

May 28, 2026

Mr. William English
Acting Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chairman English:

The National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) has supported arts and humanities projects across Nevada for 55 years through direct investments and partnerships with our state humanities council, Nevada Humanities. Nevada Humanities itself receives approximately 70 percent of its annual funding, roughly \$1 million, from the NEH. Unfortunately, the reduction in the amount of funding that the NEH distributed during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, combined with the reduction in and delayed disbursement of already appropriated funds for FY2026, has had a devastating impact on communities across rural and urban Nevada and cost Nevada millions of dollars in economic activity. As America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, it is critical now more than ever that the NEH releases all the congressionally appropriated FY2026 funds intended for the state humanities councils immediately, in addition to releasing all FY2027 funds to state humanities councils as soon as they are appropriated, which has long been standard at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEH funding helps support community and cultural programs and events throughout the state, both through direct funding and subgrants that are offered through Nevada Humanities. These events not only bring thousands of Nevadans together to celebrate our state's unique cultural heritage, but they also have a significant economic impact, with arts and humanities events in Nevada helping to generate tens of millions of dollars¹ in economic activity and tax revenue for federal, state, and local governments. This NEH funding has allowed Nevada Humanities to partner with hundreds of organizations and to direct federal funding to approximately 30 - 40 nonprofit organizations across Nevada each year, leveraging local funds and supporting programs and events critical to Nevada's economic health and tourism infrastructure. This funding has supported programs such as: the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering organized by the Western Folklife Center in Elko; the Neon Museum, which preserves and showcases iconic neon signs from throughout Las Vegas's history; the Veterans Voices oral history project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Nevada Humanities' Sagebrush to Sandstone program, which encourages Nevadans to explore the outdoors and Nevada's extensive public lands while also learning about the cultural and natural history of the Silver State.

The NEH receives funding that is a small portion of the federal budget. However, recipients of NEH support have an outsized economic and cultural impact on Nevada. These

¹ <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/about/impact/>

entities leverage federal funding to build private and local support, multiplying the impact of every dollar through matching funds and in-kind contributions. The National Endowment for the Humanities offers both direct support to Nevada, in addition to allowing Nevada Humanities to help with the preservation of Nevadan culture while also uplifting Nevada's economy. For these reasons, we urge the NEH to release all the federally appropriated funds for FY2026 and to follow the longstanding precedent of distributing all the funds directed to state humanities councils for FY2027 as soon as they are appropriated. NEH's mission to preserve and provide access to our rich cultural heritage is critical and has only become more important as America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

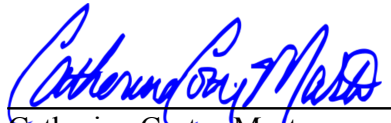
Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



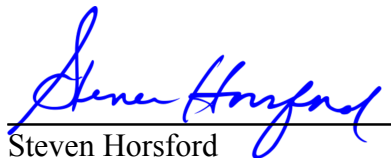
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress