand the value of the humanities in civic life. ODE will fund data-informed analyses of humanities activities and impact through several programs.

In FY 2025, ODE will establish a new grant program to support research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the humanities in the United States. This new program will respond to the Agency's legislative mandate to inform the public about the state of the field, as well as the NEH Equity Action Plan's call for a data-driven analysis of the role of the humanities and of NEH in supporting historically underserved communities and promoting equity. The program will support data collection, classification, analysis, and communication by interdisciplinary teams interested in understanding the health of the humanities professions and the role of humanistic knowledge in civic life.

Examples of funded projects from this program might include: a dataset that allows researchers to better understand changes in humanities offerings at community colleges over time; a white paper that examines the impact of historical societies on rural communities; or a series of scholarly articles exploring changes in graduate-level humanities training. These outcomes will empower humanities organizations, workers, funders, and the public at large to better understand the importance and needs of humanities research, education, and public programming.

This program will complement ODE's own investigations into the value and impact of NEH on the regions, professions, and communities served by the Agency. In addition to the new grant program, ODE will use various funding vehicles to support work related to its mission of informing the Agency and the public on the state of the humanities.

Public sentiment about the humanities is uneven and contradictory, and the term "humanities" itself is poorly understood. In FY 2025, ODE will support a project to collect quantitative and qualitative data about public perceptions of the humanities and strategies for education and communication about the field. This mixed-methods investigation will provide NEH with the information necessary to fulfill the mission of promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. It will also support NEH's applicants and awardees in serving their own humanistic missions of research, education, and public programming.

Longitudinal studies about the impact of NEH's funding programs on the humanities and the nation's civic life require consistent and accurate data about past and present performance. Inconsistencies in data collection and classification over multiple decades make it difficult to conduct meaningful analysis. In FY 2025, ODE will support internal and external work to assess, clean, and reclassify ten years of NEH's institution and person data. This will involve the large-scale deduplication of person and institution records and the (re)classification of institutions, individuals, and projects according to recommendations set forth by the Program Data Working Group. The output of this contract will be a consistent and reliable dataset of NEH activities that can be used to evaluate the breadth and impact of NEH programs. An additional outcome will be recommendations for best practices in data classification for future records.

### ***Implementation of Cybersecurity Priorities***

With respect to cybersecurity, the Agency's modernization efforts continue with significant progress in implementing guidance from *CISA's Zero-Trust Maturity Model*. In 2023, NEH adopted Okta to allow secure authentication for NEH staff. Okta leverages PIV credentials for staff to access NEH systems. NEH also successfully adopted Login.gov for the eGMS system. NEH is now

focusing on implementing Zscaler to follow OMB Memorandum M-22-09, *Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles*. The Identity pillar will continue to be enhanced by applying granular attribute-based access control to NEH applications. The Devices pillar will see enhancements through the adoption of Microsoft Intune to fully configure, monitor, and manage Government-furnished equipment deployed remotely. For the Networks pillar, NEH will configure and deploy secure DNS, micro-segmentation, and conditional access. For the Data pillar, NEH has enhanced capabilities through the hiring of the Director of Data and Evaluation, who also serves as the Agency's Chief Data Officer (CDO). The CDO and Office of Information Resource Management (OIRM) will collaborate to craft data governance policies and select software to automate the categorization and tagging of sensitive data.

The National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS) identifies a set of five pillars independent from those of the Zero Trust Maturity Model. For FY 2025, NEH plans the following work for Pillars 1 and 4:

#### PILLAR 1: DEFEND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The FY 2025 budget includes \$0.195 million for the following activities:

- NEH implemented Okta with PIV card authentication in FY 2023. During the migration, a gap in phishing resistant multifactor authentication was identified. While PIV cards work well for most logins, there are some use cases where a user must still use Okta Verify. Okta Verify does not meet the standards for highly secure authentication as outlined in OMB M-22-09. To meet the official requirements, NEH will spend \$80,000 to stand up a certificate service and purchase additional COTS hardware authentication devices.
- The virtual machine hosts used for NEH on-premises servers are over 5 years old. These hosts will be susceptible to future vulnerabilities and exploits due to lack of support at end-of-life. The budget includes \$75,000 to replace and consolidate virtual servers.
- Firewalls used to secure the NEH network will enter end-of-life in August 2025. This public-facing security device must be hardened and continually patched to prevent attacks on the network. To replace these two firewalls, \$40,000 is included in the budget.

#### PILLAR 4: INVEST IN A RESILIENT FUTURE

The Agency is exploring the attraction and retention of cyber talent and is tracking OPM's development of IT-specific workforce authorities.

#### ***Financial System and HR Modernization***

NEH is currently in the process of transitioning to a shared service provider, Treasury Administrative Resource Center (ARC), for financial system and travel services. This transition eliminates the Agency's outdated manual processes, thereby modernizing all accounting and financial management transaction processes; ensures continued and sustainable compliance with OMB Circular A-123 Appendix D requirements; and reduces NEH staffing costs through process efficiencies. The Agency expects to go-live in the new financial system at the beginning of FY 2025, at which time operations and maintenance costs (O&M) will begin.

Currently, NEH has a manual and inefficient performance management system that has led to delays in the timely issuance of initial annual performance plans, mid-year reviews, and end of year performance ratings. The current process also requires a significant amount of staff time in the Office of Human Resources to track Agency performance plans and produce reports. NEH will spend \$0.1 million to transition the Agency to USA Performance which will automate the performance management process, reduce inefficiencies, and reduce the burden on NEH's small human resources team.

### ***Implementing Administration Priorities***

In FY 2025, NEH will continue to implement Executive Orders, directives, and Administration priorities through its Administration funding. These include:

- ***Organizational Health:*** In April 2023, OMB issued M-23-15, *Measuring, Monitoring, and Improving Organizational Health and Organizational Performance in the Context of Evolving Agency Work Environments*. NEH developed its new telework and remote work policies to promote workplace transformation and maximize the Agency's organizational performance and organizational health. The policies also support NEH's Strategic Workforce Planning and DEIA efforts to retain essential skills and knowledge deemed critical among staff, and to support a more competitive and inclusive workplace. The new policies were released on August 31, 2023, and went into effect on October 1, 2023. The policies will be reviewed on an annual basis to optimize and access necessary changes; monitor progress and identify issues related to organizational health and organizational performance; and to identify a set of indicators, which may be adjusted over time, that the that NEH will use for measuring, monitoring, and improving organizational health and organizational performance for current and future work environments.
- ***NEH Equity Action Plan:*** In FY 2022, in response to Executive Order 13985 on 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 and FY 2024, NEH implemented its Equity Action Plan by (1) creating an Office of Data and Evaluation and building 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 increase the Agency's 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 2025, NEH will continue to reach the goals set forth by the Equity Action Plan.
- ***NEH DEIA Strategic Plan:*** In response to Executive Order 14035 on 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 2024, NEH will appoint a Chief DEIA Officer and create 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.

- **Reporting on Diversity:** Consistent with an evidence-based approach to conducting agency operations, whenever NEH collects data on race and ethnicity it will adopt the revisions to Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Equity, scheduled to be released in the summer of 2024.
- **NEH Public Access Plan:** In response to the August 2022 memo from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), *Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research*, the NEH, with advice from OSTP and other research agencies, wrote a draft of the required Public Access Plan, which was submitted to OSTP and OMB on August 21, 2023. As per the memo, NEH will stand up a web-based “designated repository” in which to store the peer reviewed journal articles that result from our funding. This repository will ensure that the results of federal funded research will be available to the public. To implement this plan, NEH is funding the following costs: (1) Approximately \$0.150 million in FY 2024 to build and test the designated repository; (2) Approximately \$15,000 in travel funds in FY 2024 for NEH staff to attend meetings with constituents to explain this new public access plan and seek their feedback; and (3) Approximately \$10,000 in recurring annual costs in FY 2025 and beyond to continue to maintain the designated repository.
- **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 2023. NEH continues to work directly with the Office of Personnel Management to identify various assessment strategies to attract the most qualified candidates.
- **Paid Internship Program:** Since 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 hires approximately 24 interns per summer, on average.



**NEH Administration Budget Request by Object Classification**

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTEs) .....	172	TBD	184	12
11.1 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION .....	\$ 21,491		\$ 23,150	\$ 1,659
12.1 BENEFITS .....	7,290		8,104	814
13.1 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION .....	0		50	50
<b><i>SUBTOTAL, PERSONNEL COMPENSATION .....</i></b>	<b>\$ 28,781</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 31,304</b>	<b>\$ 2,523</b>
21.1 TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION .....	\$ 375		\$ 400	\$ 25
23.1 GSA RENT .....	3,162		3,551	389
23.3 COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES .....	111		165	54
24 PRINTING .....	118		125	7
25.1 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	6,113		5,660	(453)
25.9 PANELIST CONTRACTS .....	410		470	60
26 SUPPLIES .....	104		80	(24)
31 EQUIPMENT .....	65		95	30
41.1 GRANTS .....	0		500	500
<b><i>SUBTOTAL, NON-PERSONNEL COMPENSATION ..</i></b>	<b>\$ 10,458</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 11,046</b>	<b>\$ 588</b>
<b><i>TOTAL .....</i></b>	<b>\$ 39,239</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 42,350</b>	<b>\$ 3,111</b>

*Note: Amounts in this and the following tables are in thousands. The FY 2023 enacted includes carryover funds from the prior fiscal year.*

	FY 2023 Enacted	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 President's Budget	Delta from FY 2023 Enacted
PERSONNEL COMPENSATION .....	\$ 28,781	\$	\$ 31,304	\$ 2,523

*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. Many of them also hold advanced degrees.

The FY 2023 funded staffing level was 172 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) and will increase to 184 in FY 2025. The FY 2025 budget includes a 2% pay adjustment in 2025 and supports IT pay parity as described above.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
21.1	TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION .....	\$ 375	\$	\$ 400	\$ 25

*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.

NEH has seen an increase in travel as the staff is able to again attend conferences, site visits, and workshops. The Agency also expanded its outreach programs to underserved communities that have been systematically deprived of participating in opportunities.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
23.1	GSA RENT .....	\$ 3,162	\$	\$ 3,551	\$ 389

*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 slightly more than 3% in 2025.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
23.3	COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES .....	\$ 111	\$	\$ 165	\$ 54

*23.3 Communication, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges:* NEH 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.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
24	PRINTING .....	\$ 118	\$	\$ 125	\$ 7

*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. Printing costs will be kept controlled in 2025 due to a multi-year contract reached with GPO for these current fiscal years.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
25.1	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES .....	\$ 6,113	\$	\$ 5,660	\$ (453)

*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 2023 and 2024, NEH transitioned its legacy agency-hosted system to a shared-services provider, Treasury Administrative Resource Center (ARC). Recurring operations and maintenance costs, starting in 2024, are estimated to be \$1.252 million.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
25.9	PANELIST CONTRACTS .....	\$ 410	\$	\$ 470	\$ 60

*25.9 Panelist Contracts:* Agency contracts for NEH's virtual panels fund the honoraria for panelists each year. Panelists represent a diverse field of disciplinary, institutional, and regional backgrounds selected through a rigorous recruitment process. In 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. The request for 2025 includes additional panel support for NEH's additional new grant programs.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
26	SUPPLIES .....	\$ 104	\$	\$ 80	\$ (34)

*26.0 Supplies and Materials:* The Agency expects a decrease in the cost of office supplies. With more employees returning to the office, NEH will not be purchasing work from home supplies.

		<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
31	EQUIPMENT .....	\$ 65	\$	\$ 95	\$ 30

*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 and provide the latest cybersecurity capabilities, NEH will replace aging server infrastructure and network firewalls to ensure manufacturer updates are readily available.

	<b>FY 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2024 Annualized CR</b>	<b>FY 2025 President's Budget</b>	<b>Delta from FY 2023 Enacted</b>
41.1 GRANTS.....	\$ -	\$	\$ 500	\$ 500

*41.1 Grants:* In FY 2025, ODE will establish a new grant program to support research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the humanities in the United States. The program will support data collection, classification, analysis, and communication by interdisciplinary teams interested in understanding the health of the humanities professions and the role of humanistic knowledge in civic life.

## APPENDIX I – 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 \$887,034 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 \$0.821 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
- \$3,474 in continued support from the OIG for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.
- \$15,000, which represents the GSA assessment for support of the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC). The FAC collects and disseminates single audit submissions on behalf of Federal grantmaking agencies as the repository of record in compliance with revised OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* and Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*.