



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

Funding Opportunities for Native Languages

**Mary Downs, Senior Program Officer
Division of Preservation and Access**

ATALM • Washington, DC •

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NEH's Mission

- Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in schools and colleges across the nation
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning through public programs
- Facilitate research and original scholarship
- Preserve and provide access to cultural resources
- Support the state humanities councils
- Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities
- Advance humanities scholarship, education and programming through technology

What Are the Humanities?



The term 'humanities' includes ... the study of language, both modern and classical, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, history, criticism and theory of the arts, social sciences, and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

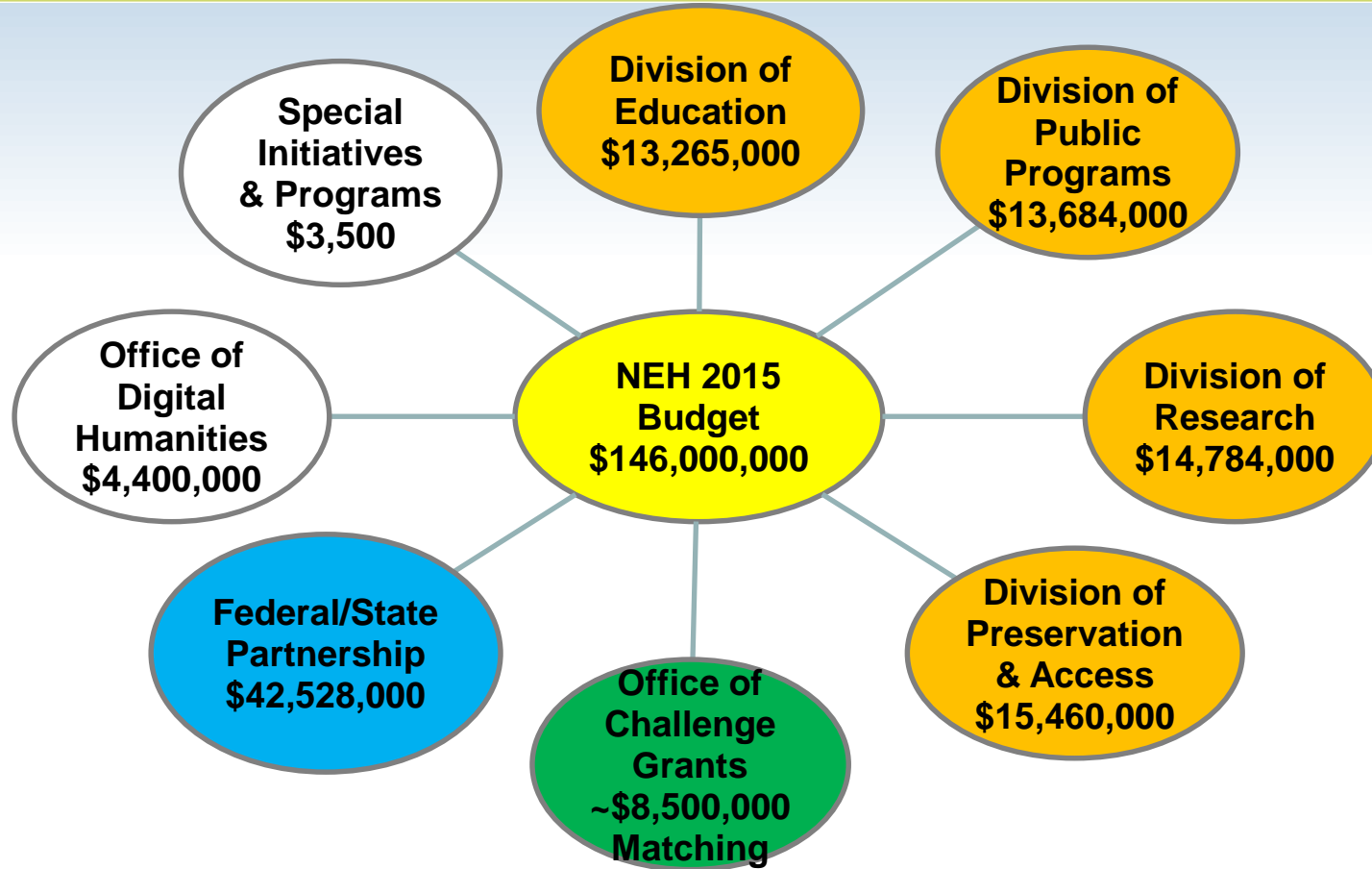
excerpted from the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965

Our Audience

Eligible institutions: cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, public and research libraries, colleges, universities, public television and radio stations, tribal, state and local governments, and individual scholars and educators.

Awards are made to institutions and to individuals through fellowships.

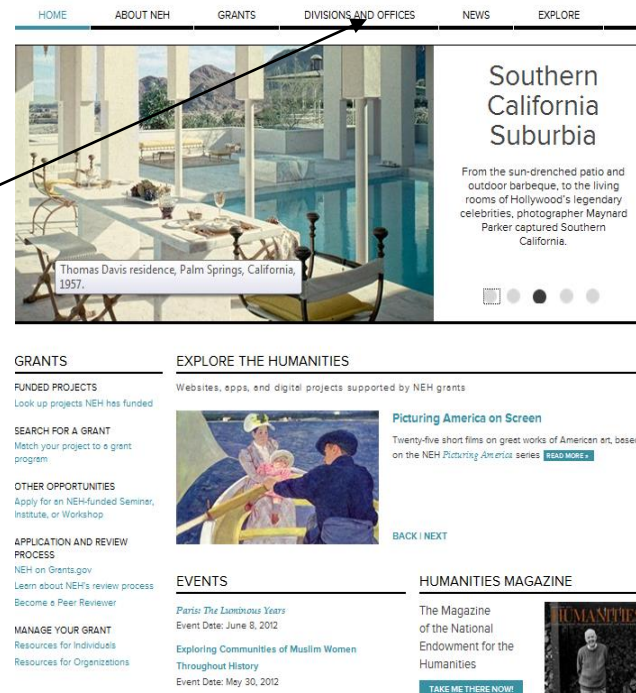
Organization and Budget of the NEH



Where We Are

www.neh.gov

Visit the NEH website



HOME ABOUT NEH GRANTS DIVISIONS AND OFFICES NEWS EXPLORE

Southern California Suburbia

From the sun-drenched patio and outdoor barbecue, to the living rooms of Hollywood's legendary celebrities, photographer Maynard Parker captured Southern California.

Thomas Davis residence, Palm Springs, California, 1957.

GRANTS

FUNDED PROJECTS
Look up projects NEH has funded

SEARCH FOR A GRANT
Match your project to a grant program

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
Apply for an NEH-funded Seminar, Institute, or Workshop

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS
NEH on Grants.gov
Learn about NEH's review process
Become a Peer Reviewer

MANAGE YOUR GRANT
Resources for Individuals
Resources for Organizations

EXPLORE THE HUMANITIES
Websites, apps, and digital projects supported by NEH grants

Picturing America on Screen
Twenty-five short films on great works of American art, based on the NEH Picturing America series [READ MORE](#)

BACK | NEXT

EVENTS

Paris: The Lumière Years
Event Date: June 8, 2012

Exploring Communities of Muslim Women Throughout History
Event Date: May 30, 2012

HUMANITIES MAGAZINE
The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities

[TAKE ME THERE NOW!](#)



Division of Preservation and Access

- Documenting Endangered Languages (partnership with NSF), deadline Sept. 15, 2015

Example: Miami University

Dictionary of the Miami-Illinois Language -- the creation of a digital edition of an 18th-century French dictionary of Miami-Illinois, an Algonquian language formerly spoken in the Midwest. The project involves transcription, annotation, and translation of the original dictionary and the creation of a searchable online resource.

Division of Preservation and Access

- Preservation Assistance Grants, deadline May 3, 2016 (special encouragement for tribes and tribal colleges) to undertake preservation assessments, purchase preservation supplies, and offer education and training

Example: Shawnee Tribe Archives Room Preservation Assessment

Hiring a consultant to undertake a preservation assessment and purchase of preservation supplies for a collection of photographs, maps, and language recordings documenting the Shawnee Tribe's history, language, and culture. The collections consists of 1,000 historic photographs, about 60 hours of Shawnee language recordings, about 100 hours of music recordings, 4-5 feet of language archives, and an archive of tribal rolls, government papers, and newsletters.

Division of Education

- **Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges, deadline June 23, 2016**

Create opportunities for faculty members to study together, support new humanities programs, help institutions take advantage of humanities resources; and support collaborative projects in the humanities between the applicant institution and another institution, such as a college or university, a school or school system, a museum or library, or a historical or cultural society

Public Programs, Research, Digital Humanities

- **Media Projects, deadline Jan. 13, 2016**
(Film, TV, or radio programs)
- **Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges, deadline April 14, 2016**

Research in primary and secondary materials; and basic research leading to the improvement of an existing undergraduate course or the achievement of institutional or community research goals.

- **Digital Humanities Start-up Grants, deadline Sept. 16, 2015**

Typical Evaluation Criteria

- the project's **significance** for supporting research, education, or public programming in the humanities;
- the soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including adherence to accepted standards and best practices
- the viability, efficiency, and productivity of the **work plan**;
- appropriate plans for **sustaining project outcomes**, including digital content;
- the qualifications of the project's **staff** and suitability of the staffing arrangements;
- the quality of the project's plans for disseminating information about and providing **access to grant products**; and
- the reasonableness of the proposed **budget**

Successful Proposals

- Make a strong case for humanities significance
- Describe collections in detail
- Bring collections to life with discussions of exhibitions, educational programs, research
- Relate stories to national events and topics
- Develop a detailed work plan
- Assemble expert team
- Consider long-term sustainability
- Discuss with program officers beforehand
- Know the review process

Tips for applying to NEH

- Humanities significance
- Read the guidelines, know evaluation criteria
- Sample narratives
- Talk to program officers
- Talk to colleagues
- Submit drafts, get comments if unsuccessful

The screenshot shows the NEH Grants website page for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. The page is titled "NEH GRANTS" and "Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions". It includes a navigation menu with links for "GRANTS", "MANAGE YOUR GRANT", "NEH ON GRANTS.GOV", "APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS", and "BECOME A PEER REVIEWER". The main content area features a "Brief Summary" section, a "Program Statistics" section, and a "Questions?" section. A right-hand sidebar titled "GUIDELINES RESOURCES" contains links for "Download Application Materials", "Budget Resources", "Program Resources", and "Sample Application Narratives".

NEH GRANTS

GRANTS
MANAGE YOUR GRANT
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APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS
BECOME A PEER REVIEWER

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Division of Preservation and Access
Receipt Deadline May 1, 2012 for Projects Beginning January 2013

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS PROGRAM HAS PASSED. Updated guidelines will be posted in advance of the next deadline. In the meantime, please use these guidelines to get a sense of what is involved in assembling an application.

Brief Summary

Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions—such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities—improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities that are the focus of their projects. Within the conservation field, for example, conservators usually specialize in the care of specific types of collections, such as objects, paper, or paintings. Applicants should therefore choose a conservator whose specialty is appropriate for the nature of their collections. Similarly, when assessing the preservation needs of archival holdings, applicants must seek a consultant specifically knowledgeable about archives and preservation. Because the organization and the preservation of archival collections must be approached in tandem, an archival consultant should also provide advice about the management and pressing needs of such holdings as part of a preservation assessment that includes long-term plans for the arrangement and description of archival collections.

Small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant are especially encouraged to apply.

Program Statistics

In the last five competitions the Preservation Assistance Grants program received an average of 237 applications per year. The program made an average of 122 awards per year, for a funding ratio of 41 percent.

The number of applications to an NEH grant program can vary widely from year to year, as can the funding ratio. Information about the average number of applications and awards in recent competitions is meant only to provide historical context for the current competition. Information on the number of applications and awards in individual competitions is available from preservation@neh.gov.

Questions?

Program questions should be directed to NEH's Division of Preservation and Access at 202-606-8570 or preservation@neh.gov. Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.

GUIDELINES RESOURCES

Download Application Materials

- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Program Guidelines (PDF)
- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Grants.gov application package (p)

Budget Resources

- Sample budget (PDF)

Program Resources

- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Frequently Asked Questions (PDF)
- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Sample Projects (PDF)
- Preservation Assistance Grants, list of recently funded projects
- DUNS Number Requirement

Sample Application Narratives

- Chicago Film Archives, purchase of film preservation furniture and supplies (PDF)
- City of Ontario, library local history room preservation assessment (PDF)
- Mills College Art Museum, workshop on sustaining digital collections (PDF)
- Museum of Drinking History, improving the storage environment of collections (PDF)
- National Japanese American Historical Society, general preservation assessment for collections (PDF)
- Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, improving environmental

Some Final Tips

- Read the Guidelines @ www.neh.gov
- Check eligibility requirements
- Pitch your idea, call, and email NEH offices
- Talk to a program officer
- Share ideas with peers
- Think about your audience
- Review sample proposals and FAQs
- Submit a draft application (for some programs)
- If turned down, get comments and reapply

Resources

- NEH Web site - www.neh.gov
- Guidelines
- Sample Narratives
- Funded Projects Database
- Feature Articles on Division Homepages
- Program Officers
- Submit drafts for comments 6 weeks prior to deadline
- Register on grants.gov

Contact info

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Come to NEH-NSF table in the Exhibit Hall!