

National Endowment for the Humanities and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence



NEH is proud to be an ex-officio member of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, created by Congress to commemorate the founding of our nation in 1776. NEH has created “A More Perfect Union,” an initiative to provide the public with the historical knowledge, cultural resources, and educational tools necessary to commemorate the 250th anniversary. NEH’s efforts build on its decades-long investment in projects that illuminate our nation’s history.

“A More Perfect Union” Initiative

NEH welcomes consideration of diverse topics in American history, from Native American culture to rural life to the rise of the industrial city, from the Civil War to the Cold War to the Civil Rights movement, projects that examine foundational documents in U.S. history, etc., as well as projects that examine historical objects, places, traditions, events, and individuals who collectively shaped our states and nation. Applications about the contributions of under-represented communities are highly encouraged. Projects may encompass the period from pre-1776 through the present day.

For more
information visit:
neh.gov/250

Funding Opportunities

“A More Perfect Union” encourages projects that:

- strengthen the nation’s humanities infrastructure to make it available to future generations
- advance civic education and knowledge of the country’s core principles of government
- help Americans understand the experiences of service members and veterans and assist them in returning to civilian life

Special funding emphasis is available for:

- short documentaries of thirty minutes or less on American history and culture
- humanities discussions that feature at least six in-person programs related to the 250th anniversary
- documentary editing projects that make significant texts available to a wide audience
- preservation assistance for American history-focused collections held by small to medium-sized institutions

NEH in Your State

NEH is working with the Federation and 55 state and jurisdictional humanities councils to offer thought-provoking programming that fosters discussion and public engagement. The councils sponsor book festivals, literacy campaigns, speakers bureaus, teacher development, and more.

Resources for Students and Teachers

EDSITEment (edsitement.neh.gov), which provides students, parents, and educators with high-quality humanities content, features “A More Perfect Union” resources. Teachers can easily discover and use more than 220 lesson plans about key moments in American history and culture.



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The National Endowment for the Humanities supports research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. Visit us at neh.gov.