



NATIONAL HUMANITIES CENTER

FAST FACTS

The National Humanities Center is one of the world's leading institutes for advanced study and the only one dedicated exclusively to the humanities. The Center was planned under the auspices of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and began operation in 1978. It provides a national focus for the best work in the liberal arts, drawing attention to the enduring value of ancient and modern history, language and literature, ethical and moral reflection, artistic and cultural traditions, and critical thought in every area of humanistic investigation. By encouraging excellence in scholarship and teaching, the Center seeks to insure the continuing strength of the liberal arts and to affirm the importance of the humanities in American life.

FELLOWSHIP

For over 40 years, the National Humanities Center has sparked humanistic scholarship by providing a cohort of 35 to 40 Fellows a year with optimal conditions for free and creative inquiry. Those Fellows have:

- Produced over 1,600 books as well as countless essays, articles, and other works
- Won or been finalists for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the MacArthur Fellowship, the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and many others.
- Over 100 former Fellows have been made members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, many have become presidents of major learned societies in the United States and other nations, and many more are recognized as leading scholars in their fields.

EDUCATION

The National Humanities Center is distinctive in its commitment to linking scholarship to improved teaching. Every year, millions of visitors access the Center's free, online primary source archives and teaching guides, which include hundreds of historical documents, literary texts, works of art and classroom resources. In 2020 the Center launched the [Humanities in Class Digital Library](#), an Open Education Resource (OER) site, that allows teachers to not only access the Center's extensive resource collections but those of other humanities organizations, combining and customizing them for their specific curricular needs.

The Center also offers teachers a variety of opportunities for professional development focused on increasing content knowledge and learning about best pedagogical practices through active engagement with distinguished scholars and other educators.

- NHC summer institutes have attracted more than 1,000 teachers and college instructors from across the United States for in-depth training on specific topics in seminars led by former Fellows and other distinguished scholars.
- In 2008 the Center launched its highly popular [webinar series](#) that involves live, online interaction with scholarly experts on a range of topics in history, literature, art, music, philosophy, and other subjects.
- In 2019 the Center expanded its online offerings with new in-depth [courses](#) that allow teachers to increase their content knowledge and teaching skills. Course subjects include: how to use geographic information systems (GIS) in the classroom; exploring modern music as a way to consider issues of race, gender, and class; the medieval history of Africa; the modern Middle East; and the struggles of indigenous peoples for land and water rights, among others.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Center acts as a forum for increasing public understanding and appreciation for the humanities. This work includes a variety of digital initiatives such as [Humanities Moments](#) (an effort to gather and disseminate personal accounts of the humanities' impact) and [Humanities in Action](#) (a website focused on contextualizing current issues through a humanistic lens). The Center also produces two podcast series, [Discovery & Inspiration](#) and [Nerds in the Woods](#), highlighting the work of Center scholars and the ways the humanities deepen our understanding of the world.

The Center also hosts a rich schedule of lectures, concerts, film screenings, and exhibits as well as periodic conferences and symposia on a variety of important topics. In recent years the Center has hosted conferences and multifaceted events considering the state of literary study in American universities, religion and emotion, the role of environmental humanities, the U.S. Constitution, and the social and cultural impacts of artificial intelligence. Along with these major events, the Center also regularly welcomes leading figures from the arts, humanities, and sciences for public talks.

LOCATION AND FACILITIES

The Center is located in Research Triangle Park (RTP) situated between Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The Center provides a rich environment for individual research and the exchange of ideas in its 30,000-square-foot, glass-enclosed building, which is named for Archie K. Davis, the former

chairman of Wachovia (now Wells Fargo) and one of the founders of RTP. The building includes private studies for Fellows, conference rooms, a central commons for dining, lounges, and reading areas.

LEADERSHIP

The Center is governed by a distinguished [board of trustees](#) from academic, professional, and public life, and is led by president and director [Robert D. Newman](#), who took office in July 2015.

SUPPORT

The National Humanities Center is a privately incorporated nonprofit institute with an annual budget of approximately \$5.4 million. The Center is supported through a combination of grants and contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, universities, and other institutions, as well as income from the Center's endowment.