

COLORADO HUMANITIES, NEH, FEDERATION

National Endowment for the Humanities

Congress enacted the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 in order "to promote progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts in the United States." This act established the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as an independent grant-making agency of the federal government to support research, education, and public programs in the humanities. NEH "supports exemplary work to advance and disseminate knowledge in all the disciplines of the humanities. Endowment support is intended to complement and assist private and local efforts. In the most general terms, NEH-supported projects aid scholarship and research in the humanities, help improve humanities education, and foster in the American people a greater curiosity about and understanding of the humanities." (from *NEH Overview of Endowment Programs*, 1996)

NEH is divided into five divisions as avenues for grant funding: Preservation and Access, Public Programs and Enterprise, Research and Education, Challenge Grants, and the Federal/State Partnership (formerly the Division of State Programs).

The state humanities councils are funded through the NEH Federal/State Partnership. State humanities councils were created in response to the legislative mandate to "bring the humanities to a major segment of our lay population." Most of the state humanities councils were formed in the early 1970s. There are now 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils: one in each state, the District of Columbia, Guahan, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and Amerika Samoa.

Colorado Humanities interacts with many staff members at NEH. Some of the key staff for Colorado Humanities are: Shelly C. Lowe, Chair of NEH and Karen Kenton, Director, Federal/State Partnership.

Colorado Humanities

Colorado Humanities is a non-profit (501(c)3) organization which was formed in 1974 and incorporated in 1976. Until 1984 the organization was called the Colorado Humanities Program. From 1984 through 2005, it was called the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities. In February 2006, Colorado Endowment for the Humanities changed its name to Colorado Humanities.

Since 1973, Colorado Humanities has been a grantee of the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Federal/State Partnership. NEH grants to state humanities councils are awarded on a three-year basis in response to self assessment reports and plans which each state council prepares. On the years when assessments and proposals are not required, state councils submit an interim report and compliance plan to NEH.

Federation of State Humanities Councils

Colorado Humanities is a member of an association of state humanities councils called the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The Federation is located in Arlington, Virginia. It serves as a clearinghouse for information and coordinates the advocacy activities of the state humanities councils.