

National Endowment for the Humanities

2015 Resource Sampler



September 29, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities. On that date in 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, establishing both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over the past five decades, the NEH has made a wide variety of high-quality humanities programs and resources available to the general public. Below is a sample of some of the NEH resources that are currently available.

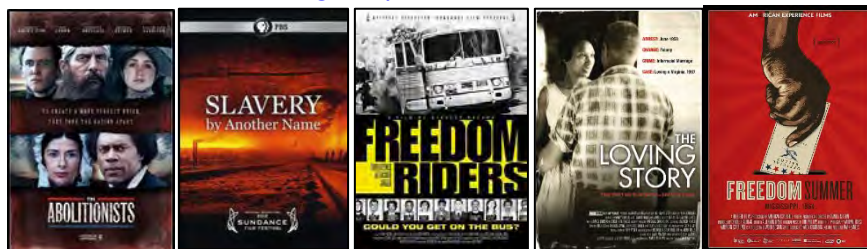


NEH's new initiative seeks to bring the humanities into the public square and foster innovative ways to make scholarship relevant to contemporary issues. The study of the humanities, including but not limited to the study

of language, literature, history, philosophy, comparative religion, and ethics, can help illuminate the complexity of many contemporary challenges while enriching our understanding of the common good.

CREATED EQUAL: AMERICA'S CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE

[*Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*](#), a set of five outstanding films and discussion resources, encourages communities across the country to revisit the history of civil rights in America and to reflect on the ideals of freedom and equality that have helped bridge deep racial and cultural divides in our civic life. The films, spanning the period from the 1830s to the 1960s, are [*The Abolitionists*](#), [*Slavery by Another Name*](#), [*Freedom Riders*](#), [*The Loving Story*](#), and [*Freedom Summer*](#).



Each of these films, which are streaming on the [Created Equal website](#), was supported by NEH, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. The *Created Equal* project includes scholarly resources and a [toolkit for facilitated discussions](#) to help Americans to reflect on the legacy and meaning of our shared civil rights history. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Gilder Lehrman Institute invited four distinguished scholars to write [essays](#) that explore the larger themes and questions at the heart of each film and can serve as a guide in creating public programs. Over 475 libraries and cultural organizations in all 50 states are presenting screenings, discussions, and other public programming.

The network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes is an official *Created Equal* participant organization.

STANDING TOGETHER

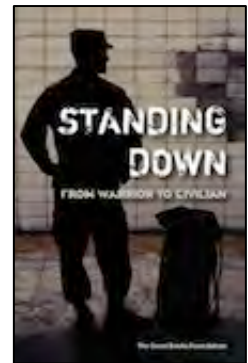


One of NEH's Common Good projects, [Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War](#), recognizes the importance of the humanities in helping Americans to understand the experiences of service members as they return to civilian life. The website includes streaming video from four NEH-funded films, including [The Civil War](#) and [The War](#) (including the episode on D-Day, *Pride of Our Nation*), by Ken Burns; [Death and the Civil War](#), by Ric Burns; [Episode Three of Latino Americans: War and Peace](#), by Daniel McCabe and John J. Valadez; [No Job for a Woman: The Women Who Fought to Report WWII](#), by Michèle Midori Fillion; and [Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home](#), by JulieHera DeStefano.

Standing Together programs include the [Talking Service Project](#), a national initiative to create and sustain discussion groups for veterans using written works of literature in the humanities from the anthology *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*.



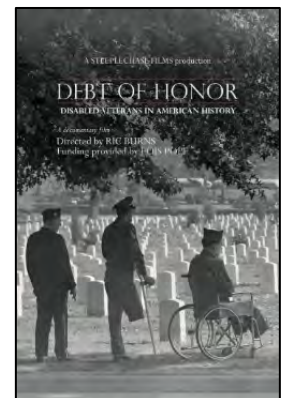
Another program, the [Warrior-Scholar Project](#), is an intensive two-week, humanities-based "academic boot camp" hosted at some of America's top universities to facilitate veterans' transition from the military to college. The [Literature and Medicine](#) reading and discussion program helps the medical and administrative staff of Veterans Affairs hospitals understand and handle the special pressures and challenges of treating veterans.



[YouStories: Classics, Conversation, Connection](#) builds on the success of previous NEH grants for Aquila Theatre's programs interpreting classical Greek drama. Aquila conducts special outreach to American veterans and their families with programs that draw on powerful portrayals in Greek drama of soldiers returning home from war. As participants in the programs, veterans find parallels and develop insights into their own experiences of the trauma of war and the challenges of re-entering civilian life.

A new Standing Together grant program, [Dialogues on the Experience of War](#), awards grants to organizations of up to \$100,000 to support the recruitment and training of discussion leaders and the convening of at least two discussion programs. The discussion groups can take place on college and university campuses, in veterans' centers, at public libraries and museums, and at other community venues. 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.

[Debt of Honor: Disabled Veterans in American History](#), a new documentary film by six-time Emmy Award-winning director Ric Burns, examines the way in which the American government and society as a whole have regarded disabled veterans throughout history, beginning in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and continuing through today's conflicts in the Middle East. The film combines personal stories, told by distinguished disabled veterans, with deep history narrated by leading scholars in the fields of disability studies, history and psychology to illustrate the human cost of war and the enormous sacrifices of military service. *Debt of Honor* premiere on PBS November 10, 2015.



LATINO AMERICANS

[Latino Americans: 500 Years of History](#), a Common Good project produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association (ALA), is a nationwide public programming initiative that supports the exploration of the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape the United States over the last five centuries and who have become, with more than 50 million people, the country's largest minority group.

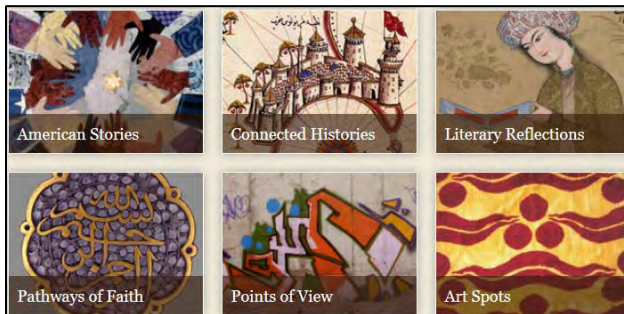


More than 200 libraries, museums, historical societies and other nonprofits are hosting festivals, collecting oral histories, and facilitating informed discussions about Latino American history and culture between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016. All grantees will also host scholar-led viewing and discussion events that feature the six-part 2013 documentary film [Latino Americans](#), supported by an NEH grant and created for PBS by WETA-TV. The award-winning series chronicles Latinos in the United States from the 16th century to present day. Resources available on the film's website include [lesson plans and activities](#) for use with the film, and a [timeline](#) of Latino-American history.

MUSLIM JOURNEYS BOOKSHELF

Bridging Cultures' [Muslim Journeys](#) project offers resources representing diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices, and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world. Through the [Bookshelf](#), 25 books and 3 films were distributed, free of charge, to 953 libraries nationwide and to 36 state humanities councils. The Bookshelf is a carefully curated collection of resources recommended and reviewed by distinguished scholars in the fields of anthropology, world history, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, the history of art and architecture, and world literature, as well as interdisciplinary fields such as Middle East studies, Southeast Asian studies, African studies, and Islamic studies.

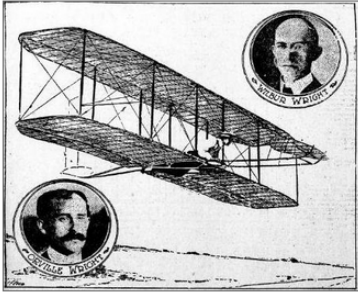
The Muslim Journeys project [website](#) is intended to introduce the Bookshelf collection to the American public and to enrich the experience of readers by offering online resources that place the books and documentary films in a larger context. Five essays written by renowned project scholars tie selected



books together using [themes](#) designed to help draw connections among the varied voices represented by these books and to facilitate conversations in libraries and other settings. A series of seven short visual essays called [Art Spots](#), designed to make art from Muslim societies an integral part of the Muslim Journeys experience.

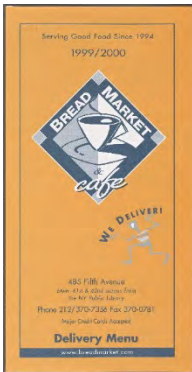
The Muslim Journeys project is jointly produced by [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), in cooperation with [Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies](#) at [George Mason University](#) and [American Library Association Public Programs Office](#). Support for this program was provided by a grant from [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#). Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the [Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art](#).

DATABASES & DICTIONARIES



[Chronicling America](#)

Chronicling America is a free, national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922, from all the states and U.S. territories. Produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, this searchable database is maintained at the Library of Congress and is freely accessible via the Internet. An accompanying national newspaper directory of bibliographic and holdings information on the website directs users to newspaper titles available in all types of formats. Chronicling America has **nearly 10 million pages of newspapers, including 1,859 titles in English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, and Spanish**. EDSITEMent has created a special portal to Chronicling America for educators (<http://edsitement.neh.gov/what-chronicling-america>) with how-to videos and lesson plans. Chronicling America offers a “[Today in History](#)” feature and [recommended topics](#) curated by the Library of Congress.



[What's On The Menu?](#)

The New York Public Library's collection of some 45,000 restaurant menu collection is one of the largest in the world, used by historians, chefs, novelists and everyday food enthusiasts. Site visitors are invited to enhance the *What's On The Menu?* collection by transcribing specific information about dishes, prices, the organization of meals, and all the stories these things tell us about the history of food and culture. Doing this will dramatically expand the ways in which the collection can be researched and accessed, opening the door to new kinds of discoveries. The site's simple transcribing tool makes allows site users to contribute to the project's completion.

The Armory Show at 100



This New York Historical Society website takes you behind the scenes of the 1913 show and the hundredth anniversary celebration. The Armory Show took place from February 17 to March 15, 1913 at the 69th Regiment Armory on Lexington Avenue and 25th Street, and in just less than a month it changed the way Americans thought about modern art. It has been called the most important exhibition ever held in the United States.

The Armory Show was a stunning exhibition of nearly 1,400 objects that included both American and European works, but it is best known for introducing the American public to the new in art: European avant-garde paintings and sculpture. One hundred years later it is hard to imagine what it would have been like to see works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Marcel Duchamp, Paul Gauguin, Paul Cézanne, and Vincent Van Gogh, all together for the very first time. The exhibition created a huge sensation in New York. It traveled to Chicago and Boston, and was even more controversial in Chicago, where students burned paintings by Matisse in effigy. The exhibition's travel turned it into a national event, and the polemical responses to the show have come to represent a turning point in the history of American art.

The website offers an opportunity to [explore](#) some of the masterworks in the 1913 exhibition, find out what critics thought of them, and comment on your favorites; to [step back](#) into New York in 1913; [read](#) artists' letters that delve into the intrigue surrounding preparations for this groundbreaking show; and [hear](#) from the curators of the 2013 exhibition and other experts.



MANIFOLD GREATNESS

The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible

Inspired by the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, [Manifold Greatness](#) tells the story of one of the most widely read books in the English language through online content, exhibitions, and more. The project was jointly produced by the Folger and Bodleian libraries, assisted by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

NATIONALLY BROADCAST FILMS

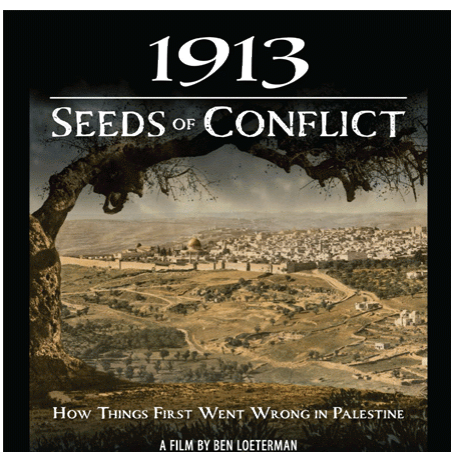
NEH-funded films are accompanied by online educational and public engagement resources, including study guides, lesson plans, essays, and interactive timelines, mobile apps, and more.



Two-part, four hour series
Premiered on PBS September 14-15, 2015

[Walt Disney](#)

This new film examines Disney's complex life and enduring legacy, featuring rare archival footage from the Disney vaults, scenes from some of his greatest films, and interviews with biographers, animators and artists who worked on early films, including Snow White, and the designers who helped turn his dream of Disneyland into reality.



One hour
Premiered on PBS June 2015

[1913: Seeds of Conflict](#)

The one-hour television documentary by Ben Loeterman explores the little-known history of Palestine during the latter part of the Ottoman Empire, a time of relative harmony between Arabs and Jews. Living side by side in the multi-lingual, cosmopolitan city of Jerusalem, Jews, Christians and Muslims intermingled with a cultural fluidity enjoyed by all. How did this land of milk and honey, so diverse and rich in culture, become the site of today's bitter and seemingly intractable struggle? Was there a turning point, a moment in time when things could have been different? Weaving the raveled threads of Arab and Jewish narratives back together, *1913: Seeds of Conflict* provides new and fascinating insights into the dramatic events that took place in Palestine which set the stage for the coming century of unrest.



7-part, 14-hour series
Premiered on PBS, September 14, 2014

[The Roosevelts: An Intimate History](#) chronicles the lives of Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, three members of the most prominent and influential family in American politics. It is the first time in a major documentary television series that their individual stories have been interwoven into a single narrative. This film follows the Roosevelts for more than a century, from Theodore's birth in 1858 to Eleanor's death in 1962. Over the course of those years, Theodore would become the 26th President of the United States and his beloved niece, Eleanor, would marry his fifth cousin, Franklin, who became the 32nd President of the United States. Together, these three individuals not only redefined the relationship Americans had with their government and with each other, but also redefined the role of the United States within the wider world. Written by Geoffrey C. Ward. Produced by Paul Barnes, Pam Tubridy Baucom and Ken Burns.

JEFFERSON LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES

The [Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities](#), established by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1972, is the highest honor the federal government confers for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities. The lecture is streamed live via the internet and is archived on the NEH website.

The 44th Jefferson Lecture featured Anna Devere Smith. Smith, acclaimed actress, playwright, and university professor, presented the 2015 NEH Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities on April 6 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. In her lecture, titled "On the Road: A Search for American Character," Smith discussed and performed excerpts from her ongoing documentary theater project, begun in the early 1980s, of transforming the words of ordinary people into dramatic monologue. You can view the lecture here:



<http://www.neh.gov/about/awards/jefferson-lecture/anna-devere-smith-lecture-live-stream>

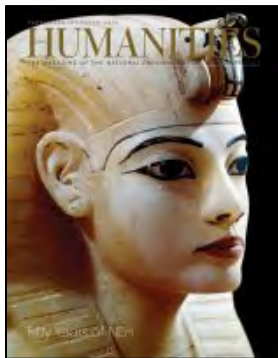
The 2014 Lecture, [The Intersection of the Humanities and the Sciences with Walter Isaacson](#), the [2013 Martin Scorsese Lecture, Persistence of Vision: Reading the Language of Cinema](#), and the [2012 Wendell E. Berry Lecture, It All Turns on Affection](#), and are also archived for viewing.

EDSITEment!



[EDSITEment](#) offers high-quality lesson plans and other educational resources in the subject areas of literature and language arts, foreign languages, art and culture, and history and social studies. All websites linked to EDSITEment have been reviewed for content, design, and educational impact in the classroom. They cover a wide range of humanities subjects, from American history to literature, world history and culture, language, art, and archaeology, and have been judged by humanities specialists to be of high intellectual quality. EDSITEment is not intended to represent a complete curriculum in the humanities, nor does it prescribe any specific course of study.

HUMANITIES MAGAZINE



[Humanities](#) is a bimonthly magazine published by the National Endowment for the Humanities and written by a notable cast of scholars, critics, and journalists. Handsomely designed with classic works of art, original illustrations, and great photography, this award-winning magazine explores the human endeavor through essays and articles on historical events, current humanities scholarship, and all the questions that art and literature recommend for our consideration.

The magazine is an expression of many investments in humanities scholarship and programming made by NEH, which was founded in 1965 because, as the agency's enabling legislation puts it, "democracy demands wisdom." Available for subscription, the print magazine is distributed to state humanities councils, while its articles have been picked up by Arts and Letters Daily, Longform, National Public Radio, the *New York Times*, and other popular outlets.