



National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Request

- We join the larger humanities community—including the National Humanities Alliance and the Federation of State Humanities Councils—in urging Congress to provide at least \$155 million for the NEH in FY 2018.

Introduction

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Grants are awarded to nonprofit educational institutions—including museums, colleges, universities, archives and libraries—for educational programming and the care of collections, in addition to annual grants to state humanities councils located in every state and US territory.

Talking Points

- In 2016, museum-related projects received 150 awards totaling over \$21.3 million from all NEH program divisions (Preservation & Access, Research, Education, Public Programs, Challenge Grants, and Digital Humanities).
 - In 2016, NEH supported more than 179 permanent and traveling exhibitions. NEH’s Public Humanities Projects bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for museum audiences by supporting exhibitions, community conversations, and place-based history. Additionally, the Positions in the Public Humanities initiative offers professional development opportunities for new museum professionals.
 - In 2016, 43 peer-reviewed, competitive grants totaling over \$2.5 million were awarded to museums, historical societies and historic sites through the NEH Division of Preservation and Access for a variety of efforts—such as audiovisual preservation, digital preservation and preventive conservation—to preserve and provide access to our nation’s rich cultural heritage.
 - NEH Challenge Grants support efforts at museums and in the museum studies field to expand access for underserved populations. Among new grant awards announced in December 2016, 13 grants totaling more than \$1 million support museum-related projects, including paid internships, innovative educational programs, and community engagement.
- Demand for humanities project support, as demonstrated by NEH grant application rates, far exceeds available funding. In FY 2016, NEH received 5,304 competitive grant applications representing \$518.2 million in requested funds, but was only able to fund 16 percent of these peer-reviewed proposals.
- Humanities councils in every state and US territory sponsor family literacy programs, speakers’ bureaus, cultural heritage tourism, exhibitions, and live performances. In 2016, 55 state councils supported 2,419 exhibitions, 280 preservation projects, and 1,612 local history programs, attracting a total audience of 5.5 million people.
- Through special initiatives, including *The Common Good* and *Standing Together*, NEH helps engage veterans, tackle contemporary issues, support Native American communities, and preserve our common heritage.

Status

- The NEH is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. It received \$149.8 million in FY 2017 appropriations.
- The president’s FY 18 budget proposes eliminating NEH, only allocating funding for an “orderly closeout.”

NEH Funding History

	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 CR*	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18 President’s Request
Appropriation (in millions)	\$167.5	\$154.7	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$147.9	\$149.8	\$42.3

*In FY 2013, across-the-board sequestration cuts reduced NEH’s effective funding to \$138.4 million.