

ATALM NEH Grant Funding

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Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan

INCORPORATING THE HUMANITIES INTO NATIVE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Humanities topics generally relate to culture, society, history, law, philosophy, language, literature, ethics, and art. The **Sustaining the Humanities through the American Recovery Plan (SHARP)** grant program is intended to help Native cultural institutions recover from the pandemic by providing financial support for operations and/or the creation of new humanities-based programs to help reengage with community members.

Below are descriptions of humanities-based activities that may be useful in sparking ideas or inspiring you to create humanities programming that speaks to your community. Projects are drawn from several decades. When possible, links are provided. New projects will be added to the list as more information becomes available. If you have programs to include or wish to discuss project ideas, please email grants@atalm.org

1. ARCHIVAL PROJECTS

- The [Museum of the Cherokee Indian Archives](#) worked with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and the National Anthropological Archives to digitize more than 9,000 pages of documents in Cherokee language and about Cherokee language. Over 2,500 pages have been made available online. using industry-standard practices and bring more history and cultural to a wider audience.
- The [Plateau People's Web Portal](#) is a collaboration between 8 Plateau nations along with the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation and Native American Programs at Washington State University. Tribal leaders decide which materials are or are not digitized, which allows for more accurate, richer understanding of the materials being archived and presented to the public.
- [Leech Lake Tribal College](#) digitally repatriated images of ancestral beaded bags, recorded songs, historical photographs, census rolls, maps that document their homelands, and other materials that originated from their communities. This project explored heritage is how digital technology can resolve problems of access and sustainability, while enhancing cultural diversity in the digital humanities. It is also serving as a model for how collaborations across different cultural communities can lead to mutually beneficial relationships.

2. BROADCAST MEDIA

- The University of Nebraska worked with Native American Studies scholars and tribal representatives to develop a television series about the Northern Great Plains Indians of the 19th Century. Both Native and non-Native perceptions of historical events were presented.

- The Oregon Education and Public Broadcasting Service Television produced a series of programs called "The Cave, the Bridge, and the Basin" with the involvement of archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, tribal representatives, geologists, folklorists, and station staff. The program followed the prehistoric in-migrations of indigenous populations who used the northern land bridge to migrate and disperse across the Northern Great Basin.
- KUFM-Radio at the University of Montana in Missoula Now produced a series of radio programs which examined the cultural dimensions of the preservation of tribal customs of the Native Americans of the Northern Great Plains. Native literature, religion, education, law and tribal jurisdiction were incorporated.
- The University of Alaska's radio station, KUAC-FM examined the effects of urbanization, economic development, and modernization on Alaskan natives.

3. EXHIBITS

- [From Talking Leaves to Pixels](#): This Cherokee Nation exhibit showcases the development of Cherokee syllabary into the digital age. Visitors see examples of how the Cherokee syllabary was adapted for many different technologies, from specialized typewriters to smart phones. This exhibit is in commemoration of the Cherokee Syllabary Bicentennial, which celebrates the 200th anniversary of Sequoyah's introduction of the syllabary to the Cherokee people. Language is a humanities subject, and this project shows how Cherokee written language has evolved over time and what impacts this evolution has had on Speakers.
- An exhibition that demonstrated the relationship between the trade bead and Native American culture from 1615 to the present, the role of trade beads in the early contact between European and Native cultures, and ways in which trade beads are reflective of adaptations and changes resulting from the sudden contact of dissimilar cultures.
- The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison: a grant of up to \$26,096 will support an exhibition entitled "Fur Trade in the Upper Mississippi River Valley."

4. EXHIBITS, WEB BASED

- [Why We Serve](#) is a virtual exhibit produced by the National Museum of the American Indian. It shares the remarkable history of Native American men and women who have served in the US military.
- [The Frost Trade Bead Collection](#) is an online exhibit produced by the Illinois State Museum. The narrative accompanying the digitized collection features short biographies of Stephen Frost and his son, a description of the bead trade with Native Americans, and descriptive captions of eleven beaded objects.

5. COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- [Florida Water Stories Project](#): In partnership with the Florida Humanities Council, the University of Florida (UF) Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS) is exploring the past, present, and future of water in Florida. This project brings together several different disciplines –history, archaeology, water science, and religion—to understand the relationships between water and sacred space—how different groups including indigenous populations have valued water and

conceived of the environment. Students and educators come together in two separate week-long residential summer programs on the Gainesville, FL campus to learn about Florida's relationship with water and climate change from a several disciplinary perspectives.

- The Doris Duke Oral History Revitalization Project is working with seven university repositories in possession of the collections to digitize 6,000 oral histories representing 160 Native cultures and then digitally repatriating the materials to the originating tribes. These first-person accounts graphically describe what it meant to be an American Indian in the last quarter of the 20th century.
- Scholars at the University of Oklahoma, Norman consulted with Native communities to ascertain the desirability and logistics of a large-scale digitization and preservation program for Native American music recordings in Oklahoma.

6. DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLASSES

- Cultural institutions and tribes often provide public programming and/or classes that teach and share cultural values with their audiences/participants, like the [Mohegan Tribe](#) and the [California Indian Museum and Cultural Center](#).
- The [Rappahannock Tribe](#) made interviews and cultural outreach available online for more examples of making cultural programming virtual.
- A Celebration of American Indian Culture through Music and Dance - Dressed in Jingle Dress regalia, dancer shared her American Indian heritage and culture through music and dance. She explained the importance of Native ceremonies and why music is a key component to them. The audience learned traditional songs in the Native language and participated in a pow wow circle where they sang, played a drum, and danced.

7. DISCUSSIONS & FORUMS

- [DNA Discussion Project](#): opens up conversations about race and identity using commercially available DNA ancestry tests. In doing so, this work is informed by and contributes to academic research in communication concerning the perception and articulation of racial identity. Discussions like this that bring together diverse perspectives on relevant humanities topics are encouraged.

8. LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

- The Miami University in Ohio work with the Miami Nation of Oklahoma to develop an annotated digital edition and translation into English of an 18th-century Miami-Illinois dictionary. The dictionary was compiled by a Jesuit priest who lived and worked among the Illinois natives from about 1720 to 1740. Written in both French and Miami-Illinois, the dictionary contains critical language and ethnographic detail about Miami-Illinois culture and the physical environment in the Great Lakes area in the early colonial period, including uses of plants, diet, and the climate. It consists of 185 pages with 3,000-word entries and concludes with devotional texts.
- [Standing Rock Dakota/Lakota Language Project](#) is creating original indigenous language resources by collecting traditional texts and recording conversations between elders with the goal of inspiring new Dakota/Lakota learners.

9. PUBLICATIONS

- El Paso Community College in Colorado Springs, Colorado developed new curriculum to cover "The Art History of the North American Indian, 1500 to the Present" and "The Arts of the Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Americas."
- The University of Alaska, Fairbanks developed a catalog of the reference library collection of the American Native Language Center.
- In *Imagining Sovereignty*, David Carlson explores sovereignty as a discursive middle ground between tribal communities and the United States as a settler-colonial power. His work reveals the complementary ways in which legal and literary texts have generated politically significant representations of the world, which in turn have produced effects on readers and advanced the cause of tribal self-determination.

10. SELECTED RESOURCES

Selected Resources on Native American History, Languages, and Cultural Revitalization

- Going Virtual: Programs and Insights from a Time of Crisis e-book (\$28)
<https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/going-virtual-programs-and-insights-time-crisis%E2%80%9494-editions-e-book>
- Humanities Programs for Libraries
<https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/soulpeople/soulssn-themes>
- Documenting Endangered Languages, a partnership of NEH and the National Science Foundation
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12816
- PBS series, *We Shall Remain*
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/native_now/language
- EDSITEMENT lesson plan
<http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/celebrate-we-shall-remain-native-american-heritage-month>
- Newberry Library
<http://publications.newberry.org/indiansofthemidwest/>
- Teaching indigenous languages
<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/TIL.html>
- UCLA Teaching Materials for less commonly taught Languages
<http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?menu=004&LangID=197>
- The American Indian Languages Development Institute
<http://aildi.arizona.edu/>

- The Indigenous Language Institute
<http://www.ilinative.org/>
- Breath of Life Workshops
<http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/okbol>
<http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/BOL.php>
- Timothy Powell, *A Drum Speaks: A Partnership to Create a Digital Archive Based on Traditional Ojibwe Systems of Knowledge*, September 21, 2007 *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* vol. 8 no. 2 167-180.
<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/8/2/167.short>