

NEH/IMLS/Cal Humanities Awards at San José State University

Public Engagement



Public Art as Resistance in San José, 2022-23

- Investigate history of resistance embedded in downtown San José public art
- Produce 3-hour in-person walking tour of nine works
- Self-guided audio tour using QR codes and a map available in print and online
- Culminating panel discussion about the art of resistance and resistant public art
- Exhibit at the downtown San José Hammer Theatre

Resisting Erasure and Asserting Afghan Cultural and Community Resilience, 2024-25

- Document first- and second-generation Afghan American and recent Afghan refugee communities in the U.S.
- Record cultural resiliency and experiences of pandemic through oral history interviews, digital storytelling, and participatory archiving events
- Collect and preserve stories of first- and second-generation Afghan Americans

Deep Humanities & Arts for Socially Responsible Technology, 2020-21

<https://projects.cadre.sjsu.edu/sjstorymap>

- Multifaceted project to explore fake news and counter disinformation, harassment, discrimination, and disparity with the local community
- Support activities include online story contest, map building hackathon, story slam, etc.
- Create interactive, multimedia digital San José Story Map recording memories, experiences, thoughts, feelings about the place they call home in Silicon Valley
- Advance more inclusive, culturally sensitive, civic-minded, socially responsible approach to digital technology

Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys (NEH/IMLS)

- Series of lectures and discussions about literary works, including *The Arabian Nights*; *The Conference of the Birds*; *Snow*; and *Minaret*
- Second half of the "Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys" program
- Books and films for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library collections

The Cultural Work of Poetry: A Community's Discussion Series in San José, CA, 2022-25

- Offer bi-weekly poetry reading, writing, and discussions around San José poets
- "Testimonial" approach for participants to write poems about their own life
- Participants listen and learn from each other
- Poetry making in a community that documents, describes, appreciates, and articulates their needs, hopes, and dreams for the world they want to live in



Grounding the Humanities at SJSU: Building a Digital Humanities Center, 2021-26

<https://library.sjsu.edu/digitalhumanities>

- Establish a Digital Humanities (DH) Center at San José State University
- Expand the current digital infrastructure
- Serve both SJSU students, San Jose Public Library, and the San José community
- DH Center to support teaching and research in digital humanities' serving 35'000 students to support courses in digital humanities, and impact research at SJSU, and develop community engagement alongside the San Jose Public Library
- Fosters development of projects, such as "South Asians in Silicon Valley" and "Before Silicon Valley: Mexican Farm & Cannery Workers (1920-1960)"

Arguing the Humanities: A Course for STEM Students, 2019

- Integrate humanities texts and methods of inquiry into a required writing course for STEM students
- Train faculty, implement courses, and create digital archives
- Develop habits of mind to analyze works and write persuasively about them

Summer Seminars and Institutes

- The Immigrant Experience in California | 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2025
- John Steinbeck, Social Critic | 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022
- Two-to-three week summer institutes for twenty-five school teachers
- 225 K-12 teachers from all over country benefitted from these two Institutes

Research



Awards for Faculty: Maite Urcaregui "Seeing Citizenship: Picturing Political Belonging in Multiethnic Graphic Literature" | 2025-2026

NEH Fellowship | The Ethics of 14th Century French Philosopher Jean Buridan, 2022

- Preparation of annotated translation of medieval French philosopher Jean Buridan's Volume 1 of *Questions on the Ten Books of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*

Cannery Workers, Cannery Lives 2017-18

<https://library.sjsu.edu/b4sv/minidoc2>

- Oral history and photography project retrieving and sharing stories
- Documenting cannery workers' contributions to the heritage of Santa Clara Valley
- Programming includes documentaries, panel of cannery workers, three photo displays