

#NEHMatters

# Preservation & Access Programs at NEH

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Association for Asian Studies  
Toronto, March 18, 2017



# NEH 101

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent federal agency founded in 1965
- Promote excellence in the humanities
- Award grants through national, peer-reviewed programs
- NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and to individual scholars



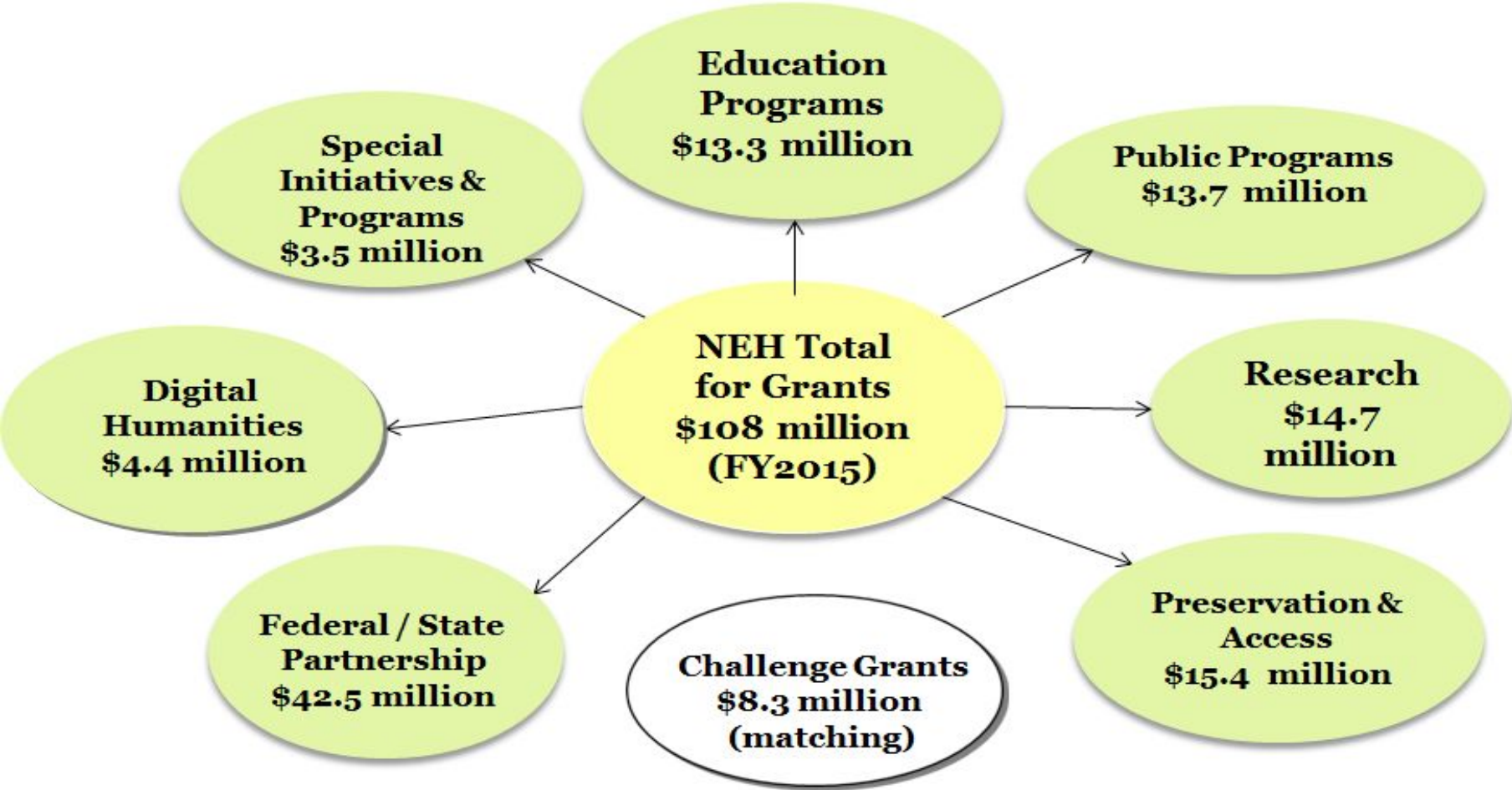
# Humanities

Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans.



archaeology  
attention ethics  
relevance  
current  
content  
classical  
humanities  
philosophy language study  
arts  
comparative jurisprudence  
interpretation  
application reflecting  
environment includes conditions particular traditions life linguistics  
methods religion  
history  
heritage humanistic sciences criticism  
employ theory modern human  
national diverse





# Preservation & Access, or “P&A”



# P&A Strategic Priorities

1. Preservation of Sound & Moving Image Materials
2. Digital Preservation
3. Preventive Conservation & Sustainable Preservation



# P&A Programs

- 1. Preservation Assistance Grants**
- 2. Common Heritage**
- 3. Humanities Collections and Reference Resources**
- 4. Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections**
5. Education & Training
6. Research & Development
7. National Digital Newspaper Program
8. Documenting Endangered Languages (with NSF).





# Preservation Assistance Grants



**Deadline:** May 2, 2017

- preservation assessment, environmental monitoring, disaster planning, build staff capacity
- **awards up to \$6,000**

Visual communications media  
Library (PG-50946-10)



# Special Initiatives



**common good**  
ENGAGE    CONTRIBUTE    ILLUMINATE

<http://www.neh.gov/commongood>



# Common Heritage



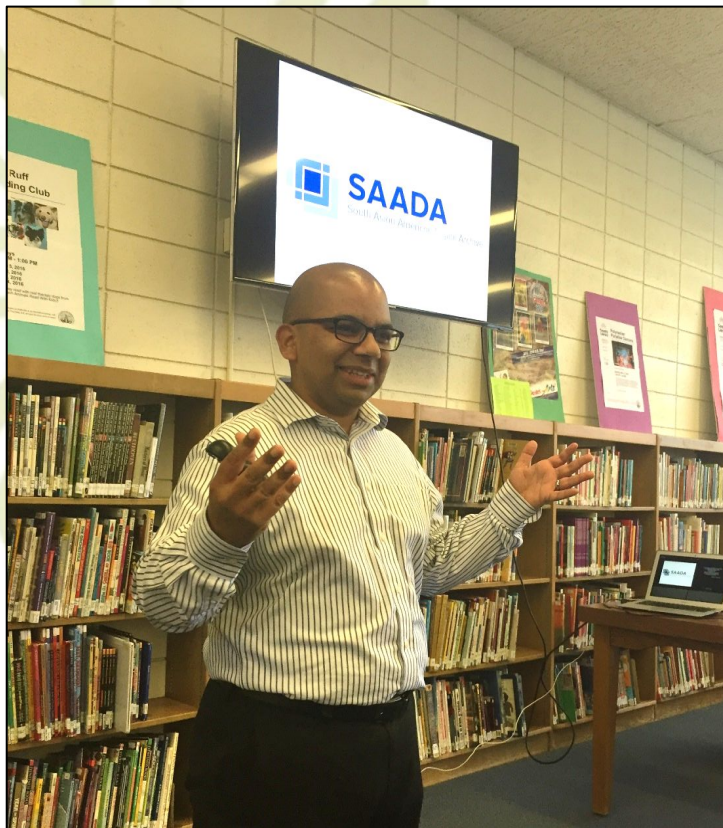
Competitive grants to support community-based public humanities projects that collect, preserve, and interpret the stories of America's cultural mosaic.

**Deadline:** June 2, 2017

**Awards:** up to \$12,000

**Support:**

- community-focused digitization programs **and** public programs
- Applicants must be organizations (individuals not eligible)



South Asian American Digital Archive (PY-234452-16), California

# Common Heritage Examples



**SAADA**

South Asian American Digital Archive



Wing Luke Museum of the  
Asian Pacific American Experience



# Humanities Coll. & Ref. Resources



**Deadline:** July 20, 2017

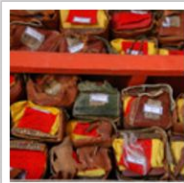
- digitization, archives, cataloging, digital tools, reference resources
- two levels:
  - 2-year projects, \$50,000
  - 3-year projects, \$350,000

Philippine ethnology collections, American Museum of Natural History (PW-50297-09)



## ◆ Introductory Essay

The Kangyur and Tengyur form the cornerstone of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon for the New Schools (gsar ma) of Tibetan Buddhism. In this essay, Kurtis Schaeffer describes the salient features of these important collections....



[Read More](#)

## ◆ Master Catalog

The Master Edition of the Kangyur and Tengyur (*bka' 'gyur* and *bstan 'gyur*) is a comprehensive catalog of this cornerstone collection of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon, and includes every text that ... [Explore!](#)



## Tibetan Canons: Kangyur and Tengyur

The Tibetan Buddhist Canon is one of the three most important canons of Buddhist literature in the world, and hence one of its most important bodies of religious literature. Generally consisting of more than 5,250 texts and 230,000 folio sides, the canon exists in over twenty unique print and manuscript editions. These texts, written in India, Central Asia, China, and elsewhere between the second century BCE and the seventeenth century CE and translated... [Read More](#)

### » Catalogs of the Kangyur and Tengyur

The Kangyur and Tengyur has been edited and reproduced in many variant manuscript and print forms in Tibet. THL provides access to a comparative master catalog, as well as to individual editions. Availability of scanned page images is indicated by the symbol "(p)"; input, searchable electronic texts by the symbol "(e)." All data can be accessed via master catalogs:

- [Kangyur Master Catalog](#) (p) (e)
- [Tengyur Master Catalog](#) (p)
- [Degé Kangyur](#) (*sde dge bka' 'gyur*) (p) (e)
- [Degé Tengyur](#) (*sde dge bstan 'gyur*) (p)
- [Peking Kangyur](#) (*pe cin bka' 'gyur*)

# Sustaining Cultural Heritage Coll.



**Deadline:** December 2017

- sustainable preservation solutions emphasizing preventive conservation, non-mechanical solutions, & evidence-based decisions

Mechanical room at the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound.

Stanford University (PF-50169-11)





# NEH Proposal Evaluation

- Peer Review  
(readers external to NEH)
  - NEH Staff
  - National Council on the Humanities
  - NEH Chair
- 
- Anyone can [become a peer reviewer!](#)



# General Proposal Tips

- Follow format and sections outlined in Guidelines
- Write for a generalist audience (not all reviewers will be specialists in your field)
  - Readers may also include National Council on the Humanities, NEH Chair
  - For P&A, use specific & detailed technical descriptions
- Respond to the evaluation criteria
- Proofread
- Plan ahead (n.b., registering and prepping apps to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) may require a few days!)



# More General Tips

- Talk to or write a program officer to discuss your proposal, ask questions.
- If allowed, send a draft of the application to get preliminary comment.
- Submit your application on time to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (start early!)



# P&A “Significance” Tips

- Materials/Collection: A detailed, concise description
- Humanities Relationship
  - Literature review
  - Potential for further support of research, teaching, programming
- Usage
  - Reference requests
  - Previous publications, exhibits, or digital products (or potential)
- Related materials/collections
  - How does it fit in, complement other similar materials?
  - Vision of how it will expand current resources



# P&A Proposal Tips

- Follow format and sections outlined in Guidelines
  - Special attention to Methods (Standards, Sustainability)
  - For implementation, technical aspects should be ready to go
  - May include description samples, screenshots, in appendix
- Write for an informed, generalist audience (not all reviewers will be specialists in your field) and ***information specialists***
  - Most P&A review panels include subject specialists and technical experts
- Respond to the evaluation criteria
- Proofread



# Review of General Tips

- Study sample applications on our website
- If allowed, send a draft of the application to get preliminary comments
- Submit well ahead of the deadline
- Sign up to serve as a panelist
- Re-apply
- Ask for reviewers' comments
- Contact NEH staff





## NEH Matters

Federal investment in NEH costs less than the price of a stamp per American per year. Its value? Priceless.



# Contact

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Tweets: @NEHgov

**Appointments:** <https://neh.setmore.com/>

