



The National Endowment for the Humanities: Enriching K–12 Education

Whether teachers are accessing online lesson plans or attending a summer professional development program, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides teachers of all disciplines with the tools they need to create rich educational experiences for their students. And the NEH’s commitment to youth extends outside of the classroom: it supports extracurricular education through exhibition funding and grants for youth programming.

“The workshop helped me be more aware of the challenges children dealing with acute poverty face, which allowed me to find creative ways to help those students who come from low-income households.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT,
The Most Southern Place on Earth

The NEH supports professional development opportunities for K–12 teachers across the country.

- Nationally, summer institutes and seminars for K–12 educators provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods. In the past five years alone, these programs have reached more than 11,000 teachers, ultimately enriching the classroom experience for an estimated 2 million students.
- Teachers participating in summer professional development programs at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado learn archaeological methods, explore Mesa Verde and other sites, and learn about Native American cultures and history.
- The Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, New York, and the Brooklyn Historical Society developed *Created Equal: Image, Sound, Story*, a program that trains teachers to combine history and media, encouraging students to think about history in the context of contemporary social movements. The program was launched in high-needs Brooklyn middle schools, and the curriculum is now freely available for teachers throughout the United States.





“ Without the [NEH] funding, participation would not have been an option.

It’s exactly the kind of thing that federal funds should be supporting: it enriches educational professionals and, by extension, impacts the lives of students across the nation.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT,
The Most Southern Place on Earth

The NEH helps teachers bring high-quality humanities learning to their classrooms.

- With more than 2 million unique visitors per year, the NEH’s educational website, *EDSITEment* makes lesson plans and digital resources developed from NEH-funded projects accessible to K–12 teachers.
- National History Day, an NEH initiative, encourages meaningful history and civics engagement for 600,000 students and 20,000–30,000 teachers per year in each state and territory. A 2011 study showed that these students outperformed their peers on state standardized tests.

The NEH ensures that students from all backgrounds have access to high-quality extracurricular programs.

- In Louisville, Kentucky, the Cultural Pass Program distributes free passes to the city’s art and cultural institutions to youth. An NEH grant is ensuring access for all Louisville youth, helping the city overcome economic and cultural barriers to participating in the program. In 2017, the city provided 1,000 free bus rides as part of the program and 42 percent of the cultural passes go to children in low-to-moderate income zip codes.
- Through the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute’s Legacy Youth Leadership program, high school students have the opportunity to train as docents and learn more about both Civil Rights history and the museum field. With NEH funding, BCRI is expanding its one-year program to two years, incorporating college-application counseling, and offering stipends to participants.

Since 2009, teachers from across the nation have traveled to Mississippi, where they take part in *The Most Southern Place on Earth: Music, Culture, and History of the Mississippi Delta*. The one-week program, hosted by the Delta Center for Learning and Culture at Delta State University, offers teachers new perspectives on Civil Rights history as well as the region’s food, music, and people.

In a 2019 survey of past participants:

100% said that *Most Southern* helped them grow as an educator, with 43% indicating “transformative growth” and 51% indicating “significant growth.”

Over 90% of respondents provided specific examples of how they had implemented content acquired through the workshop in their classrooms.

72% said the workshop led them to pursue additional education or professional development opportunities.

