

# 2019 Annual Report



National Endowment for the Humanities

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## FROM THE CHAIR

April 2022

Dear Mr. President,

It is an honor to present the 2019 Annual Report for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The report covers the work of the agency from October 2018 through September 2019 under the leadership of Chairman Jon Parrish Peede.

On Constitution Day, September 17, 2019, NEH announced “A More Perfect Union: NEH Special Initiative Advancing Civics Education and Commemorating the Nation’s 250th Anniversary.” In cooperation with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, NEH is working to provide Americans with the historical knowledge, cultural resources, and educational tools to better understand the complex history of our nation.

NEH has numerous ways to help improve civics and history education. One is EDSITEment, a pioneering, free educational website with hundreds of lesson plans, teacher’s guides, and student activities from the American Revolution to the civil rights movement. The site is used by more than 1.5 million teachers and home-school parents each year, providing primary and secondary sources for educators to discover and implement in their classrooms.

Each year more than half a million students participate in National History Day, a competitive program for middle and high school students that NEH has supported since 1977. Connecting students to primary source materials, the program fires the imagination and strengthens students’ understanding of history.

In addition to civics education, “A More Perfect Union” focuses on funding infrastructure, including capital improvements at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and programs for veterans. NEH will continue to use the power of the humanities to support veterans as they rejoin their families and communities and promote understanding of the military experience among all Americans.

NEH’s grants in fiscal year 2019 supported an array of projects, from 26 short documentaries on trailblazing women of the twentieth century to the digitization of humanities books. Such works not only enlightened us on their given subjects, they answered the call of NEH’s founding legislation, which states, “Democracy demands wisdom.”

NEH remains committed to the study of our nation’s past and the education of our future leaders. The strength of our democracy depends on a thorough understanding of our history—triumphs and failures—and our ability to weave that knowledge into the fabric of our society and create a deeper appreciation for all Americans.

Shelly C. Lowe  
Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities

Adam Wolfson  
Acting Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities, January 2021–February 2022

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**  
SUMMARY OF GRANTS AND AWARDS, FY 2019

Division/Program	Number <sup>1</sup>	Amount Obligated <sup>2</sup>		Total
		Outright	Matching <sup>3</sup>	
FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP	58	\$48,016,713	\$593,700	\$48,610,413
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	106	\$11,750,402	\$0	\$11,750,402
PRESERVATION AND ACCESS	211	\$18,832,669	\$597,710	\$19,430,379
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	99	\$12,346,691	\$492,250	\$12,838,941
RESEARCH PROGRAMS	254	\$15,868,372	\$456,700	\$16,325,072
CHALLENGE GRANTS	87	\$0	\$12,087,136	\$12,087,136
DIGITAL HUMANITIES	38	\$4,996,986	\$128,000	\$5,124,986
AGENCY-WIDE PROJECTS	3	\$70,000 <sup>*</sup>	\$0	\$70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>\$111,881,833</b>	<b>\$14,355,496</b>	<b>\$126,237,329</b>

FOOTNOTES:

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

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

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

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

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In fiscal year 2019, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$125,665,329 to 849 humanities projects through six funding offices (Education Programs, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Research Programs, Digital Humanities, and Federal/State Partnership). After reviewing the grant recommendations of 870 peer-review panelists and a 26-member presidentially appointed council, the chair of NEH made all final decisions on the awarding of grants.

NEH continued its role as a national leader supporting outstanding humanities projects and programming, working with several organizations to further the humanities. A partnership with First Nations Development Institute that supported thirteen Native-language immersion programs was announced in May 2019. It was the second round of grants in a three-year language-revitalization project funded by \$2.1 million from NEH and matched by First Nations. Each program received up to \$90,000 for curriculum development, technology access, and the recruitment and training of language teachers.

NEH has long been a supporter of National History Day, a nationwide contest for middle and high school students to engage in humanities research and presentations. More than 3,000 students from around the country made it to the National History Day finals, held in Maryland in June. Thirty-three students took home prizes sponsored by NEH and four more received a special award from NEH for incorporating historical American newspapers into their projects.

Those historical newspapers are made available online through Chronicling America, the free, searchable database of American newspapers funded by NEH and housed and maintained at the Library of Congress. The project reached two new milestones in 2019: the participation of partners digitizing newspapers expanded to include 48 states and two territories, and the number of searchable pages topped 15 million, increasing access to this information for all without direct access to the source material.

Partnership with the U.S. Department of Education brought together educators and national leaders in the humanities to assess how to better teach American history, civics, and government in K–12 classrooms. In July, the two agencies issued a joint request for proposals for a 15-month, \$650,000 cooperative agreement to plan, develop, and implement a series of two national gatherings focused on evaluating the state of civics and history education in American schools. The project resulted in a published report, *Educating for American Democracy*, and a national forum in March 2021.

In August, NEH welcomed 16 new members to its National Council on the Humanities, the advisory group that gives guidance on grant funding to the chair of NEH. The new members have backgrounds in cultural leadership, public policy, international affairs, and philanthropy and offer expertise in many scholarly fields, including archaeology, languages, law, literature, history, and political science.

And, with great pride, NEH notes that Jeffrey C. Stewart's *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke* won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. For the undertaking of this book, Stewart received two NEH fellowships, through the National Humanities Center and the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

## JEFFERSON LECTURE

Father Columba Stewart—Benedictine monk, scholar of early religions, and cultural preservationist—delivered the 2019 Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities on October 7, 2019, at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C. The lecture is the highest honor the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities.



Father Columba Stewart —*Vincent Ricardel*

Stewart is the executive director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he is also a professor of theology. He has published extensively on the history of ancient Christianity, monasticism, and manuscript culture, including the books *Working the Earth of the Heart: The Messalian Controversy in History, Texts and Language to AD 431*, and *Cassian the Monk*. His 2019 book project, *Between Earth and Heaven: Interpreting the Origins of Christian Asceticism and Monasticism*, was supported by a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship and an NEH research fellowship. He received his D.Phil. from Oxford University in 1989 and was ordained into the priesthood in 1990.

Stewart has left a mark upon the field of theology not only through his scholarship but also through his tireless work preserving and digitizing at-risk early-modern religious manuscripts. Hailed as “the monk who saves manuscripts from ISIS” by *Atlantic* magazine, Stewart has spent nearly two decades collaborating with international religious leaders, government authorities, and archivists to ensure the protection of hundreds of thousands of manuscripts of academic and religious significance. Thanks to Stewart's efforts, many of these invaluable documents are now readily accessible online through HMML's digital collections.

Stewart's Jefferson Lecture, entitled “Cultural Heritage Present and Future: A Benedictine Monk's Long View,” examined the legacy of manuscript preservation within the Benedictine tradition—an order whose monks were historically tasked with the translation, reproduction, and transmission of ancient and classical volumes, including sacred texts from non-Christian faiths. In their desire to engage with foreign books, these medieval men displayed, in Stewart's words, a prescient grasp of the “humanistic principle,” recognizing that, “to understand people of another culture, with different beliefs, we must listen to them in their own voice, learning their language, reading and understanding their texts.”

After exploring the history of manuscript preservation and outlining the work of HMML, Stewart concluded the lecture by reflecting on the importance of manuscript preservation today and on the capacity of cultural heritage to bridge social divides and breed empathy. “Our fragile planet has never been so threatened, nor the human beings who inhabit it so divided,” Stewart observed. “In such times as these, we must dig deeply into our respective stores of wisdom and offer whatever we find there for the sake of mutual understanding, the only possible basis for reconciliation and for the resolve to move forward for the common good.”

In the coming years, HMML will use funding provided by recent NEH digital humanities and preservation grants to make an even greater number of early-modern manuscripts publicly available online.

## NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL

The National Humanities Medal, inaugurated in 1997, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects. On November 21, 2019, President Donald J. Trump was joined by Vice President Mike Pence, First Lady Melania Trump, NEH Chair Jon Parrish Peede, and others to award medals to four outstanding individuals and one institution: Teresa Lozano Long, Patrick J. O'Connell, James Patterson, and The Claremont Institute.

**Teresa Lozano Long** has been a strong supporter of the arts and educational opportunities, particularly in her home state of Texas. Through scholarships and philanthropy, she has helped America's children and young adults learn the skills they need to succeed. Among her many philanthropic works is the Long Foundation, established in 1999 with her husband, Joe, which supports literacy, performing arts, college prep, scholarships, and other educational opportunities. Long has also endowed the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas-Austin, which supports cultural exchange with Latin American countries.

**Patrick J. O'Connell** is considered one of the most inventive and successful chefs of our time. Through his groundbreaking Inn at Little Washington, he has ushered in a new era for culinary arts in the United States, embracing regional flavors and championing local farmers. O'Connell is a five-time James Beard award winner and the recipient of the 2019 James Beard Lifetime Achievement award. He has written three books, incorporating his take on American cuisine and the fascinating history of the Inn, which began in a dilapidated gas station in a tiny Virginia hamlet in 1978 and grew into an epicurean landmark.

**James Patterson** is one of the most successful American authors of our day. His prodigious imagination has resulted in works that have been enjoyed by millions, and his championship of literacy in America has inspired many to become avid readers. Since his first book was published in 1976, Patterson's output has been tremendous. Best known for his thriller mysteries, by 2014, his books had sold more than 300 million copies. In 2005, Patterson established the Page Turner Awards to help spread excitement about reading. This award program evolved into the ReadKiddoRead website, which helps parents find books their children want to read.

**The Claremont Institute** champions the nation's founding principles. Its publications and public events have deepened our understanding and appreciation of American freedom, democracy, justice, and rule of law. The think tank in Upland, California, was founded in 1979 by a handful of students of the late political philosopher Harry V. Jaffa, who emphasized the importance of founding principles in understanding the American system. Now Claremont is home to a group of collaborative scholars who write influential articles and books on the American founding, Lincoln, the Civil War, progressivism, the administrative state, and the importance of statesmanship.



A two-week summer institute, for schoolteachers, on life in seventeenth-century Massachusetts was hosted virtually by the Plimoth Plantation.  
—*Plimoth Patuxet Museums*

## Division of Education Programs

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

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio, received an NEH grant of \$29,372 to create undergraduate courses on Cleveland and the Rust Belt region. Working with community partners, the college has developed a new curriculum focusing on digital humanities and public-facing scholarship to encourage students to engage with the urban landscape through cross-disciplinary learning that draws on the practices of visual documentation, storytelling, and mapping. The coursework will be the foundation for all undergraduate majors and will give students an intellectual framework to think critically about Cleveland’s specific cultural context.

As part of the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing, Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts developed a two-week summer institute for schoolteachers with a \$169,903 grant from NEH. “Beyond the Mayflower: New Voices from 17th-Century America” explored how Indigenous-colonist relationships evolved over the course of the seventeenth century, beginning with the *Mayflower*’s arrival in 1620 and ending with King Philip’s War (1675–1678). The institute, originally scheduled for the summer of 2020, was one of six NEH summer programs that offered a completely virtual experience for its participants during the pandemic. The Plimoth team sent virtual-reality viewers to the teachers and used Google Expeditions to offer a digitally immersive experience of the plantation and historic landmarks of the area.

With a \$65,152 NEH grant, California State Polytechnic University trained and mentored ten discussion leaders to conduct two yearlong humanities-based discussion series for veterans and military dependents, one on campus and one in the wider community of Pomona. The focus of the series was Californians’ experience of war and military service. Organized into five historical chapters (World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Iraq/Afghanistan/war on terror, and the future of war), the project used literature, nonfiction texts, theatrical productions, and films to investigate themes emerging from California’s distinctive relationship to the military and to the American experience of war.



Interviews for the production of *Eyes on the Prize* will be made accessible to the public.

—Martin Luther King Jr. at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963; Dom Slika / Alamy Stock Photo

## Division of Preservation and Access

Projects funded through NEH's Division of Preservation and Access help ensure the longevity and accessibility of the nation's cultural heritage. Much of our cultural legacy resides in books, serials, manuscripts, sound recordings, still and moving images, works of art, and digital collections at museums, libraries, and archives. NEH helps institutions preserve these collections and make them accessible to the public. NEH challenge programs were also administered through the division, offering matching grants for infrastructure and programming geared toward the long-term sustainability of humanities institutions.

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

A grant to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks of \$284,428 will document Sugpiaq, an endangered Yupik language spoken on the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and the Kenai Peninsula. This project includes two summers of fieldwork focusing on Sugpiaq syntax. The results of the fieldwork will inform a description of contemporary spoken Sugpiaq and an investigation of prehistoric contact between the Sugpiat and the Unangan (a.k.a. Aleut) and Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit language groups.

Washington University in St. Louis is working to digitize interview material from the creation of *Eyes on the Prize: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965–1985*, a landmark fourteen-hour PBS series from 1987 that tells the complex history of civil rights in the United States. With a \$226,392 grant from NEH, the *Eyes on the Prize* II Interview Digitization and Dissemination Project will provide public access for the first time to 182 original interviews from the production. The project will provide online, searchable public access to the metadata, transcripts, and streaming files of all the interviews.

During World War II, an Army research branch surveyed approximately half a million service personnel on a myriad of topics and provided space to write frankly about any of their concerns. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University received a \$349,864 NEH grant for the creation of an online collection of more than 65,000 of these handwritten survey responses, which will be transcribed and made available through an open-access website.

### CHALLENGE PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT

Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee, was awarded \$400,000 from NEH to be matched 1-to-1 over six years with nonfederal funds. The support will be used to renovate a learning and cultural center for the school's Appalachian Heritage Project. The center will be an educational resource for students, faculty, staff, and the community to access the project's collections and programming focused on regional literature, poetry, history, and folklore.





This photo from an exhibition on the Haystack craft movement shows Jack Lenor Larsen leading a critique of a weaving assignment, 1956.  
—*Photograph by student Walter Holt; image courtesy of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts*

## Division of Public Programs

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

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Portland Museum of Art in Maine created a traveling exhibition, an audio tour, and a catalog documenting the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts during its heyday from 1950 to 1969. It was there that artists such as Harvey Littleton, Dale Chihuly, Robert Arneson, and Toshiko Takaezu ushered in a craft renaissance, while experimenting with new media and collaborative approaches. This traveling exhibition, supported by a \$100,000 NEH grant, was the first to explore the early years of the school and its impact on midcentury craft and American art.

With a \$700,000 NEH grant in 2019, Futuro Media Group produced 26 short documentaries about little-known Progressive Era women who achieved success in science, business, aviation, journalism, politics, medicine, exploration, and the arts. The documentaries tell the stories of African-American aviator Bessie Coleman, trailblazing astronomer Williamina Fleming, industrial engineer and inventor Lillian Moller Gilbreth, suffragist and educator Mary Church Terrell, and others. Together with an hour-long feature, *UNLADYLIKE2020* aired on public television. It was nominated for an Emmy Award and won the 2020 Eva Haller Women Transforming Media Award.

Smarthistory, Inc., in Pleasantville, New York, produced the second installment of its At Risk Cultural Heritage Education Series, or ARCHES, twenty videos and essays about the preservation, destruction, and recreation of art. The project was supported by \$260,740 in NEH funding. ARCHES looks at museums, temples, and excavations around the world to discuss the dangers facing works of cultural heritage. It brings together art historians, archaeologists, preservationists, and other experts to investigate complex issues surrounding the monuments, architecture, antiquities, and artworks that are under threat from war, looting, neglect, development, and civil unrest.



Cloister mural of the Monastery of Santa Clara at Dzidzantun, Yucatán, late sixteenth century. —Photo by Amara Solari

## Division of Research Programs

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

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Leigh Ann Wheeler of SUNY Research Foundation in Binghamton, New York, received a Public Scholars grant to research and write a biography of civil rights activist Anne Moody (1940–2015), who wrote the memoir *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968). Wheeler chronicles Moody's experiences following her childhood in Mississippi—living in New York and Europe, periods of mental illness, bouts of homelessness, and contributions to the civil rights movement in the United States.

Two scholars are coauthoring a book and website about religious murals painted by Christianized Mayan artists in Yucatán, Mexico, between 1550 and 1750. Amara Solari (Pennsylvania State University) and Linda Kristine Williams (University of Puget Sound) received a \$183,000 collaborative research grant to examine 22 mural cycles and study how this cultural exchange helps define the encounter between Europeans and Indigenous peoples in the Americas. The scholars look at the circulation of material goods used to produce the murals and how the adaptation of Mayan artistic practices impacted the emergence of Mayan Catholic identity.

Archaeological studies and analysis at James Madison's Montpelier, an early nineteenth-century plantation in the Virginia Piedmont, examine the space of the overseer in relation to the elite and enslaved community on the property. Using a spatial analysis of the farm complex in which the overseer's house was situated, and excavations of the overseer's home and its surrounding yard space, archaeologists analyze how the plantation owner situated the overseer in relationship to the rest of the community through building architecture and the spatial proximity of the overseer's house. The Montpelier Foundation received a collaborative research grant of \$249,820 for this three-year project.



Scrolls buried in Herculaneum by the eruption of Vesuvius are being read through new technology. —HHP / *Art Resource, New York*

## Office of Digital Humanities

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

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The University of Kentucky Research Foundation will use innovative computerized techniques to reveal the contents of the most iconic collection of damaged manuscripts—the scrolls from Herculaneum. In 79 BCE, the entire collection of the Herculaneum library was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius—the same eruption that buried Pompeii. Excavations in the 1750s uncovered 1,800 papyrus scrolls, which had been compacted into fragile, unopenable cylinders. With a \$500,000 grant, project director Brent Seales and his team are using CT scans along with other virtual software to finally read what is written in the scrolls.

A four-day workshop at the University of California-Berkeley offers participants insight and skills to navigate ethical and legal issues surrounding data mining of large-scale text collections for humanities research. Many scholars are uncertain about the breadth of legal rights surrounding text data mining. This workshop equips scholars, researchers, librarians, and others with skills to navigate the complex laws, policies, ethics, and risks associated with the practice. It also teaches participants how to integrate workflows, share tools and disseminate results, and develop communities for institutional outreach. The workshop is supported by a \$141,093 grant.

Morehouse College in Atlanta is spearheading an improved, open-source method for visualizing patterns and themes in music and the development of course modules for undergraduate students at HBCUs. Going beyond a now defunct web app called Shape of Song, the project, called Algorithmic Thinking, Analysis and Visualization in Music, integrates how composers develop musical themes, a central object of inquiry for music theorists. With a \$129,873 grant, the project uses pattern recognition based on mental shortcuts from music theory, theme identification by users, and visual enhancements that make diagrams for research and teaching.



A slave quarter from Pharsalia Plantation in Nelson County, Virginia. —Photo by Peter Hedlund, Virginia Humanities

## Office of Federal/State Partnership

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

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Humanities released *Mapping Virginia's Slave Dwellings*, a film that explores efforts by Virginia Humanities and Saving Slave Houses to preserve and document the history of nineteen slave dwellings across the state, most of which are on private property. Virtual tours of the dwellings are available through Google Street View Technology and in Virginia Humanities's Encyclopedia Virginia online, making them accessible to the public.

In 2019, the Helen and Martin Schwartz prize for outstanding work in the public humanities was awarded by the Federation of State Humanities Councils to two projects. Humanities Guåhan won for "Taking Root: Growing Youth Empowerment for Island Sustainability," a program that engages at-risk middle school students on the environments and cultures of Guam and Micronesia. Ohio Humanities won for "Not Far From Me: Stories of Opioids and Ohio," a discussion program and other resources to help Ohioans share, learn, and connect with one another on topics related to the opioid epidemic.

California Humanities received a Chairman's Grant to support disaster response related to natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, including fires, floods, and mudslides. With these funds, California Humanities supported a new focus in the council's Humanities for All public humanities grants called "Second Responders: The Humanities in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters." Activities funded through this subaward program included oral history exhibits, digital storytelling, writing workshops, documentary photography exhibits, and public discussions.

## **MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES**

NEH's chair is advised by the National Council on the Humanities, a board of 26 distinguished private citizens appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The National Council members serve staggered six-year terms. Council members with expired terms continue to serve until their replacement has been confirmed by the Senate and sworn in at the following council meeting.

### **Members Serving in 2019**

Rolena Adorno  
Francine Berman  
Russell A. Berman  
Albert Beveridge  
Allison Blakely  
Keegan F. Callanan  
Constance M. Carroll  
Jamsheed Choksy  
Armand DeKeyser  
Dawn Delbanco  
Paula Duffy  
William English  
Marjorie Fisher  
John Fonte  
Claire McCaffery Griffin  
David Hertz  
Kathe Hicks Albrecht  
Kim R. Holmes  
Phyllis Kaminsky  
Dorothy Kosinski  
Marvin Krislov  
Patricia Limerick  
Shelly Lowe  
Joyce Malcolm  
Christopher Merrill  
Matthew Rose  
Ramón Saldivar  
William Schneider Jr.  
Bruce Sievers  
Katherine H. Tachau  
Noel Valis  
Martha Weinberg  
Jean M. Yarbrough

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. The Endowment serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. NEH-supported grant programs foster scholarship and research, enrich all levels of education, preserve cultural treasures, and encourage public understanding of the humanities.

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Cover: Portrait of aviator Bessie Coleman by Amelie Chabannes. —*Courtesy of UNLADYLIKE2020*  
Inset: Photograph of Bessie Coleman. —*Courtesy the National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution*



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