

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriation Request

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Administration and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) request an appropriation totaling \$171.315 million for the agency for fiscal year 2010:

- \$119.515 million for the Endowment's grant programs in support of high quality education, preservation and access, public programming, and research in the humanities and for the projects and programs of the 56 state humanities councils;
- \$9.500 million for the NEH Challenge Grants program to stimulate and match private, nonfederal donations in support of humanities institutions and organizations;
- \$4.800 million to stimulate and match nonfederal contributions to humanities projects supported by the Endowment;
- \$10.000 million for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program in support of arts, historical, and cultural institutions in the nation's capital; and
- \$27.500 million for administrative expenses necessary to operate the agency.

Overview

With a budget of \$171.315 million in fiscal year 2010, including \$10 million to manage the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program, NEH would have a significant impact on the cultural and intellectual life of the nation by

- improving the quality of humanities education offered to American schoolchildren and college students;
- strengthening and broadening the programs of the 56 state humanities councils;
- preserving and democratizing Americans' access to important cultural and intellectual resources in the humanities;
- providing opportunities for citizens to engage in a lifetime of learning in the humanities;

- enhancing the agency's role as a leader in humanities research and scholarship and creating new opportunities for scholars to advance our knowledge and understanding of the humanities;
- encouraging innovative uses of digital technology in humanities research, education, preservation and access, and public programming;
- reinvigorating the study and understanding of the nation's history and culture and the history and culture of other nations;
- enhancing the federal government's support for arts, historical, and cultural institutions in Washington, DC; and
- stimulating nonfederal support for the nation's cultural and educational institutions and for humanities projects and programs.

FY 2010 Program and Budget Highlights

NEH's FY 2010 budget and program request would enable the agency to support excellent projects in all areas of the humanities, provide budget increases to each of the state humanities councils, and support new grant programs that will expand the American people's knowledge of and access to the humanities. A brief overview of the Endowment's strategic objectives and plans for FY 2010 follows.

- Strengthen humanities teaching and learning in the nation's schools and colleges. In FY 2010, NEH will continue to be a critical resource for projects to improve the quality of humanities instruction at all levels of the nation's educational system. NEH grants support teacher and faculty development and curricular resources projects that are based on rigorous humanities scholarship. The ultimate beneficiaries of these projects are the hundreds of thousands of American students who annually are taught by teachers who have attended NEH-sponsored enrichment programs. The FY 2010 request will enable the Endowment to maintain support for its highly respected professional development programs for teachers, including summer seminars and institutes for school teachers and college and university faculty, as well as the outreach programs of Humanities Initiatives for Faculty at Historically Black, Hispanic-Serving, and Tribal colleges and universities. Support also will be provided for three new programs the agency put in place in FY 2009: "Enduring Questions" Pilot Course grants, Teaching Development Fellowships, and Picturing America Collaboration Projects.
- Expand the programs and activities of the state humanities councils. NEH proposes a 10 percent increase in the budget for the agency's Federal/State Partnership, which supports the programs and projects of the 56 state

humanities councils. These funds will enable the state councils to expand their work and reach millions of Americans with high quality humanities programs. With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions, the councils are well positioned to ensure that these funds, and the programs they support, are widely available to citizens in every state and territory. These increased funds will support reading and discussion programs for children and families; state and local book festivals; educational institutes for elementary and secondary school teachers; scholarship on state and local history; Chautauqua-style historical performances; and radio and film projects on humanities themes. With their excellent record of matching NEH funds, the councils can be expected to match the additional funding provided in FY 2010, thus greatly leveraging the federal government's investment.

- Preserve and increase access to cultural and intellectual resources essential for the American people. In FY 2010, the agency's preservation and access programs will continue to focus on supporting projects that preserve and reformat the intellectual content of historically significant books and periodicals; preserve and provide access to important archival materials and library special collections; create humanities research tools and reference works such as dictionaries, bibliographies, and encyclopedias; record, document, and archive information relating to the estimated 3,000 of the world's 6,000-7,000 current spoken languages that are on the verge of extinction; offer preservation education and training opportunities; and provide grants to smaller institutions in support of their special preservation and training needs. Also to be supported is the fifth round of grants in the National Digital Newspaper Program, a joint NEH-Library of Congress program that is converting millions of pages of historically significant U.S. newspapers into digital files and mounting them on a national, web-accessible database.

The FY 2010 request will enable the Endowment to establish two new grant categories—Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections, which will support projects for institutions to plan or implement preventive conservation measures that prolong the useful life of humanities collections, and Research and Development grants, which will fund projects that address major challenges in preserving and providing access to humanities collections and resources.

- Provide opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities. In FY 2010, the Endowment will continue to provide support for projects—such as television and radio documentaries, exhibitions in museums and other historical and cultural institutions, and reading and discussion programs in libraries—that help the nation's citizens engage in a lifetime of learning. NEH's public programs support humanities projects that enable millions of Americans learn more about important historical and cultural works, ideas, and events. These programs contribute to the agency's broad

strategic goals of advancing knowledge and understanding of the humanities in the U.S. and increasing public awareness of, access to, and support for the humanities.

In FY 2010, the Endowment's programs for general audiences also will continue to play an important role in the agency's efforts to plan for and observe key moments in the nation's history. For example, several years ago the Endowment began encouraging and providing support for projects related to the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Many NEH-supported exhibitions, reading and discussion programs, and other projects are now available to the nation's citizens during the current Lincoln bicentennial year. Building on this effort, the agency is encouraging the development of projects for public audiences in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which will be observed between 2011 and 2015.

- Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities. The Endowment's FY 2010 budget request will strengthen the agency's role as a critical source of support for advanced research and scholarship in the humanities. The Endowment annually makes hundreds of fellowship awards and summer stipends to individual scholars, as well as awards to teams of scholars engaged in collaborative projects, to explore subjects that enrich our knowledge of the people, ideas, and events that make up the record of civilization. By supporting humanities research and scholarship, the Endowment also contributes to faculty enrichment, improved teaching, and quality public programming in the humanities.

At the FY 2010 request level, NEH proposes a 10 percent increase in the budget for our Research Programs division. These funds will enable the agency to support many more highly meritorious advanced research projects than we are currently able to fund, as well as provide viable funding for two new grant categories—Fellowships at Digital Centers and Teaching Development Fellowships, which is jointly administered with the Endowment's Education Programs division. In FY 2010, we would increase the number of fellowships and summer stipends awards to humanities scholars and make additional funds available in support of scholarly editions and other large-scale collaborative research projects in the humanities.

- Encourage innovative uses of digital information technology. In 2006, the Endowment launched a major effort to encourage and support projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology on research, education, preservation and access, and public programming in the humanities. Through our new Office of Digital Humanities, NEH is fostering the growth of a wide variety of digital humanities projects, such as, for example, those that deploy technologies and methods to enhance our understanding of a topic or issue in the humanities; those that study the impact of digital technology on the humanities; and those that digitize important materials, thereby increasing the

public's ability to search and access humanities information. In FY 2010, we will build on and extend the success of the first two years of this effort. NEH will continue to play an important role in encouraging and supporting digital technologies that advance Americans' understanding of the humanities.

- Reinvigorate the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. The Endowment requests funding in FY 2010 to continue its innovative *We the People* program, which is helping to reinvigorate the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. Since its inception in 2002, *We the People* has supported more than 1,800 projects undertaken by scholars, teachers, filmmakers, museums, libraries, and other individuals and institutions.

Since FY 2004, Congress has appropriated more than \$81 million in funding for *We the People*. The Endowment requests \$14.5 million to continue this important effort in FY 2010. These funds will help to support American history and culture projects and programs throughout the agency, including, for example, projects sponsored by the state humanities councils; Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops for school and community college teachers; the National Digital Newspaper program (in partnership with the Library of Congress); scholarly editions of the papers of U.S. Presidents and other figures important to our history; and the *We the People Bookshelf* program, which annually provides sets of humanities books to libraries and encourages young people to read great literature based on themes central to American history and culture.

- Support international initiatives in the humanities and other special projects. Funds are requested in FY 2010 for NEH's Program Development budget account to help support the agency's many new efforts to promote international humanities projects and programs. For example, NEH has recently forged partnerships with the National Research Council of Italy to support a series of scholarly conferences in the humanities and a program of fellowships on Italian cultural heritage; with the Joint Information Systems Committee of England to support a program of transatlantic digital collaboration grants; with the German Research Foundation to support a joint grant program and a series of scholarly symposia; and with the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the United Kingdom to support two scholarly conferences on the ways that art can illuminate a nation's history. We also sponsored a scholarly conference in China in December 2008 and have had follow-up discussions about mounting a conference with Chinese scholars in the United States on shared interests in the humanities. Preliminary talks have also been conducted with potential partners in Canada, Japan, and Mexico about joint projects in support of the humanities.

NEH also uses Program Development funds to support special initiatives and programming opportunities that arise from time to time but that fall outside

our regular, established grant categories. For example, in recent years, in addition to supporting various international partnerships, funds appropriated for Program Development have helped to launch the agency's *We the People* initiative, to make awards under our 2003-2004 special initiative for projects related to "Recovering Iraq's Past," to support the first grants awarded under the new Digital Humanities effort, and to provide special emergency grants to humanities institutions in the Gulf Coast region that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and institutions in the Midwest that were ravaged by the historic floods of 2008.

- Enhance the federal government's support for arts, historical, and cultural institutions in Washington, DC. In FY 2010, the Administration proposes to transfer oversight responsibility for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program (NCACA) from the Commission of Fine Arts to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Under this new arrangement, NEH will administer a redesigned program of competitive grants to arts, historical, and cultural institutions in the District of Columbia. The National Endowment for the Arts will advise NEH in the administration of the program. The new NCACA program will promote educational and public outreach on the part of grant recipients, employing a wide range of formats that will reach diverse audiences in District of Columbia and the nation at large.
- Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities. The NEH Challenge Grants program in FY 2010 will continue to assist nonprofit institutions in developing new sources of long-term support for their humanities programs. Challenge grants, which require \$3 or \$4 in gifts for every NEH dollar awarded to a humanities institution, are recognized for their success in encouraging private giving to the humanities. Funding for Challenge Grants will support a variety of institutional needs in the humanities: increasing nonfederal donations to the humanities; enhancing humanities holdings and collections; establishing or augmenting institutional endowments; renovating or constructing facilities; and purchasing or upgrading capital equipment. In FY 2010, the program also will continue to encourage and provide support for institutions to take advantage of the latest innovations in digital technology.
- Leverage third-party contributions to humanities projects. For FY 2010, NEH requests funding for its Treasury funds account to match nonfederal contributions to individual projects in the humanities. Encouraging private-sector support for cultural activities is an important goal of the agency. NEH Treasury matching grants, which match nonfederal donations on a one-to-one basis, have proven to be an effective mechanism for leveraging the contributions of businesses, foundations, and individuals on behalf of the humanities. At the FY 2010 request level, Treasury funds totaling \$4.8 million would leverage an equal amount in nonfederal contributions to humanities projects.

- Provide administrative funds to operate the agency effectively and efficiently.
The NEH budget request includes funds needed to support the cost of operating the agency at the FY 2010 request level while maintaining a high level of customer service. Funds requested would support personnel compensation and benefits; building rent and security; the agency's grant application review system; NEH's participation in the government-wide Grants.gov program; and other expenses.