



DC Documentary (DC DOCS) Short Partnership Grant

Summary:

Washington, DC, as we know it today, has a treasured cultural legacy that spans generations. HumanitiesDC (HDC) is committed to supporting projects that breathe life into the unique stories of our rich communities. HDC is seeking qualified partners for its DC DOCS program to help us with this mission.

DC DOCS provides financial and capacity building resources to established filmmakers interested in telling a humanities story about Washington, DC through a documentary short film. Potential projects must incorporate relevant humanities scholarship into the stories that they tell.

Selected partners will have the opportunity to work with the HDC grants team who will provide capacity-building and subject-matter support throughout the life of the project.

Proposals will be reviewed in June and selected projects will be announced in early July.

Award Amount:

Applicants may request up to \$30,000 depending on the scope of their projects.

Project Period:

This opportunity is for documentary short film projects conducted between **July 15, 2019-July 15, 2020**.

What are we looking for?

The DC DOCS program accepts applications for funding to produce a documentary short film. Prospective projects should be:

- led by mid-career or established filmmakers who can provide evidence of their past successes,
- informed by humanities scholars knowledgeable about the field or subject-matter the documentary short will cover,
- innovative, unique, and of strong educational interest to a wide public audience,
- focused on one or more central humanities disciplines.

Applications must identify a scholar, and how that person will guide the project through the grant cycle. Applicants must demonstrate the scholar has the appropriate expertise to serve in that role on the project and that the identified scholar has committed to working on the project throughout the grant cycle. Each funded project will result in a lasting digital final product that will be added to HumanitiesDC Digital Museum.

In addition to an overall description of the project, the grant application will also require:

- A statement of expected impact,
- a description of collaboration and community involvement,



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- list the project team and roles they will play,
- timeline of film project activities/stages,
- marketing and evaluation strategies, and
- budget and budget narrative.

How to Apply:

Visit the DC DOCS page of our website at <https://www.wdchumanities.org/humanities-project-funding/dc-docs-partnership-grant-program/> to review the grant qualifications, terms and conditions. When you are finished, click Apply Now at the bottom of the page to begin your application.

Deadline:

All proposals must be received by May 29, 2019.

About Humanities DC:

HumanitiesDC is the State Humanities Council for Washington, DC and one of 56 such institutions found in every state and territory of the United States, each affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Founded in 1980, our mission is to:

“...enrich the quality of life, foster intellectual stimulation, and promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of local history in all neighborhoods of the District through humanities programs and grants.”

What are the Humanities:

Potential projects may focus on: “language, both modern and classical: linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

The Humanities comprise a set of disciplines that seek to understand human expression. By exploring the ways humans have expressed their relationships to one another and the world around them, academic and public humanist can: establish a sense of community and collective responsibility, encourage critical thinking and life-long learning, and create new opportunities for conversation and dialogue.

What is a Documentary Short?

An eligible documentary film is defined as a nonfiction motion picture dealing creatively with cultural, artistic, historical, social, scientific, economic or other subjects. It may be photographed in actual occurrence, or may employ partial



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reenactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not on fiction with a running time of 40 minutes or less, including all credits.

This definition is based on (though not identical to) the one found in the 91st Academy Awards-Special Rules for the documentary awards.

What is a Scholar?

A scholar may be a working academic professional with an advanced degree in the humanities discipline most closely related to the proposed project, but an appropriate scholar does not always need these credentials. Some qualified scholars may lack an advanced degree or university affiliations but may be recognized subject-matter experts in the documentary project's field of inquiry. In either case, the applicant must support their choice of scholar in the application narrative.

Qualifying Questions:

1. Is your organization or your fiscal sponsor a 501(c)3 non-profit organization?
2. Does your proposed project have Washington, DC or one of its communities or neighborhoods as its primary geographic focus?
3. Will the proposed project occur within the grant period (July 15, 2019-July 15, 2020)?
4. Does your proposed filmmaker have a sample reel and CV to submit with your application?
5. Will the proposed project result in a documentary short film of 40 minutes or less to be donated with shared copyright to HumanitiesDC for the DC Digital Museum archive?
6. Does your proposed project have the commitment of a Humanities scholar who will guide your project through the grant cycle?
7. Have all of your organization's previously held HumanitiesDC grants been closed-out successfully?

Additional Requirements and Information:

1. Projects working on each awarded partnership grant will be required to attend an initial kickoff awards ceremony on July 15, 2019.
2. DC Docs grants require a 1:1 match in any combination of cash or in-kind contributions.
3. All projects will be supported by a member of the HDC grants team. This HDC consultant or staff member will be responsible for providing support and advice to project directors as well as ensuring that all project work is progressing smoothly.
4. The grants staff will schedule several required technical assistance sessions with project directors over the course of the project period. This may include 3-4 meetings with the entire grantee cohort for this program and cycle.
5. All projects must participate in joint marketing and communications campaigns with HumanitiesDC within the grant period.
6. The final product, the documentary short, funded by DC DOCS will be archived in the DC Digital Museum at the end of the grant period.



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7. Applicants will be expected to assign individuals to the following roles:
- Organizational Sponsor-The chief executive or presiding board member of the applying or sponsoring non-profit organization.
 - Project Director-The person who will guide the daily operations of the project.
 - Filmmaker-A person with mid-career experience who will direct and/or produce the documentary short.
 - Humanities Scholar-A person with strong knowledge of both the project topic and the discipline or field.
 - Project Bookkeeper-The person responsible for maintaining a record of expenses against the grant award. This person cannot be assigned to any of the other project roles.

Terms:

- Awardees agree to document all grant expenditures and provide a final report at the end of the project period using forms provided by HumanitiesDC.
- Awarded applicants will receive 80% of the full amount of the grant upon their signature of the partnership agreement document, and the remaining 20% upon the fulfillment of reporting obligations.
- Any changes to the scope or budget of a partnership project must be communicated to HumanitiesDC in writing.
- Awarded applicants will sign grant conditions that constitute a legally binding contract between HumanitiesDC and the applicant's sponsoring organization. The organization will be legally obligated to complete the project under the terms of the grant conditions.
- 100% of awarded grant funds must be applied to direct program costs. This may include salary, consulting fees, and/or honoraria for individuals working on the project, but cannot include indirect costs, overhead, rent, utilities, or administrative fees. If the project director uses the services of a 501(c)3 non-profit fiscal sponsor, up to 10% of the total award may be budgeted for fees related to the fiscal sponsorship arrangement.
- All documentary shorts produced as part of this partnership grant opportunity will be collected by HumanitiesDC and made available in the DC Digital Museum. Awarded grantees will retain shared rights with HDC to produce copies, publicly distribute, and publish derivative works based on the materials they collect. HDC will negotiate with project directors to delay distribution via the DC Digital Museum if it is thought to prohibit or conflict with opportunities for wider distribution or exposure.

¹ From the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965 via <http://www.neh.gov>