



**Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan
(SHARP)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

What are the Humanities?

A humanities organization has a mission explicitly connected to the humanities along with a track record of specifically working in the humanities, as opposed to a group that occasionally tackles or delves into humanities-based themes or activities. These include:

Cultural and Ethnic Organizations: This category includes organizations dedicated to the study, preservation, and/or dissemination of the history and culture of ethnic groups.

History Organizations: This category includes historical societies and their support organizations, historical preservation groups and their support organizations, historic houses, folklore/folklife organizations, place-based learning organizations, cultural sustainability organizations, and other organizations with a historical focus.

Humanities Museums: This category includes organizations that acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, and provide for the educational use of works of art or objects/artifacts that are related to the study of humanities content.

Literature Organizations: This category includes organizations that promote the study or appreciation of books and/or literature.

Humanities Education: Organizations that offer classes, seminar, and workshops in the humanities (which include but are not limited to literature, languages, history, philosophy, religious studies, art history, and interdisciplinary humanities programs – like ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, and American studies). Literacy programs and English-language acquisition (ELL/ESL) programs are also eligible in this category.

Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations: Organizations that are committed to covering humanities themes and/or telling the stories, happenings, or histories of communities that are informed by the members of those communities, challenge predominant narratives, and/or nurture critical analysis of media.

Libraries and Archives: These organizations include operating libraries and archives (excluding those that are purely science- and medicine-focused). Combination museum-libraries can be treated as museums or libraries.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Must be a federally incorporated 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 be an organization which, as a core part of its mission, produces public programs in the Humanities, as defined here by the amended National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965:
 - o *“The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: 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 the 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.”*
- Must be an organization for which Washington, DC residents comprise the majority of its constituents.
- 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; organizations whose primary focus is in the performing or visual arts (see the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities for applicable funding opportunities); organizations with no paid staff; universities; foreign governments; federal government entities; organizations receiving significant federal funding; and District of Columbia government agencies.
- Must have a valid DUNS number (<https://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html>). Organizations do not need to have a DUNS number to submit an application, but will not be able to receive funding until

one is obtained.

How much can applicants request?

Applicants may request funds for general operating support that will allow for planned or existing public humanities projects to continue despite challenges, or major alterations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Operating Budget (avg. over the last three FYs)	Maximum Available Award Amount
Up to \$300,000	\$20,000
\$300,001 to \$1,000,000	\$30,000
More than \$1,000,000	\$40,000

Applicants may receive only one grant from this program in this fiscal year. Please read this request for proposals in full before submitting an application.

Is there a Cash Match Requirement?

There is no matching requirement for this grant program.

Are Fiscal Sponsorship allowed?

Fiscal sponsorship arrangements are prohibited for this grant.

We received federal PPP funds (Paycheck Protection Program). Are we still eligible for SHARP funds?

Yes, but you cannot overlap funds from one federal source with another. Your SHARP application should be for costs related to programming or general operating support NOT paid for with PPP funds.