

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT *for the* HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) serves the American public by promoting advanced research, deeply informed teaching in schools and colleges, lifelong learning, and the preservation of cultural collections. NEH is the only federal agency dedicated to funding the humanities, which include history, philosophy, literature, language, ethics, archaeology, political theory, jurisprudence, comparative religion, and the humanistic social sciences.

BUILDING ON NEH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **HONORING AA AND NHPI HISTORY AND CULTURE:** Since January 2021, NEH has funded nearly 100 awards related to AA and NHPI history and culture, including topics related to Asian seafarers in English literature, Black Amerasians, Mongolian textiles, and Nepali folk performance.
- **PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS THAT UPLIFT AA AND NHPI HISTORY:** NEH included AA and NHPI-related resources on its EDSITEment website including a teacher's guide about AA and NHPI heritage and history in the United States; high school lesson plans about the Ramayana and Indian epics; a series of middle school lesson plans about Marco Polo's travel in India and China; and elementary school lesson plans about animals of the Chinese New Year.
- **SUPPORTING THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOLARS IN ASIAN STUDIES:** In October 2021, NEH awarded \$1,000,000 through the American Rescue Plan to the Association for Asian Studies to support a grant program called "Striving for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Asian Studies: Humanities Grants for Asian Studies Scholars" to provide relief to Asian studies professionals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who engage in humanities research, teaching development, and multimedia projects.

PRIORITY PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Per Executive Order 14031, NEH has identified three high-priority goals that will span the next two years. These goals will advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

GOAL 1

Increase outreach to AA and NHPI communities: NEH will review its current outreach strategy to ensure that it meets the needs of AA and NHPI populations. NEH will hire a director to establish an Office of Outreach that will centralize the agency's outreach efforts and expand its engagement with underserved communities and institutions, including AA and NHPI-serving institutions. The Office of Communications will also develop targeted social and traditional media to AA and NHPI communities and program staff will create a plan to reach AA and NHPI-serving cultural centers, museums, and colleges and universities.

GOAL 2

Establish an internal AA and NHPI working group: NEH will create an internal AA and NHPI working group to work with the agency's Office of Outreach, centralize NEH's public engagement efforts, and target outreach with underserved communities and institutions, including AA and NHPI-serving institutions.

GOAL 3

Promote projects related to AA and NHPI history and culture: NEH staff from the Office of Communications as well as its programmatic divisions will collaborate to publicize AA and NHPI-funded projects through robust and collaborative social media campaigns, the creation of a resource bookshelf, and interagency communication. In addition, a portion of NEH's budget supports humanities programming at a grassroots level by working with a nonprofit network of state and jurisdictional humanities councils, including humanities councils in Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.