



HumanitiesDC

HISTORY
LITERATURE
LANGUAGES
ETHICS
PHILOSOPHY
ARTS APPRECIATION

2024 Community Grants Information Session

Who We Are



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Who You Are

Let us know who you are and what brought you here today!

What We Do

- HumanitiesDC “helps 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”
- To help fulfill this mission: “community-informed grantmaking to invest in local scholars, experts, and organizations, as well as engaging all residents through partnership-based public programming”
- In 2024 we expect to award \$1 million in grant funding across six programs
- Cycle I: opened December 11, 2023, closes February 20, 2024
- Cycle II: opens March 4, 2024, closes May 1, 2024

What are the Humanities?

Human stories allow us to navigate the complexities of our past, present, and future. The humanities help us learn from history and literature, empathize through language and comparative religion, and challenge our assumptions with philosophy and ethics. They are a compass for interpreting what humans make and exploring what makes us human.

- They help us understand...
 - Our story's past: history, anthropology, archaeology;
 - Our story's expressions: literature, linguistics, languages, arts history/theory/criticism;
 - Our story's values: ethics, philosophy, comparative religion, law.

2024 Grant Cycles

Cycle I: Due February 20, 2024, at 5:59 pm

- Community Culture & Heritage
- Visions – Projects + Events
- DC Oral History Collaborative (DCOHC) & Extension
- DCOHC Beyond the Archives

Cycle II: Opens March 4, due May 1, 2024, at 5:59 pm

- Capacity Building
- Youth in the Humanities

Cycle I: Community Culture & Heritage

- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, and non-profit organizations
- Maximum Award: \$10,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- Projects focus on preserving the culture, memories and experiences of long-time Washingtonians, and capturing unfolding stories of newer residents for future generations.

Ex) panel discussions, multimedia projects, educational materials, videos, lesson plans, tours

- Must include community expert or scholar
- Grantees take part in a public showcase in Spring 2025
- Application due February 20, 2024

[Link to RFP](#)



2023 CCH Project Examples

Washington Women in Jazz Archives:
Washington Women in Jazz founder Amy K Bormet used a CCH grant to archive audio interviews, footage from performances, and other ephemera on the WWJF website.



Artistas in the Capital: Hola Cultura launched a new podcast highlighting the world of DC Latinx and Latine artists.

Cycle I: DC Oral History Collaborative & Extension

- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations
- Extension applicants must have completed a previous DCOHC project funded by HumanitiesDC
- Maximum Award: \$8000 (plus \$5000 for translation)
- Project Period: May 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
- Projects that explore Washington, DC life, history, and culture through interviews with the people who have lived it
- Grantees are considered members of the Collaborative and will be required to attend a three-session oral history training workshop in April and will work in conjunction with staff and consultants throughout the course of their projects
- Final deliverables required: media files, transcripts, indexes, metadata for each interview. These are ultimately housed in the People's Archive at the DC Public Library.
- Application due February 20, 2024

[Link to RFP](#)



2023 Oral History Project Examples

How the Equal Rights Center Became a Powerful Force for Civil Rights is a project with Vision House that focuses on the collaborative work of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) and the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (WLC) in advancing the cause of civil rights and equal opportunity in the District of Columbia. Vision House interviewed founding members and long-time board and staff members of the ERC and the WLC.

The Legacy of Anti-Racist Neighborhood Housing Organizing in Adams Morgan is a project with Vikram Surya Chiruvolu. Vikram is interviewing members of the Latino community and on creators and residents of low-income, deeply-affordable housing in Adams Morgan.



Cycle I: DCOHC Beyond the Archives

- Eligibility: DC-based individuals, community groups, nonprofit organizations
- Maximum Award: \$12,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- Use archived oral histories to produce DC-focused public humanities projects; not collecting new oral histories
 - Ex) exhibitions, performances, listening stations, written research, film/video, course curricula using existing oral history collections
- Must include a community expert or scholar
- Application due February 20, 2024

[Link to RFP](#)

2023 Beyond the Archives Project Example



Poet and educator Sami Miranda used archived oral histories with other DC poets active in the scene in the 90s to produce **It's Your Mug**, a documentary film about a legendary poetry open mic founded in 1994 at a Georgetown coffee shop

Cycle I: Visions – Projects & Events

- Eligibility: DC-based non-profit organizations. Individuals or informal groups must apply through a fiscal sponsor.
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- For the creation or continuation of innovative interpretations of humanities scholarship for wide public audiences
 - Ex) documentary films, festivals or conferences, curricula, tours, exhibits
- Must include a community expert or scholar
- Application due February 20, 2024

[Link to RFP](#)

2023 Visions Project Examples

Torrents: New Links to Black Futures was a multi-day festival presented by CulturalDC, gathering DC creative professionals, scholars, and collectors around the development of Black cross-diasporic futures through visual arts, technology, music, film, and performance

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Jun 9–Dec 3, 2023



Capital Jewish Museum offered 3 events around their special exhibit **Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**: a free community day for families, an after-hours event offering a closer look at the exhibition's themes, and an art-making activity designed to inspire action



Cycle II: Capacity Building

- Eligibility: DC-based, humanities-focused nonprofit organizations; fiscal sponsors not permitted
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: July 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- Help strengthen capacity and sustainability of humanities-focused nonprofits to advance their mission and serve communities across DC

Ex) developing a communications strategy, improving volunteer recruitment, updating technology, program evaluation

- Applications open March 4, due May 1, 2024



2023 Capacity Building Grant Examples



Corazón Folklórico received funds to help upgrade the organization's information technology, including implementing Slack, Jotform, and other software.

DC Arts and Education Collaborative received funds to upgrade their website and customer relationship management system



**ARTS & HUMANITIES
EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE**

Cycle II: Youth in the Humanities

- Eligibility: DC-based, humanities-focused, youth-serving nonprofit organizations; fiscal sponsors not permitted
- Maximum Award: \$25,000
- Project Period: July 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025
- General operating support to humanities-focused organizations that work primarily with young people ages 11 to 19
- Organizations must use the humanities as a tool to help young people explore issues that they identify as important to themselves and their communities
- Applications open March 4, due May 1, 2024

2023 Youth in the Humanities Grantee Examples



Fiscal Sponsorship

Grant Program	Fiscal Sponsorship Rules
Capacity Building Youth in the Humanities	Fiscal sponsorship arrangements are <u>prohibited</u> for this grant. All applicants must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.
Community Heritage & Culture DC Oral History Collaborative Beyond the Archives	Individuals requesting \$13,000 or less in grants funds are not required to apply through a fiscal sponsor. Community groups without 501(c)3 non-profit status may 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.
Visions – Projects & Events	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.

Reviewing the RFP

- **Applicant Eligibility:** applying as an organization vs. an individual, consider whether you will need to apply using a fiscal sponsor, etc.
- **Funding Scope:** guidance and requirements for elements of a successful project
- **Weighted Review Criteria:** information about how reviewers will score each section of the application, and how much each section is worth
- **Allowable Costs:** project expenses that can be covered by a HumanitiesDC grant
- **ADA Compliance:** relevant for certain-sized organizations and public events
- **How to Apply & Review Process**

Application Review Process

- All applications are reviewed by staff for eligibility
- Eligible applications are reviewed by community members with strong ties to humanities in DC
 - Reviewers score applications based on review criteria (available in RFP and application)
- HumanitiesDC's Board affirms the review process was followed
- All eligible applicants are notified approximately eight weeks after the application deadline
- Grantees receive funds approximately two weeks after notification



Resources & Assistance

- Additional overview and grant-specific workshops listed below.
- Sign up for virtual office hours [here](#)
- Hillary Steen – hsteen@humanitiesdc.org
- Leah Gage – lgage@humanitiesdc.org

General Info Sessions

- [December 18 at 12pm](#)
- [December 19 at 6pm](#)
- [January 4 at 6pm](#)
- [January 16 at 6pm at Benning/Dorothy Height DCPL](#)
- [February 1 at 12pm at MLK Library](#)

Grant-Specific Workshops

- [January 9 at 12pm: Community Culture & Heritage](#)
- [January 10 at 12pm: Beyond the Archives](#)
- [January 11 at 12pm: DC Oral History Collaborative & Extension](#)
- [January 12 at 12pm: Visions](#)

Q&A





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