

A Significant Increase in Federal Funding for Humanities Councils Strengthens Communities Across the Nation



Councils stimulate local economies. Councils provided more than 4,100 ARP funding grants to local cultural organizations and in 2022, 3,700+ additional grants to community organizations. Supporting museums, libraries, festivals, and public programming, councils help make communities more attractive to businesses and advance a skilled, educated workforce.



Councils invest federal dollars back into local communities. Each year, councils leverage their NEH funding to raise millions of dollars to invest in local projects and grassroots organizations. NEH support is the vital seed money that enables councils to raise additional funds from corporations, foundations, individuals, and state governments. Federal-level investments at councils have a direct impact locally in nearly every U.S. legislative district.



Councils create teacher and student resources. Councils partner with K-12 school systems to support teachers and students through developing and providing professional development opportunities, online resources, and family literacy and civic engagement programs.



Councils partner with over 5,175 organizations nationwide annually. Councils develop expansive, diverse partner networks that include museums, libraries, K-12 schools and universities, senior centers, correctional facilities, veterans' hospitals, social service agencies, businesses, historical preservation and conservation organizations, chambers of commerce and state tourism offices, and more.



Councils promote the appreciation of local heritage and national history. Councils connect people through humanities speakers, reading and discussion sessions, and programs in local libraries, museums, and community centers. Documentary film productions and screenings, online encyclopedias, and oral history projects preserve and tell these stories for generations.



Councils support cultural enrichment in rural communities. 88% of Councils collaborate with rural communities to create exhibits and programs to highlight and preserve unique local histories. Councils invest in heritage organizations to strengthen ties between residents.



Councils support veterans. Workshops, documentary film screenings, and reading and discussion programs help veterans, their families, and the broader public process and better understand military experiences. Literature & Medicine programs allow VA hospital staff to better empathize with their patients, improving quality of care.



Councils reach diverse populations in tens of thousands of communities. Council programs across the nation benefit a wide range of people, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, rural residents, parents with young children, immigrant populations, people of color, Black, Native, and Indigenous peoples, LGBTQIA+ communities, and students and teachers.



Councils support lifelong learning and civic education. Council programs encourage curiosity, civic engagement, critical reasoning, empathy, and understanding of diverse cultures – traits essential to building a more competitive workforce and stronger democracy in a rapidly changing, knowledge-based global economy.



Councils help explore, understand, and sustain our environment. In 2022, public programs addressing the natural world and wilderness included rural residents exploring the future of farming, conversations about climate, and assessing the needs of communities affected by wildfires.