Timeline of Recent Major Developments (continued)

The history field is facing multiple challenges, including increased government censorship, cancelled grants and services from federal agencies, and efforts by the White House to promote a triumphalist vision of the U.S. 250th anniversary. **This page highlights the relevant major developments from January through July 2025.**

- **July 25:** Federal judge grants a preliminary junction halting termination of thousands of NEH grants to members of the Authors Guild; in same order, judge declines to issue preliminary injunction in lawsuit brought by the American Historical Association (AHA) and fellow associations.
- **June 16:** U.S. Government Accountability Office, Congress's nonpartisan watchdog agency, finds that White House broke the law in IMLS funding for grants and contracts; White House lays off 100 employees from the National Archives.
- **June 9:** U.S. Department of Interior requires all NPS sites to post signage encouraging visitors to report any information they feel depicts past or living Americans or landscapes in a "negative" light.
- **June 6:** Federal judge declines to issue a preliminary injunction stopping the White House from dismantling IMLS in a case brought by Democracy Forward on behalf of the American Library Association (ALA) and AFSCME.
- **May 15:** Federation of State Humanities Councils and Oregon Humanities file joint lawsuit challenging executive actions against NEH.
- **May 13:** Judge issues preliminary injunction requested by 21 state attorneys general in lawsuit filed to defend IMLS; injunction requires Trump administration to undo steps taken to dismantle IMLS and prohibits further action against agency.
- **May 12:** Authors Guild and group of scholars file class action lawsuit contesting cancelled NEH grants; federal judge soon issues order tentatively consolidating this lawsuit with similar suit brought by AHA et al.
- **May 8:** President Trump dismisses Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden.
- **May 2:** White House releases its FY26 budget recommendations, which eliminate funding for NEH and IMLS, as well as reduce support for NPS.
- **May 1:** AHA and partner associations file lawsuit to defend the NEH.
- **April 29:** Mellon Foundation makes one-time, stop-gap emergency funding commitment of $15 million for all 56 state and territory humanities councils.
- **April 10:** Portion of cancelled NEH grants announced reallocated to White House's "Garden of Heroes" project.
- **April 7:** Democracy Forward files lawsuit on behalf of ALA and AFSCME in support of IMLS.
- **April 4:** Twenty-one state attorneys general file lawsuit to defend IMLS.
- **Weeks of April 3, 8, and 15:** Thousands of NEH and IMLS grants suddenly cancelled.
- **Week of April 3:** Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) places approximately 80% of NEH staff on administrative leave.
- **March 31:** DOGE places entire IMLS staff on 90-day administrative leave.

- **March 27:** Trump signs executive order attempting to replace evidence-based history with deceptive, exclusionary narrative at Smithsonian Institution and NPS sites.
- **March 14:** Trump signs executive order aimed at dismantling IMLS.
- **February 14:** DOGE lays off approximately 1,000 NPS staffers.
- **February 7:** President Trump dismisses Archivist of the United States Colleen Shogan.
- **January 29:** Trump signs executive orders promoting narrow, incomplete view of history and commemoration: one undermining effective and accurate K–12 history education and one promoting an exclusively celebratory observance of the U.S. 250th.
- **January 20:** Trump signs executive order ending diversity, equity, and inclusion programs throughout the federal government.

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