



OKLAHOMA
HUMANITIES

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact

Name: Caroline Lowery

Title: Executive Director

Email: caroline@okhumanities.org

**National Endowment for the Humanities Terminates
General Operating Grant for Oklahoma Humanities**

OKLAHOMA CITY (April 3, 2025) — At the direction of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), all 56 state, jurisdictional, and territorial, humanities councils, including Oklahoma Humanities, received termination of general operating support grant notices from the National Endowment for the Humanities late last night.

As the nonpartisan, nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Oklahoma Humanities annually receives an appropriation from the federal government. On average, Oklahoma Humanities shepherds more than \$250,000 of that funding back into Oklahoma communities by awarding grants to museums, libraries, universities, historical societies, and more.

In 1971, Oklahoma joined five other states in a National Endowment for the Humanities pilot program that established a grassroots network to ensure federal funding reached communities most at need. The pilot was so successful there are now 56 councils across the country. Oklahoma is proud to be one of the first.

For 50+ years, Oklahoma Humanities has administered the distribution of over \$42 million in federal funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities to all 77 Oklahoma counties and all 5 Congressional Districts. Grantees are required to match funds 1:1 in this partnership, fostering local involvement and investments that maximize the efficacy of the programs and the efficient use of government money.

In addition to awarding grants, Oklahoma Humanities also provides three, free programs: *Let's Talk About It*, a dynamic book club celebrating its 40th anniversary that brings people together into conversation and contemplation; *Museum on Main Street*, a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution that brings traveling exhibits to rural communities; and *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine, a rich mix of cultures, issues, and ideas.

Oklahoma Humanities has limited information on the immediate ramifications of this termination and will continue, as long as possible, to advocate for providing access to the humanities for all Oklahomans.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at neh.gov.

About Oklahoma Humanities:

Oklahoma Humanities (OH) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. As the state partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities, OH is a grantmaking organization that provides a free educational magazine, Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibits, reading and discussion groups, and other cultural opportunities for Oklahomans of all ages. OH engages people in their own communities, stimulating discussion and helping them explore the wider world of human experience, through humanities disciplines such as history, literature, film studies, ethics, and philosophy.

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