

THE NEH PROMOTES ECONOMIC GROWTH



National Endowment for the Humanities grants have a major economic impact. By providing the backbone for strong local tourism economies and spurring additional private investment, NEH funding contributes to the financial health of organizations, cities, and states, while supporting strong communities.

NEH INVESTMENTS IN MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES ATTRACT CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM, BOLSTERING LOCAL ECONOMIES.

NEH investments in the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa have helped the organization grow from a single historic site into a 14-acre campus, transforming it from a local historical society into a nationally-significant attraction. Today, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium is touted in tourism publications as a regional must-see. An analysis done by the Dubuque Convention & Visitors Bureau indicates that the organization contributes \$10 million to the local economy each year.

Over several decades, the NEH has supported the development of new exhibitions at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. These grants have had an outsized impact on the local economy as Monticello has welcomed nearly 400,000 annual visitors. Ninety-three percent were from outside Virginia and 50% stayed in a hotel for at least one night, adding at least \$13.1 million to the local economy.

NEH CHALLENGE GRANTS, WHICH REQUIRE A 3-TO-1 MATCH, SPUR LOCAL INVESTMENT IN THE HUMANITIES.

In Seward, Alaska an NEH challenge grant helped the City of Seward raise an additional \$1.5 million in local investments to build the Seward Community Library & Museum in 2013. Today, the Library & Museum is a 16,300-square-foot space that is both a vibrant hub for locals and a tourist attraction.

In Idaho Falls, Idaho, the Museum of Idaho is undertaking an expansion that will almost double its current size and allow it to better serve the local community and represent the region's history. An NEH challenge grant helped the organization meet its funding goals in record time, raising more than \$1.5 million for the expansion.

NEH PUBLIC PROGRAMS GRANTS LEVERAGE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATIONS WHILE ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES.

In a recent survey of FY 2012 Division of Public Programs grant recipients, respondents indicated that NEH funding helped them leverage significant private funding. On average, these grantees raised \$33 for every \$1 of federal funding.

"We started as a small historical society. NEH funding put us on the map and helped shape our mission to tell the story of this area and the river, and why it's critical to the history and culture of the United States."

— Erin Dragotto, Vice President of Development, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium.



"Having the NEH 'stamp of approval' speaks volumes to other grantors... It piques their interest to know that our work is valued at that [national] level."

— Kim Lee, Grants Director, Museum of Idaho

