

# THE NEH SUPPORTS THE PRESERVATION AND CURATION OF LOCAL HISTORIES



The National Endowment for the Humanities helps organizations around the country collect, curate, and showcase their local histories, encouraging Americans to connect with their regional identities.

## THE NEH SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF LOCAL, DIGITAL COLLECTIONS THROUGH THE COMMON HERITAGE PROGRAM.

A *Common Heritage* program held by the University of Nevada, Reno, aimed to build an accessible visual record of the Lake Tahoe region. The *North Lake Tahoe Digitization Day* helped locals digitize historical photographs, posters, brochures, postcards, scrapbooks, sketches, paintings, and maps while teaching them to care for their valued personal possessions. Participants were invited to contribute digital copies of their items to an online archive that can be used by the public.

## NEH-FUNDED ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS RECOVER THE HISTORIES OF RURAL AND MINORITY AMERICAN POPULATIONS, AMONG OTHERS.

In Texas, a consortium of universities has teamed up to document the oral histories of the state's African American and Latino Civil Rights workers. With more than 500 oral histories filmed so far, the project is providing DVD copies of interviews to participants and making sure the interviews are accessible to researchers and the public. The oral histories have already been used in urban planning research and by human relations organizations.

Through an NEH grant, faculty at North Dakota State University collected oral histories from veterans in the Fargo-Moorhead community. With programs that incorporated art and music, the program was able to reach a number of World War II and Korean War veterans living in retirement homes. Their stories, along with those of more recent veterans, are being preserved for current researchers and future generations alike.

## NEH FUNDING HELPS LOCAL AND REGIONALLY-FOCUSED MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES PRESERVE, SHOWCASE, AND INTERPRET THEIR COLLECTIONS.

After they were nearly lost to Hurricane Katrina, two preservation grants helped the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College preserve more than 46,000 photographs and photographic negatives that document the history of the Gulf Coast Region. Images from the collection now adorn the walls of local businesses that have been rebuilt since the storm; they have also been exhibited by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

Grants to the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont have helped the organization interpret and showcase the history of American Precision Manufacturing through a permanent exhibition. *Shaping History* traces the history of the Vermont inventors who helped create the machine tool industry through the Civil War and into the twentieth century.



“People don’t realize the [cultural] value of what they have. Yet, when their house is on fire, that’s one of the first things they will take out of it — their photographs.”



— Peter Goin, Foundation Professor of Art, University of Nevada, Reno