

NEH grant provides support for interpretive projects

THE THOMAS Jefferson Foundation has received a grant of \$367,200 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the creation of exhibitions, installations, and other interpretive features at the new visitor center currently under construction at Monticello.

The Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center will serve as the new gateway to Monticello. The 42,000-square-foot facility, located below the Monticello mountaintop, is scheduled to open in November.

The NEH grant will help fund a set of projects designed to promote a more comprehensive understanding of Thomas Jefferson's consequential ideas and their implications at Monticello and elsewhere. Among these are a permanent exhibition titled *Monticello as Experiment: 'To Try All Things'* that will feature more than 200 objects illustrating Jefferson's efforts to obtain, disseminate, and apply useful knowledge; an interactive animated timeline of Jefferson's life; and a second animation about Jefferson's lifelong pursuit of knowledge. The NEH grant also will support the development and publication of an expanded visitor's guide as well as the participation of exhibition designers and consulting historians.

"These additions to our existing interpretive programs will convey to visitors a deeper and critical understanding of Jefferson's public and private accomplishments in the context of their time," said Susan R. Stein, Monticello's

Richard Guilder Senior Curator and vice president for museum programs. "We are both pleased and grateful that NEH has decided to support our efforts."

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the federal government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

In awarding the grant to Monticello, NEH designated the visitor center interpretive programs a *We the People* project. *We the People* is an NEH initiative that

encourages and strengthens the teaching, study, and understanding of U.S. history and culture through the support of projects that explore significant events and themes and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America.

Monticello's planning for the new visitor center's interpretive programs was partially funded by a \$40,000 consultancy grant awarded by NEH in 2004.



The exhibition *Monticello as Experiment: 'To Try All Things'* will include Jefferson's pedestal achromatic telescope.

TJF/Edward Owen

Thomas Jefferson
MONTICELLO

Monticello is a newsletter published twice each year by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education.

© Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., 2008

COMMENTS?

newsletter@monticello.org