

NEH FUNDING FACILITATES COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



The National Endowment for the Humanities supports programs that encourage participants to try on new perspectives, express their ideas, and think critically about their experiences and those of others. Through local and national initiatives, the NEH encourages Americans to engage in dialogues about regional issues as well as those of national importance.

THE NEH SUPPORTS DIALOGUE PROGRAMS IN EVERY STATE THAT HELP INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES ENGAGE THOUGHTFULLY WITH CHALLENGING ISSUES.

With NEH funding, the University of Kansas developed *Migration Stories*, a year long program that encouraged people throughout the state to engage in thoughtful dialogue on immigration. Storytelling workshops and film and book discussions prompted conversations about the struggles and triumphs that occur as communities deal with major demographic shifts while giving longtime residents and recent migrants alike a chance to learn more about one another.

States of Incarceration, funded through two NEH grants, encourages communities across the United States to explore and engage in dialogues about how the incarceration system affects them.

NEH-FUNDED INITIATIVES ENCOURAGE VULNERABLE ADULTS AND YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN CRITICAL REFLECTION ON LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS.

Through a series of NEH grants, People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos has brought literature-based discussion programs to residential treatment facilities, prisons, homeless shelters, libraries, and senior centers. Programs encourage vulnerable adults and youth to share their perspectives and explore their life experiences while building confidence and literacy.

In Alabama, an NEH-funded *Dialogues on the Experience of War* program gave veterans and their communities the chance to discuss experiences at war and on the homefront with others. Exploring past wars through literature and film created a springboard for these discussions and allowed veterans to place their experiences within a broader historical context.

BY SUPPORTING ENDOWMENTS FOR PROGRAMMING AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT HUMANITIES INSTITUTIONS, THE NEH CREATES COMMUNITY HUBS.

NEH grants have supported both building construction and humanities programming endowments at the Yakima Valley Museum. Today, the museum is a vibrant community hub that offers educational and enriching programs for the region—including lectures, Q&As, and panel discussions that enable community members to engage in dialogue concerning contemporary issues and events.



“What meant the most to me was someone finally allowed you to express the way you feel about things and how you could relate to a story.”



— Program Participant, People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos