



National Endowment for the Humanities Grants and the Arts

Update

Over the past few years, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), like the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), has experienced sizeable cuts in funding. The effects of these cuts are reflected in the considerably low percentage of requests that are actually funded. For instance, in FY 2012, the NEH received over 5,000 competitive grant applications, representing over \$500 million in requested funds, but it was able to fund only 14.7% of these requests.¹

Appropriations

While appropriations in FY 2010 totaled \$167.5 million, the NEH currently operates on a budget of \$139 million due to sequestration.

How to Apply for a Grant

The NEH website provides a tool to search for current grant opportunities. The website also provides detailed information regarding the application review process once your grant is submitted. For more information regarding grant opportunities and the application review process, visit the “Grants” section of the NEH website: <http://www.neh.gov/grants>.

Examples

The NEH continues to award grants to various types of arts organizations and to individual scholars. The list below provides examples of NEH awards related to the arts.

NEH Grants in the Arts

Alaska

- ***An Energy-Efficient Climate Control System, Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau, 2012:*** An implementation project to purchase and install a heating, humidity, and ventilation system to improve the preservation environment for a collection of art, artifacts, and historic documents and photographs relating to the history of the city of Juneau.

Award: \$275,000

Arizona

- ***Prints and Drawings Preservation Assessment, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, 2012:*** The assessment of the storage vault of the Phoenix Art Museum’s work on paper, which span the periods of American Impressionism, German Expressionism, Cubism, and the French avant-garde and include prints and drawings by artists such as Mary Cassatt, Milton Avery, Arshile Gorky, Maynard Dixon, Otto Dix, Pablo Picasso, and pieces from the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection. The project will result in a five-year plan to improve the storage conditions of the current collection as well as allow for future acquisitions.

¹ <http://www.nhalliance.org/advocacy/funding-priorities/national-endowment-for-the-humanities-fy2013.shtml>

Award: \$4,855

California

- ***Digitizing the Strachwitz Frontera Collection of Mexican and Mexican-American Recordings, Arhoolie Foundation, El Cerrito, 2013:*** Digital preservation of 24,000 Mexican and Mexican-American recordings of traditional and vernacular music from the Discos Ideal label, dated from 1940 to 1990, issued on 2,400 33-1/3 rpm LP vinyl records and 200 reel-to-reel master tapes; partnering with the Digital Library at the University of California, Los Angeles, the recordings would be mounted on a searchable, bilingual website.

Award: \$102,160

- ***Digital Documentation Photography Training Workshop, Petterson Museum of Intercultural Art, Claremont, 2012:*** Hiring a digital imaging consultant to conduct a three-day on-site training workshop on the proper use of digital photographic equipment for staff, interns, and volunteers from the Petterson Museum and invitees from all other local museums. The Museum has a general collection of 10,200 artifacts from every inhabited continent and includes folk art, fine art, and cultural objects from diverse societies from 10,000 BCE to the present. The geographic strengths of the collection's holdings include China, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and North America, and there are also strong concentrations in costumes, textiles, ceramics, musical instruments, and dolls.

Award: \$4,997

- ***Guangzhou Dream Factory, Raymar Educational Films, Inc., Oakland, 2012:*** Production of a one-hour documentary film examining the African community taking root in Guangzhou, China, and the resulting tensions and cross-cultural exchange.

Award: \$315,000

- ***Western Region Field Service Program (WRFSP), Balboa Art Conservation Center, San Diego, 2012:*** A regional preservation field service program that provides preservation surveys, workshops, technical consultations, and educational materials to museums and historical organizations in California, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington.

Award: \$190,000

- ***Benton, Hollywood, and History, Museum Associates, Los Angeles, 2012:*** Planning for a traveling exhibition, a catalog, and public programs on American artist Thomas Hart Benton and how his history paintings and narrative art were influenced by popular Hollywood film.

Award: \$40,000

- ***FACES: Faces, Art, and Computerized Evaluation Systems, University of California, Riverside, 2012:*** The refinement of additional techniques for using facial recognition software to help with the identification of human subjects in portraiture for art historical research.

Award: \$60,000

- ***Children of the Plumed Serpent: The Legacy of Quetzalcoatl in Ancient Mexico, Museum Associates, Los Angeles, 2011:*** Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, and public programs on artistic trends in Mesoamerica from 950 through 1521 CE and on the persistence of native traditions and identity after the Spanish conquest.

Award: \$300,000

- ***Planning: Upgrading Climate Control to Preserve Audiovisual Collections, Stanford University, Stanford, 2011:*** A planning project to provide stable temperature and relative humidity to the storage areas of the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound, which possesses over 350,000 music and spoken sound items with strengths in jazz, opera, symphonic chamber music, and oral histories.

Award: \$39,508

Connecticut

- ***Gullah Voices: Traditions and Transformations, University of Connecticut, Waterbury, Waterbury, 2012:*** Two one-week workshops for eighty schoolteachers to explore the history and cultural memory of the Gullah people through the arts.

Award: \$179,915

- ***Preserving American and European Furniture and Decorative Arts, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, 2011:*** Implementation of improved storage for the museum's American and European furniture, metalwork, ceramics, glass, and sculpture. These 12,600 objects would be rehoused in new storage furniture in the basement of the Morgan building, which would be reconfigured to provide a secure zone with improved climate control, security, fire protection, and lighting systems.

Award: \$325,000

District of Columbia

- ***Project Andvari: A Digital Portal to the Visual World of Early Medieval Northern Europe, Catholic University of America, 2013:*** A two-day workshop bringing together an international group of humanities scholars, cultural heritage professional, and technical experts to begin planning for an online resource that would facilitate access to digital collection of the art and artifacts of the early medieval period in northern Europe, drawn from a range of dispersed institutional holdings.

Award: \$27,921

Illinois

- ***Cataloging, Conservation, and Online Publication, Art Institute Chicago, Department of Photography, Chicago, 2013:*** Enhanced cataloging for a collection of 20,000 photographs that span the history of American and European photography from the 19th to the 21st century, rehousing and conservation of approximately 3,300 of them, and creation of access to highlights of the collection through a series of online exhibits and catalogs.

Award: \$280,000

- *Neustras Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity from the National Museum of Mexican Art's Permanent Collection, National Museum of Mexican Art, 2013:* Implementation of the reinstallation of the permanent exhibition, a catalog, and educational programs exploring Mexican art and culture on both sides of the American border.

Award: \$125,000

Indiana

Documenting Modern Living: Digitizing the Miller House & Garden Collection, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, 2012: Digitization of architectural and landscape plans, photographs, correspondence, project files, and material samples for the National Historic Landmark Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. The collection of 23,000 items documents the collaboration of the Miller family and architect Eero Saarinen, landscape architect Dan Kiley, and interior designer Alexander Girar in the design, construction, and maintenance of this mid-century modern residence.

Award: \$190,000

Iowa

- *Sculpture Conservation Project, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, 2013:* Conservation treatment of up to 11 sculptures in the collection of the Des Moines Art Center. Works are by artists Scott Burton, Alexander Calder, John Chamberlain, Carl Milles, Henry Moore, Bruce Nauman, Claes Oldenberg, George Segal, David Smith, Robert Smithson, and Frank Stella.

Award: \$80,000

Louisiana

American Routes: Routes to a Creative Future-Cultural Sustainability and the Usable Past, Tulane University, New Orleans, 2013: Production of six two-hour radio documentaries and four one-hour programs exploring American musical culture to be featured on the *American Routes* radio series.

Award: \$146,000

Maine

- *MUSA (Music of the United States of America), American Musicological Society, 2011:* Preparation for publication of volumes 24-28 in the Music of the United States of America series, and editorial work on one additional volume.

Award: \$110,000

Maryland

- ***Pearls on a String: Artist and Patron in the Islamic World, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 2013:*** Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, and programs that present the arts of Islamic cultures from the point of view of patrons and artists from various historical periods across the Islamic world.

Award: \$300,000

- ***Reinstallation of American Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, 2012:*** Implementation of the reinstallation of the galleries of American fine and decorative art.

Award: \$126,500

Massachusetts

- ***The Sound of Silk, Silk Road Project, Inc., Boston, 2013:*** Production of a documentary about the Silk Road Ensemble, a collective of virtuoso musicians from more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Award: \$400,000

- ***Asia in Amsterdam Exhibition Planning Grant, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, 2013:*** Planning of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, an online publication, and programs exploring the global reach of the Dutch Republic in the 17th and 18th centuries and the role that Asian art and culture played in Dutch life.

Award: \$40,000

- ***Boston Symphony Orchestra Archives Content Digitization and Accessibility, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston, 2012:*** The digitization of the concert programs of the Boston Symphony Orchestra covering its full performance history (16,000 concerts) from 1888 to 2011.

Award: \$93,000

- ***Asia and the New World: Global Exchange and Artistic Influence, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2011:*** Planning for a traveling exhibition, a catalog, new media interpretive materials, and public programs about the impact of trade with Asia on artistic production in North, Central, and South American from 1500 to 1800.

Award: \$60,000

- ***Guastavino Vaulting: Palaces for the People, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, 2011:*** Implementation of a traveling exhibition that examines the work of Spanish immigrant builder Rafael Guastavino, whose innovations transformed American architecture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Award; \$350,000

- ***Improving Climate Control to Preserve Collections of the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, Springfield Library and Museums Association, Springfield, 2011:*** The purchase and

installation of climate modification equipment in a 19th-century historic building that houses unique art of the collector George Walter Vincent Smith, including Japanese armor, Tiffany glass, Chinese cloisonné, Middle Eastern textiles and carpets, and 19th-century American paintings.

Award: \$320,000

Michigan

- ***Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil, ConVida -- Popular Arts of the Americas, Detroit, 2012:*** Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, a website, and public programs on the folk art of the people of the Northeast region in Brazil whose culture is a unique blend of African, European, and Amerindian traditions.

Award: \$300,000

Minnesota

- ***Islamic Africa: Art and Architecture, Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, Minneapolis, 2013:*** Planning of a traveling exhibition examining the social and historical significance of the diverse forms of Islamic art and architecture that have developed in Africa over the last 1,500 years.

Awarded: \$40,000

- ***Space planning: The Final Frontier, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, 2012:*** A planning grant to develop options for an efficient environmental system to preserve 12,950 historic textiles and pieces of apparel from around the world housed in the university's museum of design.

Award: \$31,068

- ***American Icons III on Studio 360 from PRI and WNYC, Public Radio International, Minneapolis, 2011:*** The production of a one-hour national public radio series on iconic works of American culture for Public Radio International's *Studio 360*.

Award: \$300,000

- ***Enhancing the Humanities through Innovation: The Extended Collection Project, Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, Minneapolis, 2011:*** Development of a pilot program for training docents in using digital tours and resources.

Award: \$25,000

Mississippi

The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music, History and Culture of the Mississippi Delta, Delta State University, Cleveland, 2012: Two one-week workshops for eighty school teachers on the history and culture of the Mississippi Delta, with music as a focus.

Award: \$177,488

Missouri

- *Jade: China's Immortal Stone, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, 2012:* Planning for a traveling exhibition tracing the evolution of the meaning of jade in China from prehistoric times to the present.

Award: \$60,000

New Jersey

- *Georgia O'Keeffe: Sante Fe, Abiquiu, and the New Mexico Landscape, Community College Humanities Association, Newark, 2011:* Two one-week Landmarks workshops for fifty community college teachers on the history, culture, and landscape of northern New Mexico in the art of Georgia O'Keeffe.

Award: \$156,400

New Mexico

- *Planning: Environmental and Lighting Systems, Museum of International Folk Art and the New Mexico Museum of Art, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, Santa Fe, 2012:* A planning project to explore energy-efficient strategies for the care of collections at the Museum of International Folk Art, which holds one of the largest collection of folk art in the world, and the New Mexico Museum of Art, with a collection of late 19th- and 20th-century art of the Southwest.

Award: \$40,000

New York

- *The Warsaw Autumn Festival: Musical Encounters in Poland from the Cold War to the Twenty-First Century, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, 2013:* Summer Stipend.

Award: \$6,000

- *Gene Smith and The Jazz Left, WNYC Radio, New York, 2012:* Production of a 90-minute documentary film about photographer W. Eugene (Gene) Smith and the history of jazz in New York during the 1950s.

Award: \$704,000

- *The Armory Show at 100: The New Art Spirit Interpretive Website, New York Historical Society, New York, 2012:* Planning for an interactive website about the 1913 Armory Show in New York and its significance in the cultural, political, and historical context of the period.

Award: \$50,000

The Greatest Jubilee: American Music and the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, API Arts and Outreach, Inc., New York, 2012: Production of a documentary film on the development of American music over the course of the 19th century that focuses on music performed at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

Award: \$550,000

- *Oye Cuba! A Journey Home, Independent Feature Project, New York, 2011:* Development of a feature-length documentary film on the history and significance of Cuban jazz, its influence on American jazz, and its stylistic changes over time.

Award: \$75,000

North Carolina

- *Crafting Freedom: Black Artisans, Entrepreneurs and Abolitionist of the Antebellum Upper South, Apprend Foundation, Durham, 2011:* Two one-week Landmarks workshops for eighty school teachers on African-American artisans during the antebellum period, using sites in North Carolina.

Award: \$175,036

- *Wari: Lords of the Ancient Andes, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, 2012:* Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a catalog, programs, and a website on the arts of the Wari, a major Andean civilization and the first empire in that region between AD 600 and 1000.

Award: \$352,000

Oregon

- *Digitizing and Creating Access to the Audiovisual Collection in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Archives, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, 2013:* Cataloging and digitization of 3,098 items in an audiovisual collection that documents the performance history of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), among the oldest and largest professional regional repertory theater companies in the United States. The materials will be cataloged and digitized along with a six-volume, 900-page descriptive finding aid for the audio collection.

Award: \$200,000

- *Les Voyageurs Sans Trace: A Frontier River Adventure in the Pre-War West, Northwest Documentary Arts & Media, Portland, 2013:* Development of a film about three French explorers who kayaked 900 miles from Green River, Wyoming, to Lee's Ferry, Arizona, documenting the American West in 1938.

Award: \$40,000

- *Northwest Art Initiative, Phase II, Portland Art Museum, Portland, 2013:* Cataloging and digitization of 7,750 works of Northwest regional art, including textiles, baskets, masks, photography, paintings, prints, and drawings.

Award: \$171,765

- *Anthropology Collection Storage Improvement and Sustainability, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, 2012:* A planning project for improved storage and environmental controls in the museum's annex building, which houses a large anthropological and ethnological collection

representing North, Central, and South American cultures, as well as those of Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

Award: \$39,521

Texas

- ***Access to the Artist Archives, Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, 2012:*** The cataloging and digitization of 15,500 photographs from the archives of eight 20th-century American photographers, with enhanced catalog records for an additional 6,700 images already digitized and online access.

Award: \$75,000

Virginia

Evaluation of Mechanical and Control Systems Serving the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2012: A planning project to evaluate climate control and lighting systems in the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, which house collections of fine and decorative art objects made or used in America or Great Britain between 1680 and 1830, and folk art holdings of paintings, sculpture, carvings, textiles, and pottery crafted by minimally trained and untrained American artists between the early 18th century and the present.

Award: \$50,000

Source: National Endowment for the Arts Press Releases, 2011, 2012, 2013

NEH Challenge Grants

- ***Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA:*** Endowment for a key humanities position to oversee the archive of African American photographer Charles Harris (1908-1998).

Award: \$300,000

- ***Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH:*** Endowment for the museum's interpretation staff and the development of humanities-based interpretive materials for refreshed gallery interpretation.

Award: \$500,000

- ***Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH:*** Endowment for a humanities curator and related programming for the Allan Memorial Art Museum

Award: \$500,000

- ***Spokane Public Radio, Inc., Spokane, WA:*** Purchase and renovation of an historic building for administrative offices and construction of a new broadcast facility.

Award: \$500,000

- *University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD:* Renovation and expansion of the National Music Museum.

Award: \$500,000