



• EXPLORING THE HUMAN ENDEAVOR •

National Endowment for the Humanities

• ANNUAL REPORT •

2018

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

March 2021

Dear Mr. President,

It is an honor to present the 2018 Annual Report for the National Endowment of the Humanities. The report covers October 2017 through September 2018.

In January 2018, NEH established a new Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants program in order to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities in the United States. Recipients include libraries, museums, archives, colleges and universities, and historic sites.

These Challenge grants, which require a match of nonfederal funds, may be used toward a variety of capital expenditures. The result will be greater access to historical, cultural, and educational resources for all Americans. This grant program includes a special encouragement to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges.

These substantial Challenge grants have thus far supported the construction of a new arts and culture hub in Juneau, Alaska; the renovation of Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and studio, Taliesin West, located outside Scottsdale, Arizona; the design and construction of a new Jewish museum in Washington, D.C., including the relocation and renovation of a historic 1876 synagogue; and the reinstallation of Cincinnati Art Museum's Ancient Near Eastern gallery. NEH has also strengthened stewardship of special collections documenting the African-American experience at 71 libraries with a Challenge grant to the HBCU Library Alliance in Atlanta.

In keeping with the observation in our founding legislation that "democracy demands wisdom," NEH also awarded grants for a wide variety of important humanities projects, including the conservation of books belonging to C. S. Lewis; the restoration of Philadelphia's Christ Church, where George Washington and John Adams worshipped; and the creation of an Appalachian studies program in West Virginia.

In 2018, the United States and the rest of the world marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that brought World War I to an end. NEH helped remember the war's legacy with grants to the traveling exhibition "World War I and America," with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the World War I Centennial Commission. NEH also funded a number of scholarly projects on the war and produced a *Chronicling America* poster commemorating the Armistice for distribution at the National Book Festival. In addition, *HUMANITIES* magazine featured several articles on the war and its legacy.

In all of these endeavors, NEH is driven by the desire to preserve our nation's historical and literary legacies, and pass along to what Lincoln called "the latest generations" an understanding and appreciation of America's past.

National Endowment for the Humanities
Jon Parrish Peede, Immediate Past Chair
Adam Wolfson, Acting Chair

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
SUMMARY OF GRANTS AND AWARDS, FY 2018

Division/Program	Number ¹	Amount Obligated ²		Total
		Outright	Matching ³	
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP	56	\$47,064,846	\$345,900	\$47,410,476
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	93	\$10,317,558	\$0	\$10,317,558
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS	198	\$18,878,557	\$743,643	\$19,619,200
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	94	\$13,421,100	\$391,817	\$13,812,917
RESEARCH PROGRAMS	221	\$13,207,768	\$491,417	\$13,699,185
CHALLENGE GRANTS	840	\$4,764,399	\$4,764,399	\$4,764,399
DIGITAL HUMANITIES	34	\$4,772,974	50,000	\$4,822,974
AGENCY-WIDE PROJECTS	68	\$1,941,651	—	\$1,941,651
Total	848	\$109,604,454	\$6,787,176	\$116,391,630

FOOTNOTES:

1/ New grants, supplemental awards on previous years' grants, transfers to other agencies, and program contracts.

2/ Totals include obligations for new grants, supplemental grants, program contracts, and other program-related purposes. Included are awards that are (a) made by NEH using appropriated funds, including funds appropriated to the Common Good special initiative, (b) made by NEH using program funds transferred to the Endowment by other federal agencies, and (c) made by NEH using funds contributed by nonfederal entities.

3/ Totals include definite program funds used to match gifts.

Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In fiscal year 2018, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$116,473,196 to 842 humanities projects. After reviewing the grant recommendations of 904 peer review panelists and the presidentially appointed National Council on the Humanities, the NEH chairman made all final decisions on the awarding of grants.

In January 2018, NEH announced Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grants program to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities in the United States through matching grants to libraries, museums, archives, colleges and universities, historic sites, scholarly associations, and other cultural institutions for efforts that build institutional capacity or infrastructure for long-term sustainability. The first awards were announced in August of that year.

In June 2018, young history students from around the country and overseas gathered at the University of Maryland, College Park, for National History Day. Thirty-four students won NEH prizes for papers, exhibits, websites, documentaries, and public performances. This year more than half a million students submitted National History Day entries on the theme of “Conflict & Compromise in History” at local, regional, and state competitions for a chance to win a spot at the national finals. NEH has been a major sponsor of National History Day since soon after its founding in 1974.

In July 2018, in partnership with the First Nations Development Institute, NEH announced awards for twelve Native language immersion programs to expand and support language and culture education programs within tribal communities. These grants were awarded through the Native Language Immersion Initiative, a three-year language revitalization project supported by \$2.1 million in NEH funding, matched by First Nations.

On September 1, 2018, the eighteenth annual Library of Congress National Book Festival was held in Washington, D.C. NEH has partnered with the Library on the festival for many years, and in 2018 sponsored the “Understanding our World” stage, on which historians, journalists, and cultural critics such as Gordon Wood, Isabel Wilkerson, James and Deborah Fallows, and Mark Bowden discussed their recent work. The festival featured an interactive presentation of the NEH-funded educational video game *Walden, a game*. Named one of 2017’s top educational tools by Common Sense Education, *Walden* is an experiential first-person game that has players following in the footsteps of Henry David Thoreau during his year at Walden Pond. Visitors to the NEH booth received copies of HUMANITIES magazine and took selfies with life-sized cutouts of Jane Austen, Frederick Douglass, Mary Shelley, and Alexander Hamilton. Hundreds of thousands of people attended the festival, with many thousands more tuning in via livestream.

Jefferson Lecture

Rita Charon—scholar, physician, and founder of the burgeoning field of narrative medicine—delivered the 2018 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities on October 15, 2018, at the Warner Theatre in Washington, DC. The lecture is the highest honor the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities.

A Harvard-trained physician with a PhD in English literature, Charon is the founding Chair of the Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics and Professor of Medicine at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. The

department is home to the discipline of narrative medicine, which seeks to improve patient care by putting storytelling and “radical listening” at the heart of medical practice. Medical students and health care professionals in the program learn from models of literature, creative writing, and literary theory how to elicit and interpret patients’ stories in order to treat the whole person.

The practice of narrative medicine, Charon has said, helps health care professionals develop a tolerance of uncertainty, improves the functioning of health care teams, decreases professional burnout, and deepens understanding between patients and their doctors. “To talk with a seriously ill person about his or her near future brings both conversationalists straight toward what it means to be alive,” Charon wrote in 2017. Her work in narrative medicine has been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American College of Physicians, the Society for Health and Human Values, and the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Her lecture, entitled “To See the Suffering: The Humanities Have What Medicine Needs,” described how doctors and health professionals can look beyond just repairing broken parts. “I am here to suggest that there is much beyond the fixable that doctors must learn to see. Beyond the bleeding and the seizing, we need to see

the complex lived experience of the person as they face health problems,” she said. “If we do not see this complex lived experience, we miss the very reasons they’ve come to us. It is not just their symptoms or abnormal lab test, but rather their fears and their awareness of their own fragility. I am convinced, with evidence to support my conviction, that study and practice in the humanities is the most direct way to enable doctors to see this suffering that surrounds them.”

Charon is the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work has also received support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A 2003 NEH grant supported curriculum development by Charon and her colleagues, who explored the potential benefits of bringing literary and creative processes to medical education.



DR. RITA CHARON —*Vincent Ricardel*



A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS EXPLORES NATIVE-AMERICAN HISTORY ALONG THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL.—Mih-Tutta-Hangjusch, a Mandan village by Karl Bodmer, in *Voyage dans l'intérieur de l'Amérique du Nord. ... 1832, 1833 et 1834*, par le prince Maximilien de Wied-Neuwied, published 1840-1843. New York Public Library / Art Resource, NY

Division of Education Programs

The goal of NEH's Division of Education Programs is to strengthen the teaching of the humanities at all levels, from K–12 classrooms to community colleges and the halls of great universities. Through intensive summer programs with recognized scholars, teachers deepen their understanding of humanities subjects. Other grant programs support the development of new curricula and other educational projects and the enhancement of existing course content.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The University of Dayton in Ohio planned a new interdisciplinary curriculum in computer science, sociology, history, and music using the life and work of Paul Laurence Dunbar to examine significant themes in American history and culture. Dunbar was a Dayton native who went on to become a prominent African American writer of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A grant of \$35,000 developed a set of related courses that explore the breadth of Dunbar's life, context, works, and influence. The project also developed experiential learning opportunities that make use of Dayton's rich collection of Dunbar material objects and artifacts.

A three-week summer institute hosted twenty-five K–12 teachers in a historiographical investigation of Native-American history along the Lewis and Clark trail—from Missoula, Montana, to Bismarck, North Dakota. The institute, run by the University of Oregon with a \$175,000 grant, had participants visit landmarks and meet with Native educators, national and state park interpreters, and university professors. The teachers studied primary and secondary sources on Native history, heard oral traditions from tribal elders, read journals from the Corps of Discovery, examined Native and non-Native original manuscripts in the North Dakota Historical Society archives, viewed archaeological remains, and studied museum collections.

War and Healing: A Century of Veterans' Reintegration encompassed a two-day training seminar followed by two four-week discussion programs for veterans in the Miami, Florida, area. The program explored the process of returning to civilian life by examining primary sources, works of fiction and nonfiction, artwork, and materials focused on the aftermaths of World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The project created a network of discussion facilitators for veteran groups across Florida and serves as a model for universities to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs. A \$91,309 grant for the program was overseen by Florida International University, and supported by the Wolfsonian FIU Museum, the Florida State University Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, and the Miami Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.



WHEATON COLLEGE IS CONSERVING 420 BOOKS FROM THE PERSONAL LIBRARY OF C. S. LEWIS. —Front cover of the first edition of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis, 1950, illustrated by Pauline Baynes, published by Geoffrey Bles, London; Photo © Christie's Images / Bridgeman Images

Division of Preservation and Access

Projects funded through NEH's Division of Preservation and Access help ensure the longevity and accessibility of the nation's cultural heritage. Much of our cultural legacy resides in books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, works of art, and digital collections at museums, libraries, and archives. NEH helps institutions preserve these collections and make them accessible to the public.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Marion E. Wade Center at Wheaton College in Illinois received a \$6,000 grant to support a conservation assessment of 420 books from the personal library of British author C. S. Lewis. Although best known for his classic children's books *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Lewis remains popular today in the fields of history, philosophy, literature, and religious studies. Lewis's books form one of the Wade Center's most heavily-accessed collections, making them especially vulnerable to damage. The volumes, never before evaluated by a conservator, contain Lewis's annotations with unique, unpublished content. The assessment will help create a long-term plan for conservation treatment of the books.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston received a \$315,000 grant to process and upload approximately ten art journals and 1,500 documents by notable Latin American and Latino artists, critics, curators, and historians into a digital archive that integrates artists' sketches and notes, lectures, manuscripts, correspondence, and newspaper articles documenting twentieth-century Latin American and Latino art. The project has also involved improving the functionality of the database and user interface, enhancing access to thousands of primary-source documents that are fundamental resources for Latin American and Latino studies.

A \$315,000 award for the North American Imprints Programs of the American Antiquarian Society in Massachusetts supports the production and enhancement of cataloging data for 11,269 imprints published in North America between 1639 and 1840. The project also creates links in the catalog records to 17,7796 reproductions of imprints available through other online repositories. The American Antiquarian Society holds the nation's most extensive collection of North American imprints published before the Library of Congress became the copyright depository in the 1870s.



—WALTER ANDERSON'S *HORN ISLAND - FALL*, NOT DATED, WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 8 ½ X 11 IN. —Collection of the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi Art Association purchase, 1967.034

Division of Public Programs

NEH's Division of Public Programs supports projects that bring a variety of humanities topics to a diverse and wide audience through museum and library exhibitions, reading and discussion series, television and radio documentaries, the interpretation of historic sites, digital media projects, and history and literature programs at hundreds of local libraries and cultural organizations.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois, planned a series of public programs and digital resources exploring the history and aftermath of the Chicago race riots of July 1919, the most violent week in the city's history. A grant of \$200,000 enabled a yearlong look at the event with a PBS television episode, on-line maps, timelines, exhibitions, and classroom resources, and city-wide events for the public. The project, "Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots," was the winner of the 2020 Outstanding Public History Project Award from the National Council on Public History.

The reinstallation of a permanent exhibition and the creation of accompanying public programming and publications was funded with a grant of \$275,000 to the Mississippi Museum of Art. "Mississippi Stories: Visions of a Changing South," explores themes related to history, migration, memory, and place using art pulled from the permanent collection as well as strategic long-term loans that amplify the significance of the spaces. By incorporating a variety of voices and stories that relate to experiences in Mississippi in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, the reimagined exhibition delves into the identity of the state and its place in the contemporary world.

Public Radio International (PRI) in Minneapolis received a \$301,331 grant to produce two radio documentaries of twelve podcasts exploring the Johnson and Nixon Presidencies from 1963 to 1975. *LBJ's Great Society* and *Richard Nixon's Vietnam* are part of PRI's American Oral History Project, providing new perspectives on central figures and seminal events of the 1960s and 70s. Each six-episode podcast series is constructed from archival material such as interviews, White House recordings and phone calls, as well as narration and commentary from distinguished historians. The podcasts are distributed through PRI's podcast network, which receives approximately 1.4 million downloads per month.



AUTHOR AND CONSERVATIONIST LOUIS BROMFIELD, HERE LOOKING AT HIS 365-ACRE FARM, IS THE SUBJECT OF AN NEH-SUPPORTED BOOK. —*Bettmann*

Division of Research Programs

NEH's Division of Research Programs supports scholarly research that advances knowledge and understanding of the humanities. Awards are made to individuals and groups of scholars for projects of significance to specific fields and to the humanities as a whole. Through grants for research, translation, scholarly editions, and archaeological work, NEH works to bring forth knowledge that has long-term benefits for humanities education and public programming.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Jane Addams Papers Project, at Ramapo College of New Jersey, produces print and digital editions of the social reformer's public and private writings. Addams is a central figure in the history of American progressivism. The digital edition, which includes works from 1901 to 1935, has published more than 7,000 documents online ranging from diary entries to public speeches. The print edition will include six volumes of selected writings published by the University of Illinois Press. Volume 3, *Creating Hull-House and an International Presence, 1889–1900* was published in 2019, and a \$300,000 NEH grant supports the preparation of the publication of volume 4.

In 2018, the Kierkegaard's Journals and Notebooks project located at Connecticut College received a \$100,000 NEH grant to complete a 15-year project to publish a critical, English-language edition of all the private journals and philosophical notebooks of Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855). The project is cosponsored by NEH and the Danish Ministry of Culture. The journals contain Kierkegaard's reflections on a myriad of subjects—philosophical, religious, political, personal. The project published the twelfth and final volume in the spring of 2020.

Stephen Heyman received a Public Scholars grant for the research and writing of a biography of Pulitzer Prize-winning American author and pioneering organic farmer Louis Bromfield (1896–1956). Bromfield gained renown as an expatriate writer in the circle with Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway. But after World War II, he changed course, investing his time into bringing sustainable agriculture to America. From his model farm in rural Ohio, Malabar, Bromfield sounded an early alarm about harmful pesticides and fought for an agriculture that would enrich the soil and protect the planet. *The Planter of Modern Life: Louis Bromfield and the Seeds of a Food Revolution* was published in April 2020.



SCHOLARS STUDY THE ACOUSTICS OF THOMASKIRCHE IN LIEPZIG, GERMANY, ON THE WORKS OF J. S. BACH.—*Oliver Hoffmann / Alamy Stock Photo*

Office of Digital Humanities

NEH's Office of Digital Humanities supports efforts to use computing tools for research and teaching in the humanities. Funded projects have involved data visualization, putting searchable archival material online, and crowdsourcing transcriptions of texts. The field is changing the ways material can be searched, mined, displayed, taught, and analyzed. These grants often facilitate partnerships with other funding bodies in the United States and abroad.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

University of Michigan Press collaborated with the Asia Library and Centers for Japanese, Chinese, South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies to create freely available e-book versions of significant books about Asia published at the university over the last fifty years. A grant of \$199,042 brought together an advisory group to select 100 titles that are out-of-print or hard-to-find and make them available in multiple e-book formats. These free-to-read, high quality works about the history and culture of Asian countries will also advance campus collaboration and reinvigate Asian studies publishing.

Braxton Boren of American University is using a \$50,000 grant to recreate the acoustic conditions of Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Germany, to better understand the relationship between the acoustic clarity of the physical space and J. S. Bach's compositions. Bach's music was profoundly shaped by the notable acoustics of Thomaskirche, where he was concert master for the last 27 years of his life. The church was altered during the Lutheran Reformation to improve the acoustics of the spoken word, which also increased the acoustic clarity for Bach's works two centuries later. This project will use computer simulations to recreate the acoustics of the time, record a Bach cantata inside the virtual Thomaskirche, and examine the relationship between the space and the music.

Gallaudet University is improving the technological infrastructure of the Deaf Studies Digital Journal (DSDJ) to implement a fully bilingual digital platform for use by both signers and non-signers. DSDJ publishes work in the form of scholarly video articles, original works of signed literature, as well as interviews, reviews, and historical resources. The project, supported by a \$323,479 grant, increases access to and sustainability of content and supports refinements to the peer review process in American Sign Language.



"THIS LAND" PROGRAMMING FROM OREGON HUMANITIES WAS A WINNER OF THE SCHWARZ PRIZE.—*Joe Whittle*

Office of Federal/State Partnership

Through the Office of Federal/State Partnership, NEH provides General Operating Support awards to 56 states and jurisdictions to bring humanities education, lifelong learning, and public humanities programming to communities across the country. The Office of Federal/State Partnership collaborates with designated state and jurisdictional humanities councils to advance public understanding of the humanities, while enhancing public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities on a local, grassroots level.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize, presented annually by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, celebrates outstanding work in the public humanities. In 2018, the Schwartz Prize was awarded to Mississippi Humanities Council for its "Racial Equity Grant Program," which supported programs exploring the history and legacy of racism in Mississippi, and to Oregon Humanities for "This Land," an online multimedia project using stories by Oregon's communities of color to address how policies and laws have shaped systems of power and land ownership in Oregon.

The humanities councils in Alabama, Illinois, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, and Nebraska received Chairman's Statehood Grants to develop humanities-based activities commemorating 150 or 200 years of statehood. Councils collaborated with cultural heritage organizations, libraries, media outlets, and educational institutions to produce digital humanities programs, podcasts, exhibitions, lectures, festivals and heritage trails. For example, Illinois Humanities produced a series of live podcast episodes that explored the history of seven communities that arose along rivers, railways, and important roads, and the Missouri council developed the traveling exhibition "Struggle for Statehood" on the context surrounding the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

Florida Humanities Council, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, and Humanities Texas received supplemental funding for disaster response and recovery from the damage by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Funding for Florida supported efforts to reach small institutions in underserved areas of the state to assess needs, provide training opportunities, and create a statewide disaster-preparedness resource. Funding also developed a humanities-based reading program designed specifically for Florida's growing Puerto Rican diaspora communities. Both the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and Humanities Texas created rapid subaward programs to facilitate the recovery and rebuilding efforts of each state's cultural and education organizations.

NEH SENIOR STAFF

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Michael McDonald, general counsel

Laura Davis, inspector general

Timothy Robison, director of congressional affairs

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Anne-Imelda Radice, director of the Division of Public Programs

Christopher Thornton, director of the Division of Research Programs

Brett Bobley, director of the Office of Digital Humanities

Karen Kenton, director of the Office of Federal-State Partnership

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES

September 30, 2018

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Martha Weinberg

PARTNERS

The National Endowment for the Humanities has the good fortune to partner with many outstanding institutions to further the work of the humanities around the country and the world. Here are a few.

Blue Star Families

The National Endowment for the Humanities continues a three-year partnership established in 2017 with Blue Star Families to expand its “Books on Bases” literacy program for military families into a national network of reading-discussion programs that encourage dialog between military and civilian families.

First Nations Development Institute

The Native Language Immersion Initiative is a three-year language revitalization project supported by \$2.1 million in NEH funding and matched by First Nations. Additional funding for the initiative was provided by Lannan Foundation, Kalliopeia Foundation, and NoVo Foundation. Twelve native language immersion programs received funding in 2018.

Library of Congress

Chronicling America is a collaboration between NEH and the Library of Congress to create a digital, searchable database of the country’s historic newspapers from 1690 to 1963, assisted by NEH grants made through the National Digital Newspaper Program. Over the past 15 years, Chronicling America has made more than 16 million pages accessible to visitors from around the world.

NEH is a sponsor of the annual National Book Festival hosted by the Library Congress, held every year since 2000 in Washington, DC, bringing authors and illustrators to the public event that tens of thousands attend.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Humanities Open Book Program, offered jointly by NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, makes awards to publishers to digitize significant scholarly books that enhance public knowledge of important humanities topics. With NEH and Mellon support, publishers digitize these books, secure permission from copyright holders, and release them online for access by public audiences. Seven grants went to publishers for this work in 2018.

National Library of Medicine

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Library of Medicine, the world’s largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health, established a partnership in 2012 to develop initiatives that explore the intersection of biomedical and humanities research. This partnership was formally reaffirmed in 2018.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. The Endowment serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. NEH-supported grant programs foster scholarship and research, enrich all levels of education, preserve cultural treasures, and encourage public understanding of the humanities. Follow @NEHgov on social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Visit our website at neh.gov.

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COVER:

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S TALIESIN WEST.

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