



Humanities Vision Partnership Grant Request for Proposals

Summary:

Help us create exciting public humanities programs for the people of Washington, DC! This opportunity provides financial and capacity building resources to community organizations (partners) interested in creating innovative interpretations of humanities scholarship for public audiences.

Humanities Vision Grants are driven by the proposed final product. One of the many things that makes HumanitiesDC's funding programs unique is the close partnership awarded grantees forge with the HumanitiesDC grants team. These partnerships ensure that all funded projects result in an academically authoritative, technically polished final products that will be of continued benefit to students, researchers, and the residents of Washington, DC as part of the DC Digital Museum, a permanent digital archive administered by HumanitiesDC.

Award Amount:

Applicants may request between \$5,000 and \$20,000 depending on the scope of their projects.

Project Period:

This opportunity is for projects conducted between May 15, 2019 and May 15, 2020.

What are we looking for?

Originality – Vision grants are for the public interpretation of new ideas, revelatory perspectives on settled scholarship, the illumination of hidden stories, and innovative methods of encouraging public engagement with the humanities. Prospective applicants should conduct a literature survey and environmental scan to ensure that they are breaking new ground in one or more of these ways.

Strong scholar involvement – One of the goals of HumanitiesDC's partnership grant programs is to encourage productive relationships between humanities scholars and the public. All proposed projects must specify a scholar, and how that person will guide the project throughout the grant cycle. Typical scholars have an advanced degree in the humanities discipline most closely related to the proposed project and many have university affiliations, but an appropriate scholar does not always need these credentials. In every case, 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.

Community partnerships – HumanitiesDC was founded in 1980 as the DC Community Humanities Council, and our commitment to encouraging grassroots scholarship has been a continued to be a part of our grantmaking. All proposed grant projects must demonstrate both how the community will benefit from the project and be actively involved in its creation. As indicated above, rigorous scholarship is an important part of any funded proposal, but the best applications will propose projects that create partnerships between academia and the public.



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Educational Product with Lasting Value – Ultimately, every applicant, even those proposing public events or exhibits, must commit to producing a tangible educational product that can be archived in HumanitiesDC’s DC Digital Museum. This product is the primary expected result of all awarded grants and a crucial part of HumanitiesDC’s goal of building an online repository of films, publications, and other materials related to the humanities in Washington. In many ways, the delivery of a well-researched, original, and eminently useful final product at the end of the grant cycle is what determines the success of the grant.

Work closely with HDC Staff – The HumanitiesDC grants team strives to establish strong partnership-level relationships with their assigned grantee “cohort.” Key to this relationship is grantees’ willingness to participate in regular check-in and information-sharing meetings, professional development and capacity-building workshops, and networking opportunities. The grants team works with HumanitiesDC’s communications staff to promote grantee events and activities, and to seek press coverage for every funded project. Finally, grants staff serves as a sounding-board, giving advice and feedback on project activities and, ultimately, taking delivery of the final educational product. The proposal narrative should describe how the applicant will take advantage of this unique opportunity to partner with HDC.

Other Required Proposal Elements:

- Identification of the project’s target demographic, primary humanities discipline, and Washington, DC Ward(s) served.
- A letter of support from the project’s fiscal sponsor, if different than the organization carrying out the project.
- A description of the key personnel who will work on the project.
- A timeline of project activities and milestones covering the full grant cycle.
- A marketing strategy for the project.
- A description of how the project’s performance will be evaluated.
- Audience participation estimates.
- A budget (in a provided template), and a budget narrative.

How to Apply:

Visit the grants section of our website at wdchumanities.org/grants 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 Friday, March 29, 2019 at 11:59pm.



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About HumanitiesDC:

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 have 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.”ⁱⁱ

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 humanists can: establish a sense of community and collective responsibility, encourage critical thinking and life-long learning, and create new opportunities for conversation and dialogue.

Qualifying Questions:

1. Is your organization or your fiscal sponsor a 501(c)3 non-profit organization?
2. Does the 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 (May 30, 2019 – May 30, 2020)?
4. Are residents of Washington, DC the primary audience for the project?
5. Have all your organization’s previously held HumanitiesDC grants been closed-out successfully?

Additional Requirements and Information:

1. Project directors working on each awarded partnership grant will be required to attend an initial kickoff awards ceremony on **May 15th, 2019 from 6:30-8pm.**
2. Humanities Vision grants require a 1:1 match in any combination of cash or in-kind contributions.
3. All partnership 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.



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4. The grants staff cohort leaders will schedule several required check-in sessions with partnership project directors over the course of the project period.
5. All partnership projects must participate in joint marketing and communications campaigns with HumanitiesDC during the grant period.
6. Applicants will be expected to identify the final educational product that will be archived in the DC Digital Museum at the end of the grant period.
7. Applicants will be expected to assign individuals to the following roles:
 - a. Organizational Sponsor – The chief executive or presiding board member of the applying or sponsoring non-profit organization.
 - b. Project Director – The person who will guide the daily operations of the project.
 - c. Humanities Scholar – A person with strong knowledge of both the project topic and the discipline or field.
 - d. 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:

1. Awardees agree to document all grant expenditures and provide a final report at the end of the project period using forms provided by HumanitiesDC.
2. Awarded applicants will receive 80% of the full amount of the grant upon their signature of the partnership agreement document. The remaining 20% will be paid no later than September 30th, 2019 after successful completion of a standard set of grantee milestones.
3. Any changes to the scope or budget of a partnership project must be communicated to HumanitiesDC in writing.
4. Awarded applicants will sign grant conditions that constitute a legally binding contract between HumanitiesDC and the applicant's organization or fiscal sponsor. The signatory will be legally obligated to complete the project under the terms of the grant conditions.
5. 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.
6. Other expenses that cannot be attributed to this grant award include: food or drink of any kind, the production or materials for creative or performing arts projects, and fundraising or membership cultivation events.
7. All final products generated as part of this partnership grant opportunity will be collected by HumanitiesDC for inclusion in the DC Digital Museum. Awarded grantees will retain shared, non-exclusive copyright to retain copies, publicly distribute, and publish derivative works based on the materials they collect.

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