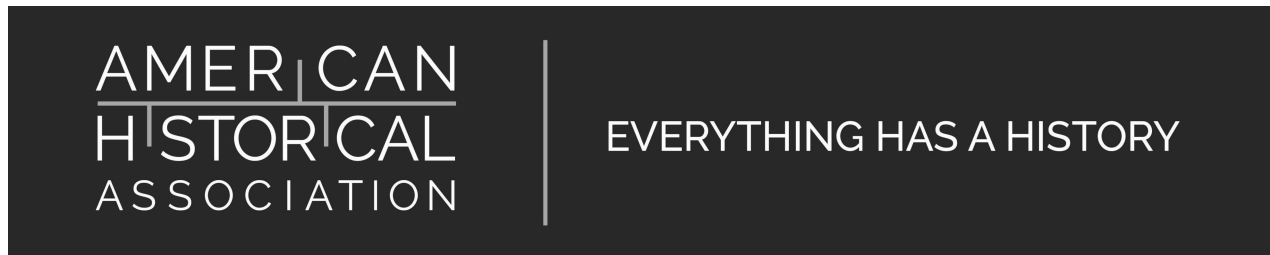


What's at stake for history right now

Von American Historical Association <executivedirector@historians.org>

Datum Di, 2026-03-24 18:00

An norbert.finzsch@uni-koeln.de <norbert.finzsch@uni-koeln.de>



Dear Norbert,

History belongs to all of us. As a member of the AHA, you already believe that, and you're part of the community working to defend it.

This work is especially urgent right now. Many of you have been following our **joint lawsuit** with the ACLS and MLA to **oppose the dismantling of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The effects of these actions, and broader efforts to restrict history at the federal level, are already being felt:**

- Local museums, historical societies, and community programs are losing funding
- Teachers and students are losing access to educational resources
- Public programs, including lectures, exhibits, and community projects, are being canceled
- Scholars, educators, and institutions are facing growing pressure around what they can teach, research, and share

Over time, these changes do more than cut programs. **They narrow which stories are told, limit access to trusted, nonpartisan knowledge, and weaken the public's ability to engage thoughtfully with the past.** They erode our capacity to understand where we've been and make sense of where we are now.

As I recently explained in an **interview with the New York Times**, the executive branch of "our federal government is sending a message that only a narrow definition of humanities can be supported, celebrated and invested in, and that there are only a narrow set of people, culture and experiences that are worth understanding in depth."

At the AHA, we act every day to defend our right to freely read, teach, and study history. **We believe—as Congress set out in its establishment of the NEH in 1965—that historians should be able to work in a "climate encouraging freedom of thought, imagination, and inquiry."** We're advocating for that freedom at the federal and state levels and pushing back against efforts that threaten public access to history. And we're taking action, including through the courts, to ensure this continues.

This is a defining moment for history and the humanities. To sustain this effort, and to meet what lies ahead, we need your help. If you're able, we invite you to deepen your support with a gift. **Donate today.**

Thank you for being part of this community. We remain committed to standing up for you, your work, and the role of history and the humanities in public life.



Sarah Weicksel
Executive Director

American Historical Association

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