



## 2023 Visions – Projects + Events Grant Request for Proposals (RFP)

**RFP Issued:** January 17, 2023

**Application Deadline:** March 14, 2023, at 5:59 PM

**Project Period:** May 1, 2023 – March 1, 2024. Funds must be spent during the project period (also known as the “grant period”), although grant-funded events may take place on or before April 30, 2024.

**Grant Type:** Program

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

DC-based nonprofit organizations. Individuals must apply through a fiscal sponsor (see the “Fiscal Sponsorship” section for more details.) Applicants may apply for and receive only one program grant per year but could also receive one non-program grant (i.e., either a capacity building or a general operating support grant).

### **Summary:**

Help us create exciting public humanities programs for the people of Washington, DC! This grant opportunity funds the creation of innovative interpretations of humanities scholarship for public audiences. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about how they engage the public. Potential projects can include, but are not limited to documentary films, planning or executing an event or performance, publications and curricula, tours and exhibits, websites and other digital humanities projects; and archives.

This opportunity is part of the Humanities Grant Program supported with funding from the District of Columbia Government through the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

### **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 staff member listed below for support. 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:** The maximum award amount for the Visions – Projects & Events grant is \$25,000.

**Staff Contact:** Eli Yussuf, Grants Manager, at [eyussuf@humanitiesdc.org](mailto:eyussuf@humanitiesdc.org)

### **About HumanitiesDC:**

Founded in 1980, HumanitiesDC is one of 56 state councils supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities to ensure the humanities are available to all. We believe the humanities (history, literature, language arts, ethics, philosophy, and arts appreciation) are a powerful tool to help all Washingtonians, and others connected to the District of Columbia, deepen their relationships with the city and each other through the sharing of unique and universal stories, the fostering of intellectual stimulation, and the

promotion of cross-cultural understanding. By increasing understanding and appreciation, we help build more equitable, thriving, and rich communities in Washington DC. Every year, HumanitiesDC does this work by using community-informed grantmaking to invest in local scholars, experts, and organizations, as well as engaging all residents through partnership-based public programming.

### **Funding Scope:**

Visions – Projects & Events funds innovative interpretations of the humanities for public audiences. This includes support for ongoing programs or limited-time activities. All projects must incorporate relevant humanities scholarship into the stories that they tell and have an advisor or partner who is knowledgeable about the relevant field or subject matter.

Prospective projects must:

- be informed by one or more of the humanities disciplines;
- have an advisor or team member who is knowledgeable about the proposed subject matter;
- demonstrate a connection to Washington, DC;
- be innovative, unique, and of strong educational interest to a wide public audience; and
- be publicly accessible.

Project examples include:

- Neighborhood organizations partnering with local experts to create walking tours that explore the various layers of a community;
- Conferences focusing on the connection between national issues and their impacts on DC residents;
- Humanities organizations holding space for dialogue around civic engagement;
- Educational organizations creating an exhibition with a humanities theme as it relates to DC residents;
- Documentary films that tell a humanities story about Washington, DC;
- Planning or execution of an event, conference, festival, or other gathering\*\*\*;
- Development of humanities-focused publications and curricula;
- The development or enhancement of archives, websites and other digital humanities projects.

\*\*\*Events, conferences, festivals, or other gatherings should promote DC-focused humanities topics for the public. They should create networking opportunities for humanities professionals, a platform for scholars and local experts, and/or a space for people wanting to explore a humanities-based topic or area of interest. Additionally, they must be open to the public and include some portion of free or affordable programming.

Documentary films will be showcased in a HumanitiesDC sponsored film festival and be made available for non-commercial, educational use.

### **Cash Match Requirement:**

There is no matching requirement for this grant program. However, if the proposed activities cost more than the amount requested, applicants are strongly encouraged to describe other secured/planned funding sources in the Budget Narrative.

### **How to Apply:**

All HumanitiesDC grant applications are accepted via an online grant portal, which can be accessed at <http://grantapplication.wdchumanities.org>. Applications must be successfully submitted by 5:59 pm on the day of the deadline.

If you or your organization have applied for a HumanitiesDC grant before, please DO NOT create a new account. Instead, log in to Foundant - our grants management portal - via your existing account, with your email address serving as your username. Please reach out to the Grants Manager listed above if you need assistance accessing your account.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email when their proposals have been successfully submitted. Applicants should contact the applicable HumanitiesDC staff member 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 assigned to the evaluator panels nor will they 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 please contact the Grants Manager identified at the beginning of this document and allow 1-2 business days for a response.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

Organizations applying for this grant:

- Must be a DC-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization for which Washington, DC residents comprise most of its constituents.
- 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:
  - 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).
  - District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR).
  - District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES).
  - United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). UEI is a number issued by the System for Award Management (SAM) to identify businesses and other entities that do business with the federal government. The UEI has replaced the DUNS number as the authorized identifier for the federal government. Organizations do not need to have a UEI number to apply but will not be able to receive funding until one is obtained. [Click here for more information on UEI.](#)
- Must be able to obtain a certification of “Citywide Clean Hands” (CCH) from the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue.
- 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.
- May be asked at any time during the grant period to provide proof of eligibility. Any awardees found ineligible after the award date must return all grant funds to HDC.
- By signing the conditions document and accepting the funds will be certifying that they comply with: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (b) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (c) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; (d) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; (e) the Americans with Disabilities Act; (f) the Age Discrimination Act of 1973; (g) the Labor Standards under Sections 5i and 7g of the National Foundation of the Arts and

Humanities Act of 1965; and (h) the regulations issued pursuant thereto by the National Endowment for the Humanities (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Chapter XI).”

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.

### **Fiscal Sponsorship:**

Individuals must apply through a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving as a fiscal sponsor, provided that the fiscal sponsor organization meets all eligibility requirements in this RFP.

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that takes on all financial and legal obligations of the grant award. Fiscal sponsors may support no more than three grants 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. HumanitiesDC will endeavor to work primarily with the team conducting the project, however, because fiscal sponsor organizations have fiduciary and fiscal responsibility for the grants they support it will be necessary, at times, for representatives from the fiscal sponsor organization to review and sign off on financial documents or grant agreements.

Please note that, aside from the 501(c)3 requirement, all other requirements in the grant program RFP must apply to the sponsored organization/individual.

### **Allowable Costs:**

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. 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.

Grantees will be required to document all expenses paid with HumanitiesDC funds in their 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 15 or more full time employees and/or applying for funding for events 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 braille 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 nor the District of Columbia government represent that this link leads to the latest version of the subject law.

### **Technical Assistance:**

Applicant support including grant workshops, Frequently Asked Questions, and office hours with HumanitiesDC staff are available. Details can be found on each grant page of our website, in [the Community Grants section](#).

### **Application Review Process:**

- After the deadline, applications are reviewed for eligibility by staff. Ineligible applicants are notified immediately.
- Eligible applications are reviewed by a panel of Washington, DC residents with interest and/or experience in humanities programming or scholarship. Panelists receive training, scoring guides and tools to individually score the applications assigned to them. They then convene to discuss the applications, after which they finalize their scores, rankings and comments.
- The applications are organized by rank and a slate of the highest-ranked applications are provided to the HumanitiesDC board. The board affirms that the review process was followed and approves the slate for funding.
- Everyone involved in the review process is expected to remain impartial. 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.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating in a review process, please complete the application form on our website at [www.humanitiesdc.org](http://www.humanitiesdc.org).

### **Notification and Payment of Awards:**

HumanitiesDC will notify applicants of their status (approved or denied) no more than eight weeks after the application deadline. Approved applicants will receive a grant award letter through Foundant, our online grant management portal, which will include a link to submit their Grant Acceptance Form. Awards are disbursed via direct deposit, and recipients are required to submit a W-9 form (available via the Grant Acceptance Form) prior to disbursement. Denied applicants may request a summary of panelist comments.

### **Grant Award Terms:**

1. The full grant is awarded at the beginning of the grant period, as soon as funds are made available to HumanitiesDC for distribution.
2. Recipients agree to document all grant expenditures.

3. Any changes to the scope or budget (greater than 25% in any one budget category) must be requested in writing. Such changes are approved unless they either significantly alter or are unrelated to the original purpose of the grant proposal.
4. Awardees are required to submit an interim report as described below. Failure to complete this report on time may result in intervention on the part of HumanitiesDC up to and including a request to return disbursed funds.
5. Awardees are required to submit a final report as described below. Failure to do so satisfactorily might affect eligibility for future grants.
6. To receive the grant award, approved applicants must sign and submit a Grant Agreement Form that constitutes 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 Agreement Form.
7. Grantees (including anyone directly administering the project or program being funded) shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with District of Columbia Covid-19 requirements by either being: (a) fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as defined by the District of Columbia; or (b) qualifying for a vaccination exemption (as defined by the District of Columbia). Due to the changing nature of DC Government requirements please see the Mayor's Order here for the latest requirements <https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/NoticeDetail.aspx?NoticeId=N112383>

### **Reporting:**

Reporting will be completed through the grant portal. The interim report will be due **September 30, 2023**, and the final report will be due **March 31, 2024**. Grants managers will review reports and provide feedback within 30 days.

### **Close Out:**

Grantees will be required to close out their grants by submitting their final report no later than 30 days after the end of the grant period, or **March 31, 2024**. Grantees risk losing eligibility for future grants if they fail to submit their reports and achieve a successful grant closeout.

The required final report will consist of a narrative, evaluation sheet and financial form requesting a comparison between the original budget to actual expenditures. Also required: an itemized list of all expenditures against the grant, backup for all expenses (receipts, payroll, paid invoices, cancelled checks, etc.).