



Voices from the Frontlines Small Grants Request for Proposals

This Grant is part of the “Humanities Grant Program,” an initiative funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

RFP Issued: December 7, 2020

Application Deadline: January 8, 2021 at 11:59pm

Open to organizations and individual applicants.

Project Period:

This opportunity is for projects which will begin February 22, 2021 and must be completed by June 25, 2021.

Access Assistance:

HumanitiesDC endeavors to make its applications as open and accessible as possible. If you are unable to access any materials on our site, please contact the grants manager, Andrea McNeil at amcneil@wdchumanities.org. When contacting us, please include the following in your query:

- Nature of the accessibility issue
- The web address of the content you are attempting to access
- Your preferred format for the content
- Your contact information

Award Amount:

Applicants may request up to \$2,000 depending on the scope of their projects.

Applicants may submit one application for this grant program in FY2020.

Please read this request for proposals in full before submitting an application.

Staff Contact:

Andrea McNeil – amcneil@wdchumanities.org

About HumanitiesDC:

HumanitiesDC is the State Humanities Council for Washington, DC, and local affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Founded in 1980, the Humanities Council of Washington, DC (HumanitiesDC)

aims 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.

Diversity and inclusion are fundamental to the mission of HumanitiesDC. For 40 years HumanitiesDC has been committed to amplifying the wide-ranging voices and perspectives of the District. As a grantmaking organization, it is our responsibility to justly promote, encourage, and support our diverse community. To deepen our commitment to honoring our city's rich cultural heritage, HumanitiesDC has committed to revisit our practices to ensure they are fair, equitable, diverse and inclusive.

Summary:

This has been an unprecedented year punctuated by moments of extraordinary hope and extreme challenges. While the coronavirus pandemic has devastated our communities' health and economic well-being, the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and many others, sparked a series of ongoing protests and are forcing many to confront the systemic racism deeply entrenched in the institutions that make up present-day American society against the backdrop of a historic presidential election. Our shared history is made by individuals. The individual stories and remembrances of nurses, teachers, parents, students, poll workers, protesters, social workers, and countless others will define these times. Preserving these voices are crucial to ensuring that the lessons of these times are not forgotten in the decades and generations to come.

Funding Scope:

Successful applications will propose projects and initiatives that seek to document and preserve the stories of individuals who been on the metaphorical or literal frontlines of recent major historical events. This may include, but is not limited to, recent struggles for racial justice, the fight against COVID-19, and the 2020 election. These stories may document food and supply shortages, they may document marches, elections or voting experiences, they may be stories of work, they may be stories of family. Our aim is to create space for the Washington, DC community to preserve and interpret their collective memories. Projects may seek to document these stories as one-on-one interviews, they may seek to collect self-recorded audio or video clips, they may organize group sharing sessions or community meetings. Ultimately, we are seeking creatively designed, projects aimed at wide audiences that can launch quickly to capture these memories before they begin to recede too far into the past.

Final Products – Applicants may propose creative means of reaching the funding objective – there is no one project type prescribed by HumanitiesDC for documenting stories from the frontlines. However, all grant awards must result in the development of one or more final projects that HumanitiesDC can share back with the community digitally via the DC Digital Museum, the HumanitiesDC website, social media and/or other public platforms.

For projects focused on collecting first-hand accounts and individual stories -

Creators will retain full unrestricted usage rights over the stories they produce, while ownership of all submitted stories and other materials collected under the grant will also be transferred to HumanitiesDC so they may be given a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license allowing for public access to and reuse of the materials. Because the goal of the program is to document stories that can be

shared with the public, the grant cannot be used to collect stories that are “off the record,” private, or that may otherwise incriminate or embarrass their contributors. All participants in this project must sign release forms allowing their stories to be shared, but if HDC finds that those stories might put the contributors at risk they will be excluded from the archive.

For more information see the statement on final product submissions in the terms and conditions section below, and the relevant section of the Grant Conditions Agreement covering final products.

Other Required Proposal Elements:

- Identification of the project’s Washington, DC Ward(s) served.
- A letter of support from the project’s fiscal sponsor, if different than the organization or individual 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 budget (in the provided template), and a budget narrative.
- A detailed plan for complying with relevant provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

You will also be asked to provide expected audience data – this is for informational purposes only, and is used for reporting to HDC’s funders.

Risk Management and Ongoing Monitoring:

Applicants may also submit: audited financial statements, a board list and structure, and bylaws to demonstrate their organization’s stability. These materials combined with the organization’s past performance on HumanitiesDC-funded projects will determine whether any eventual award is considered low, medium, or high risk, and will affect the level of ongoing monitoring of the award throughout the grant period.

HDC will assign a risk-level to an award when it is made, and will share it with the grantee. The quantity and frequency of reports, check-ins, and site visits will be determined based on the risk-level.

Cash and/or In-Kind Match Requirement:

There is no match requirement for this grant opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to supplement HumanitiesDC funding with other sources.

Common Characteristics of Successful Proposals:

- Will clearly articulate a single cohesive and definitive project rather than a nebulous list of ideas or possibilities.
- Will be able to demonstrate commitments from the project team and any institutional collaborators.
- Will define a clear plan for the creation of stories that can be added to the DC Digital Museum Archive and that will be useful to students, educators, scholars, and the public.
- Will demonstrate a deep understanding of the subject matter to be explored and the expected primary audience for the project.
- Will list as the Humanities Scholar an individual who demonstrates expertise in the project’s particular subject matter as well as knowledge of the broader humanities field to be explored.

How to Apply:

The HumanitiesDC grants portal can be accessed at <http://grantapplication.wdchumanities.org>. Please be sure to review the grant qualifications, terms and conditions for the program you are interested in before beginning an application. If you or your organization have applied for a HumanitiesDC grant before, please DO NOT create a new account. If you are having trouble accessing your existing account, please email Grants Manager, Andrea McNeil at amcneil@wdchumanities.org.

All HumanitiesDC grant applications are only accepted via an online grant portal. Applications must be successfully submitted by 11:59pm on the day of the deadline. Applicants will receive a confirmation email when their proposals have been successfully submitted. Applicants should contact the Andrea McNeil at amcneil@wdchumanities.org immediately should they encounter any technical issues or if they do not receive a confirmation email. Incomplete or late applications or applications failing to meet the guidelines or eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding. HumanitiesDC does not accept mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered applications or required attachments. HumanitiesDC will accept reasonable accommodation requests from applicants with disabilities in advance of the application due date to assist them in submitting grant applications via mail, email, or hand-delivery. To make a request for reasonable accommodation contact Andrea McNeil at amcneil@wdchumanities.org and allow 1-2 business days for a response.

Eligibility Requirements (Organizations):

- Must be an IRS designated 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Must be registered with, and authorized to do business in, the District as either a “Domestic” entity (that is, an entity that was incorporated in the District) or a “Foreign” entity (that is, an entity that was incorporated in another state).
- Must register and comply with the regulatory requirements of the following agencies:
 - o District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) – Corporations Division (indicating an “active” business license status at the time of application and agreeing to maintain such status throughout the grant period).
 - o District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR).
 - o District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES).
 - o United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Must be able to obtain a certification of “Citywide Clean Hands” (CCH) from the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue.
- Must have a principal business office address that is located in the District of Columbia and is accessible to onsite review. **Post office boxes will not be accepted.**
- Must be in good standing with HumanitiesDC. Applicants with outstanding or delinquent reports or final products from previous HumanitiesDC grants must submit them completed and without deficiencies at least 30 days before the deadline for which they wish to apply.
- Prohibited applicants include: private clubs and organizations that prohibit membership based upon race, gender, color, religion, or any other classes identified in the District of Columbia Human Rights Act; for-profit (commercial) entities; political organizations; foreign governments; federal government entities; and District of Columbia government agencies.

Eligibility Requirements (Individuals):

- Must be aged 18 years or older.
- Be a legal resident of the District of Columbia for at least one year prior to the application deadline and must maintain residency during the entire grant period.
- Have a permanent DC address as listed on proper identification or tax returns. **PO Boxes may not be used as a primary address.**
- Must not hold any open grants awarded or administered by HumanitiesDC at the time of the application deadline.
- Must be in good standing with HumanitiesDC. Applicants with outstanding or delinquent reports or final products from previous HumanitiesDC grants must submit them completed and without deficiencies at least 30 days before the deadline for which they wish to apply.
- All grant recipients are responsible for reporting their respective grant award(s) as income on federal and local tax returns (in accordance with applicable law) and are strongly encouraged to consult with a tax professional and the United States Internal Revenue Service.

Eligibility Requirements (Applicable to both Organizations and Individuals):

- Must be either planning or executing a program (or representing an organization planning or executing a program if serving as a fiscal sponsor) that:
 - o adheres to the summary and description outlined in this RFP.
 - o has 100% of its geographic focus on Washington, DC or one of its neighborhoods.
 - o will occur within the grant period
 - o will have residents of Washington, DC as its primary audience.

By submitting a proposal, applicants certify that they are in compliance with all relevant eligibility requirements. Awarded applicants may be asked at any time during the grant period to provide proof of eligibility. Any awardees found to be ineligible after the award date will be required to return all grant funds to HDC.

Fiscal Sponsorship:

Organizations without 501c3 non-profit status may apply through an organization serving as a fiscal sponsor provided that the fiscal sponsor organization meets all eligibility requirements in this RFP. Individuals may also apply through a fiscal sponsor. Under this arrangement, the fiscal sponsor organization takes on all financial and legal obligations of the grant award. Fiscal sponsors may support no more than three grant programs at a time. Applicants applying through fiscal sponsors must use the fiscal sponsor's organization account within the HumanitiesDC grants portal to submit their application. If the fiscal sponsor does not have an account, an authorized official from the fiscal sponsor organization must create one.

During the grant period for projects awarded via fiscal sponsorship, the fiscal sponsor organization contact, and the project director will both be required to correspond with and submit information to HumanitiesDC's

grants officer. Fiscal sponsors should not be involved in the overall planning or execution of project deliverables – if HumanitiesDC finds evidence during the grant period that the fiscal sponsor has attempted to exploit the fiscal sponsorship policy to improperly submit multiple applications for projects in which they have a considerable stake, the grant agreement may be terminated by HumanitiesDC.

Allowable Costs:

100% of awarded grant funds must be applied to direct program costs, and fiscal sponsor fees (up to 10% of the overall award). 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. Other disallowed expenses include: food and beverages, tuition and scholarships, debt reduction, re-granting, costs related to fundraisers and special events, expenses unrelated to the execution of the project, and funding to foreign or domestic government agencies.

Examples of Allowable Costs:

- Project supplies and equipment
- Venue rental fees
- Speaker or scholar honoraria
- Project transportation
- Equipment rental
- Marketing and promotion
- Exhibit design or construction
- Project consultant fees

Examples of Disallowed Costs:

- Office rent, overhead, and utilities
- General office supplies and equipment
- Food and beverages
- Costs associated with the production of visual or performing arts projects
- Projects designed to be attended or used by a limited audience such as an organization's membership

Applicants may contact HumanitiesDC's grants staff with questions regarding allowable costs. Grantees will be required to detail all expenses in quarterly and final reports.

Accessibility and ADA Compliance:

All organizational applicants must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The ADA provides civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, services rendered by state and local government, places of public accommodation, transportation and telecommunication services. Organizations funded by HumanitiesDC must make reasonable accommodations to ensure that people with disabilities have equal physical and communications access as defined by federal law.

Applicant organizations with more than 14 full time employees must include, in their grant applications, a response to the "Accessibility" section of its grant application that includes the following information:

1. The process for formulating accessibility plans (e.g. creating an accessibility advisory committee, board and staff disability rights training, budgeting for reasonable accommodation requests, etc.).
2. The current process/status of an organization's physical accessibility. If the location is not barrier-free, include in the grant application a plan for project/program modification that ensures access in a barrier-free environment, when needed.
3. The current progress/status of the organization's accessibility in presenting activities – communications access (e.g. TDD, large print, or brail materials; audio description or assistive listening devices, ASL interpreted programs, etc.) and marketing/advertising.

In addition to detailed plans for its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C § 12101 et seq.), each applicant must demonstrate how the project will be inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible throughout the District of Columbia, beyond participants with disabilities. Successful applications will consider a broad definition of "accessibility" by addressing financial, geographic, demographic, cultural and developmental access. For more information, applicants may access the complete text of the ADA here: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/12101>. Note that neither HumanitiesDC or the District of Columbia government represent that this link leads to the latest version of the subject law.

Technical Assistance Workshops:

HumanitiesDC schedules technical grants assistance workshops for prospective applicants prior to the deadline for each cycle. These workshops may be conducted via live webinars. These workshops, led by HumanitiesDC grants staff, provide information on grant qualifications, grant writing best practices, and navigation of the online grants portal. HumanitiesDC staff will not write applications for prospective applicants but will provide feedback on drafts. To request feedback, applicants must send a request by email to the grants staff member listed on the RFP no less than two weeks before the deadline. The technical grants assistance workshops are free and open to the public, but applicants are strongly encouraged to register via Eventbrite before attending. As the workshops are scheduled, the dates, times, locations, and registration links will be available on our website at <https://www.wdchumanities.org>.

Application Review Process:

Qualified applications are submitted to a review panel comprised of Washington, DC residents with backgrounds and/or experience in humanities programming or scholarship. These panelists score the proposals assigned to them based on an established rubric that closely aligns with the questions in the application. After the reading and scoring period, panelists convene in person to discuss the merits and deficiencies of the applications in their cohort and to finalize their rankings under the guidance of HumanitiesDC grants staff and board members. All panelists, staff and board members are expected to remain impartial as they undertake their respective parts in the evaluation process. HumanitiesDC requires that all involved recuse themselves from review of any application that presents a personal or professional conflict of interest, and panelists must sign a statement acknowledging that they will adhere to this policy.

The rankings presented by the panelists are adjusted according to thematic, geographic, and audience diversity by the HumanitiesDC grants staff and a final slate of proposed projects are submitted to the HumanitiesDC board for approval.

Notification and Payment of Awards:

HumanitiesDC will notify applicants of their status (funded or denied) no more than 45 days after the application deadline. Grant award recipients will receive an official grant award letter through the online system which will include a link to submit acceptance forms and to sign the grant conditions. Denied applicants will be given one week to request a summary of panelist comments.

For award recipients, the date of payment is subject to the availability of funds and the processing of required documentation. Awards are disbursed via direct deposit. Awarded applicants are required to submit a W-9 form, and an ACH form which is made available through the online grants portal.

Additional Requirements and Information:

1. Project directors working on each awarded partnership grant will be required to attend an initial kickoff awards ceremony tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 from 5:30-6:30pm.**
2. 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.
3. The grants staff cohort leaders will schedule several required check-in sessions with partnership project directors over the course of the project period.
4. All partnership projects must participate in joint marketing and communications campaigns with HumanitiesDC during the grant period.
5. 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.
6. Organizational 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. Applicants submitting proposals as individuals will list themselves as the Organizational Sponsor.
 - 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. Successful applicants will be awarded the full award at the beginning of the grant period but will be required to submit interim progress and budget reports. Failure to complete these reports according to the schedule may result in intervention on the part of grants staff up to and including a request to return disbursed funds.
3. Any changes to the scope or budget (greater than 25% in any one category) 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. 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.
6. 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.
7. Stories and other materials collected through this grant program will be subject to the following additional statement which should be affirmed by any individuals submitting content to grantee projects:

You are being asked to contribute your recollections, photographic images, video, social media postings or other digital content to HumanitiesDC which is creating a digital record of the historic events of 2020 including the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing protests for and end to systemic racism as part of the Voices from the Frontlines project.

You may only submit material created entirely by you and not copied from or based, in whole or in part, upon any other photographic, literary, or other material, except to the extent that such material is in the public domain, or you have permission of the copyright owner, or its use is allowed by "Fair Use" as prescribed by the terms of United States copyright law.

By submitting content through this form, portal, email address, or other digital medium, you are granting HumanitiesDC permission to disseminate, preserve, and use that content in connection with its educational and research mission, including promotional purposes, in all media in perpetuity. You retain ownership of and copyright in the material you share.

Submitted material must not violate any confidentiality, privacy, security or other laws. Please be aware that all submissions and any information associated with the submissions (email address, descriptive information, etc.) may be provided to federal, state, or local law enforcement or other government agencies pursuant to a lawful subpoena or otherwise as required by law.

HumanitiesDC is not obligated to include your content in this project or preserve it in perpetuity.

Reporting and Close Out:

Grantees will be required to close out their grants no later than 30 days after the end of the grant period. The financial portion of the final report consists of: a form comparing the original budget to actual expenditures, an itemized list of all expenditures against the grant, backup for all expenses (receipts, payroll, paid invoices, cancelled checks, etc.), and a timesheet (individual grantees only). The narrative report consists of evaluative forms for both the project director and the project scholar. All of these documents and forms are submitted in the HumanitiesDC grant portal. The last part of the report is the final product and any accompanying

documentation. Final products are submitted to HumanitiesDC via a Dropbox file request link specific to the grantee.

Failure to submit the report and final products in-full and by the deadline may result in the grantee being made ineligible to receive future funding from HumanitiesDC. Failure to complete the project may require the grantee to return all awarded funds.