

PROTECT NEH / SAVE OUR HUMANITIES COUNCILS

As a constituent, I am **[writing/calling]** to urgently request that you support the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the face of the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) attempt to substantially reduce its staff, cut the agency's grant programs, and rescind grants that have already been awarded.

I am especially concerned about the status of the state humanities councils.

NEH is the only federal agency that funds our nation's 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils. These councils support lifelong learning and civic education for all Americans, promote the appreciation of local heritage and history, build capacity in grassroots cultural and educational organizations, and invest federal dollars back into local communities.

Humanities Texas, specifically, has served Texans of all ages for five decades:

- Their free **teacher profession development workshops** in history, government, and English have improved the quality of classroom teaching throughout the state for twenty years. Over 7,800 Texas teachers representing more than half of the state's school districts have participated in these programs.
- Since 1973, they have awarded over 4,700 **grants** totaling \$21.2 million in 390 Texas communities. In 2025, the council launched a new grant line specifically for rural organizations that often lack easy access to private philanthropy.
- Their **traveling exhibitions**—such as *Lonesome Dove*, *Juneteenth*, and *Sam Houston: Texas Icon*—have been displayed more than 3,000 times at venues throughout the state and nation.
- They conduct **Veterans' Voices**, a reading and discussion program for veterans, military families, and other interested civilians.
- They produce **Texas Originals**, a radio series about inspiring individuals who have profoundly influenced Texas history and culture. The program currently airs on more than twenty radio stations statewide.
- **Texas Storytime**, their family reading program, supports school readiness and promotes early childhood literacy.

NEH was created by an act of Congress in 1965 and reaffirmed by Republican and Democratic presidents and legislators over the following sixty years. DOGE's reductions to the NEH budget and workforce will block the agency's ability to carry out Congressional intent.

Every Congress for the last fifty years has supported the state humanities councils and their effective distribution of federal dollars across America. These funds go directly to states (and your district) and allow councils, including Humanities Texas, to generate \$2 in private investment for every federal dollar spent.

The loss of NEH funding to humanities councils will decimate Humanities Texas's ability to serve communities across the state, eliminating programs that are essential to our state's cultural life.

Again, I urge you to protect NEH and NEH funding for humanities councils.