NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

NEH is the single most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in the humanistic fields, including history, literature, and foreign languages. With a limited federal budget, NEH is able to expand cultural and historical scholarship into K-12 classrooms, sponsor humanistic research and scholarship, and support preservation and exhibition efforts at libraries and museums. The agency-wide initiative, The Common Good: Humanities in the Public Square, supports scholarly and public programs that demonstrate the vital role of the humanities in our public life. Standing Together is an integral part of that initiative, with programs that promote understanding of the military experience and support returning veterans.

Since the founding of the NEH, Illinois institutions have collectively received more funding than those of any other state in the region.

Notable NEH-Supported Projects at Urbana-Champaign

Urbana-Champaign has received over $28M in NEH support since 1965.

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) has been promoting interdisciplinary study in the humanities, arts, and social sciences since 1997.

In December 2017, it was announced that six Urbana scholars were awarded NEH Fellowships; this makes a total of eighteen Fellowships awarded over the past four years.

The NEH Digging into Data program funded two projects: A Global Comparative Analysis of News Coverage about Terrorism from 1945 to Present is a collaboration among scholars of media studies, communication and political science to study the history of media coverage of terrorist attacks. Dig That Lick: Analysing Large-scale Data for Melodic Patterns in Jazz Performances brings together scholars from music, African American Studies, and Anthropology to study influence and sharing among musicians through a computational analysis of jazz recordings and related resources.

The NEH budget includes crucial support for humanities scholarship that reaches outside the academy to educate and inform the general public—a direction Urbana has also turned through recent programming from IPRH.

A professor emeritus of history has received an NEH Public Scholar award, one of only 28 such awards given out this year. The Public Scholar Program was created to support books in the humanities aimed at a broad public audience, and is part of The Common Good initiative.

Notable NEH-Supported Projects at UIC

UIC’s Institute for the Humanities seeks to foster an intellectually vital, interdisciplinary community of scholars. As the hub of humanities scholarship on campus, the Institute provides a forum for intellectual exchange among faculty and students at UIC and other colleges and universities in the region.

In 2016, UIC’s Jane Addams Hull-House Museum (JAHHM) was awarded a $200,000 “NEH Humanities in the Public Square” grant, which allows JAHHM, for the first time, to investigate its historic role in neighborhood change and situate both the historical and contemporary West Side of Chicago in a national dialogue on race, gentrification, and the American city. The project includes the development of new digital and educational initiatives, a public forum and community conversations with humanities scholars, artists, activists, community residents and cultural partners.
Notable NEH-Supported Projects at UIC (continued)

JAHMM was also the 2016 recipient of a two-year, $100,000 Humanities Initiatives Grant which is aimed toward non-humanities faculty, and seeks to integrate the Museum and its history of social reform into the university curriculum and bring the humanities to public service fields.

Notable NEH-Supported Projects at UIS

NEH has funded research on the Papers of Abraham Lincoln on our Springfield campus.

UIS is establishing a Center for Lincoln Studies that will grow into a national base for scholarship, teaching, and public history about Lincoln’s life, his leadership, and his legacy. As it reaches its full strength, the Center may include activities such as publishing scholarship, creating and facilitating online history interpretation, hosting visiting scholars, engaging broad campus and community audiences, and offering an interdisciplinary learning laboratory for students. In addition to being supported by private gifts, the Center will be interested in pursuing relevant federal funding opportunities out of NEH to publish and disseminate materials, host additional events, and support additional research, travel, and programming.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

Funding from the NEA has helped ensure that our communities—especially underserved or rural communities—receive support to enhance their cultural, artistic, and innovative opportunities in the arts. The past ten years have seen nearly $500,000 of awards from the NEA to projects across the University of Illinois System.

Notable NEA-Supported Projects at Urbana-Champaign

The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (KCPA)—a university-based performing arts complex housed within the College of Fine and Applied Arts—has benefitted from NEA funds to advance sustainable creativity through culturally emblematic performances. The Krannert Center also receives support from NEA through Illinois Arts Council, Arts Midwest, and New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA).

In 2017, the Krannert Center received a $20,000 grant from NEA to sustain diverse artistry, and for exploring and expanding the impact of arts programs for youth.

Notable NEA-Supported Projects at UIC

In 2015, UIC was awarded a $20,000 NEA grant to develop an online collection of Latin American and Latino art. In partnership with the Smithsonian Latino Center, the project supports Latin American and Latino art history while providing greater visibility to contemporary art inspired by changing demographics.

UIC’s College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts was awarded a $35,000 grant from NEA to support the operation of the UIC Free Summer Art School, which allows anyone to take free classes in art and art history from renowned artists and scholars.