



**Appropriations Request
For Fiscal Year 2017**

**Submitted to Congress
February 2016**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriation Request

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request to Congress

“The humanities belong to all the people of the United States.”
—National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Administration and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) request an appropriation totaling \$149,848,000 for fiscal year 2017:

- \$101,010,000 for the Endowment’s grant programs in support of projects in the humanities, including \$43,040,000 for the operations, projects, and programs of the state and territorial humanities councils;
- \$10,190,000 for a special initiative—*The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, which includes the continuation of *Standing Together*, the Endowment’s special programming for veterans and active duty military—in support of projects that demonstrate the critical role the humanities can play in our public life;
- \$10,700,000 in federal matching funds, including funding for the NEH Challenge Grants program to help stimulate and match nonfederal donations in support of humanities institutions and organizations; and
- \$27,948,000 for salaries and expenses needed to operate the agency efficiently and effectively.

Funding at the request level would enable NEH to fulfill its legislated mission to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities and make this knowledge and learning widely accessible throughout the nation. These funds also would help the Endowment work toward a number of specific objectives, including:

- Assisting the nation’s military veterans by ensuring that educational and cultural programs are made available to them and their families;
- Strengthening humanities education in the nation’s schools and institutions of higher learning, particularly in the nation’s community colleges;
- Helping the U.S. maintain a leadership role in spurring technology innovation in the humanities, providing open access to research and data, and fostering digital project sustainability; and
- Advancing critical thinking, writing, and communications skills essential in an era of global economic competition.

Since its establishment in 1965, NEH has provided leadership in the realm of ideas and the spirit by supporting projects and programs in all areas of the humanities—history, philosophy, literature and languages, archaeology, political theory, comparative religion, and other humanities subject areas—and helped to make humanities knowledge and learning widely available in the United States. Each year, humanities projects supported by NEH fulfill the agency’s mandate by providing training for thousands of school, college, and university teachers; reaching tens of millions of Americans with high quality television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and reading and discussion programs in museums and libraries across the nation; and by supporting, in partnership with the Library of Congress, efforts in every state to digitize and make accessible hundreds of thousands of pages of historic U.S. newspapers. NEH also supports scholarly research that has resulted in the publication of thousands of books, many of which have won prestigious awards for intellectual distinction, including 18 Pulitzer Prizes and 20 Bancroft Prizes. And, through the state humanities councils, NEH funding annually makes possible tens of thousands of reading and discussion programs, literacy programs, speakers bureau presentations, conferences, Chautauqua events, media programs, and a variety of technology, preservation, and state and regional history projects.

It is a powerful indicator of NEH’s success that it has been able to engage so many domains and dimensions of humanities work—popular and scholarly, individual and institutional, contemporary and historical, conceptual and material—and to see these poles come together, often in a dramatic way. The most significant result of this work is the steady growth of the cultural capital of the United States. NEH has had many partners in this endeavor, including the state humanities councils established in every state and territory, local and state governments, private foundations, and generous individuals. But without the Endowment’s leadership, commitment to the cultivation of the entire nation’s cultural capacity, and focus on broad access to humanities resources for all Americans, our citizens’ understanding and appreciation of their cultural heritage would be significantly diminished.

The cultural economy is hugely important to the economic health of thousands of communities around the country, and it is likely to matter more and more as the economic base of the United States continues to shift away from manufacturing to education, healthcare, human services, and information technology.

Building a More Strategic NEH

The arrival of Chairman William Adams and other new senior leadership in the past year and a half provided NEH with an opportunity to engage in an agency-wide effort to refresh its existing strategic plan. Our newly updated plan stresses the importance of expanding the scope and impact of the grants the agency makes and opening up our grant opportunities to communities, regions, institutions, and populations that have not traditionally availed themselves of the Endowment’s programs or benefited greatly from the products of NEH’s grantees. One of the revised plan’s central features is an effort to ensure that all Americans benefit from and understand the value of the humanities. Another distinctive feature is a coordinated effort to look for ways to improve service to our constituents in the humanities community, particularly to grant applicants and grantees, both those we have supported in the past, and new participants we look to support in the future.

Under the leadership of an agency-wide steering committee and with the participation of more than forty staff members in a kick-off workshop, the following four broad goals were developed:

Goal 1: To foster the expansion of knowledge and understanding of the humanities through our grant-making and other activities and to lead in the search for new research methodologies and areas of inquiry.

Goal 2: To nurture the nation's humanities infrastructures and support producers of significant humanities content.

Goal 3: To provide a humanities experience to all Americans, where they are.

Goal 4: To enhance quality of service and efficiency of operations.

All of the new programs, grant opportunities, and special emphases described in the succeeding pages of this budget request reflect our general principles and one or more goals of the refreshed strategic plan. We have also developed sets of strategies and tactics for working toward achieving each goal over the next several years and expect our strategic planning exercise to yield additional opportunities for NEH to operate more effectively, creatively, and efficiently in the future.

The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square
(includes *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*)

In keeping with our updated strategic goals, NEH's special initiative, *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, is designed to demonstrate and enhance the critical role the humanities can play in our nation's public life. NEH requests \$10.19 million for the initiative for FY 2017. These funds would enable NEH to significantly enhance the reach and impact of the initiative and would send a strong signal about the value of the humanities in our democracy and the essential role of the humanities in our public dialogue about the future of our country.

As NEH commemorates its fiftieth anniversary and embarks on its sixth decade of service to the American people, it is especially fitting to sponsor an initiative devoted to the broadest possible engagement of the American public with the humanities. For most of the great challenges we face as a nation, the challenges that define our times and determine our future, are not essentially scientific or technical in nature. They are about our values, our fundamental beliefs and ideas and assumptions, our histories and our cultures. These are the proper domains of humanities learning and thinking. The publicly engaged humanities can help us understand where we have been, what we value and believe, and where we are headed. Indeed, the Endowment's enabling legislation charges the agency to demonstrate "the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life." *The Common Good* calls on scholars, teachers, filmmakers, museums, libraries, state humanities councils, and other individuals and institutions engaged in the humanities to develop projects that address this charge. We are

pleased that the initiative has been well received both within the humanities community and more broadly with the public at large, and we see significant opportunities for further expanding its impact and reach, with the funding we are requesting for FY 2017.

The Common Good builds on and expands the special programming NEH launched in 2014—*Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. This programming seeks to connect the humanities to the experiences of veterans and service members, thus addressing a compelling need and serving a community that NEH has only tangentially reached in the past. To date, NEH has provided more than \$4 million in grants for projects that are reaching veterans throughout the nation. These projects include support for veterans to attend “academic boot camps” on eleven college and university campuses to help them transition from the military to life as college students; reading and discussion programs in VA hospitals, community centers, and public libraries using great works of literature; public performances for and involving veterans that draw on timeless themes from classical Greek dramas of soldiers returning home from war; and support for veterans-related work in the 50 states and the territories through grants made to the state humanities councils. The Endowment also funded a special project that provided more than 30 public screenings and discussion panels nationwide focused on a new documentary film, “Debt of Honor: Disabled Veterans in American History,” which was broadcast nationally in November on Veterans Day. The screening sites were selected to include localities with significant veteran and military populations. And, the Endowment has provided major funding to acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns for a ten-part series on “The Vietnam War,” which is slated to air on PBS in 2017.

The Endowment also has created a new program specifically concerned with veterans and active service members called “Dialogues on the Experience of War.” In FY 2016 and FY 2017, this program will provide funding of up to \$100,000 for projects that prepare discussion leaders and conduct discussion sessions on significant issues related to war and military service. Discussion groups can be made up exclusively of military veterans, but can also include men and women in active service, military families, and interested members of the public. The initial application deadline for the pilot competition in this program saw an enthusiastic response from the humanities community. In FY 2017, the Endowment intends to bolster its support for this and other *Standing Together* projects and programs, which is one of the agency’s top priorities.

Funds requested in FY 2017 for the broader *The Common Good* initiative would allow the Endowment to continue encouraging the deployment of the humanities around important national challenges and in doing so will take advantage of the new avenues for research and expression made possible by the ongoing revolution in digital media. The initiative has been woven throughout the agency’s major program areas and in NEH’s partnerships with the state humanities councils, other federal agencies, and private foundations. In addition to continuing and enhancing support for *Standing Together*, the initiative’s other key components, activities, and programs that have been established thus far or are planned for FY 2017 include:

- A new “Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges” program is offering grants of up to \$100,000 to support projects focused on a core topic or set of themes in humanities education at community colleges, which educate more than half of all students now enrolled in postsecondary education. Community colleges need to be supported in their

efforts to produce citizens, as well as technicians. This means ensuring that they have the resources to support strong course offerings in American history, in our nation's political institutions and processes, and in the important social and political challenges of contemporary life. NEH's grants may support faculty and curriculum development, summer bridge programs, or other activities designed to enhance existing humanities programs, resources or courses, or to develop new ones. Strengthening and expanding the teaching and learning of the humanities in community colleges is one of the Endowment's highest priorities, and we look forward to exploring additional ways we can to nurture this critical area of our nation's educational system. The pilot competition for this new grant opportunity received a robust response from the field—nearly 100 grant applicants were submitted. The agency's FY 2017 budget request for *The Common Good* initiative would support a significant increase in the number of awards for excellent humanities projects at community colleges.

- A “Public Scholar Program” in the Endowment’s Research Programs division is encouraging and promoting humanities research and writing for a wider reading public. Under this grant category, awards are being made to scholars working on topics of broad public interest and that have lasting impact. Such scholarship might, for example, present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic. The first grant competition in this new program in FY 2015 was a resounding success: Nearly 500 applications were submitted, and the Endowment made 36 awards. The program has garnered great praise in the press nationally for helping to spur an interest in engaging, well-researched, and accessible non-fiction books for the general reading public. NEH’s Public Programs division will help facilitate public discussion programs centered on these works when they are published in the coming years and some NEH-supported scholars may participate in programs sponsored by the state humanities councils.
- America’s cultural heritage is preserved not only in libraries, museums, and archives, but also in all our homes, family histories, and life stories. A new NEH program, “Common Heritage,” which is jointly administered by the agency’s Preservation and Access and Public Programs divisions, supports local community events in cities and towns devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials such as photographic materials, maps, films, and letters, and then making these historical materials available for exhibition, study, discussion, and preservation. Members of the public will be able to bring these materials to a local cultural institution and have them professionally digitized on the spot. With the owners’ permission, additional digital copies would be included in the institution’s historical collections and be made available for future exhibits and other public programs. Initial interest in this new grant program was strong: NEH received more than 200 applications from 44 states at its first deadline and made 38 awards.
- In FY 2015, NEH announced a special grant competition in the Endowment’s Public Programs division, “Humanities in the Public Square,” to support public forums, programs, and educational resources focused on a challenging community issue. The program invited projects that draw on humanities scholarship to engage the public in

understanding pressing contemporary concerns. We received 115 grant applications and made 21 awards for public forums that will engage scholars and humanities practitioners in discussions with a public audience about a significant community issue; programs that creatively engage audiences in extended discussion of the issue; and educational resources for use by teachers, students, and/or lifelong learners.

Building on the success of “Humanities in the Public Square,” the Endowment has developed another program, “Humanities in Your Community Grants” (working title), which will make its first awards in FY 2017. This grant category will support projects that draw on the power of the humanities to offer useful perspectives on difficult and complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens.

- A new “Humanities Open Book” program, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available electronically, and free of charge, to the American people. By taking advantage of low-cost e-book technology, this program will allow teachers, students, scholars, and the public to read many thousands of works of history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities subjects that have long been out of print. This innovative program’s first ten awards were made in the fall of 2015. The Mellon Foundation has committed \$1,500,000 to the program over three years.
- In NEH’s Challenge Grants program, a new grant opportunity for “Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Grants” will encourage and support universities in their efforts to institute wide-ranging changes in humanities doctoral programs. NEH hopes to assist universities in devising a new model of doctoral education, which can both transform the understanding of what it means to be a humanities scholar and promote the integration of the humanities in the public square. This new grant program is premised on the notion that humanities knowledge and methods can make an even more substantial impact on society if students are able to translate what they learn in doctoral programs into a variety of careers. Students will have a more fulfilling experience in graduate school and be better prepared to undertake various kinds of careers, and humanities Ph.D. programs in the nation’s universities will increase their relevance for the twenty-first century.

In FY 2017, the NEH Challenge program will also launch two other grant competitions designed to disseminate knowledge in the humanities in innovative ways and broaden nonfederal support for the humanities: “Expanding Humanities Access” will stimulate program development for underserved groups, and “Creating Humanities Communities” will expand humanities programs in states previously underserved by NEH’s grant programs.

- NEH will provide additional resources to the state humanities councils in support of projects and programs related to *The Common Good* and *Standing Together*. Much of the support that NEH provides to the state councils already supports a strong “public humanities” focus, so further enhancing this shared focus will only strengthen an already strong set of programs.

Included in a separate section of this budget request (see page 13) is a fuller discussion of *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, including *Standing Together*, and the Endowment's plans to implement major components of the initiative in FY 2017.

Other FY 2017 Program Highlights

A brief overview of the Endowment's many other programmatic plans and objectives for FY 2017 follows. These plans are discussed in detail in the individual division, office, and program sections of this budget submission.

- Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources. In FY 2017, the agency's Preservation and Access grant programs will continue to focus on 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; and create humanities research tools and reference works such as dictionaries, bibliographies, and encyclopedias. NEH is also working with other agencies and with non-governmental organizations to help document and call attention to endangered artifacts and other cultural heritage resources abroad, particularly in the Middle East.
- Support research and scholarship that expand our knowledge and understanding in the humanities. The Endowment's FY 2017 budget request will provide critical support for advanced humanities research and scholarship in the United States. Funding will allow NEH to make hundreds of awards to individual scholars, as well as grants to institutions and 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.

In FY 2017, NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will begin a new, three-year special grant opportunity to promote a new generation of scholars who are working on humanities projects that will be published only in digital formats. This partnership is a cost-effective way to maximize the investments and goals of both organizations.

- Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. In FY 2017, NEH will sustain its support for summer institutes, seminars, and workshops that provide teachers with opportunities to replenish and deepen their knowledge of the humanities through intensive study of books, archives, and visits to local and national landmarks to further bring the humanities to life. The Endowment supports teacher and faculty development projects that are based on rigorous humanities scholarship and directed by distinguished scholars and master teachers. The ultimate beneficiaries of these programs are the hundreds of thousands of American students who annually are taught by teachers who have enhanced their knowledge of the subjects they teach.

NEH's EDSITEment project annually provides millions of teachers, students, and parents with access to more than 500 scholar- and teacher-developed lesson plans and links to over 400 peer-reviewed websites covering topics from civics to American history to

world literature that are curated especially for the classroom. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, EDSITEment will undertake an important review and upgrade of its digital platform with the goal of creating a service that will increase the transparency and usability of the project's considerable collection of free and open educational resources and thus be more flexible, visual, mobile, and adaptable to the changing needs of K-12 educators.

- Provide opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities. In FY 2017, the Endowment will provide support for public humanities projects that will enable millions of Americans to engage deeply with significant works, ideas, and events through the lens of the humanities. The Endowment supports a wide range of public humanities programs that reach large and diverse audiences. These programs make use of a variety of formats including television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and interpretation at historic sites, websites, and other digital media.
- Support for the programs and activities of the state humanities councils. NEH's work in FY 2017 will be complemented and extended by the programs and projects of the NEH-affiliated humanities councils in the states and U.S. territories. With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions within their states—speakers bureaus, regrant programs, Chautauqua presentations, literacy programs, reading and discussion programs—the councils are able to reach citizens in diverse and remote settings that NEH's national programs may not be able to reach. Every council has a distinctive programmatic mix that is tailored to the needs and interests of the citizens of that state.
- Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the use of the digital humanities. In the humanities, as in the sciences, digital technology has changed the way scholars perform their work. While the Endowment supports digital projects in all of its major grant programs, it is through its Office of Digital Humanities that NEH fosters the development of a wide variety of innovative digital humanities projects and forward-looking solutions.
- Strengthening the institutional base of the humanities and leveraging third-party contributions to humanities projects. The NEH Challenge Grants matching program in FY 2017 will continue to assist educational and cultural institutions, such as colleges, universities, museums, public libraries, historical societies, state humanities councils, and many other humanities organizations in developing non-federal sources of support for their humanities programs. Beginning in FY 2016, the single Challenge Grant program will be replaced by three new, thematically focused programs. Each has as its goal to help institutions disseminate knowledge in the humanities in innovative ways.

Encouraging private-sector support for cultural activities is an important goal of the agency. NEH requests FY 2017 funding for its Treasury funds account, which will be used to match nonfederal contributions to individual projects in the humanities. 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. From the establishment of the

agency in 1965 through fiscal year 2015, NEH matching grants for discrete humanities projects have stimulated nearly \$440,000,000 in third-party donations.

- Partnership initiatives. NEH provides national leadership through creative partnerships with other nonfederal and federal institutions in support of mutual interests in the humanities. In addition to the previously mentioned new partnerships with the Mellon Foundation in support of the digitization of out-of-print humanities books and fellowships for scholars to publish their research digitally, NEH's collaboration with the National Science Foundation is providing national recognition and support for projects to document, record, and archive endangered languages worldwide that are on the verge of extinction, including hundreds of American Indian languages. It is estimated that half of the world's 6,000-7,000 current spoken languages are on the verge of extinction. Since FY 2005, NEH has supported nearly 120 projects, including many on endangered American Indian languages, and awarded approximately \$11.3 million as part of this widely acclaimed initiative. For more than a decade, the Endowment also has worked in partnership with the Library of Congress to digitize and post online millions of pages of historic U.S. newspapers. To date, NEH-supported projects in 40 states have produced nearly ten million pages, with many millions more to follow in the coming years. These partnership initiatives will be continued in FY 2017.

The Endowment is also partnering with the Smithsonian Institution to sponsor a History Film Forum that examines documentary films as vehicles for teaching and interpreting history. The forum includes "Teaching History with Movies" workshops aimed at offering teachers tools and tips for effectively incorporating movies in their middle and high school history classrooms.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

FY 2017 Appropriation Request
(\$ in thousands)

	<u>FY 2015</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2016</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2017</u> <u>Request</u>
<i>The Common Good/Standing Together</i>	--	\$5,500	\$10,190
Bridging Cultures	\$3,500	--	--
Education Programs	13,265	13,040	12,000
Federal/State Partnership	42,528	43,040	43,040
Preservation and Access	15,460	15,200	14,385
Public Programs	13,684	13,454	12,730
Research Programs	14,784	14,536	13,755
Digital Humanities	4,400	4,480	4,600
<u>Program Development</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Subtotal	108,121	109,750	111,200
Challenge Grants	8,500	8,500	8,500
<u>Treasury Matching Funds</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,200</u>
Subtotal	10,900	10,900	10,700
<u>Administration</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>27,292</u>	<u>27,948</u>
Total	\$146,021	\$147,942	\$149,848

The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square

FY 2017 Request: \$10,190,000

NEH's enabling legislation declares that the "humanities belong to all the people of the United States." Since it was established fifty years ago, NEH has carried on its work with twin purposes in mind: to ensure leadership in the realm of ideas and to engage the public in the humanities. As a principal investor in the growth of America's cultural capital, NEH has supported basic humanities research and made significant long-term investments in documenting and preserving the legacies of American history and culture. At the same time, NEH has systematically developed and promoted opportunities for the humanities to be made available to broad public audiences. The path-breaking "Treasures of Tutankhamen" exhibition that NEH funded in 1976 is considered by many to be the first "blockbuster" museum exhibition; it was seen by nearly 8 million people in seven major American cities, many of whom were first-time museum goers, and it established a new precedent for public engagement with museums. A new form of documentary film, with humanities scholarship at its core, was developed because NEH grants gave early support to the vision of filmmakers like Ken Burns and funded carefully researched films seen by millions of people and used in classrooms across the country. NEH also has a decades-long record of outreach to communities across the United States, where small, sought-after grants have enabled libraries, schools, historical societies and many others to draw upon national resources—through travelling exhibits, reading and discussion programs, preservation and conservation of materials, and many other humanities education-enabling opportunities.

As the Endowment charts a course for its leadership in the coming decades, a new initiative—*The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square* – affirms the agency's longstanding commitment to the public humanities and brings special emphasis to "the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."¹ The Endowment's \$10,190,000 FY 2017 request for *The Common Good* would build on successful pilot efforts over the past year, which have generated widespread enthusiasm among our stakeholders for renewed attention to making the humanities engaging and accessible to the American public. As our country grapples with both remarkable opportunities and extraordinary challenges, a central purpose of *The Common Good* initiative is to engage humanities scholars with the complex issues playing out in our public lives, and to demonstrate the power of the humanities in tackling those issues. Equally important is the initiative's emphasis on expanding access to the humanities, in settings from community college classrooms to veterans service centers, and inviting new communities to enjoy the benefits of deepened connection with cultural heritage and lifelong learning.

Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

NEH's special initiative for veterans, *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*, is a core component of *The Common Good*. The funds requested for FY 2017 would enable NEH to continue to grow this successful new effort to promote public understanding of the military experience and to support returning veterans. Launched as a series of pilot programs in the spring of 2014, *Standing Together* has inspired humanities groups across the nation to reach out to veterans and develop new opportunities for educational programs, reading and discussion groups, film screenings, and public dialogues that speak to the military

¹ National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 952 (a), as amended.

experience and lessen the civilian-military divide. NEH investment so far in *Standing Together* projects has touched every state and has more than doubled since the launch, for a total exceeding \$4 million to date.

We continue to develop and extend the network of organizations conducting humanities programs for veterans and to cultivate new partnerships with PBS and the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Leading examples from the field, developed and expanded through NEH support, include:

Warrior-Scholar Project: a project designed to assist veterans in transitioning from the military to college. First offered at Yale University and now available on eleven campuses across the country, this “humanities boot camp” prepares veterans for higher education and grapples with themes of war, service, and the values held in common in our democracy.

The Talking Service Project: a program of discussion groups for veterans, using public libraries, VA hospital common spaces, and other venues to convene veterans in facilitated discussions of works of literature about the experience of war. Led by the Great Books Foundation, this project has widely disseminated an important anthology of literary works about war, *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, and has partnered with at least eleven state humanities councils to mount model programs supported by NEH.

Aquila Theatre: a theatre and discussion series featuring veterans as actors, performing before audiences of veterans and veteran communities. The NEH-funded Aquila Theatre Company, a not-for-profit based in New York City, conducts special outreach to veterans and their families, drawing on the timeless themes captured in Greek drama of soldiers returning home. New in 2015 was NEH’s commitment to fund a major program to train 100 veterans in four regional centers to present and perform classical works with a focus on critical social issues including conflict, comradeship, home, and family.

Literature & Medicine for Veterans: reading and discussion programs offered by the Maine Humanities Council to reach veterans and their caregivers. Building on a successful track record of programs offered to health care workers in VA hospitals, the Maine Humanities Council used NEH support to develop a new program, called *Coming Home*, which offers facilitated small-group reading and discussion programs directly to veterans, and works through partnerships with 12 state humanities councils.

Digital Methods in Military History: a collaboration between NEH, the Society for Military History, and Northeastern University to hold a first-of-its-kind professional development workshop on the application of digital humanities methodologies to military history. Leading scholars from the digital humanities community provided hands-on instruction that enabled military historians to learn new ways to conduct their research using the latest in digital tools and techniques.

Last fall, NEH also supported a partnership with PBS to promote discussion of another important documentary, “Debt of Honor,” a film by Ric Burns that chronicles the challenges faced by disabled veterans through the history of American wars. At least 30 public screenings were held

nationwide, each accompanied by discussion panels focused on understanding the experiences of disabled veterans returning from war.

Central to NEH plans for FY 2017 is a commitment to strengthen the compelling work *Standing Together* has already delivered and to do so as part of *The Common Good* initiative. As a result of the success of several pilot projects, we have recently announced a new grant program dedicated to understanding the experience of veterans through reading and discussion of great humanities texts. Called “Dialogues on the Experience of War,” the program will enable U.S. military veterans and others to reflect on the issues raised by war and military service, including important questions about the nature of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism. The first awards will be made in March 2016 and will support the design and implementation of new reading and discussion programs, with an emphasis on training additional facilitators to lead these programs in the future. The FY 2017 funding request would support this new grant program and enable NEH to seed many more opportunities for humanities institutions to reach out to veterans and contribute to the full incorporation of veterans into civilian life.

In addition to this new grant program, NEH continues to encourage applicants to programs throughout the Endowment to seek support for projects that speak to the themes of *Standing Together*. Many of these projects address, directly or indirectly, the goal of lessening the civilian-military divide and cultivating a broader public understanding of the experience of war. We recently invested in educational materials to support educational outreach for the noted film by Rory Kennedy, “Last Days in Vietnam,” and a major NEH grant will help make possible an upcoming documentary from Ken Burns on the history of the Vietnam War. The film will be accompanied by tools for public discussion and educational outreach, and NEH expects to find additional opportunities to extend the reach of what will be an important moment of taking stock, as we look back 50 years to reflect on that conflict.

Building on these two documentary films portraying the experiences of veterans, as well as the previously mentioned “Debt of Honor” film, NEH would use new funding for *The Common Good* in FY 2017 to deepen the agency’s commitment to public reflection on American experiences of war and conflict. We would work to shape a national series of public discussion programs, featuring both documentary films and readings, to foster community dialogues and address multiple perspectives on military service in the context of a democratic society. Recent large-scale projects conducted by the Endowment suggest broad public interest in these kinds of programs. For example, a collaboration with the American Library Association, “Let’s Talk About It: The Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150th Anniversaries,” led to more than 1,065 scholar-led reading and discussion programs examining the meanings and significance of the American Civil War at the time of the Sesquicentennial. Libraries reported great enthusiasm for the material and garnered new audiences for the programs. Other NEH-led projects have used documentary films as a way to open up humanities-rich conversations about complex issues, and the creative use of NEH-funded films in such programs gives these documentaries an extended life, long after broadcast. NEH’s current special initiative projects, *Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle*, and *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*, are both examples of film screening and discussion programs that engage diverse audiences in learning and thoughtful exchange. Together these two projects have made resources available to over 670 community organizations across the country and offered access to NEH-funded documentary films (streamed free online), along with support for hosting events that tie the films to the needs and interests of the host communities.

Under the rubric of *Standing Together*, NEH also expects to use FY 2017 funds for continued support of appropriate projects in grant programs that emphasize research and preservation of important collections of military archives, letters and other records. We now include a special invitation in grant guidelines for projects that create, preserve, and make available oral history interviews with individuals who can provide eyewitness insights on the experience of war, in the form of actual military experience, and/or the impact of war on the American home front during wartime and its aftermath. In the same vein, we are collaborating closely with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Beginning with the example of NEH Chairman Adams, who recorded his own account of service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, NEH is encouraging organizations such as state humanities councils to take up the challenge of interviewing veterans and preserving their voices for future generations at the Library of Congress.

Since the initiative began in 2014, we have seen a growing interest in research on topics related to veterans and the military, and in particular, an enthusiastic reception from the community of military historians. With the addition of funds for *The Common Good* in FY 2017, NEH will expand on the previous NEH-funded workshop, Digital Methods in Military History, which was so popular that nearly half the applicants for a limited number of slots had to be turned away. To meet the increasing demand for digital humanities methods in the field of military history, NEH will develop, with input from military history organizations and experts, a series of regional workshops to expand this effort to seed the field of military history with new research techniques. Innovations in data mining and mapping mean that work that once had to be painstakingly done by hand, like plotting the delivery of orders up and down the line or sketching the flow of a battle, can now be done faster and with more flexibility by computer. This program is an opportunity for NEH to reach a new group of scholars with the benefits of expertise developed through NEH's Office of Digital Humanities.

The Common Good: Strengthening Community Colleges

The number of humanities-related degrees awarded in community colleges is growing and now represents nearly 40 percent of degrees in that sector, according to recent data from the Humanities Indicators, a data collection and analysis project sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and funded in part by NEH. In response to that demand, a newly launched NEH grant program, "Humanities Initiatives in Community Colleges," offers a complement to the many federal investments that emphasize STEM disciplines. Through this program, NEH is committed to establishing an ongoing source of support for community colleges seeking to strengthen their humanities programs. Exposure to the humanities provides students with opportunities to think broadly and acquire valuable skills that will serve them well in both their careers and their communities.

With the additional funds requested in FY 2017 for *The Common Good*, NEH would strengthen community college course offerings in the humanities, including studies of American history, democratic institutions, and the social and political challenges of contemporary life. NEH would also work to attract and support more applications from community colleges in other agency programs—including digital humanities and public programs—areas where community colleges also present new opportunities for engaging underserved communities. Through these intentional efforts under the umbrella of *The Common Good*, we expect to build on growing

demand for the humanities and to support the Administration’s commitment to community college education that enriches both the lives and careers of citizens.

The Common Good: Humanities Scholarship for the Public

Across the spectrum of NEH programs and humanities disciplines, under the rubric of the new *Common Good* initiative, NEH is urging scholars and organizations to take up the challenge of connecting the insights of the humanities with the pressing concerns of public life in our democracy – from the meaning of citizenship to the ethical dilemmas posed by new technologies. In the words of the NEH’s charter legislation, “democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.” Fifty years after its founding, NEH remains deeply committed to the support of projects that engage Americans in productive dialogues about where our country has been, who we are as a people and where we are headed in the future. These dialogues are necessarily shaped by the humanities—by the study of history, culture and values. *The Common Good* initiative aims to expand opportunities for public engagement with the insights of humanities scholarship that responds to questions such as:

- How can the humanities illuminate both the positive and worrisome ways in which the remarkable advances in information technology are affecting individuals and communities in contemporary American life?
- How can the humanities enrich the debate over the appropriate balance of security and privacy that technological advances have placed before us?
- How can the humanities deepen public understanding of the meaning of democratic citizenship in the twenty-first century in relationship to our founding principles and values, our political history, and our current circumstances?
- How can the humanities illuminate the legacies of recent wars and conflicts and contribute to the achievement of a deeper and broader public understanding of the experience and lessons of war?
- How can the humanities contribute to the full incorporation of veterans into civilian life and help all of us appreciate their unique perspectives?
- How can the humanities assist the country in addressing the challenges and opportunities created by the changing demographics in many American communities?
- How can the humanities illuminate the enormous promise of new biomedical technologies and procedures and deepen our understanding of the complex ethical and personal questions they raise?
- How can the humanities address the various forms of cultural and political polarization that have become so prevalent in contemporary American life and thereby contribute to the building of new forms of community and understanding?

With the funds requested for *The Common Good* in FY 2017, two new programs—the Public Scholar Program and Humanities in Your Community—will challenge humanities scholars and local institutions to find new ways to connect their work to these and other public concerns:

- Public Scholar Program: Successfully launched in 2015, this new program in the Division of Research Programs offers a tangible demonstration of the potential for humanities scholarship that contributes to the common good. The program is designed to encourage the creation of well-researched books in the humanities that will reach a broad

public readership. In the initial round of grants, NEH received an impressive 485 applications, reflecting the intense interest of scholars in engaging the public. Following a rigorous review, awards were made to support 36 new books promising to give readers beyond the academy the opportunity to explore a wide range of humanities topics, from Latino migration to the history of photographic surveillance to the origins of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Given this initial success, NEH plans to continue the Public Scholar program and with the support of funds from *The Common Good*, to ensure a long-term commitment to public scholarship in the humanities for general audiences.

- Humanities in Your Community (working title): Rooted in the tradition of collective discussion of the common good, this new grant opportunity for FY 2017 in the Division of Public Programs will fund community-based projects that draw upon humanities ideas to enrich civic life. Grants will be available for sustained, community-wide projects that engage diverse residents in creatively addressing community challenges, guided by the perspectives of the humanities. This new program will build on the successful outreach to new applicants that was undertaken this year for a special one-time grant opportunity, Humanities in the Public Square. Launched with a June 2015 deadline, Humanities in the Public Square supported a series of public forums, programs and educational resources designed to show the ways in which humanities scholarship engages the public in understanding pressing contemporary concerns. We received more than 100 applications from diverse institutions (many of them new to NEH), and we made 38 awards in November 2015 that offer national models for the growing numbers of humanities scholars and organizations who seek to contribute to public discussion of the most important issues in their communities.

The Common Good: Expanding Access to the Humanities

With the funds requested for *The Common Good* in FY 2017, NEH would support a number of special efforts to expand public access to the humanities and extend the reach of NEH programs to audiences, institutions, communities, and areas across the nation that have not in the past been served as effectively as others by our programs. This expanded outreach is an outgrowth of the work NEH has undertaken to engage veterans and communities as part of *Standing Together*. Through that initiative, NEH has been able to encourage many humanities organizations to stretch beyond their traditional participants and usual approaches, and the resulting successes have encouraged us to develop additional opportunities for serving new and hard-to-reach audiences with several specific *Common Good* programs:

- Common Heritage: In a special collaboration, NEH’s Division of Preservation and Access and Division of Public Programs have launched a pilot program that enables members of the public to participate directly in the preservation of their own heritage materials—photographs, documents, family letters, art works, and other historic artifacts—to be digitized on the spot by professionals and preserved in a free digital copy for contributors to take home, along with their original. This program underscores the fact that members of the public, in partnership with libraries, museums, archives, and historical organizations, have much to contribute to the composition of our cultural mosaic, and together they can serve as effective partners in the appreciation and stewardship of our common heritage. Based on early indications from the field and from the first round of applications, NEH staff are persuaded that this program meets an

unfilled need for support of local cultural institutions and increased attention to the preservation of local history. Funding from *The Common Good* initiative in FY 2017 will enable NEH to continue this successful pilot effort and expand this opportunity to more communities in need of help preserving their heritage.

- Public Programs for Underserved Audiences: Beginning in January 2015, grant application guidelines for the Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program include a specific encouragement for public humanities programs that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences. Recent grants responding to this special call include a project of the American Library Association for at-risk teenagers and a pioneering reading and discussion program *Gente y Cuentos/People and Stories*, which engages seniors and young people in juvenile detention centers with thoughtful discussions of short works of literature that are relevant to their lives. We expect to encourage and support more outreach like this and to use *The Common Good* initiative to shine a spotlight on the power of the humanities to contribute to the public good and to improve lives.
- Humanities Open Book Program: Through an innovative partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, NEH is co-funding a pilot program for digitizing scholarly books as e-books. The goal of this project is to make selected classics of humanities scholarship widely available to the general public, for free. Many scholarly books of significance, including many funded over the years by NEH, have disappeared from public view after falling out of print. This project will bring important humanities books back into view and use the latest technology to make them freely accessible to all.
- EDSITEment: NEH's in-house K-12 education project offers an important tool for reaching a wide audience and furthering the goals of *The Common Good*. A nationally recognized resource, NEH's EDSITEment project serves America's K-12 educators on its website, as well as through webinars, social media, and professional development presentations. More than 2.5 million visitors each year—teachers, students, and parents from every state and territory—avail themselves of these outstanding resources, which cover topics from civics to American history to world literature and are curated especially for the classroom. With over 500 scholar- and teacher-developed lesson plans and links to more than 400 peer-reviewed sites, EDSITEment offers educators a clear path to using and re-using the products of NEH grants. In FY 2017, the EDSITEment project will intensify its already deep commitment to the creative use of social media outreach and to partnerships that reflect the role of the humanities in our national life, such as National History Day, the National Library of Medicine, and the Civics Renewal Network. EDSITEment will also undertake an important review and upgrade of its digital platform with the goal of creating a service that will increase the transparency and usability of the project's considerable collection of free and open educational resources (OER) and be more flexible, more visual, more mobile, and adaptable to the changing needs of K-12 educators.
- Digital Projects for the Public: Building on NEH's pioneering work in the digital humanities, NEH has now put in place a dedicated grant program to support innovative

projects that connect the public with the humanities through educational games, digital apps, and other innovative technologies. These new interactive platforms represent still another way to deepen audience engagement with humanities ideas and questions and to disseminate programs beyond traditional audiences. As a leader in the field, NEH is positioned to help cultural organizations of all kinds conceive digital strategies for reaching a new generation of audiences and cultivating wide appreciation for the humanities in the digital public square.

The Common Good: Enhancing the NEH Federal/State Partnership

NEH has invited humanities councils in all states and territories to participate in *The Common Good*, and the councils have enthusiastically embraced the goals and themes of initiative. A commitment to the public humanities is at the heart of their work, which addresses local needs and concerns by promoting in-depth explorations, grounded in the humanities, of vital civic issues. We anticipate that councils will extend the reach of the initiative by showcasing ways in which the humanities strengthen local communities. With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions, the humanities councils are well-positioned to ensure that *The Common Good* initiative has a broad reach, increases public engagement with the humanities, and encourages renewed attention to “the public square”—shared spaces for discussions of the values, practices and traditions that bind communities together in our democracy.

The launch of *Standing Together* energized the entire community of state humanities councils and laid a strong foundation for expanded efforts to foster the public humanities as part of *The Common Good*. With small grants made available from NEH in FY 2014, locally-based humanities programs for and about veterans, their families, and communities were made available in almost every state and territory. State humanities councils are important leaders and collaborators in several national *Standing Together* grants as well.

By convening project personnel, virtually and in person, NEH has worked to connect the people behind these projects and to build new capacity for serving the needs of veterans in key humanities organizations. Humanities councils are developing a growing network of like-minded cultural and educational institutions, including the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, to share resources and best practices in ongoing efforts to support veterans and the communities that surround them. Funds requested for *The Common Good* would enable the Endowment to further develop this capacity and help these new programs to take hold.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FY 2017 Request: \$12,000,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Summer Seminars and Institutes for School Teachers
- Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers
- Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops
- Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges (new program)
- Dialogues on the Experience of War (new program)
- Support for Innovation in the Humanities Curriculum (new program)
- Support for Teaching Shakespeare in the Undergraduate Classroom (special grant category)
- Humanities Initiatives for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities
- EDSITement

Through its Division of Education Programs, NEH supports teacher and faculty professional development, model humanities courses, and classroom and institutional resources that engage rigorous humanities scholarship. Endowment-funded projects help educators advance their knowledge in their subject areas and thereby improve their teaching, mainly through projects involving collaboration with well-established scholars. The ultimate beneficiaries of such projects are the hundreds of thousands of American students—in rural, suburban, and inner-city classrooms, as well as in colleges and universities—who annually are taught by reinvigorated and intellectually engaged instructors in humanities fields.

The federal government provides support to education in many forms, but NEH's programs distinctively address the need for humanities faculty to be deeply versed in the subjects they teach, a key attribute to superior classroom instruction and student learning. Over the years, the Endowment has helped foster far-reaching improvements in American education, such as the creation of web-based humanities teaching and learning tools, the teaching of America's Founding, and the revival of interest in core curricula and foreign languages. NEH supports content-based improvements in the teaching of history, literature, languages, philosophy, political theory, religion, and other humanities subjects. NEH projects ultimately help students engage with the core disciplines and knowledge that are crucial for an educated citizenry, as envisioned by the nation's Founders and as acknowledged in the Endowment's 1965 founding legislation.

In FY 2015, the Endowment's Division of Education Programs received 474 applications and made 112 grants. In FY 2016, approximately 675 applications and 135 awards are anticipated. At the Endowment's FY 2017 request level, approximately 675 applications and 135 awards are again anticipated.

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes

NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes have for more than four decades been one of the nation's premier forms of professional development in the humanities for college and university teachers and elementary and secondary school teachers. NEH offers these teachers opportunities to pursue serious, substantive intellectual inquiry in fields such as history, literature, religion, philosophy, foreign languages and government and civics. Working with distinguished scholars, participants deepen their knowledge of the subjects they teach and develop effective ways of bringing this understanding to their students. Increasingly, both seminars and institutes have been relying on digitized materials in addition to traditional printed books and articles.

NEH Summer Seminars enable sixteen participants to study under the guidance of a senior scholar. The principal goal is to equip teachers with deep understanding of their subject areas, to engage them in scholarly research and discussion, and to improve their teaching. In NEH Summer Institutes, participants undertake an intensive program of study with teams of humanities scholars who present a range of perspectives on a given topic. Well-suited to larger groups (as many as thirty-six), institutes are an effective forum for breaking new ground in an emerging field and for redirecting the teaching of various subjects in the pre-collegiate or undergraduate classroom.

NEH annually supports Summer Seminars and Institutes on a range of topics in the humanities. For the summer of 2016, for example, pre-collegiate literature teachers may be drawn to topics such as the following: Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* and *A Tale of Two Cities*; William Shakespeare's *Othello*, *The Tempest*, and *The Merchant of Venice*; Islamic poetry and related artistic expression; Appalachia's literary and cultural heritage; and the immigrant experience in California through literary works and theatrical adaptations. History and social studies teachers, along with educators from other disciplines, will be able to choose from such topics as the political relationships between the United States and Russia from 1776 through the present; the role of Central Asia in world history from antiquity to the present day; abolition and the Underground Railroad; the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era; crime and punishment and their role in politics, law, and culture; the works of political theorist Hannah Arendt; the background and history of African-American freedom struggle in the twentieth century; abolition and women's suffrage movements in the United States; and Irish immigration, public health, and nativism in the first half of the nineteenth century.

For 2016, college-level faculty will be able to study, among other topics, the place and role of Native Americans in U.S. history; the humanities in relation to scientific and contemporary concerns over sustainability; Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*; the rise of the English novel through the lens of six works written between 1719 and 1897; the cultural and historical contexts of *Beowulf* in connection with Old Norse-Icelandic literary texts in translation; the Ottoman Empire and Mediterranean world in the

early modern era; Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*; the works of Ernest Gaines, placed in their literary contexts; and American westward expansion in the Early Republic through the lens of the U.S. Constitution.

The Endowment has completed a report based on a systematic multi-year evaluation of the measurable outcomes for the Seminars and Institutes for College and University Teachers program. The data gathered from the survey and open-ended responses indicate that goals for the program are being consistently well met over time. One of the findings of the review was the building of networks of scholars that continued the collegiality of seminar and institute participants, sometimes for years after the experience. Such collegiality is somewhat unusual in academia. However, because America's teaching and learning landscape continues to change, sometimes dramatically, the Endowment also makes adjustments to the program. Data from the survey, as well as the ongoing evaluation of individual seminars and institutes by participants, provide help in making these adjustments. Among the modifications to the program are plans to institute designated spaces for adjunct or contingent faculty, who teach the majority of humanities classes at the college level; the lowering of the cap on the number of weeks for each project, thereby giving more teachers, whose time is increasingly limited in the summers, the opportunity to apply to participate in the programs; and an increase in the number of participants to each specific institute, providing access to a larger number of teachers. In an effort to expand the impact of the programs even further, potential directors will be offered the opportunity to conduct one-week summer programs.

Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops

The Landmarks of American History and Culture program supports summer workshops to educate K-12 teachers in the use of historical and cultural sites in teaching central themes and topics in American history. The program also encourages staff at the sites to improve their professional development programs. Landmarks workshops are held at or near presidential residences and libraries, colonial-era settlements and missions, forts and battlefields, industrial centers, and sites associated with notable writers, architects, and artists. The workshops are academically rigorous, involve leading scholars, and help participants develop new teaching resources. Projects accommodate thirty-six teachers at one-week sessions, which are offered twice during the summer.

In the summer of 2016, school teachers will be able to choose workshops on such topics as "Demon Times: Temperance, Immigration, and Progressivism"; "Forever Wild: The Adirondacks in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era"; "Inventing America: Lowell and the Industrial Revolution"; "Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Internment"; "From Immigrants to Citizens: Asian Pacific Americans in the Northwest"; "Movement, Mobilization, and Militarization: The Bay Area Home Front in World War II"; "Mesa Verde National Park and the Construction of Pueblo Indian History"; "Hoover Dam and the Shaping of the American West"; "The Legacy of the Civil War: Changing Memories over Time"; "The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music,

History, and Culture of the Mississippi Delta”; and “The Problem of the Color Line: Atlanta Landmarks and Civil Rights History.”

Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges (new program)

The Endowment conducted an informal assessment of three rounds of grants made under an experimental grant category for community colleges, *Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges*, which was established in 2011. As a result of this evaluation and a shift of the Endowment’s programmatic priorities to the *Common Good* initiative, the agency has developed a new program for the nation’s two-year colleges. The program, Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges, is designed to more effectively meet the institutional needs and opportunities in the humanities at these institutions. For example, awards are intended to strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature, by giving institutions a wide berth to develop the kinds of programs and initiatives that are likely to work particularly well within their organizational structures and for the students they teach. Grants may be used to enhance existing humanities programs, resources, or courses, or to develop new ones, particularly in association with other areas of study, such as those focused on professional training (in such fields as business, law, economics, technology, and nursing and medicine). The grant may also help institutions take advantage of humanities resources, especially in the digital humanities, as well as support collaborative projects in the humanities between the applicant institution and another institution, such as a nearby college or university, with which the applicant institution may have an established relationship.

The inaugural deadline for the new program in FY 2016 yielded a robust response from the field and ninety-nine applications were submitted—more than twice the number received for the final competition of the program it replaced. The application pool included thirty-eight from institutions that were new to the Endowment. Within the considerable variety of topics of these recommended projects, we note two main clusters: projects that engage deeply with the immediate community and region, and projects that respond to the *Standing Together* initiative. The first grants in this new program will be awarded in early 2016. The number of applications and the enthusiasm among the community college constituency that this number reflects suggest that a strong pool of applications will be forthcoming at the next deadline in FY 2017.

Dialogues on the Experience of War (new program)

Among the projects the Endowment supported in FY 2014 as part of its *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War* special initiative were two that directly addressed the educational needs and interests of veterans. In collaboration with The Great Books Foundation—a not-for-profit educational organization that promotes reading and discussion of great literature—NEH supported the *Talking Service Project*, a program of discussion groups for veterans that uses works of literature by Homer, Shakespeare, Abraham Lincoln, Walt Whitman, and early 20th century poet Wilfred Owen, among others, assembled in the NEH-funded anthology, *Standing Down: From*

Warrior to Civilian. The program uses public libraries, VA hospital common spaces, and other public and private venues to convene veterans in a series of meetings facilitated by a scholar discussion leader. Also grounded in the study of classic and recent humanities texts is the *Warrior-Scholar Project*, which is an intensive two-week humanities-based “academic boot camp” to facilitate veterans’ transition from the military to college. In preparation for matriculation to various kinds of post-secondary institutions, the veterans receive careful training in academic fundamentals, such as close reading of primary sources, text-based discussion, study-skills appropriate to large-volume reading assignments, note-taking at lectures, exam preparation, course selection, time management, family relations, and general confidence-building in academic settings. Founded at Yale University, the project expanded to Harvard University and the University of Michigan, and, with additional NEH support, was offered at eight additional campuses in the summer of 2015.

Building on the success of these projects, the Endowment has created a new grant program to further address the educational interests of veterans, their families, active military, and the general public. The program, Dialogues on the Experience of War, supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service. The humanities sources can be drawn from history, philosophy, and literature and involve a variety of materials, including film. The sources may also be supplemented by testimonials from those who have served. The discussions are intended to promote exploration of questions about the nature of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism. The discussion programs must focus on the close study of sources drawn from two distinct genres (such as fiction and historical writings, or memoirs and artworks, or philosophy and film); and at least two historically distinct conflicts treated in depth—one from the earliest wars through World War I, and a second from the wars after World War I. Awards of up to \$100,000 will support the recruitment and training of discussion leaders, and, following the training program, the convening of at least two discussion programs, with the first grants to be made in early 2016.

We were pleased to see an enthusiastic response to this new grant category. Applications came from universities, two- and four-year colleges, library systems, museums, theater companies, state humanities councils, and other non-profit organizations. Twenty-seven of the ninety-nine applications came from institutions new to the Endowment. The robust number of applications and the energy behind their development suggest that a second competition would yield strong numeric and programmatic results in FY 2017.

Support for Innovation in the Humanities Curriculum (new program)

Beginning in 2009, the Endowment sponsored a small grant program, Enduring Questions Course Grants, which provided opportunities for faculty at higher education institutions to design a new course for undergraduate teaching and learning. An internal

informal evaluation of the program, however, indicated that only a relatively small number of applicants successfully met the program's intellectual and conceptual mark. And even for those applicants who were successful, there was little evidence that institutional change was achieved with respect to teaching and learning of the humanities. As a result of this evaluation and a change in the Endowment's programmatic priorities, the Enduring Questions program is being discontinued in FY 2016, and the program's resources will be redirected to generate opportunities to more effectively meet the central curricular and institutional needs in the humanities at the nation's colleges and universities.

In FY 2017, the Endowment will launch a new program to support curricular innovations that address challenges and opportunities for the humanities in institutions of higher education today. This effort will be more capacious in design and intent than Enduring Questions—one that will encourage institutional innovation, including the rethinking of humanities majors and disciplines and possible collaborations between the humanities and professional education, and the humanities and the sciences. Importantly, the agency has consulted extensively with the field, including with deans and college administrators, in order to have a better understanding of the challenges they face and the kinds of programming that would best meet their needs.

Support for Teaching Shakespeare in the Undergraduate Classroom (special grant category)

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death in 1616, the Folger Library in Washington will send an exhibition of First Folios of Shakespeare's plays on a tour to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This project, "First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare: 2016 National Tour," is supported by a grant from the Endowment's Division of Public Programs and organized in collaboration with the American Library Association. In 2016, each host site will use the exhibition for programming and ongoing conversations about the abiding role of Shakespeare's drama in the cultural life of the host cities and regions. With additional support from a special grant opportunity in the Endowment's Division of Education Programs, the Library will build on the momentum of the First Folio! project to support teaching and learning in the undergraduate curriculum. The Folger will invite the academic members of the teams already associated with the fifty-two host sites to apply for a small grant of \$6,000 to carry out a project focused on teaching Shakespeare in college courses. Twenty-four sites will be selected and each will send one member to attend a two-day workshop in Washington, DC, in June, 2016, at the Folger Library. The workshop will address the interests of the selected projects under the guidance of experienced teacher-scholars. Following the workshop and implementation of projects at the host sites, the Folger will publish the resulting materials—syllabi, ideas for student research projects, best teaching practices, etc.—on a website dedicated to teaching Shakespeare at the college level.

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

In 2003, in response to special Presidential Executive Orders to all federal agencies, NEH established a program, Humanities Initiatives, to extend the reach of its grant opportunities to three types of institutions: Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Humanities Initiatives awards may be used to enhance the humanities content of existing programs; to develop new humanities programs, such as foreign language programs, new humanities minors, first-year seminars, or summer bridge programs for high school students; to build ties among faculty at several institutions; and to take advantage of underused humanities resources, particularly as they pertain to the professions, such as medicine, law, business, or economics. Each project is organized around a core topic or set of themes. Awards have been made on a range of topics and using a variety of approaches, including, for example, these listed below.

- The Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, housed in the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, contains approximately 13,000 original items associated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Among the primary documents are texts of important speeches and addresses; handwritten drafts of King's published articles, including Letter from the Birmingham Jail; and telegrams, invitations, and other correspondence from various political leaders of the time. The NEH-supported project will use these primary documents—and their digital counterparts—to enhance course curricula, to create a college-museum partnership, and to generate public programs. Core participating faculty from history, literature, and philosophy will develop project-based learning modules appropriate to their respective disciplines. Project support for a partnership between Morehouse and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights will generate related faculty development workshops. The third leg of the project—public programming activities—will include public lectures by nationally recognized scholars on the life and influence of Dr. King, as well as on the materials included in the Collection.
- Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, received an award to explore the experience of war, as seen by soldiers and veterans from West Texas and their families. With World War I and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as bookends, the project will examine how the experience of war has changed or remained the same over the course of a century.
- Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, received an award to create a summer bridge program for selected first-year students. From an annual enrollment of 800-850 Native American students entering Haskell per year, the new bridge program will select sixty students to participate in the program. The project will create a humanities-centered curriculum for the program, develop a Summer Bridge Student Manual to provide each student with all reading materials

for the program, and conduct a four-week session for sixty students for each of two summers. The course will build students' reading, critical thinking, and writing skills through the study of Native American literature, film, and oral traditions (e.g., speeches, storytelling).

EDSITEment

Although not a traditional grant category, NEH's EDSITEment project constitutes a rich resource for education in the humanities and provides digital access to work implemented in a number of the division's programs. With its origins in a collaboration forged with the private sector, the EDSITEment website is a nationally recognized gateway for teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet. The site (<http://edsitement.neh.gov>) now contains over 500 websites selected by peer review panels for their excellent humanities content, interactive design, and usefulness in the classroom. Historical timelines, annotated bibliographies, launch pads for specific content units, as well as full lessons on broader topics—many drawn from the work of NEH Summer Scholars from the Seminars and Institutes or Landmarks programs—enrich the website. EDSITEment also includes more than 500 extensive learning units comprising detailed lesson-planning material spanning the humanities curriculum for grades K-12 and beyond. The EDSITEment website receives approximately 3.5 million unique visitor sessions a year. In an international competition, the American Library Association selected EDSITEment as one of the top twenty-five websites world-wide for teaching and learning. With technological advances increasingly being incorporated in the teaching and learning of all subject areas, including the humanities, it is incumbent on the Endowment to continue to be at the forefront of the ways that teachers in the humanities, as well as their students, are engaging with the material. As a result, in FY 2016 and FY 2017, NEH plans to redesign the EDSITEment website, particularly to enable teachers and students to use its humanities content via multiple platforms, including tablets and hand-held devices.

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

FY 2017 Request: \$43,040,000

The NEH Federal/State Partnership is a collaborative office that enables a national federal agency to work in concert with the state and jurisdictional humanities councils. The state councils were established to fulfill the requirement in NEH's enabling legislation—the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended—that the agency support humanities programs “in each of the several states.” The Federal/State Partnership helps the National Endowment for the Humanities realize three of the goals of its new, revised strategic plan: to foster knowledge of the humanities; nurture the humanities infrastructure; and to provide the humanities for all Americans. State councils make humanities education and lifelong learning across the generations readily available at the local level, tailored to local interests and needs and drawing upon local resources, traditions, and heritage. Thus, the Federal/State Partnership helps to preserve our valued traditions and transmit them from generation to generation, to promote the wisdom and vision needed to make sense of the world in which we live, and to offer individuals and communities opportunities to experience and explore the humanities in local contexts and everyday life.

State humanities councils are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations governed by volunteer boards of directors. They operate, as designated by Congress, in each of the fifty states, as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. The councils employ more than 500 staff members and engage more than 1,000 volunteer board members. Each council receives funds annually from NEH in accordance with a statutory formula. As federally mandated, every NEH dollar a council receives is matched by local contributions of cash, goods, or services. In fact, councils leverage \$5.00 for every federal dollar awarded in NEH grants to them. They work with more than 9,340 partner organizations and conduct programs in nearly 6,110 communities nationwide. The National Endowment for the Humanities protects the federal investment by ensuring that state councils are strong organizations capable of delivering high quality humanities programming. It does so by coordinating and overseeing regularly scheduled self-assessment and evaluation process, by communicating with the councils individually and collectively, and by maintaining a high level of accountability.

State councils support their diverse constituencies in two significant ways: They develop and carry out humanities programs, and most grant a portion of their funds on a competitive basis to programs initiated locally. Schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, literacy programs, filmmakers, teachers, researchers, writers, and storytellers are among the many types of individuals and cultural organizations with which the state humanities councils work. Councils also successfully collaborate with other partners to bring the humanities to a wide range of community activities, especially in the areas of public policy, literacy, and social service. Indeed, one of the ways councils expand their spheres of inclusion and influence is through partnerships with public and private institutions and organizations. Councils routinely collaborate, for example, with businesses, educational institutions, museums, community leadership groups, state

libraries, historical societies, local government archives, farm bureaus, and state fairs. By leveraging the strength of their partnership with the NEH, state councils gain both material support and additional partnership opportunities at the local level—all in the service of bringing funds, resources, expertise, networks, and leadership to the communities and organizations they serve.

Realizing the vision of the humanities as “the equipment of all the citizens”

During his address to the Federation of State Humanities Councils in November of 2014, NEH Chairman William “Bro” Adams quoted John Letson, one of the first appointees to the National Council on the Humanities in 1966. During the third meeting of the National Council, Letson noted the need for NEH “to broaden the general area of the humanities as the equipment of all the citizens.” Thanks predominantly to the support of state councils, Letson’s vision is alive and well today. Thousands of humanities projects and programs reach millions of Americans in rural areas, urban neighborhoods, and suburban communities every year. With funds provided through the NEH Federal/State Partnership, the councils provide support for reading and discussion programs for children, families, and the newly literate that take place in libraries and other community centers; for state and local book festivals, as well as the participation of twelve councils in the annual National Book Festival sponsored by the Library of Congress’s Center for the Book; for professional development in the humanities for elementary and secondary school teachers; for scholarship and stories about state and local history and culture, such as thematically focused magazines and comprehensive online state encyclopedias; for exhibitions at museums, libraries, and historical sites; and for radio, television, and film projects about human experience and history. Councils have developed fruitful working relationships with public schools, community colleges, and institutions of higher learning. They carry out an ever-increasing amount of programming and communications electronically using social networking, podcasting, and RSS feeds in addition to websites and electronic newsletters. A number of councils post videos about their activities on YouTube, and council activities are featured regularly on the NEH website and in its acclaimed journal, *Humanities*.

Humanities by the numbers: 2014 State Council data

A sampling of data NEH has gathered from the state councils for 2014 offers insight into the breadth and reach of council-supported activities. Thirty-six councils supported 1,564 Chautauqua programs that reached more than 200,000 audience members. Fifty-four councils sponsored 5,563 conferences, symposiums, and lectures experienced by a total audience of more than 630,000. More than 15,000 discussion programs across all councils reached over 2,000,000 participants. Fifty-two councils assisted with the production of 3,830 film projects that generated an estimated 120,000,000 viewers. Fifty-four councils supported nearly 10,000 library and/or literacy programs that benefited more than 2,000,000 participants and 4,266 museum-related events were enjoyed by over 2,100,000 attendees. Fifty-one councils supported 6,510 student projects in public schools that reached approximately 2,000,000 students. Through the extensive reach of such programs, NEH funds help to produce a “public-

facing” humanities impact of inestimable value—a necessary complement to the work of research-based humanities projects.

Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

Two pressing questions representing themes related to *The Common Good* initiative continue to shape a growing number of programs designed specifically to address the needs of both our veterans and the servicemen and women (and their families) serving on active duty or with Reserve and National Guard units: 1) How can the humanities illuminate the legacies of recent wars and conflicts, and contribute to the achievement of a deeper and broader public understanding of the experience and lessons of war?, and 2) How can the humanities contribute to the full incorporation of veterans into civilian life and help broaden public understanding of the experience and perspective veterans have as a result of their experiences? For many years, state humanities councils have supported programs designed specifically to address these questions and to bridge the widening gap between the military and the society it serves. To further that work, fifty-four state humanities councils received \$10,000 each to support local programs for veterans as part of NEH’s initiative *Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War*. The range of activities and innovative programs undertaken is truly impressive, and those programs have produced deeply ameliorating effects. The importance of continuing and expanding these programs cannot be overstated. Analogous to the sustainment of veteran health care or military readiness, continuing these programs illustrates an ongoing commitment by the federal government to support the intellectual, emotional, and cultural reintegration and long-term assimilation of veterans into society. Now that successful programs are gaining visibility and momentum, the Endowment feels deeply obligated to ensure their continued support in order to preserve faith with the veterans and families who benefit from these programs.

Examples of council-supported programs focused on veterans include the *Talking Service Program*, a reading and discussion program that allows veterans to reflect on their service as well as the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from active duty to civilian life. Together with the Great Books Foundation, the New York Council gained permissions to reprint numerous excerpts of war-themed literature, ranging from notable classics like Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* to acclaimed work by more recent veterans, including National Book Award Winner Phil Klay, award-winning poet Brian Turner, and purple-heart recipient Benjamin Bush. The collection, *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, is proving to be invaluable psychological and intellectual “equipment” for veterans. The councils in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington are now sponsoring *Talking Service* programs. In addition, NEH awarded the Maine Humanities Council \$150,000 to expand its *Literature & Medicine for Veterans* program, which is working directly with officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs to support small-group veteran reading and discussion programs at VA facilities. Humanities councils in Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming are also participating in this program.

Two other state-council supported humanities programs for veterans are worthy of note. First, writing workshops for veterans, which gained early recognition in Missouri, are becoming increasingly successful and popular. Veteran writing programs are now flourishing in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, and Arkansas. The program in Arkansas, which has gained pro-bono teacher support from Pat C. Hoy II, is a noteworthy model. Hoy, a Vietnam veteran who led writing programs at NYU, Harvard, and West Point, is nationally recognized for his expertise in teaching the personal essay—an important genre not only for veterans themselves but also for Americans to gain insight and empathy regarding the veteran experience. The second notable group of programs focuses specifically on the experience of women veterans. The recent graduation of two women from the U.S. Army’s Ranger School (Captain Kristen Griest and 1st Lieutenant Shaye Haver), signals a historic shift in American military culture. But it signals even more. That women have been included in the Army’s most physically demanding combat training course is an acknowledgment of the unprecedented combat experience gained by women in Iraq and Afghanistan. Programs and publications such as *When Janey Comes Marching Home*, sponsored in 2008 by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, are more important than ever. Accordingly, innovative reading/discussion groups focused on women and war are being sponsored by humanities councils in Guam, Oregon, and Illinois. The program in Illinois is an extension of the “Soldiers Among Us” initiative at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and is led by Cheryl Barnett, herself an Afghanistan veteran and officer in the Army National Guard. We are in the midst of an extraordinary moment in the history of American warfare—and in the history of women in uniform. Humanities programs specifically focused on the uniqueness of women’s experiences in combat represent invaluable contributions to our communities, to cultural and military historians, and to women veterans.

Building communities

State-based humanities councils strengthen the bonds of community by making it possible for citizens to come together in neutral surroundings to address such issues as the economy, healthcare, demographics, energy, and education through discussions informed by history and literature. These in-depth explorations of critical and potentially divisive issues not only encourage citizens to be more thoughtful and better informed, but also increase citizen engagement in public life and bring people together to work toward common goals in shaping the future of their communities and nation. Several councils host programs in restaurants, cafes, and bars that attract a younger demographic to participate in scholar-led discussions about such important topics as marriage and family life (Oregon), African-Americans and American Indians in film (Washington), the intricacies of living in a networked world (Maine), and dialects and vocabulary in Washington, DC. These programs are vitally important to strengthening communities and fostering understanding. In that way, they are related to one of the most successful programs in NEH history, Prime Time Family Reading Time, begun in 1991 by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Prime Time, which continues to thrive and spread across the country, is an award-winning program that has produced substantial improvements in literacy and student achievement. The significant humanities impact of Prime Time is measurable in terms of student outcomes (as shown in the 10-year

longitudinal study, “Stemming the Tide of Intergenerational Illiteracy,” published in 2010), but its impact in terms of strengthening communal and familial bonds is inestimable.

With their strong networks of cultural and educational institutions, state humanities councils are especially well-positioned to help connect and integrate diverse groups and cultures within their communities. For many councils, this is a daily activity because their programming addresses the diverse cultures within their states, including groups such as native peoples and immigrant populations, both historic and contemporary. The councils in Puerto Rico and American Samoa, for example, play key roles in bringing people together to negotiate ways to preserve their traditional languages, cultures, and histories while functioning in the quickly changing present-day Western world. The New Hampshire Humanities Council published *The Story of a Pumpkin*, a traditional Bhutanese folktale in Nepali and English that is a collaborative project of the Council together with Bhutanese storytellers, artists, interpreters, and transcribers from the Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire. Addressing the history of native peoples, the Minnesota Humanities Center developed the interactive multimedia website, Bdote (meaning “where two waters come together”) Memory Map, which is designed to preserve the history of ancient indigenous sites. The Center also sponsors Bdote day trips that illuminate the Dakota presence in the modern day Twin Cities landscape. And the Alaska Humanities Forum supports three programs that help to build understanding between urban centers and traditional Alaska Native villages: “The Rose Urban Rural Exchange” gives urban and Native young people the opportunity to experience each other’s culture; “Take Wing Alaska” assists rural Native students in adapting to urban and post-secondary cultures while maintaining their traditional culture and values; and “Creating Cultural Competence” provides cross-cultural immersion for new teachers moving into teaching positions in rural villages.

Leveraging technology and media to advance the reach of the humanities

Listener statistics for various council-supported public radio programs are eye-opening. “Mississippi Moments” reached over three million listeners on Mississippi Public Broadcasting in 2013. This partnership of the Mississippi Humanities Council, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has been in place for over twenty years and airs twice a week, telling stories about Mississippi and Mississippians that have been collected through oral histories. Humanities Texas’ “Texas Originals” profiles influential individuals in Texas history and culture and airs weekly on radio stations throughout the state. It is also available for global download on iTunes. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities’ two radio programs, “With Good Reason” and “Backstory with the American History Guys,” reached almost twelve million listeners in 2013 and again in 2014. On “With Good Reason” Virginia scholars talk engagingly about their research, and “Backstory” looks at contemporary topics through the lens of three centuries of American history. One of the more compelling recent programs, “Islam in America,” not only educates but also encourages cross-cultural awareness, empathy, and respect at a time when relations between Americans and Muslims are fraught with tension and misunderstanding. In 2014, for the 60th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court

decision that declared segregated public education unconstitutional, the Kansas Humanities Council co-hosted two days of interviews for the national oral history project *StoryCorps*, in concert with the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Kansas also represents just one of the councils increasingly engaged with digital and social media to communicate the humanities. *Shared Stories of the Civil War*, for example, presents scripts about events in Kansas that can be followed on Twitter. The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities launched its pilot *Rhode Tour* historic tourism smartphone app in collaboration with Brown University, and Humanities Nebraska provides information about its annual Chautauqua program by means of a free smartphone app.

It must be noted, however, that technology itself merits careful study and assessment by humanities professionals. Practitioners and communities will benefit from discussions that address the first *Common Good* “theme” question posed by NEH Chairman Adams during his address to the Federation of State Councils in 2014: “How can the humanities illuminate the positive and perhaps worrisome ways in which the remarkable advances in information technology are affecting both individuals and communities in contemporary American life?” Among the issues vexing American life today, the question of technology’s impact ranks high. The North Dakota Humanities Council has tackled Chairman Adams’s question through its Game Changer series by supporting a daylong symposium titled “iHuman: How is Technology Changing Humanity.” The symposium will engender precisely the kind of joint conversation that humanities scholars, practitioners, and community members should be having in order to bring humanistic sensibility and reasoned judgment to questions generated by the seemingly unchecked proliferation of technology.

State Humanities Council support for public education

State and jurisdictional humanities councils provide educational services using the humanities approach of seeking out evidence, looking at it from various angles, weighing it against other evidence, and discussing it with respect for differing points of view. Councils require that projects they fund incorporate the services of humanities professionals so as to provide intellectual balance. Some councils fund academic research; many support K-12 teacher professional development. All are in touch with the educational systems and institutions in their states. Many state humanities councils sponsor or support National History Day, the competitive national history program for middle and high school students, which was the recipient of a 2011 National Humanities Medal from President Obama. Oregon Humanities sponsors “Idea Lab,” a three-day residential learning experience in which twenty high school teachers and over 100 rising seniors explore the pursuit of happiness through workshops, lectures, films, and discussions. The New York Humanities Council’s “Humanities Centers Initiative” supports humanities institutes, faculty, and graduate students in their commitment to public engagement. The NY Council supports Public Humanities Fellowships that allow advanced graduate students to explore the public application of their scholarly interests, and the Council also funds Community Partnership Grants that bring together university humanities centers with the Council’s local program partners and grantees. Indiana Humanities just completed a study, “Humanities at the Crossroads,” a case study of

Indiana's humanities "ecosystem," The first study of its kind, it sheds light on the organizations that support the humanities in Indiana and the connections among them.

Reaching underserved populations

Most state humanities councils support a speakers bureau that sends humanities professionals and living history actor/scholars around their states or jurisdictions to talk with people of all ages about a variety of humanities topics. Many of these speakers go to very small towns specifically to reach underserved populations. Last year in Montana, the speakers bureau provided 281 programs to audiences of more than 24,000. In New Mexico, programs on water and ecosystems helped prepare a small town for hearings with the State Engineer, and "Storytelling with Music" allowed high school students to see and hear musical instruments being played, "something that rarely happens in a small town without a band." Small towns in many states benefit from the "Museum on Main Street" (MoMS) collaboration between state humanities councils and the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service. Throughout the country, state humanities councils sponsored over 2,400 exhibitions in 2013, reaching almost 6,000,000 people with this visually engaging humanities format. State councils in Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming have supported (or are currently supporting) MoMS events around the themes of "Hometown Teams," "Journey Stories," and "The Way We Worked." These are just a few examples of the kinds of programs aimed at providing humanities experiences to all Americans, where they are.

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

FY 2017 Request: \$14,385,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

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

Through its Division of Preservation and Access, NEH provides leadership and support in the national effort to preserve and create access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the foundation for research, education, and public programming in the humanities. A substantial portion of the nation's cultural heritage and intellectual legacy is held in libraries, archives, and museums. These repositories, large and small, are responsible for preserving and making available collections of books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, material culture, works of art, and rapidly expanding digital collections. The challenge is great: to preserve diverse formats of materials that are threatened by factors inherent to their physical structures or by the environments in which they are housed; to train library and museum professionals in the latest, best practices; and to deliver these collections, and the cultural resources created from them, to the widest possible audience for scholarship and intellectual enjoyment.

Good stewardship of cultural resources requires equal attention to preservation and access. All of the division's programs focus on ensuring the long-term and wide availability of primary resources in the humanities. In this sense, research, education, and appreciation of the humanities depend on the foundational work of preserving cultural heritage materials and making them available to scholars, teachers, students, and the general public.

The Endowment's Preservation and Access division received 547 applications and made 158 grants in FY 2015. In FY 2016, an estimated 750 applications and 160 grants are anticipated. At the FY 2017 request level, we anticipate receiving approximately 750 applications and making 155 awards. The significant increase in the number of applications in FY 2016 and FY 2017 reflects the appearance of a new grant program, Common Heritage.

Programs/Grant Categories

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

The Endowment provides grants for projects that preserve and create access to collections that, because of their intellectual content or value as cultural artifacts, are considered highly important to the humanities. Grants support the digitization of collections to enhance their

accessibility, as well as the creation of significant reference works. Humanities Collections and Reference Resources awards also support preservation reformatting and de-acidification of humanities collections; arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections; and cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving images, and other materials important for humanities research and education.

The program recently introduced a new grant subcategory: Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations grants. These grants support the formative stages of planning, assessment, and pilot activities for initiatives to preserve and create access to humanities collections or to produce reference resources. Drawing upon the cooperation of humanities scholars and technical specialists, such projects can help cultural institutions prepare for establishing intellectual control of collections, develop plans and priorities for digitizing collections, solidify collaborative frameworks and strategic plans for complex digital reference resources, or produce preliminary versions of online collections or resources.

Two recent Foundations grants directly address NEH's new *Standing Together* initiative. Chapman University in Orange, California, is digitizing a sampling of documents from the Andrew Carroll collection of war letters, an extraordinary assemblage of 90,000 pieces of wartime correspondence written by American military service men and women from the Revolutionary era to the present. This project, which also entails preliminary arrangement and description work, will lay the necessary intellectual and technical groundwork for the digitization of the entire collection. Secondly, the Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, received a Foundations grant to plan for a statewide digital collection of archival materials pertaining to World War I. The sources will include diaries, journals, photographs, posters, and other primary sources documenting the experiences of military personnel as well as life in Ohio during the Great War.

Among the many noteworthy projects supported by Humanities Collections and Reference Resources this past year are several ongoing initiatives to produce seminal reference resources of national and international scope. The University of Wisconsin is continuing to expand its acclaimed reference work, the *History of Cartography*. Produced by an international group of scholars, this resource includes maps and explanatory information covering most continents from prehistory through the 20th century. Their most recent NEH award supports the writing, editing, design, and verification for volumes, in both print and digital form, pertaining to the history of mapmaking during the era of the European Enlightenment and the 19th century. As another example, the American Antiquarian Society is continuing its ongoing work on the North American Imprints Program, 1639-1840, a union catalog of all publications from the colonial era through the mid-19th century held by repositories in the United States and elsewhere. In the current phase of the initiative, the American Antiquarian Society is incorporating several thousand unique bibliographic records from the holdings of the Library Company of Philadelphia and the database of the English Short Title Catalog. In addition, the University of Pennsylvania received NEH support for its online and multivolume print resource, the *Royal Inscriptions of the Neo-Assyrian Period*. This comprehensive work, comprising cuneiform inscriptions on clay tablets, stone, and metal, documents the languages and cultures of Mesopotamia and the Levant region during the late 8th and 7th centuries BCE, enabling scholars and others to gain critical insights into historical civilizations from a highly consequential area of the world.

For the past three years, the Division has encouraged applications to Humanities Collections and Reference Resources that would preserve and create access to significant humanities collections of sound recordings and moving images—an indispensable source of information on the history of the 20th century. Among the institutions supported this year is George Washington University which is creating transcriptions linked to digital audio and moving image files of the radio addresses, television appearances, news interviews, and spoken word recordings of Eleanor Roosevelt. These materials capture Roosevelt’s legacy as a public affairs commentator and offer extensive documentation on her role in public life during the New Deal, World War II, and beyond. A Foundations grant to Bard College is laying the groundwork for a digital archive of 1,800 hours of streaming and downloadable video, expert reports, and the complete transcripts of the trial of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic at the United Nations war crimes court in The Hague. Finally, Duke University received a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant to arrange, describe, and digitize the archival records and audio recordings from Radio Haiti, the nation’s first independent radio station, rescued and donated to the university by the widow of the station owner, who had been assassinated in 2000. The collection documents the activities and broadcasts of this crucial media outlet for resistance to Haiti’s political dictatorships in the latter part of the 20th century.

Documenting Endangered Languages

The Endowment supports the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction. Of the 6,000 to 7,000 currently spoken languages, at least 3,000 are endangered, including hundreds of American Indian languages, which are NEH’s highest priority. These lesser known languages constitute an irreplaceable treasure for scholars who need to consider evidence from past and presently spoken languages in order to understand the nature of language or to capture unique local knowledge of the cultures and natural systems of the region in which it is spoken. As an effort to address this issue, in 2005 NEH and the National Science Foundation established a joint special initiative, Documenting Endangered Languages. Grants support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, audio recordings, and databases.

In documentation projects involving endangered languages, academic 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. An NEH award made this year is enabling scholars from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, to document Creek, an endangered Muscogean language, originally spoken in the southeastern United States and now spoken by the Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole nations in Oklahoma, and the Seminole tribe in Florida. Working with Creek speakers and Seminole tribal members in Oklahoma, and with students at a local college, the project will produce 24 hours of audiovisual recordings, transcriptions, and translations into English, allowing individuals to listen to recordings of spoken Creek for the first time. The project will also train students in language documentation methods, strengthening community engagement between younger tribal members, language learners, and native speakers. Upon completion of the project, recordings and linguistic analysis will be archived at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma and made available on the Web.

National Digital Newspaper Program

Newspapers chronicle the daily life of our citizens in towns and cities, and it is the stories of those towns and cities that together help to make up the history of our nation. They also document the civic, legal, historical, and cultural events in every region during the past 300 years. For over thirty years, the Endowment has committed to preserving the content of historically important American newspapers—first through microfilm and now through digitization and online access. Beginning in 1980, NEH support enabled organizations and institutions in 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to locate, catalog, and microfilm their historic newspaper holdings and to create a centralized bibliographic record of all newspaper titles published in America since 1690.

With digital technology, there is now a means of providing full-text searching of newspaper content. In pursuit of this objective, NEH and the Library of Congress signed a memorandum of understanding in 2004, renewed in 2009 and in 2014, establishing a partnership to create the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Under the terms of this partnership, over a period of approximately twenty years the Endowment will provide grants to an institution or organization in each state and territory to digitize titles published between 1836 and 1922 and to prepare fully searchable files that the Library of Congress will maintain permanently online.

The National Digital Newspaper Program is a complex undertaking that is being implemented in successive phases. To date, the NEH has provided support under this grant category for 40 projects, each of which is contributing approximately 300,000 pages of digitized newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. In July 2015, NEH welcomed two new state partners: Delaware and Wisconsin. State awardees have reported to us that these projects have helped them develop the technical workflows and skills necessary for other challenging, large-scale digitization work. In Vermont, the newspaper project represents the largest digitization effort ever conducted in the state. The University of North Texas Libraries have used the knowledge and experience they gained through participation in this program to work with libraries and museums across Texas to digitize their community newspapers. The university has reached the milestone of over one million pages of historic Texas newspapers online in its Portal to Texas History and has raised \$400,000 from Texas foundations and community groups for the digitization of Texas newspapers.

Thus far, more than ten million pages of historic American newspapers have been digitized through NDNP, with many millions more to follow. The selected pages, along with title essays and a directory of all newspapers published in the U.S. from 1690 to the present, are publicly accessible online through the *Chronicling America* website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>). Many projects are now also digitizing U.S. newspapers published in French, German, Italian, and Spanish, thus providing access to the nation's vibrant ethnic and immigrant press. In the years ahead, historic newspapers published in Danish, Hungarian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, and Swedish and other languages will also be incorporated in *Chronicling America*.

Preservation and Access Education and Training

Complementing the Endowment's support for preserving and establishing access to a variety of cultural resources are its grants for projects to increase the ability of the nation's libraries, archival repositories, and museums to care for their collections. NEH has always considered support for education and training to be an important component of its national preservation effort. It is necessary that stewards of humanities collections familiarize themselves with new developments in dynamic fields, such as digital technology and conservation science. For example, an award to the Rochester Institute of Technology supports training conducted by the Image Permanence Institute for the staff of museums, libraries, and archives on more sustainable approaches for managing environmental conditions for humanities collections. Through a combination of regional workshops and webinars, participants explore strategies for reducing energy costs and consumption without sacrificing the preservation quality of collection environments.

Grants also enable preservation field services to help museums, libraries, and archives across the country receive the advice and knowledge they need to preserve their collections. Together they reach thousands of small and medium-sized cultural heritage institutions. Among the services offered are preservation surveys, workshops and seminars, disaster assistance, and information services. Last year, two field service programs received NEH support: the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts.

NEH also supports academic programs that train the next generation of conservators responsible for protecting the nation's cultural heritage in museums, libraries, and archives. Stipends enable graduate students to work as interns in cultural heritage institutions responsible for the care of humanities collections, many of which are neglected, deteriorating, and face imminent loss. A recent recipient of an NEH award is the University of Delaware, which accepts up to ten students a year into its nationally recognized art conservation program. In addition to stipends, the grant provides honoraria for guest faculty, among them distinguished art historians and conservators from the Winterthur Museum. Similar awards made to New York University and the State University of New York at Buffalo last year also support the training of the next generation of conservators. Finally, a grant to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia, one of the nation's premier preservation field service organizations, will fund a graduate fellowship in *preventive* conservation, an area of priority for NEH. Under the guidance of CCAHA's Director of Preservation Services, the NEH Fellow will receive advanced training in designing preservation needs assessments, preservation plans, risk assessments, and emergency preparedness and response plans.

Opportunities for post-Master's conservation training are limited in the United States, so specialized workshops in new techniques and methods are especially welcome. Two projects deserve mention: the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation in Washington, DC, is leading a number of conservation-centered workshops for mid-career preservation professionals over the next two years; Cultural Heritage Imaging, a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, will train professionals in using computational photography to document humanities collections for further study and long-term preservation.

For more than two decades, NEH has helped museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations improve their ability to plan and respond to disasters. Inadequate planning for emergencies remains a serious problem for the nation's cultural institutions. At present, four out of five cultural repositories in the United States lack disaster or emergency plans and the trained staff to carry them out. The Endowment helps to integrate emergency management into all aspects of a collecting institution's operations by supporting preservation education programs and the work of the regional preservation field services that provide the training needed to plan effectively for disaster preparedness and response.

For example, NEH is supporting the efforts of the Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) to help cultural repositories deal with floods, fire, earthquakes, and other disasters that could threaten their collections. A recent grant has enabled WESTPAS to provide a series of workshops and webinars on disaster planning for the staff of heritage institutions in eleven Western states and in the remote Pacific territories. Training sessions involve writing disaster plans, testing the plans to identify institutional vulnerabilities, and promoting networking to increase the effectiveness of disaster response.

The Endowment also provided much-needed emergency grants directly to educational and cultural institutions that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, by historic floods in the Midwest in 2008, by Hurricane Irene in 2011, and by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Smaller cultural repositories constitute the large majority of collecting institutions in the United States. These organizations often lack the resources to address the preservation needs of their collections. The Endowment's Preservation Assistance Grants provide small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations with awards of up to \$6,000. Funds support on-site consultation by a preservation professional, enable staff to attend preservation training workshops, and help purchase preservation supplies and equipment. In the fifteen years since the program began, nearly 1,900 grants have been made to institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. More than 40 percent of these Preservation Assistance Grants represent a first award from the Endowment, good evidence that this grant program effectively reaches institutions not previously served by NEH.

Idaho State University in Pocatello recently received a Preservation Assistance Grant to conduct a preservation assessment of its library and archival collections. Its manuscripts, photographs, maps, and architectural drawings cover the history of Westward expansion and the Oregon Trail, the experiences of Native Americans and immigrants, the growth and evolution of railroads and mining communities, the internment of Japanese Americans, and the detention of German prisoners of war in Western states during World War II. Another Preservation Assistance Grant is helping the Museum of the Chinese in America in New York care for its collection documenting the changing profile of Chinese immigrants from the 19th century to the present. Among the items to be preserved are 320 oral history recordings of individuals, families, and business professionals in the restaurant, laundry, and garment industry in New York's Chinatown from the 1930s onward. Finally, Tulane University received an award to host a series

of workshops on disaster preparedness and response for staff from six New Orleans cultural heritage institutions including the New Orleans Public Library, the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the National World War II Museum. Their varied collections span many subjects including jazz, the architecture of the South, Catholic history, the civil rights movement, and American involvement in the Second World War.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country hold collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, historical objects, and art that facilitate research, strengthen teaching, and provide opportunities for lifelong learning in the humanities. The challenge of preserving such large and diverse holdings for current and future generations is enormous.

Ongoing conservation research in the United States and abroad demonstrates the value of preventive conservation measures, which typically include managing relative humidity and temperature levels in collection spaces, anticipating changes in conditions that may result from natural disasters, providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections, and safeguarding collections from theft and fire. NEH support for preventive conservation helps ensure the long-term preservation of significant collections.

Cultural repositories are increasingly interested in being "green" and preserving both their humanities collections and the environment. The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program promotes preservation projects that are environmentally sensitive. To encourage such projects, NEH offers planning grants to develop sustainable preservation strategies that are based on an understanding of the materials in the collections, the performance of the building systems, the nature of the climate, the economic costs, and the impact on the environment. Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections has attracted considerable attention within the field of cultural heritage preservation. In the 2013 publication of *The Green Museum, A Primer on Environmental Practice*, authors Sarah S. Brophy and Elizabeth Wylie include a chapter on funders of sustainable preservation. The section on federal funders begins by highlighting the work of the National Endowment for the Humanities in its Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program, calling NEH a "very, very important sustainability funder," and mentioning the value to the museum field of the publicly accessible white papers written by the NEH grantees.

Planning grants of up to \$40,000 allow institutions to gather interdisciplinary teams of professionals to explore new, cost-effective strategies for the protection of their humanities collections. Applicants may also request an additional \$10,000 to carry out one or more recommendations made by the interdisciplinary planning team during the course of the project itself. With NEH support, one such planning team will meet at the cultural center run by the Lac de Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin. The center includes a museum holding a diverse collection of materials on Ojibwe art, history, and culture, including ethnographic objects and an archive of tribal records, manuscripts, and photographs. The tribe will join with expert consultants to assess the museum's collections policies, storage

environments, building conditions, and environmental control systems with an eye toward implementing sustainable approaches to preserving the collection.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections also offers larger awards to implement preventive conservation measures, including the improvement of environmental conditions and storage of collections, and the installation of security and fire protection systems. The Preservation Society of Newport County in Rhode Island manages the 1892 Gilded Age home of business magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt II, known as The Breakers. The National Landmark building and its extensive original furnishings, painted ceilings, and wood paneling are particularly susceptible to adverse environmental conditions. Building upon an earlier NEH-supported planning project, The Preservation Society of Newport County is working to install a closed-loop geothermal system for climate control, which will maintain a constant temperature in exhibition and storage spaces and significantly reduce energy consumption. With the help of an outside contractor, this will be one of the first applications of geothermal energy in a historic house or museum, establishing The Breakers as a model of sustainable collection stewardship.

Another cultural institution with a strong commitment to sustainable preservation strategies is the Maine Historical Society, which in partnership with the Portland Public Library, has become a leader in collaborative and sustainable approaches to the off-site storage of extensive archival collections dealing with the history of Maine. Earlier this year, the Maine Historical Society received a grant from NEH to install solar panels on the roof of its Collections Management Center, to provide a renewable source of energy for the HVAC system. Working with an outside expert in solar installation, the historical society seeks to responsibly and economically care for its collections.

Common Heritage

America's cultural heritage is preserved not only in libraries, museums, and archives, but also in all of our homes, family histories, and life stories. Launched in 2015 as part of the Endowment's new initiative, *The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square*, Common Heritage captures this vitally important part of our country's heritage and preserves it for future generations. Grants support community events devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials, such as family letters, historic documents, and historic artifacts, in addition to offering public programming related to local history. The highlight of these projects is a day-long event, organized by community cultural institutions. Members of the public will be able to bring in heritage materials to be digitized on the spot by professionals. Contributors will be provided with a free digital copy to take home, along with their original materials. With the owner's permission, additional digital copies of these materials will be included in the institutions' historical collections. Photographs, documents, family letters, art works, historic artifacts, and audiovisual media will be among the many items eligible for digitization and public commemoration. Related public outreach could include an exhibition of historical materials, a screening of a relevant film, a presentation by a historian, or a curator's commentary on the items scanned. The Common Heritage program underscores the fact that members of the public, in partnership with libraries, museums, archives, and historical organizations, have much to contribute to the composition of our cultural mosaic, and together they can serve as effective partners in the appreciation and stewardship of our common heritage.

Interest in this new grant program is strong. At the first deadline, we received more than 200 applications from 44 states and made a total of 38 awards. Some examples: Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, will sponsor a one-day “history harvest” and a series of community dialogues relating to the history of immigration, gathering historical materials and oral histories from Latinos and other immigrants to Oceana County. The Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society in South Carolina is working to improve documentation of the island’s remarkable history of African American settlement, as well as offering public lectures on history, foodways, and material culture. A Common Heritage award to the South Asian American Digital Archive in Los Angeles will support digitization of materials from immigrant communities to southern California. Finally, the Minot State University in Minot, North Dakota, is partnering with the local public library to preserve and interpret community and personal materials documenting changes resulting from the oil and gas boom, as well as raising awareness of how to preserve family heirlooms in the wake of recent floods.

Preservation and Access Research and Development

Research and Development awards address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Projects formulate new ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation’s cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—as well as to develop advanced modes of discovering and using such materials. Research and Development grants may help, for example, to devise innovative ways to protect and slow the deterioration of humanities collections through the use of sustainable preservation strategies; develop technical standards, best practices, and tools for preserving humanities materials that are “born digital”; and ensure that collections of recorded sound and moving images that represent a major part of the record of the 20th century will remain accessible to future generations.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a hallmark of Research and Development, which encourages project participation by cultural heritage professionals and specialists in preservation and other technical or scientific fields. In addition to grants to develop national standards, best practices, methodologies, or workflows for preserving and creating access to humanities collections, Research and Development now offers smaller grants of up to \$75,000 for planning and preliminary work leading to large-scale research and development projects, as well as for stand-alone basic research projects (such as case studies, experiments, and the development of iterative tools). Planning projects in particular will benefit from the formation of interdisciplinary teams of collaborators from institutions around the country that draw upon practitioners from the humanities and specialists in the information, computational, social, and even natural sciences.

Research and Development projects represent a diverse cross-section of cultural heritage interests in such disciplines as archaeology, anthropology, film and media studies, art history, medieval studies, and museum studies. Several recently funded planning projects involve rigorous research into approaches to conservation. The Indianapolis Museum of Art, for example, is hoping to develop protocols for measuring volatile organic compounds, chemicals released into the air by the materials used in the display, storage, and exhibition of cultural

materials. In an effort to minimize the harmful effects of volatile organic compounds, this new technique would allow the cultural heritage community to set standards for the use of these materials.

The preservation of audiovisual resources remains one of the chief priorities of the division. The Bay Area Video Coalition is conducting a Research and Development project to create more effective and efficient approaches to digitally reformat magnetic media collections. Among its products are “Quality Control Tools for Video Preservation,” a prototype of which has been enthusiastically received by audiovisual preservationists. Finally, the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh is developing a standard for the digital sharing of provenance information on works of art that would improve the usefulness of provenance data for scholarly research, exhibition programming, and museum management.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FY 2017 Request: \$12,730,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Special Projects: *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* and *Latino Americans*
- Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations
- Humanities in Your Community (working title, new program)
- Media Projects (includes former *Bridging Cultures* through Film program)
- Digital Projects for the Public
- Small Grants/NEH on the Road

Introduction

NEH's Division of Public Programs supports activities that engage millions of Americans in the study and interpretation of significant humanities works, ideas, and events. While all NEH projects are built on strong scholarship, the Public Programs division has a distinct mission within the Endowment—to convey humanities scholarship to a diverse general public. At the center of every NEH-funded public program is a core set of humanities ideas developed by scholars, matched to imaginative, widely accessible formats that bring those ideas alive for people of all ages and all walks of life. Public humanities activities funded by the Endowment encourage dialogue, discussion, and civic engagement in communities across the nation. NEH supports a wide variety of interpretive formats, including museum and library exhibitions, reading and discussion series, television and radio documentaries, the interpretation of historic sites, and history and literature programs at hundreds of local libraries and cultural organizations.

A central goal of NEH's programs for the public is to help audiences to reflect on the lessons of the past and grapple with contemporary issues, informed by the critical perspectives of the humanities. As the nation welcomes home veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, many projects funded by the Division of Public Programs will help Americans to understand the history, meaning, and experiences of war. "The Vietnam War," a 10-part PBS series by acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns that will premiere in 2017, promises to have far-reaching scholarly impact and to inspire public discussion of the war for decades to come. Incorporating recently de-classified material from archives in Vietnam and interviews with nearly one hundred soldiers, military leaders, and civilians, this will be the first major film to give voice to both American and Vietnamese participants in the war.

NEH-funded museum exhibitions also bring the insights of humanities scholars to bear on the history of war. For example, visitors to the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum's *City at Sea* exhibition in New York City, which opened in 2015, learn about a sailor's life at sea by exploring nine restored spaces aboard the historic aircraft carrier. Developed with NEH planning and implementation grants, the new exhibits feature film and audio interviews with crew members to evoke the texture of everyday life for enlisted men, from World War II through the Cold War.

In FY 2015, 450 applications were received and 55 major awards were made for 15 radio and television documentaries, with an additional five *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Topics projects; 29 exhibitions and reading, viewing, and discussion programs; and six projects in the new grant category *Digital Projects for the Public*. In addition, 25 NEH on the Road grants to small and mid-sized museums were awarded. Through a Cooperative Agreement with the American Library Association, 203 small grants were made for public programs as part of the *Latino Americans* initiative.

In FY 2016, the Endowment expects the addition of new *Common Good* grant programs to boost our application numbers to approximately 850. We plan to make 89 major awards, including 21 grants in the new category *Humanities in the Public Square* and 9 grants in the new program, *Common Heritage*, which the Public Programs division co-administered with the agency's Division of Preservation and Access. In addition we expect to support 21 radio and television projects; 30 exhibitions or reading, viewing, and discussion programs; and 8 *Digital Projects for the Public*. The Endowment also expects to support 31 museums hosting NEH on the Road exhibitions.

In FY 2017, 750 applications are anticipated, with 70 major awards, including 20 television and radio documentaries; 15 exhibitions at museums and libraries; 15 Digital Projects for the Public; and 20 grants in the new *Humanities in Your Community* grant program, as part of the Endowment's *The Common Good* initiative. In addition, 30 NEH on the Road grants would be awarded.

Special Projects

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle, an Endowment special initiative, encouraged public conversations about the changing meanings of race, equality, and freedom in American civic life. Launched in 2013 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, *Created Equal* provided a packaged set of NEH-funded films on Civil Rights history to 473 communities across the nation. Four powerful documentary films (*The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*) are accompanied by a website (www.createdequal.neh.gov) offering curriculum resources for teachers as well as guides for community discussions. As part of the *Created Equal* project, a traveling Smithsonian exhibition, *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and The March on Washington, 1963* opened in February 2014 in Peoria, Illinois and Yanceyville, North Carolina. The exhibition is now traveling to fifty museum and public library venues across the nation. Small grants from NEH are supporting scholar-led public discussions at the exhibition sites.

In 2014, a fifth film was added to the *Created Equal* series: the NEH-funded documentary, *Freedom Summer*, which premiered on PBS in June 2014. Directed by award-winning producer Stanley Nelson, *Freedom Summer* explores the ten weeks in 1964 when more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined a massive effort to register black voters, forcing the media and the country to take notice of the shocking violence and injustice taking place in Mississippi. *Freedom Summer* is a timely resource for *Created Equal* venues, providing historical perspective on the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s.

Through the end of FY 2016, public programs supported by NEH will engage public audiences in all fifty states and the District of Columbia in exploring these themes. More than 250 communities to date have already held over 1,400 discussion programs, reaching 40,000 Americans.

In many communities, *Created Equal* programs have brought residents from varied backgrounds together in public conversations for the first time, and have introduced new audiences to museums, libraries, and cultural organizations. At the Brooklyn Historical Society, for example, 44 percent of attendees reported that a *Created Equal* program was the first time they visited the Historical Society. The University of Dayton in Ohio reported that people who attended their *Created Equal* programs appreciated “the opportunity to talk about issues of race that are often difficult to talk about when not moderated by a skilled facilitator.” Of those who attended, 60 percent planned to return for another *Created Equal* film screening. In Cumberland County, Virginia, *Created Equal* programs at the local library “provided a safe environment to confront the very real racial tensions still existent in our community.” An educator in Washington, DC, who organized a *Created Equal* screening commented, “It was uplifting to see small groups of my students talking with school leaders, teachers, parents, and other adults. . . . Particularly at the high school level, the opportunity to have students and their parents sitting around and talking about critical issues is rare.”

Featured in more than 500 newspaper, magazine, and public radio pieces so far, the *Created Equal* project has won praise from the agency’s constituents, including members of Congress, prominent Civil Rights scholars, and social studies educators across the country. The 473 program sites represent a diverse range of institutions serving rural, urban, and suburban regions in all 50 states, including public libraries, museums, NAACP chapters, African-American heritage sites, multicultural centers, and state humanities councils. Whether located in large metropolitan areas such as New York City and Los Angeles, or in small rural enclaves like Starke, Florida (population: 5,379), these cultural organizations serve constituents for whom the central themes of the *Created Equal* films clearly have powerful resonance.

Beginning in 2015 and continuing in 2016, the Endowment is also supporting small program grants as part of the *Latino Americans* film project. In collaboration with the American Library Association, NEH developed and launched a national public education project to extend and deepen public discussion around the themes of the six-hour PBS series, *Latino Americans*, initially broadcast in September 2013 with major support from NEH. Hailed as “a stirring history lesson” by *The Los Angeles Times* and “impressive and long overdue” by the *Miami Herald*, *Latino Americans* chronicles the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape the United States over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S. Small grants from NEH are now supporting screening and discussion programs focused on the themes of the film series at more than 200 public television stations, libraries, and other non-profits across the nation.

Program Evaluation

The Endowment is in the final year of a multi-year study to collect data on the reach and impact of NEH-funded public humanities projects. Approximately half of funded projects currently engage in formal or informal evaluation. Many recipients of NEH planning grants, for example, use a portion of their planning funds to support front-end or formative evaluation, which museums typically employ to help shape the content and interpretive strategies of an exhibition. The Endowment's application guidelines now require an evaluation plan of all grantees.

A new audience survey is also being piloted at each of the 473 sites conducting film screenings as part of the *Created Equal* project. Audience surveys and detailed final reports gathered from nearly 200 *Created Equal* sites so far indicate that the program has had a significant impact in five specific ways: the programs deepen public understanding of Civil Rights history; provide a safe and respectful forum where difficult discussions of race in America can take place; cultivate new audiences for humanities programming across the nation; bring communities together across racial lines and across generations; and change attitudes, prompting many participants to re-examine their assumptions about race, freedom, and equality. Finally, *Created Equal* serves as a significant outreach tool, engaging communities that are not typically reached by the NEH's grants. Of the 473 participating organizations, 64% had never before received NEH support.

Building on the data gleaned from the *Created Equal* surveys, we are conducting an evaluation of the combined effect of all projects funded by the division that were open to the public in a single fiscal year. In August 2014, we asked grantees representing the approximately 230 funded programs at sites across the country to provide data on the influence of their NEH-funded project on their institution and public audiences. Respondents completed a detailed survey asking for information about the number and types of project activities and their locations, audience size, segments of the public served, learning outcomes achieved, and public responses to NEH-supported public programs. Staff is now in the final stages of analyzing the survey data and we are working with outside evaluators who will conduct in-depth case studies of eight representative projects. This snapshot of one year's programs will enable the Endowment to provide a fuller and more accurate account of the impact of our grants on the American public, which will be compiled in a report to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2016.

Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations

The Endowment is a major source of support for substantive humanities programs in the nation's historical and cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, and community centers. These projects include exhibitions of artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts; the interpretation of American historic sites from Monticello to the Grand Canyon; reading and film discussion series in the nation's libraries; lecture series; and other lifelong learning activities.

Hundreds of NEH-sponsored exhibitions are on view each year at large and small museums and historical sites throughout the country, advancing public understanding of significant humanities ideas and serving as springboards for creative public programs. In 2015, 211 permanent and traveling exhibitions were offered in 41 states and the District of Columbia. An ambitious project at the Mystic Seaport Museum, for example, interprets the far-reaching economic and cultural impact of whaling in the nineteenth century. In addition to a 4,000-square-foot exhibition about the country's whaling heritage that opened in 2015, the museum sailed a historic 170-year-old whaling vessel—the Charles W. Morgan—to ports along the New England coastline. The voyage of the Charles W. Morgan was greeted by more than 64,000 visitors who attended cultural festivals, lectures, and public programs about the whaling industry, and the museum received a prestigious “Leadership in History” award from the American Association of State and Local History for the voyage project. In 2016, audiences at fifty libraries across the nation will have the opportunity to see an original copy of Shakespeare's first folio, a 1623 collection of the Bard's plays. Considering issues such as the literary significance of the Folio, the history of Hamlet's “To be or not to be” speech, and the changing presentation of the printed word, this outstanding exhibition created by the Folger Shakespeare Library will make an important contribution to the international events marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 1616.

Exhibitions supported by the Endowment also encourage civic engagement at museums in thousands of communities across the nation, connecting audiences to their community's heritage and to each other. The History Center of Chattanooga, Tennessee, for example, has embarked on an innovative new permanent exhibition: NEH support was crucial to helping the museum raise additional funds (a total of \$10.5 million) to complete this project. Interactive kiosks and listening stations that present diverse views on the city's rich history are among the tools that will bring the city's complex past to life. Located on Chattanooga's historic riverfront, this landmark project, opening in 2016, promises to be a major tourist draw and a complement to the heritage walking tours and other programming in the area. The *Museum without Walls*, an interactive walking tour of outdoor sculpture in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, enlivens public spaces in the city through audio interpretations of public art. This innovative project was recognized with an award in 2015 from Americans for the Arts.

The Endowment welcomes projects that illuminate the connections between the humanities and science and technology. The Dittrick Medical History Center at Case Western Reserve University, for example, recently received a grant to create an innovative digital wall display that will allow visitors to explore the transformation of American medicine over time through an interactive wall of images and artifacts. *Pox in the City: A 3-D Strategy Game for the History of Medicine* is an online game that puts players in the role of a physician in Philadelphia who is trying to stop the spread of smallpox at the turn of the 19th century. The game play is designed to introduce the “doctors” to the diverse communities that made up urban Philadelphia in 1800, and to teach players about the history of illness and vaccination and the social and cultural context that surrounds medical practice. Such projects enable Americans to better understand scientific developments and to recognize that science and technology are human activities subject to historical and cultural dynamics.

Art exhibitions funded by NEH introduce public audiences to a wide range of artistic and cultural traditions, such as the history and craft of blacksmithing in sub-Saharan Africa, the subject of a new exhibition at the Fowler Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is developing an ambitious exhibition with NEH support on the unique role of Mexican artists in shaping modernism in the first half of the twentieth century. A collaboration with the Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, this exhibition will bring to the U.S. over 200 outstanding works of art, many never displayed here before. *The Art of American Dance*, a multimedia traveling exhibition scheduled to open at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2016 and to travel to two other cities, explores dance as a universal form of human expression that has inspired American artists for over a century and occupies a central place in America's history and culture.

Strengthening the Nation's Humanities Infrastructure

The agency's revamped strategic plan identifies nurturing the nation's humanities infrastructure as a key goal. One significant way the Endowment can strengthen the humanities infrastructure in the museum field is by identifying and training the next generation of museum leaders. In an effort to encourage fresh interpretive approaches and support new talent, the Endowment's Division of Public Programs has introduced two special types of grant support. The first, *Positions in Public Humanities*, are intended to train the next generation of museum professionals and to bring new ideas into museums. This program offers an extra \$60,000 over two years to museum grantees to allow a recent MA or Ph.D. graduate to work on their NEH-funded project. We are very pleased to see museums beginning to take advantage of this new opportunity in creative ways. Public Humanities fellows in the museum field are now assisting with digital outreach and community programming at the New York Botanical Garden, developing a podcast series for a nationwide reading and discussion program, and contributing to a new permanent exhibition at the home and studio of American landscape painter Thomas Cole.

In addition, beginning in 2016, the Endowment will convene an annual *NEH Museum Leadership Institute*. Designed to introduce promising leaders in the museum field to models of excellent public humanities work, NEH Museum Leadership Institutes will convene museum professionals for hands-on training at leading museums and historic sites. Each year, the Institute will examine a different set of interpretive challenges, responding to pressing issues and interests in the museum field. The first Institute, planned in collaboration with NEH's Office of Digital Humanities, will help museums interested in moving their collections and their audiences into the digital age. Hosted by the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in May 2016, and drawing on innovative installations at several institutions, the intensive, three-day Institute will equip 20 participants with a deeper understanding of the pedagogy and interpretive tools necessary for effective digital storytelling in museum settings.

Public Programs for Underserved Audiences

Many of the Endowment's projects in museums and libraries have made a profound difference in vulnerable communities—for example, discussion programs for incarcerated teens; family reading programs that help break the cycle of illiteracy by encouraging parents and children to read together; and museum exhibits that involve senior citizens in cross-generational

dialogues. NEH support enables museums, libraries, and cultural organizations to reach underserved groups and to engage them in thoughtful consideration of humanities ideas. The New York Botanical Garden's exhibition *Emily Dickinson's Garden*, for example, was accompanied by workshops for teachers in the Bronx focused on teaching literacy through poems. For both the *Emily Dickinson* project and another NEH-funded exhibition exploring the central role of plants in the art of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, the Garden committed to extensive outreach to underserved students in forty-nine local schools.

Guided by the emphasis of NEH's refreshed strategic plan on broadening access to the humanities, the agency has extended and deepened its outreach to underserved and at-risk audiences. Grant application guidelines for the Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program now specifically encourage proposals for public humanities programs that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences. The Endowment recently made two awards targeting such audiences. The American Library Association received a grant to launch its *Great Stories Club*, which will introduce at-risk teenagers to literature at over two hundred libraries. A second grant extends the pioneering reading and discussion program *Gente y Cuentos/People and Stories*, which engages young people in juvenile detention centers with thoughtful discussions of short works of literature that are relevant to their lives. With NEH support, *Gente y Cuentos* has offered opportunities for expression and reflection—"a chance to connect with other people"—and a deeper understanding of literature. A librarian in Pima County, Arizona, praised the teen program for providing "a communal atmosphere for learning about each other and the world of the short story; in a society where teens can so often become isolated and invisible, community is indeed a valuable outcome." And a participant at Jersey State Prison recently commented, "I wish I had known about these stories sooner—I might not be here now if I had."

The Common Good Initiative

The Division's Museum, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations program is an integral part of the agency's new initiative to highlight the critical role that humanities ideas can play in the nation's civic life. As part of *The Common Good*, the Public Programs division added two new grant lines in FY 2015. *Humanities in the Public Square* grants support public forums, programs and educational resources focused around a challenging community issue. This program, launched with a June 2015 deadline, invited projects that draw on humanities scholarship to engage the public in understanding pressing contemporary concerns. We received 115 applications for these grants and made awards to 21 projects. Each of the *Humanities in the Public Square* projects will support a public forum in 2016 that engages scholars and humanities practitioners in discussion with a public audience about a significant community issue; subsequent public programs that creatively engage audiences in extended discussion of the issue; and educational resources for use by teachers, students and/or lifelong learners.

Grantees proposed to tackle a diverse range of subjects—from timely topics such as racial equality and immigration, to interpretations of citizenship and the Fourteenth Amendment, ecotourism, food, and a sense of place. In Fargo, North Dakota, for example, the state university proposes a year-long series of public programs to explore the legacies of war. North Dakota State University has faced several student veteran suicides, and recognizes this as a critical local issue that also has powerful national currency. Oral history workshops, lectures, community

conversations, and reading programs have all been carefully designed to help Fargo-Moorhead residents listen to and appreciate the experiences of the veterans in their communities.

Applicants also forged new partnerships in composing their project teams, often reaching out to organizations that are not typically in the humanities fold—local cultural alliances, youth media groups, cultural heritage centers, arts councils, local public radio stations, and small branch libraries, and veterans’ centers. One of the strongest of these projects comes from the University of Maryland, College Park, working with the Maryland Humanities Council, the Enoch Pratt Free Library system, and many other local cultural organizations. In the wake of the Freddie Gray incident, as residents struggle to recover and restore a sense of community, this project would bring people together to understand how narratives about the violence in Baltimore have taken shape and continue to influence the life of the city. The project would involve many prominent scholars and thought leaders along with a diverse range of community leaders.

The division is also collaborating with the Division of Preservation and Access to administer the new *Common Heritage* program, which will support community digitization projects. This program is discussed in detail in the Division of Preservation and Access section of this budget submission.

Humanities in Your Community (working title)

The robust response to our call for proposals for *Humanities in the Public Square* tells us that communities across the nation are hungry to come together to discuss the critical issues that are facing them as citizens and neighbors. Building on the success of this grant competition, the Endowment will develop a new *Common Good* grant program, *Humanities in Your Community*, which will be launched in FY 2017. Grants will be available for sustained, community-wide projects that engage diverse residents in creatively addressing community challenges, guided by the perspectives of the humanities.

We expect libraries, museums, and other cultural organizations to be the primary recipients of these grants. Such public institutions are increasingly seen as “safe spaces” for public dialogue, providing unique points of intersection between the academic study of the humanities and civic engagement. The new program will support projects that draw on the power of the humanities to offer useful perspectives on difficult and complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens—such as inequality, immigration, health, and aging. Applicants will be asked to propose intensive, year-long explorations of a single humanities theme or question across multiple platforms, and will be encouraged to plan programs that aim to bring diverse audiences and perspectives together.

We expect to support the following types of activities through this new grant line:

- Public forums bringing together scholars and community leaders to discuss a challenging community issue;

- Programs that involve community members as interpreters of museum and library collections;
- Public humanities projects for young people (for example, an oral history project that engages high school students in documenting the experiences of recent immigrants to their community, and results in a series of podcasts, radio interviews, and a student-curated exhibit); and
- Reading and discussion programs.

This new grant program directly addresses the agency's new, revised strategic goal of broadening the impact of the humanities on public life, as well as the NEH Chairman's aim to deepen public appreciation of the power and relevance of the humanities.

Media Projects

NEH supports media projects that convey excellent humanities scholarship to millions of public television viewers and radio audiences. One of the hallmarks of a compelling NEH public humanities project is that it effectively translates complex subject matter so that it is accessible to a non-academic audience. NEH makes a unique contribution by fostering collaborations between media producers and scholars to create programs that deepen Americans' understanding of the humanities.

Films supported by the Endowment continue to present fresh interpretations of humanities subjects and provide stimulating and substantive educational opportunities for audiences of all ages. When PBS broadcast *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, the seven-part, 14-hour documentary directed by Ken Burns, more than 33 million viewers tuned in to watch the series. According to *Variety*, "the week that the second through seventh episodes of *The Roosevelts* were broadcast represents the most-watched week on PBS in twenty years." *The Roosevelts* was nominated for a 2015 Emmy award.

NEH-supported documentaries are often the subject of thoughtful articles and essays in popular and influential magazines and newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Los Angeles Times*, attesting to the importance of substantive humanities films in the nation's cultural life. NEH-funded media projects also regularly garner national recognition and awards for excellence. In 2014, two Endowment-funded documentary films, *Latino Americans* and *Many Rivers to Cross*, were recognized with prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in media programming. *Latino Americans*, described above, is a three-part, six-hour documentary film that chronicles the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos throughout U.S. history. *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, directed by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., traces the history of African Americans across five hundred years and two continents, exploring the cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives that evolved in African American communities.

Among the projects honored with Peabody Awards in 2015 were two outstanding NEH-funded presentations—the film *Freedom Summer* and the radio program *AfroPop Worldwide*. *Freedom Summer*—written, produced and directed by Stanley Nelson for PBS’s *American Experience* series—uses archival film footage and new interviews to tell the story of the pivotal civil rights campaign of 1964. “The documentary is not only inspiring and instructive,” Peabody judges declared, “it holds surprises even for those who believe they know this epochal American story.” *AfroPop Worldwide*, a weekly, hour-long program and website (afropop.org), received a Peabody Institutional Award for its “pioneering role in the world music movement.” The program, broadcasting continuously since 1988, examines the music and culture of the African diaspora through a rich mix of in- the-field interviews, musical performances, and scholarly commentary.

Several NEH-supported films that premiered in 2015 invited public television audiences to re-examine familiar topics in light of fresh scholarship. *The Pilgrims*, a two-hour documentary film directed by Ric Burns, considered the well-known story of the men and women of the *Mayflower* against a more complex global backdrop. Broadcast on PBS over the Thanksgiving holiday in November 2015, this film probes the interlocking forces—religious, economic, social, and political—that drove the Pilgrims’ journey across the Atlantic and ultimately shaped the American experiment. *Walt Disney*, which premiered on the PBS series, “American Experience,” this past fall, delivered a complex portrait of this iconic American figure, presenting Disney as a relentless entrepreneur, an innovator in the animation field, and a force on the American cultural landscape. A biography of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin now in the production phase draws on new scholarship and material from the recently-opened Russian archives to offer a complex, nuanced portrait of Stalin’s leadership and to help audiences understand his legacy. And another documentary now in development takes a new look at the historic moment when Jackie Robinson took the field as first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers and began the integration of major league baseball. *A Long Way from Home: The Untold Story of Baseball’s Desegregation* documents the struggles of black players who followed Robinson and faced significant discrimination for decades after his 1947 debut.

Well beyond their initial broadcast, NEH-funded films continue to engage and educate public audiences through community screening and discussion programs, online viewing, and classroom distribution. For example, WNET in New York City broadcast the first six episodes of *Shakespeare Uncovered* between January 25 and February 8, 2013, and each episode was watched by an average of 805,000 viewers. Subsequently, at least twelve major market stations rebroadcast the series in its entirety, and ten public television stations expanded their audience with public programs conducted in collaboration with local Shakespeare festivals. In Nashville, the local public television produced short videos with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival and Nashville Ballet on directing, acting, choreographing and costuming Shakespeare. The St. Louis, Missouri, station made Shakespeare the theme of its annual arts event and covered the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis working on a production of *Twelfth Night*. Additionally, WNET produced extensive educational materials for classrooms, including a Teacher’s Viewing Guide. One of the most popular lessons plan was “Talking to Myself: Hamlet’s Soliloquies.” The series and the additional resources promise to be a valued educational tool for language arts and theater teachers for many years to come.

Special projects like the public outreach initiatives built around the *Created Equal* and *Latino Americans* series further leverage the success of documentary films that NEH has invested in, distributing them to classrooms and communities across the nation. For example, the Endowment has launched a pilot program to introduce *Created Equal* films and online educational resources into selected “Turnaround Arts Schools” (a program administered by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities). Through a partnership with the Brooklyn Historical Society and the Jacob Burns Film Center, teachers and students in several of the nation’s most disadvantaged schools in New York and Connecticut will benefit from NEH-funded curricular resources.

In 2010, NEH created a new program, *Bridging Cultures* through Film: International Topics, to address a misperception in the field that NEH is only interested in films about American history and culture. Grants have supported documentary films that explore a critical issue in ethics, religion, or politics through an international lens; the life of a world leader, writer, or historical figure; or the history and culture of a specific region of the world. *Women, War and Peace: I Came to Testify*, the first project to be broadcast, examined the impact on women of ethnic violence in the Balkans, documenting the first international tribunal to define sexual violence as a war crime. The initial broadcast reached over 3.6 million viewers, and the website and social media campaigns continue to deeply engage audiences across the nation.

Three films that recently received production support are scheduled to premiere in 2015 and 2016. The film, *1913: Seeds of Conflict*, traces the unraveling of the Ottoman Empire and its complex effects on Palestinians and Jews. Another film, *Free to Rock*, is a documentary about the impact of American popular music on the politics and culture of the former Soviet Union, features interviews with Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter, Billy Joel, and others discussing the influence of rock and roll. And, *Nasser: An Egyptian Story* examines the pivotal and charismatic political leader, placing Nasser and Egypt within the larger context of Middle Eastern and Cold War politics. All three projects explore timely humanities issues, deeply informed by excellent scholarship.

We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response to this special grant category, which has encouraged experienced filmmakers to consider new topics and to broaden the scope of their projects to include international collaboration. The program has also attracted lesser-known filmmakers, providing an opportunity for the Endowment to nurture new talent that will potentially have a long-term impact on the documentary film field. Of the 32 *Bridging Cultures* through Film grants made in the six rounds of competition, the majority were awarded to filmmakers who had never received NEH support.

Given that the *Bridging Cultures* through Film program has fulfilled our original goals, we plan to absorb this grant line into the Endowment’s broader Media grant program, beginning in FY 2017. We expect to continue to receive strong applications for films exploring international topics. The Endowment will also continue its ongoing partnership with PBS to place selected films awarded through this former grant category in foreign markets, bringing the exploration of important international subjects in the humanities to expanded audiences.

Public Radio Programming

Public radio is an increasingly popular medium for audiences to engage with rich humanities content both on the radio and online through podcasts and downloadable feature stories. Endowment-supported radio programs explore the lives of important individuals, historical events, and ideas. Recent projects include *The World in Words*, a weekly feature on Public Radio International, which discusses the ways that language shapes culture, history and politics. Reaching 2.7 million listeners per week and with 40,000 downloads each month, this thought-provoking program examines a wide range of topics related to language and meaning around the globe.

BackStory with the American History Guys is an excellent illustration of how critical NEH support can be for a fledgling public humanities project. *BackStory* is an hour-long radio program that features interviews and discussions with three eminent American historians on topics taken from today's headlines. These entertaining and enlightening programs are designed to provide perspective on the present by connecting current circumstances with the broad sweep of U.S. history. Begun as a local University of Virginia radio series with a modest reach, *BackStory* has expanded, with NEH funding, into a weekly public radio program with national coverage and a devoted online following (with 3 million unique podcast downloads). The Endowment's most recent grant to this project supports 22 episodes of a new series in 2015 and 2016, entitled "Finding the American Way." Through an innovative mixture of traditional radio broadcast, extended online shows and features, and an integrated educational package for teachers, "Finding the American Way" explores themes of work, religion, and public culture in the United States, combining rigorous scholarship with highly-accessible discussions of what it means to be American.

Digital Projects for the Public

One of the Endowment's key priorities is to provide national leadership to our grantees as they move into the digital age. Games, mobile applications, and other interactive platforms offer a myriad of opportunities for public engagement with humanities content. With the rollout of *Digital Projects for the Public* grants in 2014, we began re-envisioning our grant offerings for public audiences to foster the use of new digital technologies. The program received over 70 applications (a strong showing for a brand-new program) and made the first round of grants in November 2014; a second deadline in 2015 yielded 103 applications. Support is provided for the following kinds of projects:

- Virtual field trips, which allow visitors to experience a historic site or museum collection remotely;
- Mobile and web-based applications (this might include, for example, location-based tours of historic sites, heritage areas, or art collections, as well as themed tours, such as apps allowing users to explore places related to the novels of William Faulkner or the antislavery movement);
- Interactive online games for youth and family audiences; and

- Innovative interpretive websites.

Out of the first round of *Digital Projects for the Public* grants, two projects in particular stand out for their use of fresh scholarship married to innovative digital technology. *Walden*, a unique video game based on the writing of Henry David Thoreau, creates an immersive environment where players walk in the virtual footsteps of Thoreau, read excerpts from his journals, and experience the physical and visual details of his 1845 experiment in self-reliance. Designed by the Game Innovation Lab at the University of Southern California, the gameplay deftly weaves together primary sources—such as the writing of Thoreau and his contemporaries, and soundscapes of the Walden Pond environment—and offers players multiple opportunities to reflect on them. A website project from Historic Hudson Valley, *Slavery in the North* examines the history of slavery in the colonial North, with a special focus on individual acts of resistance. The project draws on groundbreaking research into the experiences of enslaved Africans at Philipsburg Manor in the Hudson Valley region during the eighteenth century and illuminates the agency of individuals as they resisted their enslavement. The website will also feature works of art drawn from “Runaway Art: Interpreting Colonial Slave Ads,” an innovative education program run by Historic Hudson Valley in New York City public schools.

Small Traveling Exhibitions

The Endowment is committed to extending the reach of high quality educational exhibitions to audiences throughout the country. To achieve this objective, the agency has for many years supported a program of small traveling exhibitions, delivering content-rich exhibitions and accompanying educational programs to more than 2,000 communities nationwide. Our small exhibitions programs serve the goal of bringing the humanities to diverse groups of Americans “where they live,” enhancing NEH’s geographic reach.

In calendar year 2015, 15 small exhibitions traveled to 134 museum and library venues, accompanied by small NEH grants to support public discussions and scholarly programs. The exhibitions include *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, which was developed by the National Constitution Center and offers a fresh perspective on the political and constitutional challenges presented by the Civil War. New in 2015, *Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry* features a traveling exhibition and a series of programs designed to help public audiences engage in discussions about the human and ecological consequences of one of America’s greatest environmental disasters—the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

In 2016, at least 10 exhibitions will travel across the country. The Endowment administers these small grants as part of a single, larger block grant to a sponsoring organization, such as the National Constitution Center or the American Library Association, which have the resources to design and fabricate exhibitions and manage a multi-year, nationwide tour.

NEH on the Road

Another small grant program, NEH on the Road, circulates scaled-down versions of previously funded exhibitions to mid-sized museums throughout the country. The program

extends the life of funded exhibitions by several years and also brings excellent humanities projects to rural and underserved regions of the nation. NEH provides support to each host site, awarding small grants of \$1,000 for local public programming and scholarly activities. NEH is particularly interested in reaching museums that have annual operating budgets of between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 and are located in communities of fewer than 300,000 people.

The Mid-America Arts Alliance (MAAA) manages the exhibit design, production and touring of NEH on the Road exhibitions. We recently extended our cooperative agreement with the MAAA, which will support an ongoing roster of traveling exhibitions through 2018.

Since the first NEH on the Road exhibition opened in 2005, 14 exhibitions have traveled to more than 280 venues in 42 states, bringing intellectually engaging humanities programs to approximately 1.5 million individuals in communities that are typically not served by other NEH grants. Launched in 2013, *House and Home* traces the nation's architectural history through the diverse places that Americans have called "home," and *Bandits and Heroes, Poets and Saints*, an exhibition of folk arts of northeastern Brazil, began touring in the fall of 2015. *Wild Land: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Landscape Painting*, explores the origin of the distinctively American Hudson River School of painting. When the exhibit traveled to the Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton, Montana, the staff commented, "*Wild Land* was stunningly enticing, well designed and informative! [The exhibition] broadened our members' and Board's perception of our potential, brought pride to our staff members both paid and volunteer, increased our reach beyond our county, and educated our staff."

A public library in North Little Rock, Arkansas, hosted the NEH on the Road exhibit, *Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation*, and was overwhelmed by the positive response to the exhibit from senior citizens, who shared memories of loved ones who served their country during World War II. As the director explains, "For us, it was an education in preserving the past for future generations. We deeply appreciate how a program like this supports the needs of smaller museums and local libraries such as ours."

As these comments attest, NEH on the Road exhibits leave a lasting imprint on the communities that they visit. The majority of NEH on the Road venues are new to the Endowment when they host one of our traveling exhibitions. For some venues, however, such as the Brazos Valley Museum in Bryan, Texas, hosting an exhibit is an experience that strengthens the staff and builds support for future humanities projects. Brazos Valley first joined the program in 2010 and applied in 2015 to host its seventh exhibition. Small museums use the exhibitions to broaden their interpretive programs, to forge new partnerships and to strengthen ties with their boards and communities. Public programs related to NEH on the Road exhibitions promote reflection about important humanities ideas, and connect audiences across the boundaries of culture and generations.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FY 2017 Request: \$13,755,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Programs Supporting Individual Research
 - Fellowships
 - Public Scholar
 - Summer Stipends
 - Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities

- Programs Supporting Collaborative Research
 - Scholarly Editions and Translations
 - Collaborative Research
 - Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

- Programs with Strategic Partners
 - Documenting Endangered Languages (with the National Science Foundation)
 - Kluge Fellowships (with the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress)
 - Advanced Social Science Research on Japan (with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission)
 - Fellowships for Digital Publication (new partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)

Developing knowledge and advancing understanding in the humanities are core strategic goals of NEH and at the heart of the Division of Research Programs. The Division meets its mission through awards to individual scholars (Fellowships, Public Scholar Program, Summer Stipends, and Awards for Faculty); long-term, complex projects carried out by teams of scholars or at research centers worldwide (Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, and Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions); and collaborations with strategic partners (Documenting Endangered Languages with the National Science Foundation, Kluge Fellowships with the Library of Congress, Advanced Social Science Research on Japan with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, and Fellowships for Digital Publication with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation).

The nature of humanities research—similar to scientific research—is incremental, focused, ongoing, and long term, and while such research can sometimes seem distant from everyday life, at other times humanities research can provide context for important discussions in the public forum. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the Twin Towers on 9/11, for example, members of the public as well as policy makers could turn to humanities scholar David Edwards's NEH-supported book, *Before Taliban* (University of California Press, 2002), for a history of the rise of the Taliban. Similarly, historian Beatrix Hoffman's book on 20th century experiments with healthcare models (*Healthcare for Some*, University of Chicago Press, 2012), has helped to inform recent debate on this important national issue. When the Ebola pandemic

ravaged West Africa, policy makers and the public could turn to historian Billy Smith's book, *Ship of Death* (Yale University Press, 2012), for a reliable history of how such pandemics develop and spread. And when Supreme Court justices recently needed to know about the evolving idea of marriage in America, some of the justices consulted humanities scholar Nancy Cott's Endowment-supported book, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation* (Harvard University Press, 2001). NEH awards made to Edwards, Hoffman, Smith, Cott and tens of thousands of other humanities researchers funded through NEH over the decades have enabled Americans to deepen their knowledge, participate in discussions that affect everyday life, and become better citizens. Similar examples exist for research on a wide array of topics, such as, for example, the history of corporate bailouts, the deep-seated strife in the Sudan, and the ongoing struggle for voting rights.

Grants support projects in all areas of the humanities from history, philosophy, and literature to classics, religion, and archaeology, as well as those areas where humanistic inquiry intersects with the sciences, medicine, and technology. NEH-supported scholars illuminate important historical moments that inform students, scholars, and policy-makers about the world in which they live. For example, J. Douglas Smith, an independent scholar and high school teacher living in Los Angeles, received support from NEH to write *On Democracy's Doorstep* (Hill and Wang, 2014), the first historical account of the Warren Court's efforts to define the principle of "one person, one vote" in the United States. Smith examines several cases—some all but forgotten—that continue to shape the Court's thinking on voting rights. Danielle Fosler-Lussier, an associate professor of music at the Ohio State University in Columbus, received Endowment support to research and write *Music in America's Cold War Diplomacy* (University of California Press, 2015), a study of how the U.S. sent thousands of musicians abroad to exercise soft power during the Cold War, simultaneously building musical, social, and political relations on a global scale. David Pietz, UNESCO Chair of Environmental History at the University of Arizona, received funding to research and write *The Yellow River: The Problem of Water in Modern China* (Harvard University Press, 2015), an in-depth examination of China's contemporary water supply, which has been systematically manipulated by the Chinese government since 1949, with serious repercussions for China's economic, social, and political stability.

An informed examination of our nation's history would not be possible without the basic building blocks of scholarship. For instance, historian David Brion Davis's *The Problem of Slavery* (Knopf, 2014) draws on NEH-funded scholarly editions projects—such as the writings of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Marcus Garvey, and Frederick Douglass—enabling the author to tell the story of race, slavery, and emancipation in the U.S. Indeed, the Endowment is the major source of funding for authoritative editions of the papers of the country's most important historical figures, including civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.; political and military leader George C. Marshall; Hull House founder and humanitarian Jane Addams; scientist Albert Einstein; inventor Thomas Alva Edison; and such notable statesmen as George Washington, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and Abraham Lincoln. NEH also supports editions of the writings of quintessential American authors such as Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson, Ernest Hemingway, and Willa Cather, and American scholars receive funding to edit the work of thinkers, writers, and artists from other countries, including, for example, the operatic works of maestro Giuseppe Verdi, the papers of 19th-century essayist and historian

Thomas Carlyle, and the works of Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. These authoritative editions provide scholars with the raw materials of scholarly inquiry, and their growing availability on the Internet means greater access for the general public, as well as for teachers and students in classrooms worldwide.

Taken together, the research programs of the Endowment span the entire scholarly endeavor. Award recipients produce both broad, synthetic works and more specific analyses based on untapped archival materials; build their disciplines with focused studies; and enlarge the understanding of the general public with works written for general audiences. Awards go to those who request small amounts of time and money to complete their writing as well as those who need prolonged periods of engagement with source materials. Awards support professors at large universities, small colleges, and two-year colleges, in addition to independent scholars and adjunct faculty. Research awards reach every state, and they also enable U.S. scholars to engage other researchers around the world. With relatively modest funding, NEH has been able to sustain and invigorate the intellectual work of American scholars.

Programs Supporting Individual Research

American scholars in the humanities are among the most productive, innovative, and respected in the world. They lead their fields of inquiry, advancing all areas of the humanities into the future. However, they need what all scholars need: time to conduct basic archival and library research, to read and analyze materials, and to write in a way that communicates insights that are both important to scholarship and accessible for a broad readership. NEH support of individual scholars, although relatively modest in terms of dollars, offers this most basic commodity: time. NEH programs that support individual research (Fellowships, Public Scholar, Summer Stipends, and Awards to Faculty) provide scholars with two to twelve months of support to carry out sustained research and writing on topics in the humanities.

Since the first years of the Endowment, the agency's programs in support of individual research and scholarship have proven to be an effective and efficient means of advancing humanities research, resulting in the publication of nearly 8,500 books. While books (including books in electronic format) and scholarly articles are most often the goal of those applying for NEH awards, grantees report that their scholarly publications often result in access to new audiences, allowing them to publish in popular presses, make presentations to both specialized and general audiences, and draw on their research to enrich their teaching.

In FY 2015, NEH awarded 218 Fellowships and Stipends from a pool of 2,639 applications. In FY 2016, 210 awards are anticipated from an applicant pool of 2,600. At the proposed budget level in FY 2017, the Endowment again expects to award 210 grants from approximately 2,600 applications.

Fellowships and Summer Stipends Program

NEH Fellowships and Summer Stipends are awarded to a wide range of scholars in diverse settings, from colleges and universities to research institutes, as well as to independent scholars without teaching appointments. For example, Frances Bernstein, associate professor of

history at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, received a fellowship to study how the Russian military treated disabled soldiers after World War II. Elizabeth Horodowich, professor of history at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, received a fellowship to research and write an account of how 15th-century Venetian mapmakers obtained information about the New World and represented that information in maps for European courts and explorers. Jennifer Feltman, an independent scholar living in Tallahassee, Florida, received a summer stipend to write a history of sculptural motifs and techniques in twenty 13th-century French cathedrals. And Cian McMahon, assistant professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will use his summer stipend to study global Irish migration during the 19th century.

Products of NEH-supported projects appeal to a broad readership. Recent notable examples include Ted Steinberg's *Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York* (Simon & Schuster, 2014). Steinberg, a professor of history and law at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, tells an epic 400-year history of the urban struggle with the natural world. Independent scholar and journalist Wil Haygood's *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015) uses the dramatic, contentious five-day Senate hearing to confirm Marshall as the first African-American Supreme Court justice to reflect on Marshall's life and accomplishments. Semion Lyandres, a professor of Russian history at the University of Notre Dame, received an award to conduct research and write *The Fall of Tsarism: Untold Stories of the February 1917 Revolution* (Princeton University Press, 2014). Lyandres draws on oral histories of participants of the February Revolution made available for the first time by newly opened Russian archives, offering a complete reinterpretation of how and why the Russian revolution succeeded. Wayne A. Wiegand, professor emeritus of library and information studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee, received a fellowship to conduct the research leading to *Parts of Our Lives: A People's History of the American Public Library* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Widely praised in both the academic and popular presses, *Parts of Our Lives* tells the story of why Americans love their libraries, tracing the history of the public library from the 1850s as places of both civic engagement and a reflection of community values.

NEH-supported publications often win academic, scholarly, and literary prizes, such as Pulitzer Prizes for history and biography, National Book Awards, the Bancroft Prize (generally recognized as the most prestigious award in the field of American history), and other awards for intellectual distinction. In 2014, Ari Kelman's *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek* (Harvard University Press, 2013) received both the Bancroft Prize for best book in American history and the Organization of American Historians' Avery O. Craven Award for most original book on the U.S. Civil War years. In *Misplaced Massacre*, Kelman recounts how Colorado troops surprised Cheyenne and Arapaho people camped on the banks of Sand Creek in late November 1864. Since the book illuminates the many different memories, viewpoints, and perspectives that attend the story of Sand Creek from the time it occurred to the more recent discussion of how to commemorate the event, it is, as one reviewer noted, an exploration of how history is made. Several other NEH-supported books recently received prizes, including Ellen Gruber Garvey's *Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance* (Oxford University Press, 2013), which received the Society for American Archivists' Waldo Gifford Leland Award for best book; Annegret Fauser received prizes from both the American Musicological Association and the American Society of

Composers, Authors, and Publishers for her NEH-supported book *Sounds of War: Music in the United States during World War II* (Oxford University Press, 2014); and Irina Paperno's "*Who, What Am I?*": *Tolstoy Struggles to Narrate the Self* (Cornell University Press, 2015), which received the 2015 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for best study in Slavic language and literature given by the Modern Language Association.

Public Scholar Program

Humanities scholarship can be specialized, and advances in knowledge often occur within the scholarly communities. However, as ideas mature and new topics become important to the public, scholars discover opportunities to reach out to wider audiences. As part of the Endowment's *The Common Good* initiative, the Public Scholar Program aims to encourage scholars to write for a broad audience, provide easy access to humanities ideas, and make a lasting impact on public understanding. Such scholarship might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic.

In FY 2015, the Endowment held the first Public Scholar program competition. When originally conceived, the agency anticipated receiving as many as 150 applications. The new program, however, received a far broader and more enthusiastic reception than expected: 485 applications were submitted. Thirty-six awards were made on a wide range of topics. Independent scholar Judith Dupre, for example, received an award to complete her book on the building of One World Trade Center, which will be published by Little, Brown, and Company in 2016. Mark Clague of the University of Michigan received an award to write a cultural history of "The Star-Spangled Banner," which will address the myths that surround the national anthem. Independent scholar and former Pulitzer Prize winner Diane McWhorter will use her Public Scholar award to examine the life of Wernher von Braun, designer of the Third Reich's V-2 missile, after he moved from Germany to Huntsville, Alabama. His story—at the intersection of the history of race, NASA, and the Cold War—will be published by Penguin. And Noah Isenberg of the New School in New York City received a Public Scholar award to complete a book on how the much-loved movie *Casablanca* achieved its iconic status. Isenberg's work will be published by W. W. Norton in time for the 75th anniversary of the movie in 2017.

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

In response to several Presidential Executive Orders, the Endowment provides opportunities specifically for faculty members at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges and universities. The Awards for Faculty program provides flexible grants to better serve the unique needs of scholars at these institutions who struggle to maintain their credentials as scholars while teaching under the most challenging conditions. The program supports a variety of research efforts that lead not only to publication, but also to classroom enrichment or public programs. Awards have supported work on a wide variety of topics by scholars from a range of institutions. In FY 2015, for example, Candace Bailey, a professor of musicology at North Carolina Central University, received an award to conduct research on the place of music in the lives of women in America during the Civil War.

And Jose Carlos de la Puente, professor of history at Texas State University-San Marcos, was awarded a grant to complete the first in-depth study of the influence of native Andeans on the Spanish throne in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Programs Supporting Collaborative Research

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 Endowment supports such collaborative and institution-based efforts through three programs—Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, and Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions.

In FY 2015, the Endowment made 47 awards in Scholarly Editions and Translations, Collaborative Research, and Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions from a pool of 262 applications. In FY 2016, 45 awards are anticipated from 270 applications received. At the FY 2017 request level, the agency anticipates making 40 awards from a pool of approximately 270 applications.

Scholarly Editions and Translations

Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support the preparation of important texts and documents of enduring value that otherwise would be relatively inaccessible to scholars and the public. Scholarly editions projects involve significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, with the majority being in U.S. history and literature. Most are produced in print editions but increasingly also in digital formats. Recent grants have supported, for example, editions of the papers of such major political figures as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, James Madison, Andrew Jackson, and Ulysses S. Grant; important cultural figures such as Puritan minister Jonathan Edwards, entertainer William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, and early 20th-century inventor Thomas Edison; and such literary figures as Mark Twain, Willa Cather, and Ernest Hemingway.

Other teams of researchers are preparing editions of documents important to the nation’s history. For example, for many years NEH has supported *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights* project at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which is collecting and publishing the documentary record of the debate over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights between 1787 and 1791. The project staff has searched hundreds of libraries, historical societies, and other possible sources throughout the United States and Europe for documents written by members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Confederation Congress, the thirteen colonies that called ratifying conventions, members of those ratifying conventions, and other contemporaries. *The First Federal Congress Project* at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has been publishing the complete record of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791, including official records and primary material such as letters and diaries that document the actions, debates, and thoughts of that precedent-setting body and its members. The proceedings of the first Congress form a unique and remarkable record of the hopes and fears of contemporaries about the health and future of the young republic. *The Documentary History* and *The First Federal Congress*

projects provide powerful research tools that scholars will consult for decades to come, and the quality and variety of their materials underscore the assertion that the debate over the Constitution forms the greatest body of political writing in American history.

Editions projects also make accessible the records of great cultural, literary, and intellectual achievements. For example, recent NEH support has gone to the Soviet Perspectives on Islam project at George Mason University, under the direction of editor and translator Vadim Staklo. With the opening of Russian archives, the shroud of secrecy surrounding the administration of Soviet Russia is being removed. With an international team of researchers, editors, and translators, Staklo is preparing over 30,000 state documents that clarify the relationship between Moscow and its Muslim citizenry. The project seeks to shed light on the successes and failures of attempts to wed Muslim beliefs and social organizations with secular Soviet society as well as the state's attempt to assimilate populations under its control. When completed, George Mason University will make the documents freely available online to researchers, students, and the general public.

NEH also has a long history of supporting translations into English of significant literary and historical works from a wide variety of languages. For example, a recent grant to Professor Gwen Westerman, the Director of Humanities at Minnesota State University, supports the translation and editing of 200 letters written by Dakota people living in Minnesota during the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 and the U.S. Civil War. The letters—assembled from the holdings of the American Philosophical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress—describe for the first time, from native perspectives, tribal life during a period of strife, uncertainty, and change. A grant awarded to Eckart Frahm, professor of Near Eastern languages at Yale University, supports the editing and translating of 878 Mesopotamian cuneiform tablets that comprise the world's oldest known texts (eighth to second centuries BCE). Once completed, the print and open-access digital resources that result will give scholars, students, and interested members of the public a chance to read what ancient Mesopotamians knew about science and medicine, what they believed about religion, and what they created in their literature.

Collaborative Research

Collaborative Research grants support teams of researchers involved in a variety of large-scale domestic and international projects, including archaeological excavation and interpretation, scholarly conferences, and wide-ranging original research that significantly adds to our understanding of historical issues and cultures worldwide. For example, David Landon, an archaeologist at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, received a grant to excavate the original 17th-century English colonial site at Plymouth Colony. Landon and his team seek to better understand how early colonists interacted with their environment and the native tribes in that area. This will be the first archaeological work at Plymouth since the mid-1970s. It will include a major public outreach component and call attention to the anniversary of the founding of the colony 400 years ago. Max Krochmal, an assistant professor of history at Texas Christian University, received a Collaborative Research award to study civil rights in twelve Texas cities between 1954 and 1975. Krochmal and his team will draw on 400 interviews with African Americans and Mexican Americans in an effort to represent the complexity, diversity, and

distinctiveness of the civil rights movement in that part of the South. Gordon Chang, professor of history at Stanford University, received a Collaborative Research award to conduct a conference on the history of Chinese railroad workers in North America. Capping a larger project that sought to better understand the daily lives of immigrant railroad workers, Chang will bring together thirty scholars from around the world to analyze and interpret a vast array of historical and archaeological materials related to the experience of Chinese immigrants who participated in the construction of the first trans-continental railroad in the United States.

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions

Grants through 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. research centers and in China, India, Turkey, Greece, and other parts of the world where support and access might otherwise be difficult or impossible. NEH supports institutions as varied as the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois; the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan; and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. Grant funds partially cover the cost of fellowship stipends, while the partner institution provides such resources as meals, lodging, copying, library services, and computer access and, in the case of organizations supporting international research, assistance in securing the necessary visas and research permits. These partnerships expand the access of American scholars across the globe to important research collections and scholarly communities, including many with extremely rare and specialized expertise. NEH grants to the institutions support 60-70 individual fellows annually.

Awards made through this program yield a wide range of published scholarship. For example, Martha Hodes, professor of history at New York University, held a NEH-supported fellowship at the Massachusetts Historical Society. With her award, Hodes wrote *Mourning Lincoln* (Yale University Press, 2015), the first study to examine how everyday people—northerners and southerners, soldiers and civilians, black and white, men and women, rich and poor, responded to the assassinated president. John Kasson, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, held a NEH-supported fellowship through the National Humanities Center in Durham, North Carolina. With his award, Kasson wrote *The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America* (W. W. Norton, 2014), a historical consideration of how the most famous, adored, imitated, and commodified child actress in the world astonished moviegoers, created a new international culture of celebrity, and revolutionized the role of children as consumers. Kasson uses the iconic Temple to better understand the relationship between Hollywood and those living through the Depression. Nancy Shoemaker, a professor of history at the University of Connecticut, held a NEH-supported fellowship through the American Antiquarian Society. With her award, Shoemaker used the Society's rich archival resources and wrote *Native American Whalemen and the World: Indigenous Encounters and the Contingency of Race* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015). Her book examines the experience of Native American sailors, who invigorated economically depressed reservations with vital income and interacted with indigenous people

from around the globe. In the end, Shoemaker argues, these whalers complicated the already-complex notion of race in New England.

Strategic Partnerships with Other Agencies and Institutions

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 sought the expertise of the Endowment to help them perform large-scale peer review for individual scholars. With fifty years of experience in evaluating scholarship, the Endowment has entered into a number of strategic partnerships that further extend the agency's mission to support individual research.

NEH/National Science Foundation: Documenting Endangered Languages

In FY 2017, the Endowment will continue its multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct. This collaborative program, Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL), is made urgent by the imminent demise of an estimated half of the 6,000 to 7,000 currently used languages worldwide. DEL fellowships support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, texts, and databases—usually in partnership with the peoples whose languages are in jeopardy. Examples of recent projects supported by awards include the effort by Neil Walker of San Joaquin Delta College to document and create a dictionary of the language of the Pomo tribe in Northern California. Keri Eggleston, an independent scholar living in Juneau, Alaska, received an award to document the Tlingit language spoken in southeast Alaska. And Hiroko Sato, an adjunct professor of linguistics at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, received an award to complete a linguistic database of the Bebeli language, spoken by a small community in Papua, New Guinea. Projects such as these not only document languages, they often help to revitalize the language and provide native communities with a heritage for succeeding generations.

Library of Congress: John W. Kluge Fellowships Program

Since 2003, the Endowment has administered the evaluation of fellowships applications submitted to the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Center. This program provides stipends to junior scholars from the United States and abroad to conduct research in America's richest and most extensive humanities collections. The Kluge Center—a privately endowed center for scholars working in the collections of the Library of Congress—pays for the awards and for the costs incurred by NEH staff to conduct the peer review of applications. The Endowment's collaboration with the Library of Congress also provides for the opportunity to fund fellowship awards jointly, thereby extending the impact of both the Endowment and the Library.

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

Since 2004, NEH has administered the evaluation of applications and serves as fiscal agent for fellowships awarded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. These awards

encourage American scholars to pursue advanced social science research on contemporary Japan, the historic relationship between the U.S. and Japan, and the evolving relationships of Japan and its East Asian neighbors. Like the Endowment's collaboration with the Library of Congress, its partnership with the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission provides the opportunity for jointly funded fellowship awards and helps to extend the impact of both partners.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: Fellowships for Digital Publication

In FY 2017, NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will begin a three year special opportunity to promote a new generation of scholars working on projects that could be published only in digital format. Such digital publications take advantage of audio, visual, or other multimedia materials or depend on non-traditional reading pathways that would otherwise be impossible to present in the traditional book. The Endowment's public-private partnership with Mellon maximizes the investment and goals of both organizations in a way that is cost effective for both organizations.

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

FY 2017 Request: \$4,600,000

Programs/Grant Categories:

- Digging into Data Challenge
- Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants
- Digital Humanities Implementation Grants
- Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
- Humanities Open Book Program

In 2006, the National Endowment for the Humanities established an Office of Digital Humanities to foster the development of world-class, leading-edge research and education in the emerging field of digital humanities. 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 literally millions of pages of materials in digital form, how does this change the very nature of humanities research? How does the large scale—and the availability of large-scale computing—change the research paradigm? These are among the important and fundamental questions being addressed by the Endowment and by NEH-supported researchers.

Since NEH created the Office of Digital Humanities, the field has grown enormously, with many universities creating new jobs and hiring new faculty, librarians, and technologists to work on digital humanities projects. In 2013, for example, Arizona State University launched their new Institute of Humanities Research Nexus Laboratory for Digital Humanities and Transdisciplinary Informatics, and Northeastern University in Massachusetts launched the NULab, the center for Digital Humanities and Computational Social Science. Both of these new laboratories specialize in digital humanities research and employ staffs from both the humanities and computing fields.

NEH's leadership role in the field of the digital humanities has been widely acknowledged in the humanities community, helping to set the pace for research funders around the world. In the recent book, *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, which describes the rapid growth of digital humanities research, University of Maryland Professor Matthew Kirschenbaum acknowledges the leadership role taken by NEH in building the field:

“That the major federal granting agency for scholarship in the humanities, taking its cues directly from a small but active and influential group of scholars, had devoted scarce resources to launching a number of new grant opportunities . . . around an endeavor termed ‘digital humanities’ was doubtless the tipping point for the branding of DH, at least in the United States.”

NEH is also the leader of the largest collection of international digital humanities grant programs, the Digging into Data Challenge, which brings together American researchers with their colleagues around the world. FY 2017 will see a major increase in size for this program, with seven additional nations adding funding to the initiative.

In July 2012, NEH made a major award to support the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), an ambitious endeavor bringing together universities, libraries, museums, and government agencies to develop a unified gateway into the vast digital cultural heritage collections dispersed across the nation. The DPLA website launched in April 2013 and now provides free, online public access to over 11 million digital books, photographs, maps, and other materials from over 1,300 institutions. Students, teachers, and scholars can use innovative search tools to navigate the collections, or they can explore a series of specially curated exhibits on topics such as the New Deal and Native American history. Through a network of state and regional partners in Minnesota, Texas, Utah, and other areas, DPLA also provides technical services to leverage the limited resources of the countless institutions hoping to digitize and share their own collections. In 2013, DPLA was named one of the American Association of School Librarians' Best Websites for Teaching and Learning and one of *Time* magazine's 50 Best Websites of the year. In the coming year, NEH staff will continue to work with the DPLA to help ensure more extensive geographic coverage and to plan for sustainability of this valuable resource.

The Endowment's Office of Digital Humanities administers a number of innovative grant programs aimed at moving the field forward rapidly:

Digging into Data Challenge

The Digging into Data Challenge funds cutting-edge collaborative research from top U.S. scholars and scientists working with international colleagues. In the previous round for this program, in FY2014, three other nations—Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands—contributed funds to the initiative. In 2016, as a result of NEH's collaboration with the European-led Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Humanities and Social Sciences, eleven nations will participate in the Digging into Data program, with grants to be awarded in FY 2017. Working with our international peer research agencies allows NEH to leverage its funds. For FY 2017, NEH anticipates contributing about \$750,000 to this effort, which will leverage about \$9,000,000 in additional international funds. This enables U.S. researchers to participate in major international projects that could not be funded solely by the NEH.

The Digging into Data Challenge program seeks to spark new research methods that use advanced computing to query massive digital datasets of books, newspapers, music, economic data, survey data, or other materials typically studied in the humanities and social sciences. The program uses the "challenge" format to create interest in the field and encourage innovative research. The Endowment recognized that with the explosion of Internet-based digital materials, this grant opportunity would be of interest to a wide variety of scholars and funders of advanced research in the U.S. and internationally.

In 2012, the Council on Library and Information Resources released an NEH-funded report titled *One Culture: Computationally Intensive Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. This report came on the heels of an exhaustive two-year evaluation conducted by CLIR staff that analyzed the research outputs of NEH's international grant competition. The study highlighted the importance of the program, noting that "The implications of these projects and their digital milieu for the economics and management of higher education, as well as for the practices of research, teaching, and learning, are profound, not only for researchers engaged in computationally intensive work but also for college and university administrations, scholarly societies, funding agencies, research libraries, academic publishers, and students." The study's recommendations were very helpful to the Endowment, leading to many improvements to our grant processes, as well as giving us a roadmap for future research.

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

Digital Start-Up Grants is a "seed grant" program that is designed to spur innovative research and education projects in the digital humanities. The program takes a "high risk/high reward" approach, trying to identify exciting new research by American scholars, universities, libraries, archives, or non-profits that use technology in an innovative way. These small grants (ranging from \$40,000 to a maximum of \$75,000) result in plans, prototypes, or demonstration models for long-term digital humanities projects. Successful Start-Up grants that have demonstrated their impact on the field are encouraged to pursue larger implementation funding at a later stage. This program quickly became one of the highest application volume grant opportunities at NEH. The large number of applications and the high quality of awards suggest that the Endowment has tapped an important unmet need in the humanities. Some notable recent grants include:

- One exciting area of the digital humanities is musicology, where scholars are researching new ways to digitally analyze music and musical performance. A recent grant to the Ohio State University, led by Johanna Devaney, a professor of music theory and composition, is developing a suite of analytical tools for music scholarship, with a particular focus on the development of a tool for analyzing polyphonic performances from musical scores.
- Much of the cultural history of humankind is found in captured in the written word and textual analysis of digital text continues to be a critical area for research. At the University of Utah, project directors Miriah Meyer and Katharine Coles are computationally analyzing poetry and working on methods to visualize sound patterns and relationships including and extending beyond rhyme.

Digital Humanities Implementation Grants

In response to many requests from the field, the Endowment created the Implementation Grants program in FY 2012. The program targets projects that have already demonstrated a successful beginning phase and that have a clear plan for moving towards full implementation. The program offers larger grants than the Start-Up Grants program to enable projects to develop fully and have maximum impact on the field. While many of the applicants are former Start-Up

grantees, the program is also open to other researchers who have successfully completed initial planning phases of their project. Beginning in FY 2016, the program also began to encourage long-standing projects that are essential to research or teaching in the field to apply for funds to enhance and sustain their project for the long term. As the field increasingly relies on digital resources, it becomes incumbent on funders like the NEH to consider how to best sustain and enhance these resources. Some notable grants of the funding category include:

- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, at Emory University, is a project that dates back to the 1960's when scholars began to collect data on slave-trade voyages. This led to many datasets being developed with overlapping (and inconsistent) information. Over time, leading scholars from around the world, led by David Eltis at Emory University in Atlanta, began to bring these datasets together and, leveraging modern relational database technology, created the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. First available on CD-ROM, the database has migrated to newer platforms several times over the years while also growing in scope as more scholars contributed key datasets. Today, the database is an absolutely essential resource used by historians and students around the world studying the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In FY 2016, Emory University received a Digital Humanities Implementation grant to fund a major overhaul of the website to not only add new data, but to modernize and improve the technology back-end. This will help to ensure that this critical scholarly resource remains available for wide use.
- One of the key goals of the Office of Digital Humanities is to fund projects that explore new methods of research that leverage new technologies. A grant to North Carolina State University is developing methods for acoustic analysis of simulated three-dimensional spaces. In their test case, NC State has virtually reconstructed 17th century St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the site where John Donne gave his landmark Gunpowder Day sermon in 1622. They are developing open source software that will allow researchers to analyze the sound within this virtual space to gain insight into not only the cadence of Donne's speech, but to get a sense of who could actually hear his words within the cathedral courtyard. This research gives us an entirely new dimension (sound) of understanding history.

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

This grant category encourages the sharing of best technology practices among humanities scholars. As reflected by the research grants made in the Digging into Data Challenge and Start-Up Grants categories, more and more humanities scholars are using sophisticated technology tools and techniques. The Institutes program sponsors training workshops that allow scholars to learn about these new, advanced technologies, tools, and techniques. This funding opportunity meets a clear need in the humanities: Two recent training institutes, for example, reported that over 100 people applied for the 30 seats available. The program also ensures that scholars from universities both large and small have opportunities to learn about the latest research and education techniques in the digital humanities. Institutes are making important contributions to the field. A recent article in *The New York Times*, for example, described the new "spatial humanities" research, citing the work of the NEH-funded "GeoSpatial Institute" held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Recently, a scholar who attended one of these institutes wrote a letter to the project director, saying “I have to say that 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:

- In 2016, George Mason University in Virginia will host a two-week institute aimed at mid-career historians. These scholars will learn advanced theory and application of new media tools they can apply to both their research and teaching. The institute will be taught by some of the country’s leading digital historians.
- In 2016, Purdue University in Indiana, in cooperation with Hamilton College in New York, will host a three-week institute and a later follow-up workshop to explore spatial approaches to Africana Studies. Attendees will learn from experts on the latest applications of geographic information systems and how they can be applied to research and teaching in the humanities.

Humanities Open Book Program

This grant category debuted in 2015 and made its first awards in FY 2016. Humanities Open Book is a grant program designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available to a wide audience. By taking advantage of low-cost “e-book” technology, this program will allow teachers, students, scholars, and the public to read thousands of humanities books that have been long out of reach. The program is a public-private partnership conducted in concert with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the largest private humanities funder in the United States. Mellon has committed \$1.5 million over three years to the program.

Books are widely considered the most important academic “product” in the humanities. Traditionally, books have been the primary medium for expressing, communicating, and debating humanistic ideas. To that end, since its founding in 1965, one of NEH’s primary missions has been to fund research toward the publication of a book. According to a recent study conducted by the agency, the NEH Fellowships program alone has led to the publication of nearly than 8,500 books.

However, there is a flaw in this system: Namely, most humanities books sell only a small number of copies, primarily to academic libraries, and then quickly go out of print. Thus, the vast majority of humanities scholarship funded by NEH or other sources is found in books that are now out of print and largely available only to scholars and general readers who have access to college and university libraries or other major research libraries.

With this new grant program, NEH, along with our partners at the Mellon Foundation, will award grants to publishers to turn thousands of high-quality, peer reviewed humanities

books into free-to-download e-books that can be read on any computer, e-reader, or smartphone. These books will be a rich resource for teachers, students, academics, scientists, and general readers and will cover a vast range of topics, from American and world history to literature, philosophy, archeology, the history of science, and many others.

Some examples of recent awards in this category include:

- A project to create digital, free e-book versions of 146 books on the history of Texas and Oklahoma, selected by the University of North Texas Press, Oklahoma Historical Society, Portal to Texas History, Texas State Historical Association, and the University of North Texas Libraries Scholarly Publishing Services.
- A project led by Appalachian State University in North Carolina to create digital, free e-book versions of 73 classic works on the history and culture of Southern Appalachia originally published by the defunct Appalachian Consortium Press.

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

FY 2017 Request: \$8,500,000

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an important source of assistance for strengthening the capacity of organizations to undertake and sustain significant humanities activities. Since its inception in 1977, the NEH Challenge Grants program has generated more than \$2 billion in nonfederal funds for the humanities. (Adjusted for inflation, the amount generated equals more than \$4 billion.) A wide array of nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S., including museums, tribal centers, libraries, colleges and universities, scholarly research organizations, state humanities councils, public radio and television stations, and historical societies and sites, have taken up the NEH “challenge” to match federal support with nonfederal dollars as a means of strengthening their capacity for excellence in the humanities.

Beginning in FY 2016 and continuing in FY 2017, the NEH Challenge Grant program will transition to three new, thematically focused programs. Each match-based program will have as its goal to help institutions broaden the dissemination of humanities knowledge in innovative ways: the *Next Generation Humanities Ph.D.* program will broaden graduate training to reflect the range of work options that humanities Ph.D. students can pursue; *Expanding Humanities Access* will stimulate program development for underserved groups; and *Creating Humanities Communities* will expand humanities programs in states previously underserved by NEH’s grant-making divisions and offices. In future years, the Endowment will define other topics that address important issues facing the humanities in the United States.

Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Grants

Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Grants will support efforts by higher education institutions to prepare for and carry out innovative changes in graduate training to reflect a broad range of work options for humanities Ph.D. students beyond academia alone. This new Challenge program will make its first awards in FY 2016.

In recent years, research has shown that humanities Ph.D.s can find careers in many different professions—both inside and outside academia. Yet most humanities Ph.D. programs in the United States still prepare students primarily for tenure-track teaching positions at colleges and universities. The increasing shortage of such positions has changed many students’ expected career outcomes. NEH therefore will assist universities in devising new models of doctoral education that can both transform the understanding of what it means to be a humanities scholar and promote the integration of the humanities in the public sphere.

Humanities knowledge and methods can make an even more substantial impact on society if students are able to translate what they learn in doctoral programs into a multitude of careers. Next Generation Ph.D. Grants are designed to bring together various important constituencies to discuss and strategize and then to produce and implement plans that will transform scholarly preparation in the humanities at the doctoral level. Students will be better prepared to undertake various kinds of careers, and humanities Ph.D. programs will increase their relevance for the 21st century.

These grants will have a 1:1 matching requirement (up to \$25,000 for one year of planning, up to \$350,000 over three years for implementation) to ensure that institutions are themselves financially committed to change. The funded projects may include planning and implementation of multi-departmental collaboration, partnerships with non-university entities, transformations in curriculum, modifications in stipend structures, altered formats for dissertations, collection of alumni career information and outcomes, and strategies for encouraging doctoral students to investigate multiple career trajectories. The Endowment anticipates that these grants will promote best practices, establish new models for graduate education in the humanities, and show the value of the humanities Ph.D. for the nation's workforce.

Expanding Humanities Access Grants

Expanding Humanities Access Grants will strengthen and sustain quality humanities activities by providing capacity-building grants to institutions in the form of term endowments. Grantees will receive a match of either \$150,000 or \$300,000 over three years at a 1:1 ratio if they are able to raise the other half from non-federal sources, such as individuals, corporations, and foundations. The term endowments built up by these grants will support programs and activities that provide outstanding humanities content for youth, communities of color, and economically disadvantaged populations. This program connects directly to one of four main goals articulated in NEH's revised strategic plan, namely, "to provide a humanities experience to all Americans, where they are."

Grants awarded through this program will meet another national need, namely, the need to support small- and medium-sized institutions—for example, community colleges, local and regional museums, and historical societies—as they endeavor to move toward long-range financial planning. Term endowments, which will build organizational fundraising capacity over the three years of the grant, will then be spent on humanities activities for the following five to ten years. The Endowment views this new grant opportunity as a mechanism to encourage institutions to seek out new donors to provide unprecedented access to underserved groups.

Creating Humanities Communities Grants

The goal of this new grant opportunity is to create meaningful humanities communities—by making connections between organizations that will foster community cohesion on a local or regional level. Applicants may define community in a variety of ways (by focusing, for example, on a common interest or a common theme), but they must aim to enhance the importance of the humanities in people's lives.

Multiple institutions and organizations in a community, town, county, region, or area will be encouraged to apply together for these grants. Applicant groups will designate a single entity as the administrative lead, and the named project director must belong to that entity.

In an effort to spread NEH's resources to a wide variety of communities throughout the United States, competition for these awards will be limited to applicants in the 20 states that have

received the least amount of funding from NEH's grant-making divisions and offices in the last fiscal year.

A recent analysis of the geographic distribution of NEH grants over the last several years has indicated that a number of states—primarily those with low population densities and few cultural organizations or institutions of higher education—have not received as much NEH funding as many other states. Community-focused grant-making has been proven, in other federal agencies and relevant foundations, to spur coalitions that increase economic development through cultural heritage and tourism initiatives and support a broader swath of audiences than funding that supports only one institution. NEH's new program is designed specifically to help spur community-based humanities projects in states that have not received many grants from the agency over the years.

The new Creating Humanities Communities Grants will offer communities a choice of relatively modest funding amounts, from \$30,000 to \$90,000, to work with over three years, since larger matching offers are often unmanageable for small institutions. The grants will require communities to cost-share and match federal monies at a rate of 1:1, with a gradual increase in fundraising from third parties over the three years: 30% from third parties in first year, 60% in the second, and 100% in the third year. Challenge grants continue to be distinctive instruments in helping organizations, or in this case, humanities communities, build sustainability and self-sufficiency. This grant opportunity will allow the community to establish or incrementally grow its fundraising base over the grant period, a process that will encourage extended third-party support for programs in the years after the grant has ended.

TREASURY MATCHING FUNDS

FY 2017 Request: \$2,200,000

NEH uses Treasury funds to match nonfederal contributions in support of humanities projects. Encouraging private-sector support for cultural activities is an important goal of the Administration and of Congress, and NEH Treasury funds and Challenge Grants have proven to be an effective means of leveraging the contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and individuals on behalf of the humanities. From the establishment of the agency in 1965 through fiscal year 2015, Endowment matching grants for humanities projects have stimulated approximately \$436 million in third-party donations. (In addition, NEH Challenge Grants have leveraged more than \$2 billion in institutional support, or \$4 billion in current, inflation-adjusted dollars.) In order to build on that record of success, we are requesting an appropriation of \$2.200 million for the Endowment's Treasury funds program in FY 2017.

Matching grants are awarded in most programs of the Endowment. A matching award entails an offer of NEH funding that is conditioned on an equivalent amount of fund-raising by the recipient. A matching offer may comprise the entire amount of the Endowment's support. More often, however, it is combined with an outright grant that permits the project activity to begin while a fund-raising effort is being organized.

Although Treasury matching funds support discrete projects rather than basic institutional needs, matching grants awarded with Treasury funds generally have the effect of improving the financial stability of humanities institutions. By providing incentives for fund-raising, Treasury funds help humanities institutions establish long-term relationships with potential donors.

In FY 2015, NEH matching grants, leveraging an equivalent amount in nonfederal giving, supported humanities activities of every kind. Awards of Treasury matching funds included the following:

- \$448,700 that enabled the 56 state and territorial humanities councils to provide federal matching support for projects conducted by local organizations and groups throughout the country.
- \$80,000 to the University of Wisconsin to support continued development of the multi-volume reference work "The History of Cartography," with particular attention to Volume Four on the "European Enlightenment, 1650-1800" and Volume Five on "The Nineteenth Century."
- \$150,000 to the University of Virginia to support continued work on a long-term, scholarly project to edit and publish *The Papers of George Washington*.
- \$200,000 to the University of California, Berkeley to support the preparation for simultaneous print and online publication of Volume 3 of the *Autobiography of Mark Twain*, completion of editorial work on Twain's San Francisco

Correspondence and *The Innocents Abroad*, and the addition of several of the Mark Twain project's print editions to an open access website.

- \$200,000 to Yale University to support publication of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Volumes 42-46.
- \$100,000 that will enable the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston to implement *Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College 1933-1957*, a traveling exhibition, a catalog, and public programs about Black Mountain College in North Carolina, an experimental liberal arts college that played a vital role in the creation of American culture during the post-World War II era.
- \$61,192 that will help the George Eastman House of Rochester, New York create a Technicolor Online Archive, a collection of 60,000 records from the corporate history of Technicolor, with an emphasis on the period from 1915 to 1955, documenting business decisions and scientific research that led to unique processes to record and project moving images in color.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Endowment for the Humanities serves and strengthens our nation by supporting high quality projects and programs in the humanities and by making the humanities available to all Americans.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

FY 2017 PERFORMANCE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The National Endowment for the Humanities is pleased to present the agency's FY 2017 Performance Plan. This document provides a measure of the Endowment's progress toward attaining the goals and objectives of the agency's grant programs and special initiatives. FY 2017 performance data are consistent with the program activities currently planned at levels of the Endowment's FY 2017 request. FY 2016 performance data are consistent with the program activities currently planned at levels of the Endowment's FY 2016 appropriation. Also shown are performance results that relate to activities undertaken at the levels of the Endowment's FY 2015 appropriation.

Recently, we completed a long-term project to digitize paper grant records that document all humanities projects that received NEH funding from the inception of the agency until the Endowment's first computer system went operational in FY 1980. In all, 12,390 of these historical records have been added to the Endowment's grant information database and made publicly accessible via the new eGMS database: <https://securegrants.neh.gov/publicquery/main.aspx>. Every NEH grant awarded since the agency's first award in 1966—they total 61,559 projects to date—is now documented online.

In tandem with this effort, NEH has introduced a new feature of our online eGMS database, the ability to collect information about products, prizes, and media coverage that result from NEH-funded projects. Current and past grantees can now input data about such project outcomes as books, journal articles, websites, documentary films, museum exhibitions, conferences, workshops, computer software, new buildings or equipment, and academic prizes, or about media coverage, such as a book review, newspaper article, or radio interview. This new database will better enable the NEH to demonstrate the impact of our grants to the public. When fully implemented, it will be of great utility to scholars and students, who will be able to come to the NEH website and see not only the title and description of the grant, but also find links to the books, articles, films, or other products of the project.

We are also adapting elements of the new Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format, which was developed by a committee of the National Science and Technology Council, to help us capture performance information from grantees in NEH's grants management system. The Endowment began testing this new format in some of its grant programs in FY 2015.

II. PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS

In the tables that follow, the objectives of the Endowment's grant programs and special initiatives are expressed as goals of the NEH performance plans for FY 2017 and for the two preceding fiscal years. Annual progress toward the attainment of those goals is calibrated with reference to numerical or qualitative indicators. The integration of the Endowment's

performance plan and its budget submission is fully evident in these tables. In each, the left-most column explicitly relates requested (or appropriated) funding for each of the major programmatic areas of the Endowment to a specific performance goal and to anticipated (or actual) performance levels.

II. Table A		NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2017 PERFORMANCE PLAN	
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$13,755,000	A: Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Provide support for fellowships and stipends that enable scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.	Support would be provided for 210 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.	
	2) Support collaborative research projects on significant subjects in the humanities.	Support would be provided for 28 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 28 previously awarded grants would receive ongoing support through NEH matching funds.	
	3) Encourage international scholarly collaboration in the humanities.	Awards for 23 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions would support the work of 72 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.	
	4) Encourage the use of digital technologies in scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.	Applicants would be encouraged to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research.	
	5) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Five projects would be supported through the Endowment’s multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.	
	6) Support humanities scholarship and related course development by faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.	Support would enable 8 individual scholars who teach at historically black colleges and universities, at Hispanic-serving institutions, and at tribal colleges and universities to make significant progress on important scholarly projects in the humanities through faculty research awards.	

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
EDUCATION PROGRAMS \$12,000,000	B: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	
	1) Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	<p>Support for 40 NEH summer seminars and institutes would enable 455 college teachers and 455 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2018 would reach approximately 79,625 students annually; school teacher participants would reach approximately 56,875 annually.</p> <p>Support for 22 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2018 would enable approximately 1,584 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers would annually reach approximately 198,000 students.</p> <p>The Enduring Questions program will be discontinued in FY 2016. A new grant program will be developed to replace Enduring Questions and would extend efforts to strengthen humanities curricular development in the nation’s colleges and universities.</p>
	2) Strengthen efforts to enhance the availability and quality of humanities teaching and learning in the nation’s community colleges, especially the study of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.	<p>In conjunction with the Endowment’s The Common Good initiative, a new Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges grant program would strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature within two-year institutions. Approximately 10 awards would be made.</p>
	3) Support efforts of faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to deepen their knowledge in the humanities and strengthen their humanities offerings.	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions would provide 10 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
CONTINUED EDUCATION	4) Develop and support NEH's EDSITEment web portal as a means of enriching online teaching and learning resources available to teachers, students, and parents.	Special encouragement would be provided for projects that will produce materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.
	5) Develop and support preparation for and implementation of discussion programs for veterans and others on the historical, philosophical, and artistic treatments of the experience of war.	In conjunction with the Endowment's <i>The Common Good</i> initiative, the Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program would strengthen the study of the humanities as they relate to war and its aftermath (before and after World War I), primarily for veterans and their families. Approximately 20 awards would be made.
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS \$14,385,000	C: Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	
	1) Support the preservation of and expanded access to historically significant collections in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural repositories.	Twenty-seven projects would preserve and/or provide access to 5,000 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 4,000 linear feet of archival documents; and 3 million manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.
	2) Work in partnership with other institutions, such as the Library of Congress, to digitize and make more accessible historic U.S. newspapers, including newspapers printed in languages other than English.	Cooperative agreements supported through the National Digital Newspaper Program would digitize hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.
	3) Support the creation of research tools and reference works of major importance to the humanities.	Grants would be made to 10 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$14,385,000	4) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Three projects would support the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction.
	5) Support research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.	Eight projects would support the creation of new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.
	6) Support the training of staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.	Six awards would be made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 300,000 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.
	7) Provide support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported would assist in preserving collections at 80 institutions in 35 states. Approximately 35 percent of the awards would go to first-time NEH grantees.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$12,730,000	D: Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
	1) Support efforts by museums and historical organizations to produce interpretive exhibitions and educational materials that convey significant humanities themes and topics.	Thirty-four grants would support exhibitions, web-based programs, and other public education programs would employ various delivery mechanisms at museums and historical organizations across the country.
	2) Support substantive documentary films, radio programs, and online media presentations that advance public understanding of the humanities and promote citizen engagement in consideration of humanities issues and themes.	Sixteen grants for television/radio projects would produce 55 broadcast hours and draw a cumulative audience of approximately 21 million people.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PUBLIC PROG.	3) Support high quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs that interpret the humanities at selected libraries, museums, and cultural organization across the nation through small grants.	Thirty grants would be made to libraries, museums and cultural organizations that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming.
	4) Support humanities projects that make creative use of new technologies to enhance the quality and reach of public humanities programming.	Fifteen digital projects would produce online and mobile games and virtual environments, innovative interpretive websites, mobile applications, virtual tours, and other digital formats to engage citizens in thoughtful reflection on culture, identity, and history.
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$43,040,000	E: Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	
	1) Support state council efforts to develop locally initiated humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils would make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 4,080 reading and discussion programs, 640 exhibitions, 1,125 literacy programs, 1,125 speakers bureau presentations, 800 teacher institutes and workshops, 1,400 conferences and symposia, 415 Chautauqua events, 3,250 media program events, 425 technology projects, 190 preservation projects and 1,375 local history projects.
	2) Encourage high quality council-conducted humanities programs in the various states.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils would make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 12,240 reading and discussion programs, 1,910 exhibitions, 3,375 literacy programs, 3,375 speakers bureau presentations, 2,400 teacher institutes and workshops, 4,200 conferences and symposia, 1,235 Chautauqua events, 9,750 media program events, 1,250 technology projects, 570 preservation projects and 4,125 local history projects.
	3) Encourage state humanities councils in their efforts to create and support humanities-rich websites and digital projects.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils would make possible 1,600 high technology projects.
	4) Support state humanities councils in ongoing collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.	5,500 collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions would be conducted.
	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	5,600 programs to promote civil discussion would be conducted.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES \$4,600,000	F: Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	
	1) Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the digital humanities.	Sixteen Digital Start-Up projects and 6 Digital Humanities Implementation Grants would set the pace for innovation within humanities research and education. These projects would receive extensive media coverage and have a national and international impact on how new scholarship is conducted.
	2) Encourage and support innovative digital projects and programs that will enhance the way humanities research is conducted and the way the humanities are studied, taught, and presented in the United States.	Four national summer institutes training American scholars on digital methods for humanities research would be supported. These methods, including geospatial analysis, data mining, sound analysis, information retrieval and visualization, and others, would lead to new research across humanities domains.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,500,000	G: Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	By FY 2021, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2017 would leverage at least an equivalent amount of nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.
	2) Encourage institutional efforts to make the humanities more accessible to a broad public.	Support would be provided in the form of capacity-building term grants to strengthen and sustain quality humanities activities for young people, communities of color, and/or economically disadvantaged populations. These Challenge Grants would leverage third-party giving of an equivalent amount.
	3) Generate and proliferate excellent humanities programs in small and rural communities by encouraging multi-institutional partnerships and collaborations.	Support would be provided in support of collaborative partnerships in the 20 states that have received the least amount of disbursed NEH funding in the previous year. The recipient communities would cost-share and match federal monies at a rate of 1:1, with a gradual increase in cash-based fundraising over the three years.
4) Support universities in preparing for and bringing about wide-ranging changes in humanities doctoral programs to enable students to translate what they learn in doctoral programs into a multitude of careers.	Support would be provided in 1:1 matching grants in support of varied activities designed to encourage doctoral students in multiple career trajectories.	

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND-RAISING \$2,200,000	H: Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Fund-raising by recipients of an NEH matching award would generate more than \$2.2 million in third-party support for humanities projects.
	2) Leverage the private sector contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and philanthropic-minded individuals on behalf of humanities projects and programs.	NEH partnerships with the private-sector would generate nonfederal support for exemplary activities in the humanities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2017 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10,190,000</p>	<p>I. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.</p>	
	<p>New initiatives and programs address the Endowment’s primary strategic objective—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities—in novel ways.</p>	<p>Through the <i>Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square</i>, a comprehensive agency-wide initiative, funding would be provided to demonstrate and enhance the role and significance of the humanities and humanities scholarship in public life. The initiative would support: (1) <i>Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War</i>, a new effort to promote public understanding of the military and to support returning veterans; (2) continuation of our efforts to develop and extend the network of organizations conducting humanities programs for veterans and to cultivate new partnerships with PBS and the Library of Congress Veterans History Project; (3) “Dialogues on the Experience of War,” a new reading and discussion program that will enable U.S. military veterans and others to reflect on the issues raised by war and military service; (4) continued support of appropriate projects in grant programs that emphasize research and preservation of important collections of military archives, letters and other records; (5) <i>The Common Good: Strengthening Community Colleges</i>, a new effort to strengthen community college course offerings in the humanities, including studies of American history, democratic institutions, and the social and political challenges of contemporary life; (6) <i>The Common Good: Humanities Scholarship for the Public</i>, which would expand opportunities for public engagement with the insights of humanities scholarship; (7) continuation of the Public Scholar Program, which offers a tangible demonstration of the potential for humanities scholarship that contributes to the common good; (8) Humanities in Your Community, which would support community-based projects that draw upon humanities ideas to enrich civic life; (9) continuation of Common Heritage, which enables members of the public to participate directly in the preservation of their own heritage materials; (10) Public Programs for Underserved Audiences, which encourages public humanities programs that reach new, underserved, or at-risk audiences; (11) the Humanities Open Book Program, a collaboration of NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize scholarly works in a free, widely accessible ebook format; (12) continuation of EDSITEMent, a nationally recognized web resource for K-12 educators; (13) Digital Projects for the Public, which supports development of educational games, digital apps, and other innovative technologies; and (14) <i>The Common Good: Enhancing the NEH Federal/State Partnership</i>.</p>

II. Table A		NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2016 PERFORMANCE PLAN	
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$14,536,000	A: Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Provide support for fellowships and stipends that enable scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.	Support will be provided for 210 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.	
	2) Support collaborative research projects on significant subjects in the humanities.	Support will be provided for 28 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 26 previously awarded grants will receive ongoing support through NEH matching funds.	
	3) Encourage international scholarly collaboration in the humanities.	Awards for 23 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions will support the work of 72 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.	
	4) Encourage the use of digital technologies in scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.	Applicants will be encouraged to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research.	
	5) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Ten projects would be supported through the Endowment’s multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.	
	6) Support humanities scholarship and related course development by faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.	Support will enable 8 individual scholars who teach at historically black colleges and universities, at Hispanic-serving institutions, and at tribal colleges and universities to make significant progress on important scholarly projects in the humanities through faculty research awards.	

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
EDUCATION PROGRAMS \$13,040,000	B: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	
	1) Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	<p>Support for 49 NEH summer seminars and institutes will enable 521 college teachers and 578 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2017 will reach approximately 91,175 students annually; school teacher participants will reach approximately 72,250 annually.</p> <p>Support for 22 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2017 will enable approximately 1,584 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers will annually reach approximately 198,000 students.</p> <p>Support for 26 Enduring Questions projects would enable faculty members to develop a new course at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join with their students in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. These questions will include: Are there universals in human nature? What is the source of moral authority? What is evil? Can war be just? How do we differ from other animals? Is peace possible? What is worth dying for? What is the value of education? Can greed be good? What is good government? What is progress? Am I my brother’s keeper? Each participating faculty member will conduct the newly created course at least twice, with each iteration reaching approximately 25 students.</p>
	2) Strengthen efforts to enhance the availability and quality of humanities teaching and learning in the nation’s community colleges, especially the study of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.	<p>The NEH’s Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges projects was discontinued in FY 2015, and replaced by a new program, Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges, in FY 2016. Grants will be made to 12 projects.</p>
	3) Support efforts of faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to deepen their knowledge in the humanities and strengthen their humanities offerings.	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions will provide 10 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
CONTINUED EDUCATION	4) Develop and support NEH's EDSITEment web portal as a means of enriching online teaching and learning resources available to teachers, students, and parents.	Special encouragement will be provided for projects that will produce materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.
	5) Develop and support preparation for and implementation of discussion programs for veterans and others on the historical, philosophical, and artistic treatments of the experience of war.	In conjunction with the Endowment's <i>The Common Good</i> initiative, a new Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program would strengthen the study of the humanities as they relate to war and its aftermath (before and after World War I), primarily for veterans and their families. Approximately 17 awards would be made.
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS \$15,200,000	C: Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	
	1) Support the preservation of and expanded access to historically significant collections in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural repositories.	Thirty projects will preserve and/or provide access to 6,800 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 2,900 linear feet of archival documents; and 3.5 million manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.
	2) Work in partnership with other institutions, such as the Library of Congress, to digitize and make more accessible historic U.S. newspapers, including newspapers printed in languages other than English.	Cooperative agreements supported through the National Digital Newspaper Program will digitize hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.
	3) Support the creation of research tools and reference works of major importance to the humanities.	Grants will be made to 12 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.
	4) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Three projects will support the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$15,200,000	5) Support research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.	Eight projects will support the creation of new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.
	6) Support the training of staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.	Six awards will be made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 300,000 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.
	7) Provide support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported will assist in preserving collections at 80 institutions in 36 states. Approximately 30 percent of the awards will go to first-time NEH grantees.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$13,454,000	D: Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
	1) Support efforts by museums and historical organizations to produce interpretive exhibitions and educational materials that convey significant humanities themes and topics.	Fifty grants will support exhibitions, web-based programs, and other public education programs would employ various delivery mechanisms at museums and historical organizations across the country.
	2) Support substantive documentary films, radio programs, and online media presentations that advance public understanding of the humanities and promote citizen engagement in consideration of humanities issues and themes.	Sixteen grants for television/radio projects will produce 52 broadcast hours and draw a cumulative audience of approximately 20 million people.
	3) Support high quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs that interpret the humanities at selected libraries, museums, and cultural organization across the nation through small grants.	Thirty grants will be made to libraries, museums and cultural organizations that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PUBLIC PROG.	4) Support humanities projects that make creative use of new technologies to enhance the quality and reach of public humanities programming.	Ten digital projects will produce online and mobile games and virtual environments, innovative interpretive websites, mobile applications, virtual tours, and other digital formats to engage citizens in thoughtful reflection on culture, identity, and history.
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$43,040,000	E: Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	
	1) Support state council efforts to develop locally initiated humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils will make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 4,000 reading and discussion programs, 625 exhibitions, 1,100 literacy programs, 1,100 speakers bureau presentations, 775 teacher institutes and workshops, 1,375 conferences and symposia, 400 Chautauqua events, 3,250 media program events, 400 technology projects, 190 preservation projects and 1,350 local history projects.
	2) Encourage high quality council-conducted humanities programs in the various states.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils will make possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 12,000 reading and discussion programs, 1,875 exhibitions, 3,300 literacy programs, 3,300 speakers bureau presentations, 2,325 teacher institutes and workshops, 4,125 conferences and symposia, 1,200 Chautauqua events, 9,750 media program events, 1,200 technology projects, 560 preservation projects and 4,050 local history projects.
	3) Encourage state humanities councils in their efforts to create and support humanities-rich websites and digital projects.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils will make possible 1,500 high technology projects.
	4) Support state humanities councils in ongoing collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.	5,200 collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions will be conducted.
	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	5,500 programs to promote civil discussion will be conducted.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES \$4,480,000	F: Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	
	1) Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the digital humanities.	Sixteen Digital Start-Up and 6 Digital Humanities Implementation projects will set the pace for innovation within humanities research and education. These projects will receive extensive media coverage and have a national and international impact on how new scholarship is conducted.
	2) Encourage and support innovative digital projects and programs that will enhance the way humanities research is conducted and the way the humanities are studied, taught, and presented in the United States.	Four national summer institutes training American scholars on digital methods for humanities research and 4 Digging Into Data Challenge projects will be supported. These methods, including geospatial analysis, data mining, sound analysis, information retrieval and visualization, and others, would lead to new research across humanities domains.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,500,000	G: Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Twenty-four cultural and educational institution would engage in long-range planning with the encouragement of an NEH Challenge Grant.
	2) Encourage efforts of cultural and educational institutions to attract and increase nonfederal contributions to their humanities resources and activities.	By FY 2020, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2016 would generate at least an equivalent amount in nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.
	3) Support the efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies, where appropriate, in their humanities activities.	The efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies would be encouraged.
	4) Encourage Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges to take advantage of special Challenge grant opportunities designed with these institutions in mind.	The special initiative for Presidentially designed institutions was discontinued in FY 2015 as the Challenge program begins a transition to three new, thematically focused programs in FY 2017.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2016 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND-RAISING \$2,400,000	H: Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Fund-raising by recipients of an NEH matching award would generate more than \$2.4 million in third-party support for humanities projects.
	2) Leverage the private sector contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and philanthropic-minded individuals on behalf of humanities projects and programs.	NEH partnerships with the private-sector would generate \$1.5 million for exemplary activities in the humanities.
NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES \$5,500,000	I. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.	
	New initiatives and programs address the Endowment's primary strategic objective—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities—in novel ways.	Through <i>The Common Good</i> , the Endowment will encourage the deployment of the humanities around important national challenges and public issues, taking advantage of new avenues for research and expression made possible by the continuing revolution in digital media. The initiative will support: (1) continuation and expansion of <i>Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War</i> , which connects the humanities to the experiences of veterans and service members; (2) a new "Public Scholar Program," a long-term effort to encourage and promote humanities research and writing for a wider reading public; (3) a new "Humanities Open Book" program, in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, designed to make outstanding, out-of-print humanities books available electronically, and free of charge, to the American people; (4) "Community Engagement" projects in museums, libraries, and other public venues that draw on the humanities to offer perspectives on complex questions facing Americans as members of communities and as citizens; (5) continuation of the newly launched Digital Projects for the Public program; (6) "Our Common Heritage," a new program that will support local community events in cities and towns devoted to digitizing cultural heritage materials such as photographic materials, maps, films, letters, and other historical materials for exhibition, study, discussion, and preservation; and (7) activities of humanities councils across the country, who are already heavily invested in the public humanities.

II. Table A		NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FY 2015 PERFORMANCE PLAN	
PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS	
RESEARCH PROGRAMS \$14,784,000	A: Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.		
	1) Provide support for fellowships and stipends that enable scholars—both those affiliated with educational institutions and those working independently—to devote a concentrated period of time to research and writing on significant subjects in all fields of the humanities.	Support was provided for 190 individual scholars to make significant progress on important humanities research projects through fellowships and stipends.	
	2) Support collaborative research projects on significant subjects in the humanities.	Support was provided for 33 important long-term collaborative projects in the humanities such as scholarly editions, translations, archaeological excavations and analyses and other complex, large-scale undertakings. In addition, 24 previously awarded grants received ongoing support through NEH matching funds.	
	3) Encourage international scholarly collaboration in the humanities.	Awards for 23 humanities fellowship programs at independent research institutions supported the work of 72 humanities scholars who are making significant contributions to scholarship in the humanities.	
	4) Encourage the use of digital technologies in scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.	Applicants were encouraged to harness the vast potential of advanced digital technology in the conduct and dissemination of their research.	
	5) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Ten projects were supported through the Endowment’s multi-year funding partnership with the National Science Foundation to provide awards to scholars engaged in recording and archiving key languages before they become extinct.	
	6) Support humanities scholarship and related course development by faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.	Support enabled 9 individual scholars who teach at historically black colleges and universities, at Hispanic-serving institutions, and at tribal colleges and universities to make significant progress on important scholarly projects in the humanities through faculty research awards.	

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
EDUCATION PROGRAMS \$13,265,000	B: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	
	1) Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	<p>Support for 50 NEH summer seminars and institutes will enable 535 college teachers and 535 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of the humanities. College teachers participating in seminars and institutes during the summer of 2016 will reach approximately 93,625 students annually; school teacher participants would reach approximately 66,875 annually.</p> <p>Support for 22 “Landmarks of American History and Culture” workshops to take place in the summer of 2016 will enable approximately 1,584 school teachers to revitalize their knowledge and teaching of American history, particularly as it relates to the relationship between specific sites and the episodes in history, the writers, and/or the artists associated with that location. These teachers will annually reach approximately 198,000 students.</p> <p>Support for 26 Enduring Questions projects will enable faculty members to develop a new course at the undergraduate level to grapple with the most fundamental concerns of the humanities, and to join with their students in deep, sustained programs of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day. These questions will include: What is the good life? What is justice? What is friendship? Is there a human nature, and, if so, what is it? Each participating faculty member would conduct the newly created course at least twice, with each iteration reaching approximately 25 students.</p>
	2) Strengthen efforts to enhance the availability and quality of humanities teaching and learning in the nation’s community colleges, especially the study of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.	<p>Support for 3 NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges projects will enable community college faculty and administrators to participate in sustained programs of faculty and curriculum development. They will work with leading scholars to develop new curricula and courses, participating in a sustained program of study and guidance, exchanging ideas through digital technology, and will present products such as syllabi and research products at a concluding conference. Community college faculty participating in these projects will reach approximately 190 students annually.</p>
	3) Support efforts of faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to deepen their knowledge in the humanities and strengthen their humanities offerings.	<p>Humanities Initiatives at Presidentially Designated Institutions provided 9 grants to support faculty professional development activities for improvement in humanities instruction, as well as other capacity building activities at these institutions.</p>

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
CONT'D ED.	4) Develop and support NEH's EDSITEment web portal as a means of enriching online teaching and learning resources available to teachers, students, and parents.	Special encouragement was provided for projects that will produce materials for inclusion on EDSITEment, the Endowment's nationally recognized website for K-12 teachers seeking rich humanities resources on the Internet.
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS \$15,460,000	C: Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	
	1) Support the preservation of and expanded access to historically significant collections in libraries, archives, historical societies, and other cultural repositories.	Twenty-seven projects are preserving and/or providing access to 1,000 hours of recorded sound and video collections; 2,000 linear feet of archival documents; and 1,500,000 manuscripts, broadsides, oversize volumes, and other non-print materials.
	2) Work in partnership with other institutions, such as the Library of Congress, to digitize and make more accessible historic U.S. newspapers, including newspapers printed in languages other than English.	Supported projects will digitize hundreds of thousands of microfilm pages of historic newspapers.
	3) Support the creation of research tools and reference works of major importance to the humanities.	Grants were made to 10 projects to begin or continue work on the preparation of dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and textbases central to knowledge and understanding of the humanities.
	4) Work in partnership with the National Science Foundation to support projects to record, document, and archive endangered languages worldwide, with a special emphasis on endangered Native American languages.	Four projects are supporting the creation of tools—such as bilingual dictionaries, grammars, and text collections—that document languages threatened with extinction.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PRESERV. AND ACCESS \$15,460,000	5) Support research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.	Four projects are supporting the creation of new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies for the preservation of collections and cultural resources.
	6) Support the training of staff from the nation's cultural repositories in the appropriate procedures for preserving and enhancing access to humanities collections.	Four awards were made for regional and national education programs that are providing training for 3,750 people in U.S. museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations.
	7) Provide support for basic preservation activities to small and mid-sized libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations.	Projects supported are assisting in preserving collections at 80 institutions in 32 states. Approximately 35 percent of the awards will go to first-time NEH grantees.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS \$13,684,000	D: Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	
	1) Support efforts by museums and historical organizations to produce interpretive exhibitions and educational materials that convey significant humanities themes and topics.	Thirty grants are supporting exhibitions, web-based programs, and other public education programs will employ various delivery mechanisms at museums and historical organizations across the country.
	2) Support substantive documentary films, radio programs, and online media presentations that advance public understanding of the humanities and promote citizen engagement in consideration of humanities issues and themes.	Thirty grants for television/radio projects will produce 105 broadcast hours and draw a cumulative audience of approximately 35.5 million people.
	3) Support high quality interpretative panel exhibitions and public programs that interpret the humanities at selected libraries, museums, and cultural organization across the nation through small grants.	Twenty-nine grants were made to libraries, museums and cultural organizations that receive smaller versions of NEH-funded exhibitions through the NEH on the Road cooperative agreement to be used for additional public programming.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
PUBLIC PROG.	4) Support humanities projects that make creative use of new technologies to enhance the quality and reach of public humanities programming.	Six digital projects are producing online and mobile games and virtual environments, innovative interpretive websites, mobile applications, virtual tours, and other digital formats to engage citizens in thoughtful reflection on culture, identity, and history.
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP \$42,528,000	E: Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	
	1) Support state council efforts to develop locally initiated humanities programs for the people in each state.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils are making possible high quality locally initiated humanities programs throughout the nation, including 4,000 reading and discussion programs, 625 exhibitions, 1,100 literacy programs, 1,100 speakers bureau presentations, 775 teacher institutes and workshops, 1,375 conferences and symposia, 400 Chautauqua events, 3,250 media program events, 400 technology projects, 188 preservation projects and 1,350 local history projects.
	2) Encourage high quality council-conducted humanities programs in the various states.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils are making possible high quality council-conducted humanities programs throughout the nation, including 12,000 reading and discussion programs, 1,875 exhibitions, 3,300 literacy programs, 3,300 speakers bureau presentations, 2,325 teacher institutes and workshops, 4,125 conferences and symposia, 1,200 Chautauqua events, 9,750 media program events, 1,200 technology projects, 562 preservation projects and 4,050 local history projects.
	3) Encourage state humanities councils in their efforts to create and support humanities-rich websites and digital projects.	Support for the programs and operations of 56 state humanities councils are making possible 1,000 high technology projects.
	4) Support state humanities councils in ongoing collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.	Five thousand collaborations with colleges and universities, museums, libraries, historical societies, and other institutions will be conducted.
	5) Recognize and encourage council activities that promote civil discussion, particularly of issues that divide Americans.	Five thousand programs to promote civil discussion will be conducted.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES \$4,400,000	F: Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	
	1) Provide national leadership in spurring innovation and best practices in the digital humanities.	Twenty Digital Start-Up and 6 Digital Humanities Implementation projects are setting the pace for innovation within humanities research and education. These projects will receive extensive media coverage and have a national and international impact on how new scholarship is conducted.
	2) Encourage and support innovative digital projects and programs that will enhance the way humanities research is conducted and the way the humanities are studied, taught, and presented in the United States.	Five national summer institutes training American scholars on digital methods for humanities research were supported. These methods, including geospatial analysis, data mining, sound analysis, information retrieval and visualization, and others, will lead to new research across humanities domains.
CHALLENGE GRANTS \$8,500,000	G: Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	
	1) Encourage cultural and educational institutions to engage in long-range planning in order to strengthen their humanities programs intellectually and financially.	Twenty-two cultural and educational institutions are engaging in long-range planning with the encouragement of an NEH Challenge Grant.
	2) Encourage efforts of cultural and educational institutions to attract and increase nonfederal contributions to their humanities resources and activities.	By FY 2019, NEH Challenge Grants awarded in FY 2015 will generate more than \$32 million in nonfederal donations to recipient institutions in support of their humanities activities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
	3) Support the efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies, where appropriate, in their humanities activities.	The efforts of cultural and educational institutions to use digital technologies will be encouraged.
	4) Encourage Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges to take advantage of special Challenge grant opportunities designed with these institutions in mind.	Two Challenge Grants will be awarded to Presidentially-designated minority-serving institutions and two-year colleges. When completed, these challenges will leverage \$2 million in third-party support for these vital institutions.
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUND-RAISING \$2,900,000	H: Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	
	1) Encourage and support efforts of educational and cultural organizations to secure nonfederal sources of funding in support of humanities projects and programs.	Fund-raising by recipients of an NEH matching award will generate more than \$2.4 million in third-party support for humanities projects.
	2) Leverage the private sector contributions of the nation's businesses, foundations, and philanthropic-minded individuals on behalf of humanities projects and programs.	NEH partnerships with the private-sector will generate \$1.5 million for exemplary activities in the humanities.

PROGRAM DIVISION/ REQUIRED FUNDING	PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS	FY 2015 PLANNED PERFORMANCE LEVELS
<p style="text-align: center;">NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$3,500,000</p>	<p>I. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.</p>	
	<p>1) New initiatives and programs address the Endowment’s primary strategic objective—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities—in novel ways.</p>	<p>Through the Bridging Cultures initiative, funding was provided to enhance Americans’ understanding of their own rich cultural heritage, as well as the cultural complexity of the world in which we live. The initiative supported: (1) community college programs designed to expand opportunities for students to study diverse cultures and histories; (2) development of teacher support and online curriculum for the teaching of world history, cultures and languages in schools and community colleges; (3) national dissemination of model Bridging Cultures programs for the public, including community presentations of a Bridging Cultures film series and a “bookshelf” for libraries, to engage both live and on-line audiences in consideration of the themes of the initiative; (4) strengthened support for humanities research on Bridging Cultures themes, including interdisciplinary research opportunities engaging scholars in collaborations supported by other research agencies such as NIH and NSF; (5) Endowment-wide emphasis on development of new digital technologies (such as “apps” for smartphones and tablet computers) to engage students, teachers and life-long learners in opportunities to learn about connections between cultures; (6) expansion of the Endowment’s National Digital Newspaper Program to include as a new priority the digitization of historic American newspapers from immigrant communities with newspapers printed in languages other than English, such as Spanish, Italian, German, and French; (7) documentary films that explore other countries and cultures; (8) scholarly forums open to the public that synthesize cutting-edge humanities scholarship on new Bridging Cultures themes and lay the groundwork for ongoing public programs; (9) collaboration with state humanities councils in extending the reach of national Bridging Cultures programs and identifying the best new ideas for the work of the initiative in American communities; (10) and international collaborations that facilitate research and scholarly exchange among U.S. scholars and their counterparts elsewhere in the world.</p>

III. MEETING THE PERFORMANCE GOALS: REQUIRED RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

A. **Required Resources.** NEH promotes national progress in research, education, and lifelong learning in the humanities by awarding project grants to organizations and individuals in all parts of the United States. A program appropriation adequate to provide for a sufficient range of grant opportunities across all disciplines of the humanities is, thus, the Endowment's most important resource requirement. For each performance goal, we have estimated a sum that would be required to produce the desired outcomes in FY 2017:

<u>Performance Goal</u>	<u>Funding Required*</u>
1. Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities.	\$13,755,000
2. Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.	\$12,000,000
3. Preserve and increase access to cultural heritage resources that constitute the cultural and intellectual patrimony of the American people and that are important to research, education, and public understanding of the humanities.	\$14,385,000
4. Provide opportunities for American citizens of all ages and wherever located to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities.	\$12,730,000
5. Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils.	\$43,040,000
6. Provide a focal point for development of the digital humanities.	\$4,600,000
7. Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities through financial incentives provided by matching challenge grants.	\$8,500,000
8. Stimulate third-party support for humanities projects and programs.	\$2,200,000
9. Create program initiatives that advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States in new ways.	\$10,190,000

* In FY 2017, the Endowment would allocate \$119,200,000 in definite and Challenge funds among programmatic activities that address the above performance goals. Another \$500,000 in definite funds would be provided for Program Development. During the year, Treasury funds totaling \$2,200,000 would also be allocated among program areas of the Endowment as needed to match nonfederal contributions in support of NEH-sponsored projects.

Also important are the kinds of administrative resources that it make possible for the Endowment's staff to advance the agency's performance goals through our daily work. Chief among these resources are the following:

- A highly trained **staff**, many of whom are credentialed practitioners of a humanities discipline;
- access to the new **information technologies** that reinforce the agency's efforts to serve the public efficiently; and
- a **physical office environment** conducive to productive work.

B. **Operational Processes.** NEH support for the humanities is provided through an annual sequence of highly selective grant competitions. Because insuring the fairness and rigor of that award process is of paramount importance—both for the sake of taxpayer value and for the integrity of the humanities—the Endowment's most essential operational process is that of conducting a national, merit-based system of grant application review. Through this system, we annually draw upon the services of hundreds of humanities practitioners from outside the agency in order knowledgeably to evaluate each project proposal submitted to NEH. The judgments of panelists and reviewers from all humanities disciplines and every part of the country weigh heavily in the agency's funding decisions.

IV. MEANS OF VERIFYING AND VALIDATING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

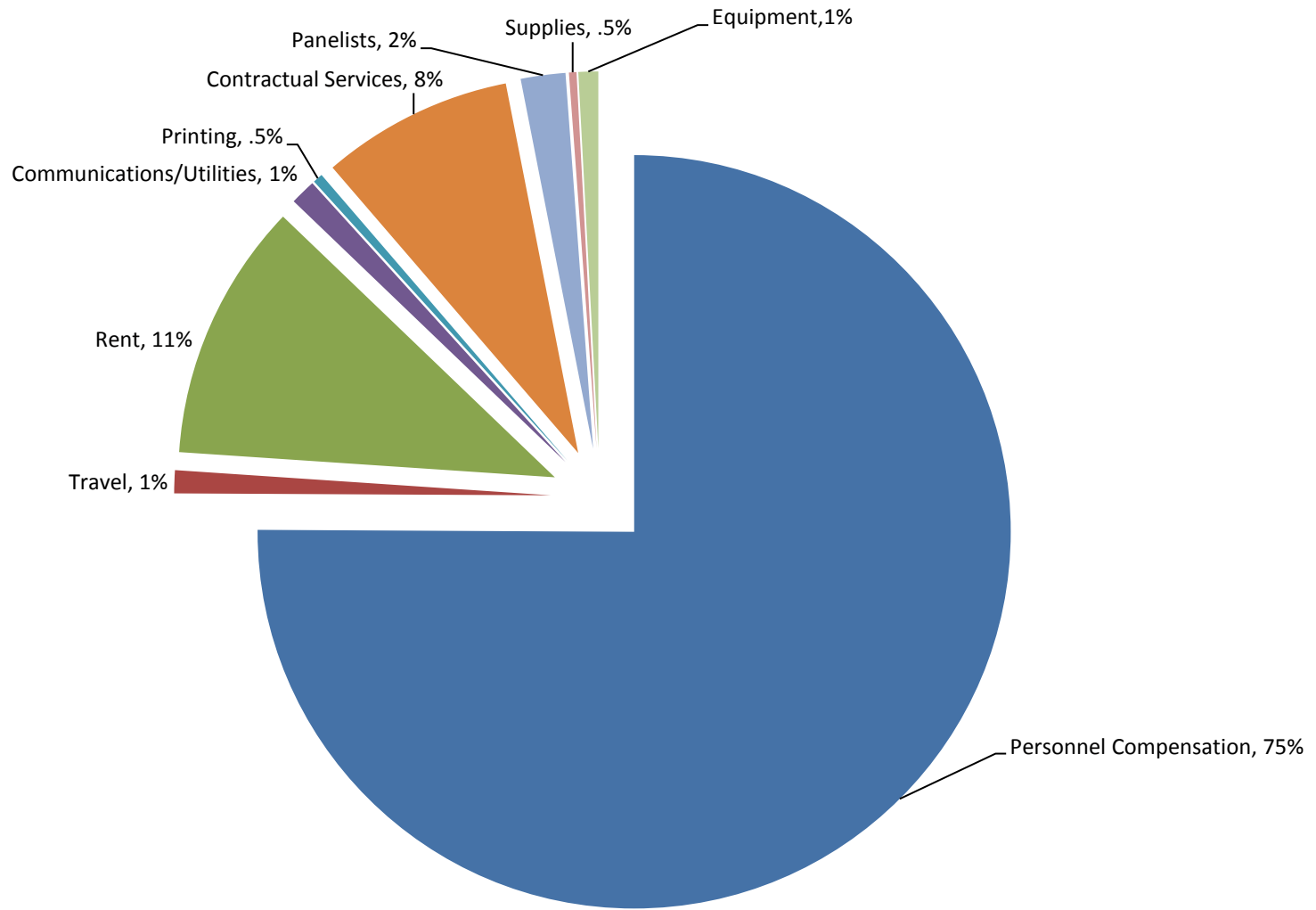
The Endowment will use a variety of means to collect and verify information that measures our progress in attaining our performance goals:

- **Interim and final reports of grantees** will provide the most comprehensive source of information about the outcomes of NEH-supported work. From these reports the Endowment will regularly compile data about the results of activities undertaken in connection with each of our performance goals.
- To systematize the information collected from grantee reports, NEH continues to develop an **outcomes database** for its grant programs. This database is capturing information about the short- and long-term results of funded projects. At present, it links information about 6,873 humanities research projects in the Endowment's grant information database to bibliographic information about 4,809 published books that

these projects produced between 1980 and 2015. As well, current and past grantees can now input data about such additional project outcomes journal articles, websites, documentary films, museum exhibitions, conferences, workshops, computer software, new buildings or equipment, and academic prizes, or about media coverage, such as a book review, newspaper article, or radio interview.

- The Endowment will conduct **site visits** as a means of documenting the progress and accomplishments of selected grantees.
- **Evaluations** of selected projects and programs will be conducted to determine whether program goals are being met.
- Information on **awards, prizes, and other forms of recognition**, such as favorable press articles, will be collected so that the agency can gain a better sense of the impact and quality of our funded projects.

FY 2017 Administration Budget Request \$27,948,000



Administrative Budget by Object Classification
(\$ in thousands)

OBJECT CLASSES		FY 2015 Final	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request
11.1	PERSONNEL COMPENSATION BENEFITS	16,101 4,980	16,243 4,918	16,064 4,920
12.1	TOTAL-PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	21,081	21,161	20,984
21.0	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	317	251	275
23.1	GSA RENT	3,107	3,067	3,102
23.3	COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES	277	292	307
24.0	PRINTING	156	124	118
25.1	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,484	1,897	2,300
25.9	PANELIST CONTRACTS	821	660	535
26.0	SUPPLIES	94	90	90
31.0	EQUIPMENT	208	170	237
	TOTAL	\$28,545¹	\$27,712²	\$27,948

¹ Includes appropriation, reprogrammed funds, and FY 2015 carry-over, and de-obligated funds.

² Includes final FY 2016 appropriations, prior-year carry-over, and estimated de-obligated funds.

NEH ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

FY 2017 Request: \$27,948,000

Introduction

The administrative budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports staff salaries and benefits, rental of office space, agency telecommunications, building security, staff travel, contractual services, equipment, supplies, and any additional program support activities that enable the agency to achieve its legislated mission to advance high quality research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities. For fiscal year 2017, NEH is requesting \$27,948,000 in administrative funds to support the agency's program request of \$121,900,000.

NEH Administrative Costs

The Endowment's grant-making function is the most important factor shaping the agency's administrative budget. This function directly involves the majority of NEH's staff and includes such varied tasks as the planning of programs and special initiatives, the development of application guidelines, the receipt and processing of proposals, the review of applications, the awarding of grants, and the management and oversight of the grants themselves. These labor-intensive tasks require a highly trained program staff that is knowledgeable about the content and methods of the humanities. Most NEH program staff hold Ph.D.s or other advanced degrees in the humanities. In addition to this highly specialized program staff, the Endowment retains the services of personnel needed to perform the everyday but essential activities involved in operating a federal agency, such as budgeting, accounting, and other financial functions; human resources; information resources management; legal counsel; public affairs and communications; and administrative services.

Personnel compensation and benefits account for approximately 75 percent of agency administrative expenses. Of the remaining 25 percent, a significant portion is taken up with fixed costs—that is, items over which we have no control, including annual rent payments to the General Services Administration, building security payments for the Constitution Center, and transfers to other agencies for various electronic services, such as the government-wide Grants.gov online grants application portal.

As a grant-making agency, included in our administrative budget is the annual cost of operating our system for evaluating grant applications. The Endowment currently administers more than three dozen discrete grant categories that receive more than 5,000 applications annually, resulting in the awarding of approximately 1,000 grants each year. These applications are all processed and read by NEH staff and then evaluated by experts outside of the agency, who are asked for their judgments about the quality and significance of the proposed projects. Nearly 1,000 scholars, teachers, museum curators, filmmakers, and other humanities professionals and experts serve on the more than 225

panels we convene throughout the course of a typical year. Each of these evaluators receives a \$250 honorarium. Since a significant number of our panels are sitting panels—that is, are convened at the Endowment’s offices in Washington, DC, to review applications to various grant programs—we also incur travel, lodging, and per diem expenses for each attending panelist. In FY 2014, NEH began a pilot program of remote or “virtual” panels for a number of its grant programs, which continued in FY 2015. We are working towards a goal of conducting at least half our application-review panels remotely in FY 2016 and increasing the level of these panels to 65 percent in FY 2017. These cost savings measures are expected to reduce our panel costs in 2017 by nearly twenty percent.

Another cost directly related to our grant-making function is the expense of convening the National Council on the Humanities. The 26-member Council—which is statutorily mandated to advise the NEH Chairman on all grant applications—meets in Washington three times annually. Each Council member is compensated for his or her service. The Endowment also incurs travel, lodging, and per diem expenses for the preponderance of Council members who live outside of the Washington metropolitan area. The annual cost of convening these regular meetings is more than \$90,000.

Other expenses that are directly related to our role as a grant-making agency include the cost of participating in the government-wide online grant application portal, Grants.gov. This transfer of funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as administrative support provided internally for the Grants.gov program, will cost NEH an estimated \$216,000 in FY 2017.

Overall, more than \$800,000 of agency overhead, or almost twelve percent of our non-personnel administrative budget, is spent directly on program support expenses—such as application review, support for the National Council on the Humanities, Grants.gov, and website development and electronic grants management.

The Endowment is currently engaged in an agency-wide effort to refresh its long-range strategic goals and objectives. Our updated plan will stress the importance of expanding the scope and impact of the grants the agency makes and opening up our programs and grant opportunities to communities, regions, institutions, and populations that have not traditionally availed themselves of the Endowment’s grant programs or benefited greatly from the products of NEH grantees. We expect some of these actions will result in staff travel to reach out to underserved regions, institutions, and populations.

One of the updated plan’s four major goals will be to “enhance the quality of service and efficiency of operations” of the agency. We are currently developing the strategies and tactics that will enable us to attain this goal. Among the areas in which we are focusing our efforts is the streamlining of our grant application and review process. We are also looking for ways we can combine, eliminate, or streamline many aspects of our daily work, which should lead to greater efficiencies and associated cost savings in the years to come.

Recent Administrative Highlights

NEH seeks to extract the most value from its administrative resources, while at the same time ensuring the highest quality service to its customers. We make every effort to reduce overhead and operating costs whenever possible, and we continually stress this priority to all our program and office managers. In the face of upward pressures in various cost categories in recent years, we have made a conscientious effort to limit other administrative cost increases.

Among our administrative improvements in recent years are:

- The development of a grant-search query form on the agency's website has enabled the public to search our grant database for a wide-range of information about NEH grants. NEH has recently completed a long-term project to digitize thousands of pre-1980 grant records and make this information available on our website. This search capability was added in 2015.
- In cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Historic Publications and Records Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NEH is developing and testing an electronic Grants Management System ("eGMS"), which will be used by grantees to interact with NEH and manage their grants online. As a result of early developmental work on this system, a number of interactive features are already available to NEH and its grantees, including tracking of past and present grants, submission of financial and progress reports, processing of award offers, capturing of information on products and prizes that have resulted from an NEH grant, dedicated messaging, and help ticket resolution. More grantee-friendly features are in the pipeline for this time-saving technology. This cloud-based system—developed in-house—is providing the four participating agencies with state-of-the-art software to manage all aspects of their grant-making activity. In addition, this partnership generates some revenue for NEH that helps to defray its operational costs.
- The Endowment has developed a thorough IT security system to guard against outside cyber threats. We have recently implemented an updated and comprehensive risk management program that sets forth an agency-wide strategy for managing security and risk. The policy covers all of NEH's information systems and describes how the agency aligns its risk management framework with pertinent NIST guidelines. We have also completed the move of our agency Internet connection to a Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service provider that fully complies with OMB's Trusted Internet Connection requirements.
- Upon our relocation to our new offices in 2014, NEH worked closely with National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to consolidate certain administrative functions as part of our ongoing efforts to realize cost savings and streamline operations. These consolidations include such core functional areas as information technology infrastructure, grants management, media operations, and

various health and safety accommodations. For example, we are sharing the following rooms and functions in the Constitution Center with our NEA colleagues: data center, media room, lunch room, resting rooms, a room for nursing mothers, web hosting services and a PIV card activation station.

Budget Estimates in Detail
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
PERSONNEL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS	21,081	21,161	20,984

These object classes fund the salaries and benefits of all employees of the Endowment, including full-time permanent, part-time permanent, temporary, and intermittent appointments (for example, the members of the National Council on the Humanities). The estimates for personnel benefits provide for the Endowment's share of contributions toward employees' retirement, health, and life insurance plans.

In an effort to better manage the agency's costs, beginning in FY 2016 the Endowment will be taking a harder look at all vacancies and filling them on a selective basis only.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	317	251	275

Travel funds support local and out-of-town travel of NEH staff to make site visits of NEH grantees, make presentations on Endowment programs, conduct grant-application workshops and other outreach activities, attend conferences and training courses, and conduct other business critical to the mission of the agency. Also supported are the travel expenses of the members of the National Council on the Humanities, who come to Washington three times per year to discuss Endowment policies, review applications, and provide advice to the NEH Chairman concerning funding of specific projects.

We have worked diligently to keep our travel costs controlled by encouraging staff to take more trips that combine multiple venues and purposes and reducing the number of staff who attend national conferences and meetings. As part of our strategic planning efforts, we are also looking for ways to better manage the agency's travel budget. The results of these actions should allow us to realize some savings in FY 2016. However, starting in FY 2017, we expect to increase staff travel for technical assistance and grants workshops to better reach both our current constituents but also those groups, institutions, individuals, and areas of the country that have not in the past availed

themselves of NEH’s grant opportunities. This outreach effort will be especially important for the new grant programs the Endowment has established as part of *The Common Good* initiative.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
GSA RENT	3,107	3,067	3,102

The FY 2017 space rental estimate reflects an increased rent level in line with GSA guidance for NEH’s occupancy of the Constitution Center building in Washington, D.C. The long-term occupancy agreement we have entered into with GSA takes into account both base rent and operating costs from year to year. The Constitution Center’s property management office has determined that operating expenses will be slightly lower in FY 2016 than they were in FY 2015, but will increase to approximately the FY 2015 level again in FY 2017.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES	277	292	307

This object class primarily funds telecommunications and postage expenses. NEH telecommunications costs include local call message units, telephone lines, instruments, installation/service, local Washington Interagency Telephone Service, mobile phones, and Internet line access fees. We expect to incur additional Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) charges for our network contract to begin in mid-year FY 2016 and will continue at full cost in FY 2017, hence the projected increase.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
PRINTING	156	124	118

This object class covers the costs of printing NEH publications such as the Endowment's award-winning, periodical *Humanities*; posters, program announcements, and program brochures; and stationery and envelopes. In FY 2016 and FY 2017, NEH will continue to move more of its publications to a digital environment, thus realizing some savings. In addition, beginning in 2016, *Humanities* magazine will be printed quarterly rather than bimonthly, which will result in additional savings.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,484	1,897	2,300

The Endowment supports a wide range of contractual services under this object classification. These include contracts that are required for running the agency but are not covered in any of the preceding object classes. These services include, for example: (1) support, maintenance, and improvement of information technology systems; (2) annual contract and maintenance of the agency’s Oracle financial database; (3) employee training; (4) fees for site visitors who evaluate selected NEH grants; (5) security personnel costs for the agency’s new home at the Constitution Center; (6) agency contracts for temporary personnel assistance; (7) support of humanities-related activities of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH); and (8) interagency transfers in support of Grants.gov and the Financial Management Line of Business program.

Noteworthy cost considerations in this object classification for FY 2017 include:

- NEH will continue its participation in the Grants.gov program, as a partner agency with the Department of Health and Human Services. For FY 2017, NEH expects that we will be assessed \$216,000 for our participation in Grants.gov.
- NEH will again take the lead role in administering a multi-agency grants management system that has now grown to include the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission at the National Archives and Records Administration. The costs to develop and implement the system are being borne by all participating agencies.
- To help meet pressing needs in other areas of our administrative budget in FY 2016, we will reduce or delay until FY 2017 various discretionary contractual services such as temporary staffing, much-needed redesign of the agency’s website, and communications and outreach initiatives.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
PANELIST CONTRACTS	821	660	535

These funds provide for the contract costs (including travel, subsistence, and honoraria) of panelists. NEH convenes many panels each year to evaluate the quality of grant applications submitted to our programs. Panelists are selected from a database that includes scholars, teachers, historians, archivists, curators, media producers, and other humanities professionals. NEH panelists represent a diversity of disciplinary, institutional, and regional backgrounds. Sufficient funding for panel reviews of grant

applications is one of the Endowment’s highest priorities. We strive to recruit the most competent panelists and to give them the time needed to perform an expert evaluation of all grant proposals. Our overriding goal is to ensure that the projects ultimately receiving federal support will be those most likely to make significant contributions to the humanities.

Historically, a preponderance of these meetings have been held at the agency. For each of these sitting panels, NEH pays travel, lodging, and per diem expenses, as well as a \$250 honorarium that all panelists, regardless of type of service, receive.

In FY 2014, NEH began a pilot program of “virtual” panel meetings in a number of grant programs drawn from across the agency. This pilot was continued in FY 2015 resulting in more than 40 percent of NEH panels in FY 2014 and FY 2015 being virtual. In 2016, we will work toward a goal of conducting more than half of our application-review panels virtually, building towards an expectation in FY 2017 of increasing the level of virtual panels to 65 percent of all convened panels.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
SUPPLIES	94	90	90

The estimates in this object class provide for the cost of expendable supplies required to carry on the daily business of the Endowment. In addition to supporting the purchase of routine office supplies, funds in this category cover IT supplies, including disks and toner cartridges for printers, and the cost of maintaining the agency's subscriptions to essential periodicals.

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
EQUIPMENT	208	170	237

This spending category provides for all equipment, furniture, and office machines having a useful life in excess of one year—items such as chairs, desks, file cabinets, computers, software, and miscellaneous equipment. To cover more pressing needs in other areas of our administrative budget in FY 2016, we will delay until FY 2017 the purchase of new software applications, audio-visual equipment for several conference rooms, and other miscellaneous equipment purchases. This delayed action plan accounts for the one year dip in expenditures in FY 2016.

BUDGET ADDENDA

NEH Inspector General Budget Request

The budget for the operations of NEH's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is subsumed 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 is estimating an aggregate budget for the OIG of \$753,540, which will support all staff salaries and allow for full administrative and legal support of this office, including:

- Staff salaries and benefits totaling \$695,786 to support a staff of 5 FTEs;
- A travel budget of \$10,000, which will allow for audit and investigative support and attendance at all appropriate IG conferences, workshops, and training seminars;
- Estimated IT expenses of \$5,000;
- A training budget of \$10,500 to allow for staff certification as mandated by the IG Act and government auditing standards;
- Independent legal services, as currently being provided by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax and Administration (TIGTA) 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
- \$2,254 in continued support from the OIG for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

National Endowment for the Humanities

