The NEA and NEH dominate awareness in the media of funding for the arts and humanities (while awareness of foundation funding is low).

Public media largely identifies the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as funders of the arts and humanities. Meanwhile, awareness of funding from private foundations is low (see our KF-7-TBD-a). This is the conclusion that can be reached from studying our Collection 1 of 82,324 unique articles mentioning "humanities."

In a topic model of these articles, the NEA and NEH are clearly connected to funding for public arts and humanities programs at the federal and local levels. History is especially prominent in coverage of NEH funding. For example, topics #135, #155 and #67 discuss the NEH and NEA in the federal budget and their impact on community programming in history and the arts. (See representative articles: a, b).

Topic #225 is about community arts programming supported by the NEA. Keywords include activities and institutions involved in the humanities such as dance, music, theater, and museums, where people, children, artists, musicians come together in communities to support and participate in performances. (See representative articles: a, b).

Keywords in topic #135, meanwhile, reflect public and private history projects as well as programs that the NEH supports with funding, endowments and grants. The NEH provides humanities and history support for cultural heritage and preservation programs and research conducted by councils, citizens, scholars, museums and libraries. (See representative articles: a, b).

So this picture of how the media profiles funding for the humanities and arts raises at least two questions. Why is private foundation funding like that from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation largely missing in the picture? (See our KF-7-TBD-a.) And should the NEA and NEH’s funding for programs beyond those in the arts and history preoccupying the press be increased (or brought to attention)? (See our KF-7-TBD-b.)