

# THE NEH ENSURES RURAL ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMMING



The National Endowment for the Humanities ensures Americans in rural areas have access to high-quality humanities programming by supporting traveling exhibitions, community colleges, and rural cultural institutions. And by supporting the documentation and preservation of rural histories, the NEH celebrates rural cultures.

## THE NEH ENSURES THAT WORLD-CLASS EXHIBITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

*NEH on the Road* ensures that high-quality museum exhibitions—originally curated with NEH support—reach all parts of the country. NEH on the Road reached 99,268 children and adults in 2016 alone; since 2003, 17 of its exhibitions have traveled to more than 300 venues across the United States. Fifty-three percent of the communities served have populations under 50,000.

## THE NEH ENSURES THAT STUDENTS AT RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY HUMANITIES EDUCATION.

A grant to Turtle Mountain Community College in North Dakota provided faculty at the rural, tribal college with valuable professional development. Using the writing of Louise Erdrich as a starting point, faculty attended book discussions and history seminars on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The program helped establish the historical and cultural awareness critical to fulfilling the college's mission to teach and preserve the Turtle Mountain Band's history and culture. Faculty have since incorporated what they learned into undergraduate courses.

At Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada, an NEH grant helped build the technological infrastructure of the new Virtual Humanities Center, which brings humanities and other educational programs to students and community organizations within the college's rural, 86,000-square-mile service area.

## THE NEH PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT TO RURAL INSTITUTIONS, HELPING THEM SERVE THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

The Seward Community Library & Museum, built with an NEH grant, is the only public space in Seward, Alaska, designed for people of all ages. It provides literacy programs, film screenings, and museum exhibitions, as well as other vital services for the small town. These include internet access, free meeting space, and technological assistance.

## THE NEH CELEBRATES RURAL CULTURES.

In Rabun Gap, Georgia, high school students working with the Foxfire Center have been collecting oral histories from their Appalachian community for 40 years. They have developed *New York Times* bestselling anthologies and built a heritage center. NEH funding for tape recorders and cameras was critical to Foxfire's early success. Now, the NEH is helping the organization integrate its audio and visual records with its heritage center, creating a more engaging, interactive place for visitors to learn about the region's culture.



"[The program] made us all think differently. We had the chance to sit down in an unusual situation... after having that experience we all felt more comfortable with each other. We're more willing to share."



— Les LaFountain, Social Science Instructor, Turtle Mountain Community College